

# Horizons

**MARY:  
HEAVENLY  
ADVOCATE FOR  
OUR DIOCESE**

**Sowing Seeds,  
Fostering Vocations**

**Diocesan  
Pastoral Plan  
Launched**

**Sacramental  
Season**

**#51  
AUG18**

FREE Publication  
of the Catholic  
Diocese of  
Toowoomba



# Horizons

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**Horizons** is a conduit for news and information, helping to bind the Toowoomba Diocese together. The magazine aims to promote the work of our Diocese's Parishes and Ministries so God's mercy, love and the joy of the Gospel are experienced, celebrated and shared.

## FROM THE EDITOR INGRID MCTAGGART

*While putting together the story about Proclaim I was reflecting on how the idea of toxic culture was one of the big take away ideas from the conference for me.* Oh yes, there are some toxic attitudes out there and boy some people can be mean. Really, how do some of these people navigate the world with such a negative attitude? It's not surprising the church is in trouble, who'd want to be part of a community with that kind of vibe.

It's great that I'm not toxic...Mind you, I can be a bit of a whinge. I guess that can be a toxic attitude. Sometimes I can be intolerant and dismissive of someone else's perspective if it doesn't align with mine. Well that's definitely toxic. I can think myself an expert sometimes, when I really should listen to the wisdom of others. Ok, that one is toxic for sure.

It can be so easy to identify what's wrong with other people and miss your own flaws. Specs in eyes, stones thrown

at glass houses and all that. Examining my own foibles, I found the Culture Quiz a helpful reflection tool (shout out to John Briffa and Sr Elaine Morzone for helping to develop and refine it). No 'self flagellation' here, just critical but positive reflection. You can't be perfect all the time, but self-awareness can go a long way to helping you be the positive force for change in your community.

On a much bigger scale, the Catholic Church in Australia is following this process with the Plenary Council. By asking "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?", there is acknowledgement of and invitation to change and there is openness to exploring different solutions. By moving through the Plenary Council process over the next few years, we, as in the Catholic Church collectively, is afforded an opportunity to listen and become a healthy community by ditching the toxic attitudes that stifle growth.

## OOPS, SORRY WE MADE A MISTAKE

Apologies to CatholicCare for the mistakes in the advertisement in Horizons #51. Also a correction to the bylines of the Downlands articles on pages 28 and 29. The pilgrimage article is by Anne McAtomey and the ANZAC article is by Catherine Mims.

Horizons is a quarterly magazine produced by the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. Grateful acknowledgement to the Catholic Schools Office for their contribution to production costs, as well as to our advertisers for their support. Horizons is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA). Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily held by the editor. **Enquiries:** Ingrid McTaggart, Communications Office, PO Box 756, Toowoomba QLD 4350. **Phone:** 07 4632 4277. **Email:** horizons@twb.catholic.org.au **Front Cover:** The many interpretations of Our Lady. **Graphic Design:** Thorley Creative 1300 883 454. **Deadlines:** Editions will be quarterly. Deadline for November Edition 2018 is 19 October 2018.

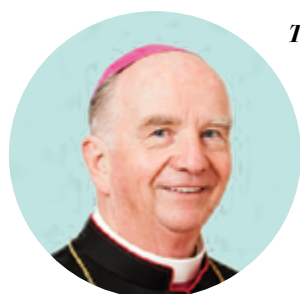


St Joseph's College Toowoomba, Rosies outreach in July, L to R: Mrs Nadia Spain, Ethan Parker, Matthew Rohde and Daniel Duff



Each Advent, Downlands College, Toowoomba students gather items for hampers to donate to St Vincent de Paul for those doing it tough at Christmas

# ARE WE LIKE THE GOOD SAMARITAN?



*There is probably no better known Gospel story than Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan.* We often hear the term used in news reports of unnamed people stepping into a situation of danger and showing compassion and concrete care. This year the

Australian Bishops have focused on the theme of homelessness in our annual Social Justice Statement. It is titled, "A Place to Call Home Making a Home for Everyone on Our Land." The statement starts with the parable of the Good Samaritan. The latest Census figures tell us that there are more than 116,000 Australians who are homeless. This is simply unacceptable in a country as rich and well-resourced as ours. Are we like the Good Samaritan who saw the need in front of him, or are we like the Priest or the Levite crossing to the other side of the road? The challenge is for each of our parishes to know the dimension of the situation in our cities and towns. The Good Samaritan did not care for people by proxy, but instead chose to become directly involved. Pope Francis is a great model for us in the way that he gets to know people experiencing homelessness by name. Last year as a celebration of the World Day of the Poor he shared an open invitation to those living on the streets in Rome to share a meal with him. In *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and Exult) Pope Francis urges us to see the human face of Christ in our neighbour.

"If I encounter a person sleeping outdoors on a cold night, I can view him or her as an annoyance, an idler, an obstacle in my path, a troubling sight, a problem for politicians to sort out, or even a piece of refuse cluttering a public space. Or I can respond with faith and charity, and see in this person a human being with a dignity identical to my own, a creature infinitely loved by the Father, an image of God, a brother or sister redeemed by Jesus Christ."

There is another well-known parable in this year's statement. The Australian film, *The Castle*, while a comedy at heart, shares a deep truth in the message about the human need and indeed human right to have a haven, a home in which to enjoy family life. As I write this I am very conscious of the many people in our Diocese impacted upon by the drought. Their ties to the land are much more than to a business or a way of making a living, they are ties to home. Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan encourages parishes to explore ways in which they can twin or link with each other from the bigger regional centres to the smaller rural communities. This is more than sharing material goods but a strong act of solidarity. My hope and prayer is that across the Diocese we can allow ourselves to be stretched and moved with compassion by the person who has been left on the side of life's road.

**Most Reverend Robert McGuckin**  
**Bishop of Toowoomba**  
**September 2018**





# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF GOING OUT INTO THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

FIONA BASILE

***The Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS) are an Australian grown congregation of Religious women impacting the lives of people living on the margins.*** Theirs is an inspirational story of pioneering women who in their peak, travelled into the highways and byways of this vast country to meet the spiritual and practical needs of isolated people. They are ordinary women who took on the challenge of joining a new congregation, which started in Tasmania in 1944, to live out their faith in ordinary ways, but with extraordinary effect, and often in a changing and difficult world and church climate.

The initial purpose of the MSS mission was to provide spiritual education and support to isolated families and communities. The Sisters travelled to remote areas of Australia and in the early days often in pairs. They established a correspondence school first within Tasmania, and later on the mainland.

Over the years, the Sisters' mission adapted to the needs of the people they encountered. They were constantly challenged to develop deep, inner resources, to live creatively and to respond to situations and make decisions. In later years they have worked in different situations in adult formation, chaplaincy, counselling and other areas of urgent concern in rural and urban areas, especially with groups of people who have been on the margins.

Today there are 26 Missionary Sisters of Service still living in Australia – in Melbourne, Toowoomba, Hobart, Mackay, Bribie Island and Whyalla. Though older and less mobile, they continue to serve in their local communities, in whatever way they can, as well as continuing to read the signs of the times and setting up structures that will enable the charism to be carried in new and innovative ways by the laity.

In 2019, the MSS celebrate 75 years of mission and service. A range of events are being organised for this special year, including the release of a commemorative cookbook that will feature stories, recipes and other information related to the MSS.

From 21-25 November 2018 there will be a reflective pilgrimage in Tasmania to visit places of significance in the life and ministry of Fr John Wallis, founder of the MSS as well as meaningful places in the early history of the MSS. Other 75th anniversary events will be announced through the year.

For more information about the pilgrimage or to register your interest, please phone or email Pat Quinn mss: pat@portiunculacentre.com / 0422 462 678.

L-R: Liz McAloon (John Wallis Foundation), Sr Stancea Vichie (MSS Congregational Leader), Sr Gail Worcelo (guest speaker), Johannes Fischer (Australian Youth Climate Coalition) and Sr Bernadette Wallis at the 2018 John Wallis Memorial Lecture, Melbourne



Srs Pat Quinn and Betty McManus packing the mission car



Sr Mary Cleary cooking a barbecue for the children to celebrate the end of mission week



## MODERN SLAVERY: AN ISSUE EMERGING FROM THE SHADOWS MARK COPLAND

The group gathered to hear Elizabeth Payne from ACRATH speak about modern slavery

As the man described his working conditions, you couldn't help but feel uneasy. Little support is offered to those suffering workplace injuries, underpayment is commonplace and employees are regularly physically and verbally abused. The worker begged me not to speak to any authorities as his visa status, along with that of his workmates, relied upon compliance with no hint of complaints. The tragic thing is, this wasn't something from a Charles Dickens' novel, but Southern Queensland in 2017.

Slavery is a word that often takes us to a bygone era. It conjures up images of Egypt, the deep south of the United States or the West Indies. Even in our backyard in Townsville, north Queensland, you can go to the spot where Pacific Islanders or Kanakas were bought and sold as part of establishing the sugar industry in the early nineteenth century.

Modern slavery and human trafficking are interchangeable and umbrella terms used to describe recruiting or obtaining a person for labour or sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Put simply it is the unfair exploitation of people. The International Labour Organisation estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking across the world, with 81% trapped in forced labour and the remaining 19% trapped in sex trafficking, labour exploitation, domestic servitude, organ trafficking, and forced marriage. A \$150 billion industry worldwide that impacts a disproportionate number of women and children. It is critical that we raise people's awareness so that we are able to advocate on behalf of

victims and support those who are impacted by these crimes. Awareness-raising, education and advocacy are the keys to helping unlock the invisible shackles of modern slavery.

Legislation will go before the Australian Federal Parliament this year addressing the scourge of modern slavery. In the hurly-burly of the Budget, \$3.6 million was committed to establishing an Anti-Slavery Business Engagement Unit in the Department of Home Affairs. Part of the strategy will see some of Australia's largest corporations and other entities publish annual public statements on their actions to address modern slavery in their supply chains and operations.

Locally, St Vincent's Private Hospital is already on board. Last year St Vincent's Health Australia, which operates St Vincent's, launched the Human Trafficking Project. This project looks at how trafficked people receive health care in Australia as well as making sure the goods and services procured by St Vincent's are slavery-free.

In late May Elizabeth Payne from Australian Catholic Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans (ACRATH) spoke at an event at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Centre addressing the topics of modern slavery, human trafficking and forced marriage. Elizabeth outlined the everyday nature of modern slavery and shared some of the work of ACRATH accompanying people caught in this sinister trade. ACRATH worked in a number of local schools during the visit in May and will be visiting Toowoomba again later in the year.

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# PROCLAIM A MESSAGE OF CHANGE

INGRID MCTAGGART, WITH JOHN BRIFFA AND SR ELAINE MORZONE

*Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Brisbane Archdiocese, started the first day with optimism in his opening address.* "We need signs of hope, and this gathering is one of those," said Archbishop Coleridge to the 600 strong crowd assembled at St Lawrence's College, South Brisbane. The Archbishop went on to say that although the church is under pressure at this time, the sold out conference was a positive sign.

With an air of self-deprecation, Archbishop Coleridge said, "I am intensely conscious as I stand among you that I face the danger of being pale, male and stale!" Which drew a chuckle from the crowd. Archbishop Coleridge highlighted that the church in this country and across the globe is becoming less pale, less male, and hopefully less stale. "Certainly the Proclaim Conference takes as its prime target the kind of staleness that really can't see the future." Focussed on evangelisation and parish renewal, this was the fourth Proclaim Conference and the first time the event was held outside of the Sydney area.

The conference timetable mixed keynote speakers and expert panel discussions with opportunities for participants to talk with each other in facilitated conversations. These conversations not only gave attendees a moment to process everything, it was also an opportunity to discuss what was working and where the gaps were in their communities and the broader church. Output from the facilitated discussions will be collated and submitted to the Plenary Council 2020.

One of the emerging themes of the conference was the existence of change and the need to embrace it as part of the normal course of life. Each of the presenters encouraged those in attendance to move from their comfort zone, to think creatively and resist seeking comfort in being insular. Cardinal John Dew, Archdiocese of Wellington NZ, referenced Pope Francis' recent Apostolic Exultation, *Gaudete Et Exultate*, "Like the prophet Jonah, we are constantly tempted to flee to a safe haven..." (#134). He warned we should avoid the kind

of narrow thinking that misleads us into claiming we've made our home in Jesus, when we may in fact have misunderstood the Jesus we claim to follow.

The value of leadership, especially recognising and encouraging lay leadership, was also explored. There was discussion around thinking of leadership beyond the black and white of authority and control, right and wrong – looking at opportunities for people to lead from where they are. The newly created national guidelines for lay pastoral ministry, *Faithful Stewards of God's Grace*, was launched as part of the conference program. Years in the making through



Some of the Toowoomba Diocese participants at Proclaim 2018



Discussion panel on Leadership by Sr Kari Hatherell  
osu, Cardinal John Dew, Lana Turvey-Collins and  
Robert Falzon, moderated by Jo Hayes.

## CONFERENCES WALK A FINE LINE BETWEEN INFORMATION OVERLOAD AND BLAND TALK-FEST. PROCLAIM 2018 SEEMED TO FIND A BALANCE, PROVIDING INFORMATION AND A MESSAGE FOR EVERYONE. THE CONFERENCE THEME OF “MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME...” (JOHN 15:4) SET AN ATMOSPHERE OF WELCOME AND INVITATION.

careful research and consultation, the ACBC document will assist dioceses and communities in fostering good lay leaders and developing local level guidelines.

The idea of the presence of a toxic culture and associated attitudes resonated with attendees. Communities might wonder why “seeds” like great programs or events, excellent liturgy and good catechesis may never yield fruit like seeing more people in the pews. If these seeds are sown into a ground (culture soil) that’s toxic and unhealthy, why are we surprised that nothing grows? Communities were encouraged to have serious conversations about the qualities of a healthy community and those aspects of their life together that make their parish culture unhealthy. Ron Huntley, Divine Renovation Association, kicking off his energetic presentation exclaimed, “Let’s shed the culture of quiet and timidity!” Going further to explore evangelisation through improving the underlying culture of our faith communities. By working to improve the underlying culture of our communities, we can begin to share with others transformational encounters with Christ.

Another discussion regarding an attitude shift dealt with the need to move beyond an “us versus them” mentality. Working within a mindset of opposing factions continues to polarise communities. Attendees were encouraged to meet people where they are, to avoid polarisation of different

approaches and start focusing on relationships. Speaking in her keynote on young people Karolina Gunsser, Citipointe Community Leader, said of encouraging their church’s young people to evangelise and engage with others, “See them where they’re at. Not high and mighty on some high horse, but seeing them where they’re at.”

Toowoomba Diocese attendees noted how much of an energising experience the Proclaim Conference was for them. Another valuable take away experience was the opportunity to spend time with people from the Toowoomba Diocese, as well as the networking opportunity with others from further afield.

“As Easter people we should be full of hope and joy and these are the two things that the Proclaim Conference reenergised in me,” said Sharon Young, APRE St Mary’s School Warwick. “Hope for a church that embraces it’s youth and has started thinking about creative ways to reach people where they are at and Joy in spending time with people passionate about the future of our church.”

“It was reassuring to learn that we all share the same feelings when it comes to leaving our comfort zone to ‘get out of the boat,’ but also reassuring to know that we do not do this alone - the Holy Spirit is with us.” Said Ann Eyre from Sacred Heart Parish Toowoomba.

Fellow Sacred Heart Parishioner, Therese Swain, also felt the Holy Spirit at work, “I feel I have a deeper relationship with

“It’s sometimes  
hard to know  
where to start,  
but it’s not  
enough to  
stay sitting  
in the pews”

Jesus now and I believe he is calling us to evangelise like the first disciples. I have a burning desire to help young people experience the Holy Spirit working in their lives.”

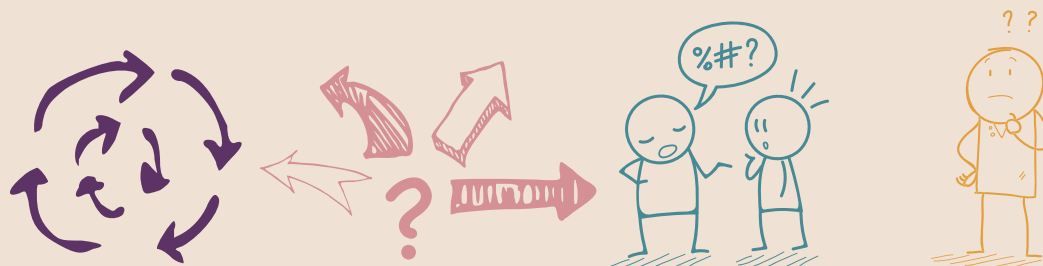
Michael Bermingham, St Thomas More’s Parish Toowoomba Parish Leader and Jenny Ferguson, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Toowoomba Pastoral Coordinator, both found the experience energising for their different leadership roles. “A couple of things will stay with me... [one being] the refreshing presence of people like Christian Brother, Damien Price, with his gentle wisdom and insights in areas such as

leadership and working with young people,” said Michael.

“As Cardinal Dew said “It’s sometimes hard to know where to start, but it’s not enough to stay sitting in the pews”...Our challenge is to make our church community a place where all people feel welcomed and supported. A church which helps all people make their home in Jesus,” said Jenny.

Video of Archbishop Mark Coleridge’s opening address and the four keynote presentations from Proclaim 2018 are available to view through Shalom World on Facebook (@shalomworld).

## CULTURE QUIZ



DO YOU  
RECOGNISE  
THESE  
ISSUES?

**CHANGE IS  
CONSTANT**

Mark 6:7-13 reminds us that Jesus sends us out to be missionary disciples, to encounter others where they are.

How does my parish support and encourage transformational encounters with Christ?

**THERE MAY  
BE MANY  
SOLUTIONS  
TO ANY ONE  
PROBLEM**

John 8:3-11 recalls that Church as community will listen, pray, discern and act with compassion. We won’t have all the answers but need to accept that things can be different.

By what process do we regularly review and readdress the issue of continuing the mission of Christ in this time and place?

**IS THE  
CULTURE  
TOXIC?**

Matthew 13:1-9 tells us that good seed planted in poisoned soil will not grow.

What needs to be done to ensure the soil of my community is healthy so that the seeds of faith being planted will bear fruit?

**AM I TOXIC?**

Luke 6:39-42 recounts how easy it is to see the speck in the eye of others but miss the log in our own eye.

Do I keep myself open to new possibilities and resist the temptation to remain static and comfortable?

WHAT  
DOES THE  
GOSPEL  
SAY?

HOW  
WOULD  
YOU  
ANSWER  
THESE  
QUESTIONS?

WHAT ARE THE **ATTITUDES** AND **BEHAVIOURS** OF A...



**HEALTHY**

Community you want to be a part of or enjoy being a part of?

VS.



**UNHEALTHY**

Community that is hard to be a part of but you feel obligated to be there?





# AUSSIE CHURCH HAVING OUR SAY



***Thousands of people from across Australia have taken time in the months since the Plenary Council 2020 officially launched at Pentecost to consider the future of the Catholic Church.***

The Listening and Dialogue phase of the Plenary Council has begun, with resources created to help people across the country participate in a prayerful conversation to consider the question: “What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”

Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins said enthusiasm has been high. “As people learn they are central to this process, that the stories of their experiences of faith and the Church will shape the agenda for the Plenary Council sessions in 2020 and 2021, they understand how important it is that their voice be heard and listened to,” she said.

A song and accompanying music video for the Plenary Council were launched at the Proclaim 2018 conference in Brisbane. The song, *Listen*, was composed and performed by Brisbane singer/songwriter Peter Pellican.

Speaking about the power of music for people, Lana has heard that others are thinking about how music and song can form part of their input into the Plenary Council. “Different people express their faith in different ways and, for many, song is a medium through which they can speak to the Church and to the world,” she said.

Peter said *Listen* wasn’t written specifically for use within the liturgy, but rather as a preface to the Council’s Listening and Dialogue sessions as “a call to imagine, to reflect and to listen”.

“The song was composed as a call to the Church in

Australia to listen to what the Spirit is saying as we prepare for the first Plenary Council since 1937,” Peter said. “The song invites people to listen to God, but also to reflect and ponder on what it would mean for the Church to look like Jesus.”

Mary Otto (Diocesan RCIA Coordinator), with assistance from Ingrid McTaggart (Diocesan Communications Officer), has been appointed by Bishop Robert McGuckin as the Toowoomba Diocese Coordinator for the Plenary Council Listening and Dialogue Process. In the coming weeks parishes, schools and agencies will begin to receive updates on the listening and dialogue process at a diocesan level.

This shouldn’t hold back parishes and schools already keen to start their own listening and dialogue process right now. The Plenary Council website has a step by step resource for how to facilitate your own local conversations for both adults and young people, and people can make their own submissions at any time.

A local listening and dialogue event can be in any form that suits the situation. They might be their own special gathering for the purpose of hosting a conversation. Alternatively an existing group, like prayer or friendship meetings in parishes, youth groups or RE class, might like to host a session one day as part of their normal gathering. The key thing to remember about these sessions is that they are opportunities for people to share, for others to listen and everyone to reflect on what has been shared - they are not for teaching, correction or debate.

Visit [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) for resources, to sign up for the regular newsletter and to make a submission.

# JOURNEY TO A PATRON

*Sometime after the Ordo began publishing the Patronal Feasts of the Dioceses of Australia and New Zealand in the 1990s the fateful question was put to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, "Does our Diocese have a Patron Saint?"* This was thought to be an important question to answer as it would add an additional layer of identity and devotion to the diocesan community.

There was an assumption that the patron must be St Patrick, after all that's what the Cathedral is. However that proved to be a false lead, other dioceses across Australia bear a different patron to their Cathedral, the patron often reflecting other facets of their history. Diocesan Archivist, Annie Carrett, was then brought into the search for the missing patron. The only tid-bit found was one brief mention in a letter by Bishop William Brennan, third Bishop of Toowoomba, of the Immaculate Conception. This lead also proved to be a dead end as further research failed to reveal a formal nomination or approval of any kind.

And so the search was on – who has special meaning for the Diocese? Who would be a fitting patron of this unique slice of Australia? Blessed Mary MacKillop, who was recently beatified, was put forward. Mary MacKillop had a small connection with the Diocese having stayed in Helidon for a time and the Sisters of St Joseph were a big presence in the Diocese as well, also the instruction from the Congregation for the Causes of Saints does not allow a Blessed as a Patron. While the suggestion had merit, it was also pointed out that so many other religious orders, both male and female, played a big part in the Diocese. Would the selection of Blessed Mary MacKillop be seen as playing favourites or even disrespectful?

During this time the Blessed Virgin Mary under the unique title of Our Lady of the Southern Cross emerged as a contender. There was merit to the idea as the parish church in Inglewood is under the patronage of Our Lady of the Southern Cross. The Southern Cross (the constellation Crux) has evolved into a sentimental symbol for Australia, and the southern hemisphere, and of course the cross is a strong

symbol of Christian faith. The constellation is also a pointer of direction in the night sky, a concept that could be built on as Mary is one who sends people to her Son (for example the wedding feast of Cana, John 3:5).

With Mary of the Southern Cross gaining traction as an ideal patron, the question was put to the diocesan community at large – what do you think and if not Mary, then who? Of the 220 responses received from the consultation process only

nine were in the negative. Predictably the alternatives suggested were Blessed Mary MacKillop and St Patrick.

Parallel to the consultation process, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio was asked to provide information on how a diocese would have a patron formally approved. In the letter to the Apostolic pro-Nuncio there was a brief mention of the choice of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, why the title was chosen and the connection to the church at Inglewood.

A search of the Nunciature's archives, as well as the Diocese's and Parishes own archives, failed to find a letter from the Holy See to then Parish Priest, Fr Syd Kattie, approving the title for Inglewood, which had changed from St Patrick to Our Lady of the Southern Cross. Fr Syd Kattie was instrumental in the construction of a new church for Inglewood, 1962, and it was this new church that saw patronage of the parish change. With no record

found, the legitimacy of the title and the Inglewood church patronage came into question.

To rectify the Inglewood situation Fr Syd Kattie, who was retired by this time, recounted the process undertaken to seek permission from the Bishop, who was Bishop William Brennan, and the Holy See. Fr Kattie's statement was signed and notarised and sent off to the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio.

The next stage of the Patron recognition process could now begin. The submission consisted of proof the people of the diocese had been consulted on the choice of patron as well as a copy of the calendar of Diocesan celebration. The final piece of the submission was a votum from the Bishop, who was Bishop Bill Morris, supporting the application.

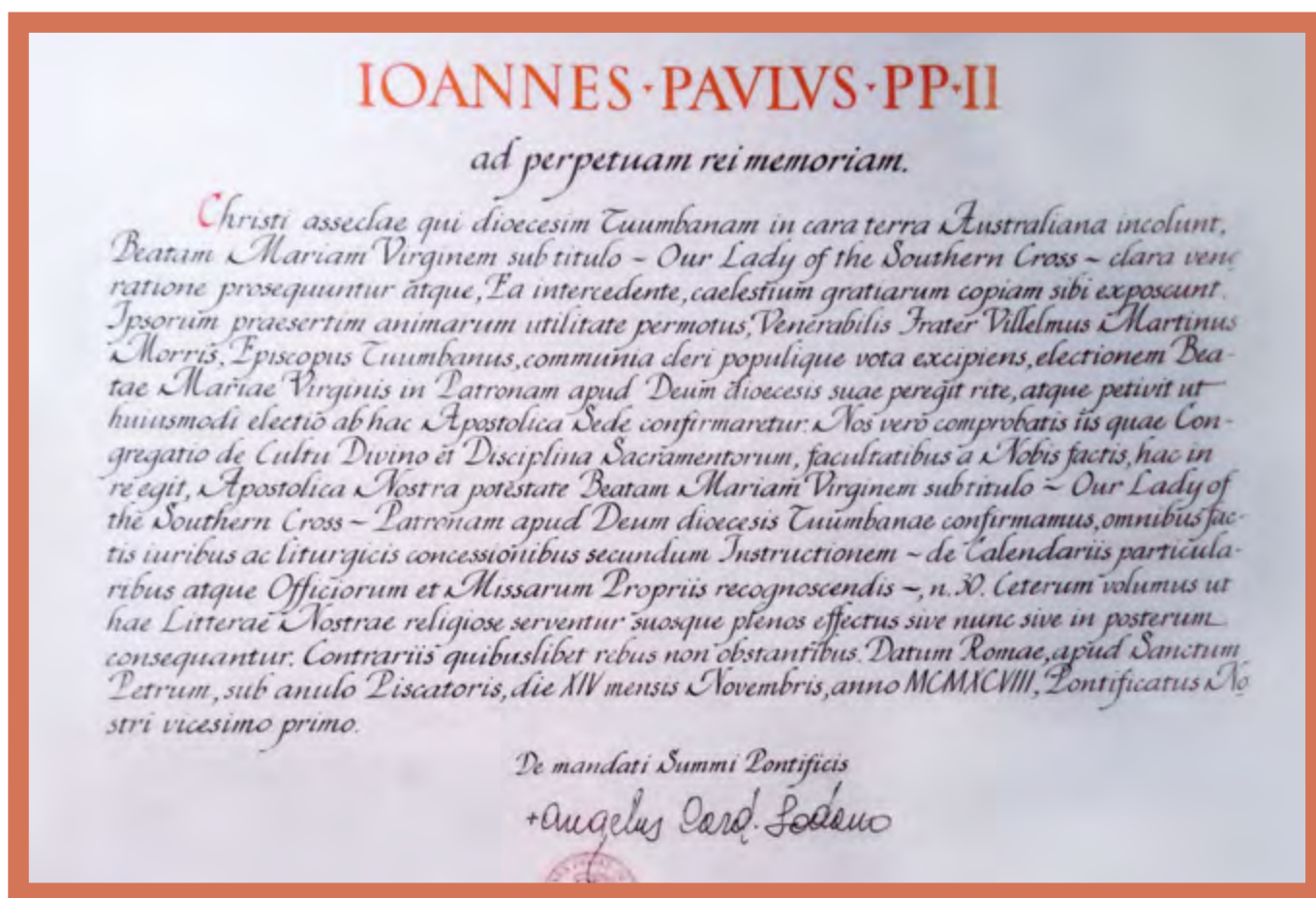
And so the search was on – who has special meaning for the Diocese? Who would be a fitting patron of this unique slice of Australia?"





Bishop Bill Morris presents a reproduction of the Mary of the Southern Cross painting to Pope John Paul II, circa early 2000s

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS NAMED AS THE PATRON OF THE DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA, AND THE STORY IS A LITTLE BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THE QUESTION THAT SET THE WHEELS IN MOTION.



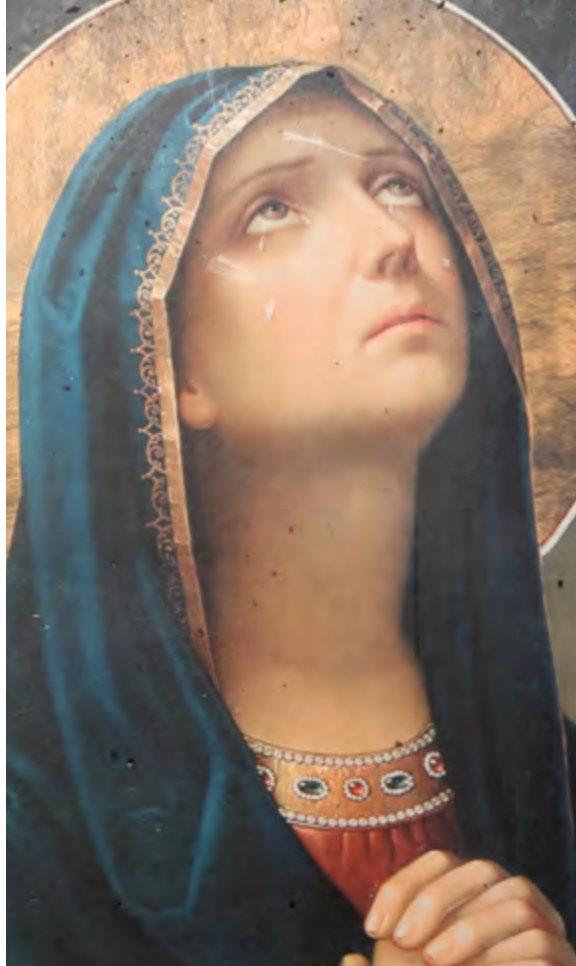
As part of the votum, the Feast Day of 1 September was nominated as an appropriate day of celebration. The choice was explained as follows: it is a ferial day (a day on which no feast is held in Australia or New Zealand); it is the anniversary of the episcopal ordination and installation of Bishop James Byrne, the first Bishop of the Diocese; it is eight days before the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary and therefore would create an octave; and finally it is the first official day of Spring in Australia.

On 14 November 1998 Pope John Paul II issued a Bull formally recognising the title of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, and naming her as Patron of the Diocese of Toowoomba. The original Latin Bull, hand written on vellum, currently hangs in the Bishop's Office building.

By letter dated 23 November 1998 Cardinal Medina, Prefect of the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, confirmed 1 September as the Feast of Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

The following year, 1999, the first Feast Day was celebrated. The next year, 2000, as part of the Jubilee celebrations the Mary of the Southern Cross painting by Jan Williamson was presented to the Diocese. The painting was the winner of a competition to find an appropriate image of Mary under this title for the Diocese to use, the competition was sponsored by the Knights of the Southern Cross.

Based on an article written by Fr Peter Schultz, first published in Canon Law Society of Australia & New Zealand Newsletter, 2007 No. 2. Research assistance also provided by the Diocesan Archives.



# FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR DEVOTION TO MARY

JOHN BRIFFA

**CATHOLICS HOLD MARY IN A SPECIAL  
PLACE IN THEIR HEARTS AND AWARD  
HER A UNIQUE POSITION AMONG  
THE COLLECTION OF SAINTS.**

***There are more works of art, more hymns and more homilies dedicated to Mary than to any other woman (or saint) in history.*** But to be clear, Catholics don't worship Mary.

Official Catholic doctrine on Mary is called Mariology and our respect and prayer to her is known as Marian devotion.

Catholic theology teaches that Christ was human and divine; true Man and true God. Whether he was performing miracles from his divinity or expressing emotions from his humanity, Jesus was one and the same person. In the mystery of the Incarnation, God's great gift of self was made possible through the motherhood of Mary. The significance of any devotion to Mary is to be seen in light of the Incarnation and of her faithful and loving submission to accept the will of God.

In writing about the Catholic devotion to Mary, 20th century author and theologian Thomas Merton notes that, since the Church was conceived as a result of the Incarnation, the Church also believes that the one who was closest to God in this great mystery was the one who participated most perfectly in the gift. The Church cannot separate the Son and the Mother.<sup>1</sup>

Belief in the Incarnation is the basis for calling Mary, the Mother of God, which was declared a dogma at the Council of Ephesus in 431, something later supported at the Second Vatican Council and in Pope John Paul II's 1987 encyclical, *Redemptoris Mater*. The significance of the role of Mary has led to her name being enshrined in the words of the Creed, the Eucharistic Prayers, the Confiteor and many other prayers and texts.

*Lumen Gentium* details the Church's position on the role and significance of Mary while asserting quite clearly that Mary's function in no way diminishes or obscures the role of Christ as the Redeemer and Mediator to the Father.<sup>2</sup>

Besides the title of Mother of God, Mary is also known as

the Mother of the Church and Mother of the Mystical Body of Christ, something directly related to being the mother of Christ.<sup>3</sup> Mary is called the Mother of the Church, because she is the Mother of Christ and the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ. The relevance of this mystical title infers that the Church is more than an external organization, structure and institution, but also and more primarily, it's a union of all the members forming one body.

In February this year, Pope Francis inscribed a new feast on the liturgical calendar.<sup>4</sup> Technically known as an obligatory memorial, the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church is to be celebrated each year on the Monday after Pentecost. Placing the new memorial beside the feast of Pentecost recalls the presence of Mary with the apostles on the day of Pentecost and serves to focus our reverence for Mary in the broader context of the mystery of Christ and the Church. As outlined in the Decree, all the elements and titles which have contributed to the faithful holding Mary in high esteem are drawn together and acknowledged in the celebration of the new memorial, to better promote and encourage the maternal essence of the Church within its pastors and people.

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1. Thomas Merton, *Understanding Catholic Devotion to Mary*, [www.catholic.org/prayers/merton.php](http://www.catholic.org/prayers/merton.php), accessed 20 June 2018.

2. *Lumen Gentium*, #60

3. Catechism of the Catholic Church, St Pauls: Homebush, 1994, #963-4.

4. Decree on Mary Mother of the Church, accessed 20 June 2018, [vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccdds\\_doc\\_20180211\\_decreto-mater-ecclesiae\\_en.html](http://vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20180211_decreto-mater-ecclesiae_en.html)





# 10 YEARS OF LISTENING FOR VITAL CATHOLICCARE SERVICE

INGRID MCTAGGART

CatholicCare staff celebrate 10 years of FRC with cake

***CatholicCare Social Services' Family Relationship Centre (FRC) celebrated 10 years of service to families in the Darling Downs area in June.***

From the first day of operation, FRC has assisted clients navigate challenges of separation and divorce. Staff have helped their clients negotiate tricky issues like weekend visits and choice of schooling, often in complex situations like domestic and family violence, drugs/alcohol and mental health issues. Sometimes these situations can be further complicated by cultural considerations, such as indigenous or culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) sensitivities. FRC staff can have some really tricky spaces to work in while trying to help families achieve positive results for all involved.

"Knowing that FRC has supported thousands of families to juggle a wide variety of situations, challenges and needs, CatholicCare is really proud to see this service reach such an important milestone," said Kate Venables, Director of CatholicCare Social Services. Kate credits the long term success of FRC to staff keeping the children at the heart of each decision made.

When asked how clients have felt about the service, FRC Team Leader, Zoe responds, "Again and again we hear clients have felt like they were treated with dignity by our mediators and staff in general. In return our clients appreciate the common ground our mediators find and recognise the best possible outcome for children involved."

Speaking to one of FRC's clients, Jane\*, offers an insight into how helpful the service is to people at such a vulnerable time. "The parenting courses I was encouraged to take were helpful. I already knew the information, but the course reinforced it and let me know I was doing the right thing. I wasn't the bad parent I was blaming myself of being."

When asked what made the most impact with her from her experience with FRC, without hesitation Jane responds, "Someone was listening to me, I was being heard."

FRC has gone from strength to strength, growing since the program's inception 10 years ago. It's hoped that it will continue to grow and evolve with the needs of the families in the Toowoomba area and celebrate many more milestones.

\* Name changed to protect privacy



## Employee Assistance Program

**The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a confidential, short-term counselling service to assist employees with work or personal issues impacting on their personal wellbeing, work performance and team morale.**

EAP proactively improves the growth of an organisation by ensuring the mental health of employees. An EAP program can help with depression, grief, stress, parenting challenges, anxiety, trauma, conflict and bullying

**EAP**  
**CatholicCare**  
Social Services

For more information call **1300 477 433** or visit **www.catholiccare.services**

# LISTENING TO THE DIOCESE BRINGS ABOUT DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

INGRID MCTAGGART

*At the end of June, Bishop Robert McGuckin officially launched the Toowoomba Diocesan Pastoral Plan at St Patrick's Cathedral.* This rounds out a year long process of facilitated listening throughout the diocese. The Diocesan Pastoral Plan, reflecting the voice of the people, has been developed to give direction to the Diocese during the next five years. An accompanying Diocesan Action Plan has also been devised as a working document to help realise and achieve the vision set out in the Pastoral Plan.

The Key Pastoral Directions outlined in the Plan are a response to an expressed need at this time for greater attention to be focussed on some areas which may have been given insufficient attention in more recent years. The development of this plan was born from a desire to give the diocese as a whole direction and address some of the emerging issues in the area.

One such issue which has been brought to the fore is



that in the intervening years since the previous plan was implemented, much as changed for parish leadership. There are fewer priests and fewer people especially in country areas.

Through this Plan there will be opportunities to nurture appropriate lay leadership structures as well as support clergy and support communities. Family engagement, spiritual development, liturgy, creating a safe and welcoming church and social justice, in addition to parish leadership, have also been identified as Key Pastoral Directions.

The Diocesan Action Plan brings together initiatives and actions for all parts of the diocese – not just Diocesan Agencies, but Parishes, Schools and Deaneries, have all been encouraged to take up the vision for the Diocese. Copies of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan are available in your local parish. A digital copy of the Plan and Diocesan Action Plan are available at [www.twb.catholic.org.au](http://www.twb.catholic.org.au).

# TOWARDS A SPIRITUALITY LIBRARY OUTREACH

SR ELAINE MORZONE

*Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan highlights Spiritual Development as one of the key pastoral directions for the next five years and commits to establish a Spirituality Centre appropriately resourced to assist parishes and individuals to integrate faith and life experience, nurture a contemplative stance to life and establish spiritual companionship.* As the desire is for a flexible Spirituality Centre that meets the needs of our largely rural diocese, it will require some time of investigation and discernment before plans are presented for humble beginnings and ongoing development of a Spirituality Centre that suits our reality.

However, there are smaller steps that can be taken now and I am happy to inform you that we are in the process of setting up a Spirituality Library Resource for the diocese, to make spirituality books available to all, particularly those in the remote and rural areas of the diocese who have less



access. Thanks to the openness of the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, books belonging to the Spirituality Library Outreach will be processed through the Resource Centre facilities. They will however be catalogued under a distinct heading with a separate barcode. All members of the diocese will have access to the Spirituality resources, even if they are not eligible to access restricted sections of the Resource Centre.

I look forward to working in collaboration with staff at the Resource Centre to set up a system which is user friendly. I am grateful also to the ten or so ladies who generously responded to my request for help to cover the library books. The services of some may need to be put on hold for a while, but it is great to know they are there to be called upon when needed.

Once the system is up and running, information on membership and access to this library will be made available.





# DISCOVERING THE EXTRAORDINARY IN THE ORDINARY

JOHN BRIFFA

Toowoomba Diocese people at  
Liturgy Brisbane Music Workshop

*The Church's liturgical calendar divides the year into a series of thematic seasons or times, each with a particular focus and purpose.* Each season has a relationship to the other and together they celebrate all the elements in the mystery that is central to our faith; the life, death and resurrection of Christ.<sup>1</sup> While the colour and rituals of the Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons seem to encourage participation, many of the faithful often struggle to find meaning in the longest season of the year, that of Ordinary Time. Perhaps it is the title Ordinary which creates a sense of being mundane.

The term Ordinary simply means that each Sunday is numbered or counted and therefore represents a sequence in recalling the life of Jesus. During Ordinary Time we are challenged to celebrate the presence of God in the everyday patterns of life. The Sundays of Ordinary Time remind us that Sunday is the original feast day and that every Sunday is a celebration of the Easter mystery.<sup>2</sup>

With the other seasons being of shorter duration and already crammed with specific rituals and focus, Ordinary Time provides the ideal opportunity to introduce new music to the parish repertoire.

In a desire to explore music which may help others find the 'extraordinary in the ordinary', members of the Toowoomba Diocese recently participated in a one day music seminar conducted by Liturgy Brisbane. The workshop provided an insight into various aspects of liturgy and the day was punctuated with an abundance of quality music and singing.

Monica Brennen, Pastoral Associate at St Theresa's Parish, Toowoomba, was inspired by the different repertoire of music due to the presence of having a live band at the workshop. "The ideas about the use of Ordinary time were insightful

and were also practical to bring back to liturgy teams. It also gave you a belief in what your own parish was planning when some ideas that you had thought of were affirmed as good practise", Monica commented.

When introducing new music to the parish, use the hymn for a number of Sundays and consider including the words in your parish bulletin for the same number of weeks, thereby encouraging parishioners to reflect on the text. Using your newsletter to provide information about the function of the Entrance and Communion song is also helpful in developing a greater awareness about the role of music in liturgy.

Michael Bermingham, Parish Leader at St Thomas More's Parish, Toowoomba, noted, "The day inspired a strong sense of how important music is to liturgy and how important it is to facilitate community participation in that music. The Maroochydore team were fantastic. Their story of building up their music ministry over quite a number of years provided good motivation to keep working at growing the music ministry in our parishes." Maree Keating also from St Thomas More's found the information provided in the seminar encouraged participants to inject some life into Ordinary Time liturgy and remarked that, "If the music is good, more people will want to join in".

So the next time you have to field a question about 'Ordinary Time', keep in mind that nothing is ordinary when we realise the presence of God in our daily lives; something we come to know better by walking through the life of Christ each Sunday.

1 Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #102

2 CSL # 106

# CARING FOR OUR SPIRIT

NICOLE RANGIIRA

*As I work alongside patients, families and staff, I'm regularly given the opportunity to explain the essence of the pastoral care service we seek to provide.* I explain that we have learned in recent years that we need to care for our entire selves. No matter what the circumstances Pastoral Care is available to care for people's spirit through listening to their stories, caring for how they are feeling and exploring meaningful and hopeful ways forward. In all healthcare settings, holistic care is about caring for people physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Spiritual Care Australia (SCA) is the professional association for organisations and individual practitioners in spiritual care services. It seeks to unify, consolidate, support, promote and encourage the development of spiritual care within contemporary multi-faith, multi-cultural Australia through services like membership and an annual conference.

In May Kathie Ober attended such a conference in Newcastle to be enriched by keynote speakers, workshops and the fellowship of many others throughout Australia who seek to care for the Spirit of those God entrusts to them.

## CONFERENCE INSPIRES MOVING TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS

KATHIE OBER

*It was such a privilege to attend the SCA Conference.* As I casually interacted with chaplains and other pastoral carers, I realised the wonderful dedication within the groups to bringing care and hope to people living in prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, private homes and to people living on the streets of our towns and cities. These stories show the great hope we bring in service of others. With a packed 4 day schedule, there was a lot of information to take in. I share some stand out moments and messages.

The first lecture emphasized that the complex spiritual beliefs of the incarcerated community often challenge the direction and knowledge of the Pastoral Care Worker. A prisoner's beliefs are often radically different from your own. Dr Maytlo Yettke from the California Justice System said, "People embrace various religious practices based on their life stories. Behind the walls of incarceration, these stories are often magnified, representing themselves as opportunities for us to practice understanding, compassion and non-judgement in the encounter of 'the other'."

Graham Long from Sydney's Wayside Chapel spoke of 'The Myth of the Power of One'. Even though there is an increase in the help profession, there is still a growing need in the community. More research and more qualifications are not enough to reverse the current situation that has old people living alone, young people disempowered and so many more under considerable stress. Our current welfare systems tend to manage people without any understanding of the cultural shifts that contribute to our social pain.

Elaine Miles, Social Researcher for McCrindle spoke of

social trends. With rising secularism, particularly among young people, we look at how we as community view religious belief. Today the family structure depends largely on the employment structure. Retaining workplace staff now requires a work life balance where people are provided with sufficient money to live, while also allowing for other aspects of their life be it educational, spiritual or social. A workplace culture where people can interact socially and work collaboratively with their peers is needed and management requires an inclusive, participative approach demonstrating people skills. Clearly these work requirements are important to consider, particularly when Pastoral Carers are companions to staff, especially in the bigger institutions, often working long hours in highly emotional circumstances and also to the mostly younger patients who worry about issues with employment.

Dr Kathleen Mc Phillips spoke on understanding the Royal Commissions findings into the failure of institutional cultures in Australia. This presentation examined the challenges the organisations face in making their workplaces safe for vulnerable at-risk groups. The response of Pastoral Care Workers will be central to change as they deal with the psychological and spiritual needs of survivors attempting to come to terms with the most serious betrayal of trust and moral standards.

It was shown throughout the SCA Conference that spiritual care is becoming more accepted and respected in health and welfare departments. Allied health professionals are seeing the need for spiritual care to be a necessary component of their holistic approach to health services.





# SOWING SEEDS, FOSTERING VOCATIONS

FR GONZALO GARCIA DURAN

Talking about discernment: Recently Bishop Robert McGuckin hosted the Vocations Dinner, joined by Vocations Directors Frs Gonzalo Garcia Duran and Jamie Collins, the Diocese's Seminarians and a handful of young men happy to share a meal and a chat.

*In this era of mass media communication and connectivity, when everything is in our hands through mobile phones, it would be interesting to consider how our communication with God would be if He were to use a mobile phone, email or any social media platforms.* Possibly the first thing He would do would be to claim copyright of the OMG! abbreviation, maybe seek royalties from all users! But in reality we know that this is not going to happen.

Pope Francis, in his message for the 2018 World Day of Vocations, mentions that the first step in every vocation, personal and ecclesial, is to listen to the "word that calls to us from on high and, while enabling us to develop our talents, makes us instruments of salvation in the world and guides us to full happiness." Yes, the Lord calls us in our daily life through those things that we can hear, see or touch.

It is important to mention that in order to have access and to process God's message we need to consider one important disposition: silence! Only in silence will we be able to listen and to read the word as Jesus did in the synagogue. Only in that way will we be able to hear with clarity the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the power of the message.

This disposition, of course, becomes even more difficult each time we immerse ourselves in a society full of noise, overstimulation and bombardment with information that can easily mislead us. This being the case how we can discover and nurture a vocation to the priesthood in the middle of such a chaotic life with all the hustle in which we are immersed?

Let me use a familiar image as a reference point. When we

have rain, even a small amount, the image of the paddocks filled with different varieties of grains, crops and even cotton, covers the soil on both sides of the road. But how is it possible that these seeds grow under such circumstances? A miracle happens every time that we trust the ground with the wonderful mystery that is contained within each single seed.

We know that technology has changed the way we do things and agriculture is not an exception. However, the hand sowing technique used for centuries and through effort and hard work, obtained that wonderful gift contained in each single seed.

This powerful image is compelling and assists us in our understanding of the vocation to priesthood. God has entrusted the church, Christian faith communities, families and, specifically, individuals who are willing to listen and to establish a personal relationship with Jesus, that wonderful seed of vocation to priestly life. We know that a vocation, like the mystery of the seed growing within fertile soil is very much the work of the Holy Spirit.

It is also true that every parish needs to have a concern for encouraging and fostering vocations, understanding that nurturing vocations is the responsibility of the whole Church. In other words, it is the responsibility of every single member, consecrated or not, to promote vocations and to pray for all who are discerning their vocation in life.

Let us begin the process of planting the seed by inviting young people to listen to God's call and to pray to the 'Lord of the harvest' - that he will continue to call men and women to serve the Church through priesthood and religious life, both within the Toowoomba Diocese and the wider Church.

**"The harvest is rich  
but the labourers are  
few, pray the Lord  
of the harvest will  
send out labourers  
into his harvest."**

(Matt 9:38)

# NEWS IN BRIEF



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***It may seem like science and religion are incompatible, but nothing could be further from the truth.*** The Google Doodle (a special header image for search website Google) for 17 July featured Fr Georges Lemaître in celebration of what would have been his 124th Birthday. While the name may not be familiar, the concept of the big bang is well known. Fr Lemaître was a very big part in developing the big bang theory and theorizing that the universe is expanding. The animated Doodle featured a caricature of the Belgian priest with the universe expanding around him.

## ENCOUNTER THE SPIRIT THROUGH A DIFFERENT PATH

### VOCATIONS CONTACTS

#### FR GONZALO DURAN

Phone 07 4662 7031

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish  
8 Villiers St, Chinchilla QLD 4413

#### or FR JAMIE COLLINS

Phone 07 4622 1075

All Saints Parish

PO Box 119, Roma, Qld 4455



***SPRED Friends, Volunteers and Staff know how to throw a party, and that was definitely the case for this year's Community Social.*** Each year SPRED comes together with family and friends to hold a social gathering bringing together the parish and diocesan SPRED groups for an afternoon of dancing, singing and fun. This year's Disco theme saw some fun dress ups, with plenty of bell-bottoms, afros, sequins and some funky dance moves on the dance floor.



***St Patrick's Cathedral community, and wider Diocesan community, extends a warm welcome to Fr Nandana Saparamadu.*** On loan from the Archdiocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Fr Nandana has been appointed Assistant Priest at St Patrick's Cathedral. He is excited about being in Toowoomba, which he describes as a beautiful city, as his brother lives here. Cathedral parishioners look forward to getting to know Fr Nandana and hopes he enjoys his stay with the parish.



*The site of the former South State School is humming with activity once again as work gets underway on a new central administration building for Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.*

The Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba purchased the site in 2015 for its central location and proximity St Patrick's Cathedral, which is next door.

Bishop Robert McGuckin said he was delighted to be able to conserve such an important part of Toowoomba's history whilst providing a consolidated administration site for Toowoomba Catholic Schools.

The move could not have come at a better time according to Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools. "After many years split across three sites, this new facility will make a remarkable difference to our work in providing leadership, service and support to the 31 schools across our diocese. It's anticipated that Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office will be operating from the site early next year.



***Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields, played host to a special event for the Queensland Police Service in June with the naming and blessing of one of the POLAIR 2 helicopters.*** The helicopter was named in memory of Senior Constable Brett Forte, who was killed in the line of duty in 2017. The College was honoured to be part of the ceremony as the Forte family is a part of the school. Bishop Robert McGuckin was joined by Police Chaplain Jeff Baills in blessing the helicopter.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SR MONICA CAVANAGH ON NEW LEADERSHIP ROLE

*The 42nd National Assembly of Catholic Religious Australia was held in June exploring the theme of Religious in Australia: Evolving with Hope continuing the tradition of leadership that the women and men of religious congregations are known for.*

A significant part of the gathering is the election of the new President and Council. Resounding applause assented to the election of Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph, into the role of President.

Sr Monica is an Allora native, and worked in the Toowoomba Diocese in the late 1990s/early 2000s in the Diocesan Ministry for Pastoral Vision office. She played a significant role in the dialogue process for the original Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

### MILESTONE ORDINATION CELEBRATED

INGRID MCTAGGART



*Each year clergy and parishioners come together to celebrate anniversaries of ordination.* This year was a little bit different with the opportunity to recognise 25 years of Episcopal Ordination for Bishop Emeritus Bill Morris. It was also 25 years of ordination for Fr Richard Leonard SJ, who was Bishop Morris' first ordination as Bishop. Although Fr Richard was unable to attend the Mass, many of his family were in attendance to mark the occasion.

In welcoming the large crowd assembled to celebrate this special Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Bishop Robert McGuckin quipped that he wasn't sure he'd be around to see such an anniversary himself. Bishop Robert offered warm congratulations to Bishop Bill and thanked him for his

service to the people of the Toowoomba Diocese.

In his homily Bishop Bill recounted a story of an actor and an old lady reciting the 29th Psalm, The Lord is my Shepherd. While the actor had great talent, skill and drew applause for his recitation, the old lady's soft and gentle delivery brought tears to the eyes of all present and a quiet stillness filled the room at the conclusion. "How did you do that?" the actor asked, to which the old lady replied, "You may know the words, but I know the shepherd." Bishop Bill reflected on his own journey to know the shepherd and growing into the family of the Toowoomba Diocese.

After Mass Bishop Robert and clergy joined with family and friends of Bishop Bill at a special lunch at the Cathedral Centre.

### FR LINO VALENTE

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH, STANTHORPE

Fr Lino Valente and Stanthorpe Parishioners happy to catch-up over morning tea



*A year after becoming a resident at St Vincent's Care Services, Toowoomba (Lourdes), Fr Lino Valente was warmly welcomed back to his beloved Stanthorpe by the parishioners of St Joseph's Parish and Parish Priest Fr Brian Connolly for Mass and a morning tea in mid-March.*

Fr Lino, who had hurriedly departed the previous year due to a decline in his health, eagerly anticipated the early

morning trip with niece Dr Diana Sampson and husband Roy.

The Mass and morning tea was an opportunity for many parishioners and friends to thank Fr Lino for his contribution to the Stanthorpe community and to assure him of their prayers and support for the future. It was also an opportunity for the community to say an early Happy Birthday to Fr Lino, who celebrated his 90th Birthday in July.





## FR MICHAEL O'BRIEN

KARRA NOSWORTHY

*During a weekend late in May, St Mary's Parish, Goodindiwindi bid farewell to Fr Michael O'Brien and beloved furry companion Rosie.* Both have been at part of the community for 13 years and in that time, there has been so much joy, love and friendship from them both.

On the Friday, we celebrated Mass with the St Mary's School community. Students learnt a special song, 'Fare thee well Fr Michael' which included some wonderful drumming coordinated by our music teachers. The staff and parents also worked on a secret performance at the end of Mass. About 40 adults performed the Sister Act song, 'I Will Follow Him'. The Mass was uplifting and sad

but also very special. The day concluded with a shared BBQ lunch, rotational activities for all the students and farewell drinks with the staff.

On the Sunday around 500 members of the community attended Mass followed by a shared lunch on the grass. Our local Mayor, members of local parliament, dear friends and family gave Fr Michael the farewell he deserved. There were many laughs and tears shed during this Mass.

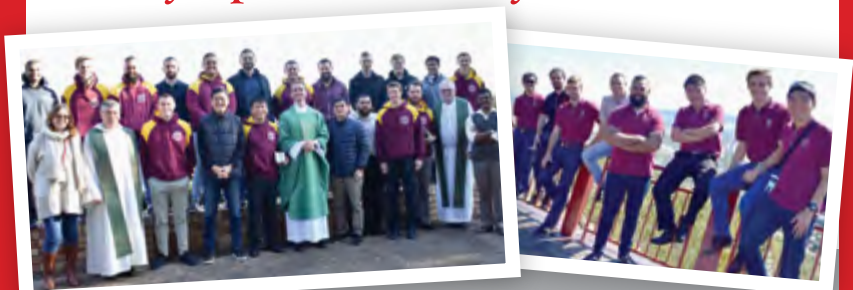
Fr Michael has been an absolute godsend to our community and has worked so hard to build stronger relationships within our community. We will all miss him dearly and look forward to his visits back to Goondiwindi.

"The Seminary that educates must seek really and truly to initiate the candidate in the sensitivity of being a shepherd."



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## Holy Spirit Seminary QUEENSLAND



Msgr John Grace Rector Telephone: 07 3267 4800  
Email: [seminary@qld.catholic.net.au](mailto:seminary@qld.catholic.net.au)

# BEYOND PROJECT COMPASSION: CARITAS AUSTRALIA ADVOCACY & INITIATIVES

CATHERINE MCALEER

Caritas Australia has helped thousands of pregnant women and mothers in rural Bangladesh to access healthcare. Photo credit: Eleanor Trinchera, Caritas Australia.



## WOMEN FOR THE WORLD

*Celebrating the extraordinary courage and enterprise of women across the world, this Caritas Australia initiative encourages everyone to stand in support of women experiencing poverty and injustice.* The empowerment of women is vital to ensuring poor and vulnerable communities around the world can create positive and lasting change.

During September individuals, small groups and communities are invited to host an event, big or small, to help raise funds to support Caritas Australia's work with marginalised women. For more information or to register an event visit [www.womenfortheworld.org.au](http://www.womenfortheworld.org.au).

## SHORT FILM COMPETITION

*There is still time to enter Caritas' Short Film Competition, open to school and youth groups, who tell a story and address the key question "How does the work of Caritas*

*Australia show God's love and compassion?"* Details on entry and eligibility can be found at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au).

## SEASON OF CREATION

*Season of Creation is on again this year.* Many of the communities Caritas Australia serve are already battling the harsh impacts of climate change. To respond to their needs and to 'live Laudato Si', we must take urgent action for climate justice. In Pope Francis' words, we are called to 'hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' (Laudato Si, 49). Season of Creation runs from 1 September to 4 October, to find out more go to [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au).

Looking for further help or interested in Caritas Australia initiatives and campaigns? Please feel free to contact Catherine on 07 4638 7977 or at [caritas@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:caritas@twb.catholic.org.au).

# PRAYER GROUP OFFERS FELLOWSHIP AND FAITH

MICHAEL PYKE

*The Emmaus Prayer Group meets on the first Monday of each month at 10am to praise and worship God.* Companionship is important for us as we walk together and share our personal journeys of life. We are a Catholic Charismatic prayer group and we open ourselves to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit during prayer meetings. This helps us listen to and hear God as he prompts us to reach out and be his hands and feet.

We love to sing as this helps bring us closer to God and although we are an elderly group, we're young at heart. We believe that God listens to our prayers and can do miraculous things because of them.

We would love to hear from anyone needing prayer or wanting to join our group. Please contact Kay on 0400 436 498

## CONTACTS

To know more about CCR contact

**Michael Pyke** 0458 300 880 or [michael.pyke56@bigpond.com](mailto:michael.pyke56@bigpond.com)

### Wings of Freedom Prayer Group

(Sacred Heart Parish Toowoomba) Lisa Minz (07) 4615 5218

### Sacred Heart Prayer Group

(Warwick) - Trish Seaby (07) 4661 3133

### St Anthony's Evening Prayer Group

In recess (St Anthony's Parish Toowoomba)

- Colleen Schicker (07) 4659 8094

### Emmaus Prayer Group (St Anthony's Parish

Toowoomba day time) - Kay Hohn 0400 436 498



# OUR SACRAMENTAL JOURNEYS

*After months of preparation for sacraments in schools and parishes, many children (and a few adults) across our Diocese have been celebrating the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Thank you to parents, teachers and parishioners who have helped guide the children through these important milestones in their faith journey in the Catholic Church.*



47 First Communion candidates from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Toowoomba, prepared for the sacrament by APRE Janice Moore and their teachers, Garry Birch and Allyson Jessen. First Communion celebrated by Fr John Quinlan.



First Communion candidates from Charleville, the children were prepared for the sacrament by Kirsty Lines. First Communion celebrated by Fr Peter Doohan.



38 Confirmation candidates from Our Lady of Southern Cross Parish, Highfields, prepared for the sacrament by Steve Moyle, Nadine Dolan and Beth and Kev McCormick. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Brian Noonan. In an effort to make Jesus real, the candidates and their families also made an offering of food, blankets and warm clothing to the local Highfields conference of St. Vincent de Paul.



19 Confirmation candidates from Stanthorpe and 4 from Wallumbilla, came together to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation at St Joseph's Stanthorpe. The children were prepared for the sacrament by Kayelene O'Dea and Andrew Kendall in Stanthorpe and Judy Passlow in Wallangarra. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Brian Finnigan with Fr Brian Connolly.



38 Confirmation candidates from St George Dirrinbandi Parish, prepared for the sacrament by parishioners Veronica White and Belinda Eley with St Patrick's School teacher, Majella Morris. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Brian Fitzpatrick. The Parish operates the sacramental program on a two-year cycle, however, this intake of candidates was extremely large compared to past years.



5 Confirmation and First Communion candidates, joined by 3 adult Confirmation candidates from Sacred Heart Parish, Cunnamulla, celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin.









## TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: COMMUNITIES OF EXCELLENCE

DR PATRICK COUGHLAN

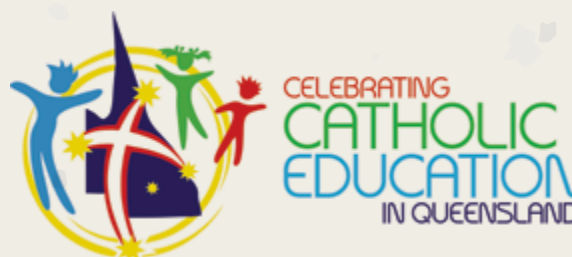
*With 31 schools and 1,400 staff, Toowoomba Catholic Schools is proudly delivering high quality educational opportunities for almost 9,000 students from Kindergarten to Year 12 across Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and South West Queensland.*

So it is fitting that during Catholic Education Week we paused to celebrate the remarkable achievements of these staff and students.

At the heart of Catholic education is our fundamental belief in human dignity, unlimited potential and fullness of life. This belief, supported by Gospel values, inspires our mission to make a difference in the lives of students.

Our mission has two pillars which support and guide how we envisage our work. The first is that schools are exemplary places of learning where every student experiences academic success. The second is that schools are exemplary places of spiritual life and Catholic faith where every student comes to know and experience the loving presence of Jesus in their lives.

By working in partnership with parents, parishes and the broader community our schools deliver a world class, holistic education that equips each student for life.



As Executive Director, I am very gratified by the great work happening in our schools and particularly the leadership of our highly qualified staff who are experts in their field.

I invite you to discover what makes a Catholic school community unique. Whether you are a parent or carer looking for a quality education for your child, a prospective teacher or school officer who'd like to join our dynamic team, or you'd like to volunteer to support our students in reaching their full potential, we'd love to hear from you.

Visit our website [www.twb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.twb.catholic.edu.au) or contact your local Catholic school.

## CALLING ALL BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS!

**We are looking for an image to use for the cover of November Issue of Horizons to close out the Year of Youth.**

Photos should capture what the Year of Youth theme, "Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy", has meant for you. The competition is open to primary and secondary students in the Toowoomba Diocese.

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>1ST PRIZE</b>        | Your image featured on the cover of Horizons #52                                |
| <b>RUNNER UP</b>        | 2 images will be chosen to use inside Horizons #52                              |
| <b>HIGHLY COMMENDED</b> | A selection of images will be chosen to use on social media to showcase talent. |



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





# TEACHING A NATURAL CHOICE FOR MATER DEI'S CECILY FITZPATRICK

ANDREA FROST

Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipient Cecily Fitzpatrick with Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba Prep students Billy Norris, Gemma Montgomery, Eddie Mac Manus, Gemma Enfantie

**Well known educator Cecily Fitzpatrick first stepped into a classroom 43 years ago.** Fast forward to 2018 and Cecily has clocked up 35 years of service to Catholic schools, 31 of those years, in the Toowoomba Diocese. This week, Cecily was recognised for her remarkable contribution, being named one of Queensland's Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipients.

The Mater Dei Primary School Prep teacher and former Assistant Principal says she never thought of pursuing anything but a vocation in teaching.

"Being the third of seven children, I, like my older two sisters fell into the role of looking after the younger ones. This quickly schooled me in how to be patient and how to lead by example. I never seriously thought of doing anything else," Cecily said.

Cecily says an effective teacher is always conscious of their role beyond the classroom.

"My first appointment was a three-teacher school at Blackbutt with a Year one-two composite class. There I learnt the valuable lesson of realising that schools don't exist in isolation and that they are very much part of the wider community.

"Apart from those teaching duties, I was also responsible for running the library, maintaining a vegetable patch and training the netball team during lunch breaks. It was a

steep learning curve, but the community was fabulous and embraced me with genuine affection, to the point that I still remember the names of most of those children 43 years later," Cecily said.

For Cecily, teaching in Catholic schools, just felt like the right fit.

"I believe that anyone working in the Catholic system has an advantage because of the rich traditions of our faith and the spirit that sustains us.

"We have a responsibility to appreciate and to continue to nurture the spirituality of our founding orders and to keep the traditions alive in our contemporary world. With that comes the need to be outreaching in our communities," she said.

Asked for some advice for beginning teachers, Cecily says it's important for all teachers to remember that they are never alone.

"Don't be afraid to ask for help because there is such energy and wisdom in working as part of a team.

"Greet each child by name as they enter your classroom and say goodbye to each one every afternoon.

"Be collaborative, seek a mentor, retain your sense of humour and find something to laugh about everyday- even if it is yourself," Cecily concluded.

# A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE FOR TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ANDREA FROST

*With close to 1,400 staff working in schools and colleges across Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and South West Queensland, Toowoomba Catholic Schools is a significant regional employer.*

During this year's Catholic Education Week, the focus has turned to recognising the remarkable work of the teachers and support staff who spend their days ensuring all students in Catholic schools across the Diocese find and pursue their passion in life.

The inaugural Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards, held during Catholic Education Week recognised members of the Toowoomba Catholic Schools community who inspire student learning.

Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools, said he was delighted with the calibre of nominations for the awards.

"With almost 40 finalists across 10 categories, the process of reviewing the nominations was a poignant reminder of the outstanding qualities of our teaching and support staff who have made a choice to serve within the Toowoomba Catholic Schools system.

"From teachers just starting, to experienced principals, the stories of those who regularly go above and beyond to ensure the success of their students, were nothing short of inspirational." Remarked Dr Pat.

"An important part of this was the fine work of our support staff. Whether it's the staff within the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office who directly support teaching and learning in our schools, the school cleaner, the school office administrator or the countless volunteers who give their time to ensure students are given the best opportunity to succeed."

Dr Pat says Toowoomba Catholic Schools has adopted a number of new strategic initiatives to enhance teaching and learning over the past 18 months and he is delighted with the way staff have worked to implement these changes in schools.

"As a Catholic education system we strive to uphold our reputation as professional educators who take pride in the quality of our work and hold ourselves accountable for the results of our students.

"The parents of children attending our schools can be confident that all students are being challenged to reach their full potential," Dr Pat said.

## 2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS:

### EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

(sponsored by Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund)

#### Early career teacher

(Less than 2 years experience)  
Casey Sly – St Maria Goretti Primary School, Inglewood

#### Primary expert teacher

Debbie Bradfield  
St Patrick's Primary School, St George

#### Secondary expert teacher

Andrew Fellenberg  
St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

#### Professional Learning Community

St Patrick's School, Mitchell

### EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

#### School leadership

Inclusive of education and religious leadership (individual or team)

Michael Newman  
St Mary's College, Toowoomba

#### Middle leadership

Emily Perry  
St Francis de Sales School, Clifton

#### Emerging leader

Lisa Hammond  
St Mary's College, Toowoomba

### EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SUPPORT

#### Teaching and learning support

Rebecca McGregor  
Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office

#### Administration, finance and facilities support

(sponsored by Catholic Church Insurance)

Peter Simpson  
Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office

Kim Jones  
Holy Name Primary School, Toowoomba

#### Volunteer support

Katrina Thom  
St Mary's College, Toowoomba





# LEADERSHIP BORN FROM THE HUMBLEST OF BEGINNINGS

ANDREA FROST

2018 St Mary's College Captain,  
Benit Kitapindu, was born in one  
of the world's poorest countries

***In 2001, Benit Kitapindu was born in the republic of Benin, an underdeveloped West African French-speaking country ranking amongst the world's poorest countries.*** Originally from the DR Congo, Benit's family lived in Benin as refugees.

Benit was primarily raised by his mother Rosette, who would work selling products in local markets. Benit's father, Charles, who had to travel to Nigeria for whatever work he could find, would visit their family when he could.

"We would often be forced to go months without contact because night travelling between Nigeria and Benin was risky and expensive for an underpaid refugee father. I preferred to send what little money I had to my wife and children in Benin," Mr Kitapindu said.

When Benit was nine, the family received the good news that they had been granted permanent residency in Australia under a humanitarian program.

"We were so overwhelmed to learn that we were going to a place where our children could be provided with such opportunity and importantly access a quality education," recalls Mr Kitapindu "We packed up our belongings and made the major move to Australia in June 2010."

Benit was enrolled in Darling Heights State School in Toowoomba, not knowing a word of English. After 12 months at Darling Heights, Benit finished primary school at St Anthony's Primary School, and eventually moving to St Mary's College to commence Year 8.

Benit never imagined he would one day be named the St Mary's College Captain – an honour given to him by his peers for 2018.

It was at St Mary's that Benit found a strong passion for basketball which has opened a world of opportunity for the 17 year old. In 2020 Benit will attend Montclair State University, USA under a basketball scholarship, with plans to also study architecture.

"I couldn't be more excited, and I am so grateful for the opportunities I've had attending St Mary's College. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Mary's Principal, Mr Michael Newman, who has been of great support to me, as well as my College teachers," Benit said.

Benit's story is the perfect fit for the Catholic Education Week theme for 2018 – Discovering New Horizons.



Bishop's Inservice Day, Toowoomba

# ANNUAL BISHOP'S INSERVICE DAYS

*Fr Richard Leonard returned to Toowoomba as the special guest for the annual Bishop's Inservice Days which were held across the Diocese during Catholic Education Week.*

The days which this year were held in Quilpie, Roma and Toowoomba are an annual reminder for the Toowoomba Catholic Schools community of their mission as part of our local Church. With more than 1400 staff across 31 schools, these days are always joyous events.

**In a video, used at the Bishop's Inservice Days we asked students what they value most attending a Catholic School? Here's an excerpt of the responses...to see the full video, head to [www.twb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.twb.catholic.edu.au)**



**COOPER**

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, STANTHORPE

The professionalism, the caring nature of the staff, all the teachers. Particularly the Mercy values that our teaching revolves around, compassion, dignity and respect, all that will help me as I go through life. I've been able to access lots of different activities in the community and just to see the happiness and joy on people's faces when you can help them out, that's something I really value.



**OLIVER**

ST THOMAS MORE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, TOOWOOMBA

The Christianity part of school is most important throughout your life because learning in God's footsteps or Jesus' way, you can learn a lot more and you can be much more loving and caring to others.



**ABBY**

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, WARWICK

The nurture of the teachers and how they make sure they fit every priority of you as a student, and the spiritual values that you would take from that, as a school, a Catholic School. It's made me realise what I have and what others don't, it's made me step out and help others.



**MARGOT**

OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS COLLEGE, DALBY.

I think I value how we can learn about God and Jesus. This will help me make good choices in the future and turn to God if I'm having trouble... I think Jesus is alive in everyone in how they treat each other, and the values that they hold.



**DHAIRY**

ST MARY'S COLLEGE

The thing I value most about the St Mary's College education, they really incorporate solidarity and being a brother at the School and they really allow people to reflect on their faith and their actions in the real world. I would say that it's a rewarding experience because it teaches you those life skills, those values that allow you to make a positive difference in the world.





NAIDOC Week Liturgy at St Mary's Church, Charleville



BECAUSE OF HER,  
**We Can!**

8-15 JULY 2018

The 2018 National NAIDOC logo

# NAIDOC WEEK

## CHARLEVILLE SR ELIZABETH O'KEEFFE

*This year the Charleville NAIDOC committee encouraged the younger generation to be more involved in the presentation of NAIDOC Week.* Our students participated in the Flag Raising Ceremony which was held at Charleville State School, the NAIDOC liturgy held in St Mary's Church and the street march.

Our NAIDOC liturgy was attended by a large group of Aboriginal Elders and parents. During the procession the children, accompanied by some of the Elders, brought in the symbols of water and earth, the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags followed by an Aboriginal image of Mary and the child Jesus. During the liturgy Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe spoke about the important role that women play both in our society and in Aboriginal culture. How our mothers, sisters, aunties, grandmothers and daughters have been and continue to be the thread which holds our families together.

They have fought for justice, reconciliation and social change so that we can live the life we have today, so that we can go to school, so that we can obtain a good job when we are older, so that we can all live in harmony with each other. Mary is another strong inspirational woman in our lives teaching us to open our hearts to God and to his guidance. Now it is time for us through our actions and the things we do and say to set a good example for our families and those we go to school with. So that people can look at us and say "Because of her, we can".

On Friday St Mary's Students and teachers joined in the NAIDOC street march to the Charleville State School. After a minute's silence our students led the community in singing the Aboriginal Our Father. Our congratulations go to Isla Lawton, one of our students, who was announced as the winner of the Female Junior Young Leader Award during the ceremonies.

## WARWICK SHARON YOUNG

*To mark NAIDOC Week the St Mary's School, Warwick community held a special a Mass.* Tying into this year's NAIDOC theme we worked with two very special local Aboriginal women, Brenda and Sharman Parsons. These women inspired our Mass around the wonderful work of indigenous women.

Brenda provided exquisite Bunya nut necklaces that have now been given to each classroom and have been used to brighten up classroom prayer spaces. Sharman shared her talents to sing with our Bunya Choir and to create a fire dance with some of our school leaders. She also shared her personal story, including the trauma of her mother being stolen from her grandmother.

Our next initiatives to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) education at St Mary's will be to work with staff, parents, students and community members on developing our ATSI Education Plan. Then in September our school members will work with Aboriginal artist, Peter Muraay Djeripi Mulcahy, to create story poles telling the local Aboriginal story.



St Mary's School Warwick Students creating fire with dance for NAIDOC Week



St Mary's School Warwick Mini Vinnies collate items for hospital packs

***St Mary's School Warwick Mini Vinnies spent last term focussed on two local projects to help those less fortunate than ourselves right here in Warwick.*** Students co-ordinated a soup drive to collect over 300 cans and packets of soup to help keep those in need a little less hungry and warmer this winter.

## CHINCHILLA MINI VINNIES HARD WORK FOR GOOD WORKS

REBECCA THOMSON &  
MELISSA FERGUSON

***At the start of 2018 around 30 students nominated to be a part of the school's Mini Vinnies team.*** With overwhelming commitment and enthusiasm, students straight away began planning various fundraising ideas and opportunities to do Good Works within our local community.

In partnership with the local parish, students hosted a weekend Mass to commence the Parish 100th year celebrations. Children's participation in weekend Masses has been an inspiration for the Parish and school for a long time. Following Mass, Mini Vinnies set up craft activities and games to coincide with a Parish BBQ. Upon reflection of the event, the students commented, "It was the best night because all the kids loved our activities!"

Throughout the first Semester, Mini Vinnies held two fundraising activities selling slices of watermelon (thanks to local farmers and the O'Leary family, who donated watermelons) and blue and red jelly cups to correspond with the State of Origin Football matches. It was with great pleasure that at the end of the Semester Mini Vinnies donated \$500 to our local St Vincent De Paul shop. It was lovely to witness the proud faces of the students as they presented the cheque to the St Vincent De Paul volunteers. Generations apart, but both displaying the true heart of volunteers out to make a difference in other people's lives who are less fortunate than they are.

Students were also able to use funds from last year to sponsor two students through the 'Assist a Student' program. The program provides an effective hand up to disadvantaged

## WARWICK MINI VINNIES KEEP IT LOCAL

SHARON YOUNG

Our Mini Vinnies also helped to collate some hospital packs for the local hospital. These packs are used for patients who find themselves in hospital without basic hygiene items, such as a comb, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste.



St Joseph's School Chinchilla Mini Vinnies

students living in overseas communities, giving them the opportunity to attend school for an entire year.

The president of the St Vincent De Paul Chinchilla Conference, Mrs Vonnie Hughes, also visited the school over the Semester to speak with Mini Vinnies Students about all the Good Works she does as a volunteer in our local community. This triggered student's interest in attending the local St Vincent De Paul shop during their lunch break. Each week a group of students were given a tour of the shop and observed how to sort items, clean, stock take and understand the process of how their local donations can reach people in need all over Australia and the world.

The Joey's Mini Vinnies team is now busy planning the Good Works for Semester 2. What a great example they are of young people fulfilling our school mission, keeping the Josephite charism alive and thriving in our school – "Never see a need without doing something about it!"



# STUDENTS CAN IT AND SWAG FOR MERCY

ANGELINA SIMS



Prefect Natasha Petrocchio presents local members of the St Vincent de Paul Society with cans as part of Can it for a Cause

*During the cold, winter months, many of us take for granted the hot meals and warm, comfortable beds we have.* Sadly, many within our community aren't so fortunate.

St Joseph's School Stanthorpe Prefect, Natasha Petrocchio, launched her Winter Appeal "Can It for a Cause" in mid-May. As part of her Mercy Value, Options for the Poor, Natasha was hoping to supply over 400 cans to the local St Vincent de Paul. By putting the call out to every student at the school to donate at least one can of food which could be heated and eaten as a meal, over 420 were collected.

A presentation of the cans was made to representatives of the St Vincent de Paul Society at the end of Term 2. Natasha was also delighted to make a presentation of recipe books featuring recipes using canned items.

Supporting the Winter Appeal has enabled staff and students to see the St Joseph's Mercy values in action by assisting the poor, showing compassion and ensuring justice to those in need.

## JED'S BAKING DREAM

ANGELINA SIMS

*St Joseph's School Stanthorpe Year 4 student, Jed Murphy, had a dream – he wanted to make a wedding cake.* One day, that dream became a reality and his happiness was immeasurable!

Jed and some of his classmates take part in the Life Skills Session each week with the assistance of Teacher Aide, Kim Badcock. During their weekly sessions, the group discuss and plan what they would like to bake and make a list of ingredients they will need to purchase.

The following week, the students venture to the shops to purchase these items. This activity teaches them about planning, budgeting and the experience of going to shop. The next week is when the students get to bake their planned treat with the ultimate enjoyment of eating what they've cooked.

With the Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event coming up, Kim thought this would be the perfect excuse to make this special wedding cake.

With the added assistance of fellow students Abraham Caruso and Lochlan Taylor, Jed prepared and decorated the wedding cake. The finished product looked magnificent

As part of his Mercy Value, Mercy & Justice and the Faith in Action Project, Prefect Joshua Mahoney held a number of fundraisers in June in support of purchasing swags for the homeless.

"Unfortunately, some people in our country and around the world face the struggles of not having a safe and adequate home for them and their families. By helping the Backpack Bed for Homeless we are fulfilling our duty as Christians and continuing the work of Catherine McAuley," Joshua said.

Students on both campuses enjoyed a free dress day and were asked to donate a gold coin for this fundraising event. Joshua also organised various events on the Secondary Campus including selling hot chips during the lunch break, which was very popular due to the cold weather.

Joshua also organised a Movie Night with 2 different sessions, as well as offering delicious dinner and snacks for sale to the students. The evening was a great fundraiser and an enjoyable social event for all students who attended. A total of \$817.00 was raised.



Jed Murphy (right) with his wedding cake creation and classmates, Lochie Taylor and Abraham Caruso

and the boys were thrilled with their masterpiece which took pride of place on the table at the special morning tea.

"I always wanted to make a wedding cake because I wanted to make it for the teachers and to make everyone happy. It looks beautiful. I'm very happy with the final product," Jed said.



# DOWNLANDS PAVES THE SACRED PATH

ANNE MCATOMNEY AND CATHERINE MIMS

Downlands College  
Leader Gabbie  
Pike carried the  
Pave the Sacred  
Path candle at the  
Sacred Heart Day  
Eucharist

*As a Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) College, Sacred Heart Day is a very special day for Downlands and all MSC communities.* Annual Sacred Heart Day celebrations took place at the College in early June.

The theme Pave the Sacred Path led to a focus on finding ways to live our lives as people of kindness, compassion, humility, understanding, mutual forgiveness and gentleness. To pave the way for ourselves and for others to follow, while realising that this path is not always the easiest one to choose. This theme was emphasised during our whole community Mass at the commencement of the day. The celebration began with a procession of students carrying some of the stones that make up this path, as well as decorated hearts and blanket donations for the Vinnies Winter Appeal. The blankets were purchased with funds from student donations in Pastoral Care as well as profits from the Jules Social Justice Group hot chips and red frogs stall.

The beautiful tree-lined driveway at the College became a canvas as more than 50 teams of students used colourful chalk art to interpret the Sacred Heart Day theme during their lunch break. It was happy day - a day of painted hearts on faces, Sacred Heart Day wristbands and Have-a-Heart ice creams for morning tea.

At Downlands, every member of staff is considered part of the College Mission team as they model what it is to be part of a vibrant community where faith is integrated with life.

"Our MSC Ethos is integrated through our Social Justice programs, Retreats and the over-arching Pastoral Care program. Students, staff and parents are encouraged to connect, to become involved in their community, to make a positive contribution to society and to engage compassionately with peace and justice issues in the world," says Principal, Mr Stephen McIlhatton.





# Downlands

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Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School give thanks for school staff for Catholic Education Week

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES THANKFUL

JANICE MOORE AND ANGELA GILBERT

*During May, Mothers' Day celebrations were held throughout Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Toowoomba, with mothers being pampered and thanked by their children for all they do for them.* The whole school also gathered for a special Mass led by Fr John Quinlan. Over 150 mothers and grandmothers were able to attend and receive a special blessing.

Towards the end of the term, students also prepared and

participated in end-of-term liturgies with their class and families. They also raised money for Caritas and St Vincent de Paul, through a 'Favourite Footy Team Colours' free dress day.

During the third week of Term 3, the Parish celebrated the beginning of Catholic Education Week with a Staff Thank you Mass. The staff of OLOL received a special blessing from Fr Quinlan and afterwards enjoyed shared morning tea with the parishioners.



## STUDENTS TAKE HOME SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CROWN

BRONTE LATHAM

L to R: St Mary's College  
students Jimmy Sullivan  
and Tikiri Lamb

*It took days of creative problem solving, 32 bright minds, and a huge amount of team work for the boys at St Mary's College Toowoomba to take out the title of Darling Downs Science and Engineering Challenge champions.*

Held at the University of Southern Queensland in May, eight schools from across the region gathered to participate in the Science and Engineering Challenge. The event encouraged students to think outside the box and test theories. It was a challenge where getting something wrong was encouraged.

The students were provided a challenge and a set of materials to complete a specific task. The event aimed at

allowing the students to engage in fun, yet competitive activities involving elements of science, engineering and technology, encouraging the students to explore scientific principles, rather than being guided to an answer.

St Mary's College students, Tikiri Lamb and Jimmy Sullivan said the key to success was teamwork. "Any team that wasn't able to properly function within itself wasn't going to be able to construct what was required of them in the limited amount of time," said Tikiri. "We had a leader, and we'd pass ideas through and vote on whether the idea was good. The key was communication," said Jimmy.

The challenge is to encourage young high schoolers to continue their studies in the fields of science, technology, engineering or maths, or even inspire a career option. "It's certainly opened my mind to a lot of new possibilities," said Tikiri Lamb.

Accumulating a score of 1299, the St Mary's College team came away with the overall prize.

St Mary's College Principal Michael Newman says, "The boys at St Mary's College are excitedly and enthusiastically exploring STEM education – the integration of the four distinct disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Our boys view STEM as their creative edge and future, lying everywhere in the world around us, expanding all aspects of life and becoming their future employment possibilities."



St Mary's College  
Toowoomba

Years 5-12



[www.stmaryscollege.com](http://www.stmaryscollege.com)





# DEDICATED TEACHER FAREWELLED

SALLY YIN

Principal Chris Rosentreter presents  
a parting gift to Lynda Ross

*At the end of term two the staff and students at Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba, were surprised by the retirement of teacher Lynda Ross.* Lynda has been a teacher for 41 years, the last 16 at Sacred Heart.

This outstanding contribution to the education of Toowoomba children is worth celebrating. Lynda has been a dedicated teacher who has touched the hearts and minds of around 1 000 children over the course of her career. What a career that has been with many exciting changes in education, including the introduction of a National Curriculum, the rapid growth in the field of technology and the advancements it has brought into classrooms. For half of her teaching career the only kind of mouse was the cheese eating kind!

Lynda has been committed to developing all aspects of the children's characters. A stickler for routine and focused learning in the classroom, earning the nickname Miss Ross the Boss, Lynda has shared with the students her love of literature. Lynda has always been passionate about nurturing

in children a love for Jesus and a life of Faith. Hand in hand with this, she has taught her students to take responsibility for their own actions and to respect themselves and others. For many years Lynda led the "Jump Rope for Heart" campaign, engaging the children in the great activity of skipping – good for their own health and raising funds to fight heart disease at the same time.

Lynda has had the honour of teaching the children of past students, doubling her impact on the lives of those families. One of her past students is now a colleague here at Sacred Heart.

We are sad to say farewell to Lynda, but we know that she deserves to put her feet up and watch as many midnight tennis tournaments as she wants to, as many cricket matches as she feels like and, most importantly, spend time with her precious family in Brisbane and Canberra.

All of us at Sacred Heart thank Miss Lynda Ross for all she has done and wish her a happy, fulfilling retirement, filled with peace and joy.

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**LJ Hooker**



Julie Collins and Michelle Rohan



Carmel Wooding and Mary-Anne



Penny Doyle and Deb Roche with their Prep class

## SIBLING POWER IN WARWICK

***If you are going to school with a sibling, chances are you are a student, but for these 6 educators spending the day with a sibling is all in a day's work.*** The 3 pairs of sisters are happy to call Assumption College and St Mary's School, Warwick their shared workspace.

Julie Collins and Michelle Rohan attended St Saviour's College, Toowoomba before their lives took them on diverging paths, from Sydney, Brisbane, Goondiwindi, Kununurra, Wagga Wagga and eventually to Warwick. Julie had previously worked in primary teaching for 10 years and Michelle moved from the travel industry to teaching. In 2015 they commenced work at Assumption College.

"We both feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work together as we are not only sisters but best friends," said Julie. Although Julie admits it can get a bit hectic and the day can pass without seeing each other. "It has been amusing at times when we are asked if we are either twins or if we are even related. The reaction of some colleagues when they find out after some time that we are actually sisters has been a source of humour for all."

Carmel Wooding and Mary-Anne Driver share a similar story of diverging lives brought together again in Warwick. Carmel, a teacher librarian at Assumption College, moved back to Warwick from the Gold Coast after the birth of her second child. Now with three children she balances her work, family and parish commitments. Mary-Anne is a teacher aide and currently studying Library and Information Technology through TAFE. She has worked in many different school settings including kindy, prep, learning support and class aide.

"I have always loved books, reading, collecting and sharing stories. So when Carmel kept prompting me to incorporate my passion for books with my passion for working with children, I finally looked into part time study," said Mary-Anne. She went on to say that she loved working with her sister, "She is vibrant, upbeat and keeps the students engaged and interested in learning. Being siblings, we are very similar in our beliefs and goals and that helps when planning and setting up activities and displays, we are able to bounce ideas off each other to get a better learning outcome for the students."

For Penny Doyle and Deb Roche working in the same Prep classroom has also been a positive experience with the two sharing similar work ethics, values and expectations. "I have always loved primary teaching, after relocating from Brisbane Catholic Education I have enjoyed working in the Early Years at St Mary's Warwick. I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would be working with my sister in a classroom," said Penny. "When I was approached about the possibility of working with Deb, our Principal joked that we would need to keep any family arguments at home. All jokes aside, we were both very excited to be working together."

"Working in a prep classroom is something that brings a great deal of joy and fulfilment to my working day. Being able to do this with my sister is something really special. Working so closely together and sharing the highs and lows of our day," said Deb of her experience.



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# NEW PRINCIPAL CONTINUES LEADERSHIP LEGACY

ST URSULA'S COLLEGE, TOOWOOMBA

St Ursula's College welcomes new  
Principal Tanya Appleby



*In early July, St Ursula's College, Toowoomba welcomed Tanya Appleby as incoming Principal.* Tanya, a passionate educator with over 30 years of experience, reflects on the importance of building community as fundamental to the role of Catholic leadership. She sums this up by stating that "the essence of quality Catholic education lies in fostering relationships to build a strong community".

Tanya explains, "Being a Catholic school is more than just the identifiable symbols associated with Catholicism. While schools, like other organisational structures, are often subject

to cultural and technological shifts, what remains a constant, however, is what is taught and how people relate to one another."

Tanya looks forward to working with others and continuing the leadership legacy of St Ursula's College. As an advocate for single-sex schooling for girls, she expresses her conviction for enabling girls to draw on of a repertoire of skills to build their resilience and leadership capacity in a world that requires women of integrity and courage. Tanya is inspired and motivated by the life of St Angela and College motto: Serviam: *I Will Serve*.

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## MACKILLOP CLUB A SOUP-ER SUCCESS AT PITTSWORTH

KRISTY CAMERON

St Stephen's School, Pittsworth's MacKillop Club celebrated a soup day in early June. The Club received overwhelming support from the school community with over 70 orders for soup being placed. Approximately 20 litres of soup was made for this day by willing volunteers. The MacKillop Club also received several cash donations from families demonstrating enormous generosity. The money raised from this day will support the local charity Rosie's Friends on the Street. The MacKillop Club are excited to present \$252.30 to a representative from Rosie's at a prayer celebration in Term 3.

Towards the end of June, the MacKillop Club organised a successful Bullying Awareness Day for Dolly's Dream. The classrooms were a-buzz on the day with the theme, "Say 'No Way' to Bullying". Throughout the week, children developed an awareness of what bullying is and how we



Pittsworth Students say no way to bullying with a Blue Day for Dolly. Photo courtesy of the Pittsworth Sentinel

can "speak up, even if our voice shakes". It was a wonderful coincidence that a few days earlier was the launch of the song 'Speak Up' by Tom Curtain and Sara Storer. The St Stephen's School community began our Anti-Bullying Awareness Week on parade by listening to this song. The week ended with a Blue Dress Up Day for Dolly, where we once again reflecting on the song, Speak Up.



Students share the classroom technology with their grandparents



Tyson Riley with both his grandmothers, Gail Martin and Doreen Riley

## VALUE OF GRANDPARENTS CELEBRATED

SARAH LILBURNE

On the last day of Term 2, grandparents of students from Prep to Year 6 at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby were invited for the morning to visit classrooms, admire their grandchildren's school work and attend a special prayer gathering. Over 200 grandparents from as far away as Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, St George and Narromine in NSW came along to share this unique and welcoming experience with their grandchildren.

The morning commenced with a delicious morning tea of home baked goodies, made with love by the College staff, followed by prayer led by Fr Jim Cronin and the Year 5 students. The celebration highlighted how important grandparents are in the lives of all children by valuing their wisdom and love which is special in its' very own way.

A blessing was given to all the grandparents who attended.

The grandparents were then escorted to the classrooms to view all the great work done by the students and to participate in activities, read books, do puzzles and generally soak up the experience of what their grandchildren learn, see and do in their classrooms each day.

Grandparents' Day at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College is a unique and valuable occasion to celebrate the richness grandparents bring to families and to highlight the importance of the support network they make up for so many families in our community.

It was fantastic to be able to recognise our grandparents and say thank you.



# END OF AN ERA FOR ST THOMAS MORE'S

MICHAEL BERMINGHAM



Bishop Robert McGuckin joined with the St Thomas More's Community in thanking the Sisters of St Joseph for their service

***After 57 years of outstanding service to the St Thomas More's Community, South Toowoomba, the Sisters of St Joseph have departed.*** The last of the Josephite Sisters to reside in the in the Convent on South Street have moved to Brisbane to enjoy their well-earned retirement. Sr Leonie Stortenbeker was one of the first sisters to come to St Thomas More's, known at the time as Sr Anna Maria, and she is also one of the last to live in the Convent along with Sr Marion Liddy.

The first Parish Priest of St Thomas More's, Fr Bill Hall, was determined to establish a Parish School as part of the developing parish. He made initial approaches to the Sisters of St Joseph who declined at first.

The Sisters were already starting to feel the effects of contractions in vocations to the Religious life and expanding into a new school would place considerable strain on dwindling resources. It is a testament to the determination of Fr Hall and the generosity and pioneering spirit of the Sisters of St Joseph that an agreement was finally reached, and the Sisters accepted Bishop Brennan's invitation to establish a school. Building activity for a convent and a school had already commenced.<sup>1</sup>

The first sisters, Srs Finbarr and Anna Maria, arrived in January 1961 and classes commenced on January 23 1961 with 67 pupils. Bishop Brennan blessed and opened the new school building and the convent on July 9 1961. The Sisters managed the Parish School until 1980 when the first lay principal was appointed. Sisters then continued to serve the school in the role of Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE) until the early 1990's when the first lay APRE was appointed, with the Sisters continuing to provide ongoing support to the lay incumbent of this role.

Service to the school was only part of the story as the Sisters played an active part in the life of the Parish, from assisting with music in the Church particularly with choirs

at Easter and Christmas to undertaking pastoral outreach. This service continued during the years when the Sisters were in a position to be enjoying the fruits of their years of labour in gentle retirement. Even in 2018 Srs Leonie and Marion continued to serve the community particularly through taking Holy Communion to the sick, the elderly and the housebound, both in private homes and Nursing Homes, as well as supporting and guiding some of the groups in the Parish including the Catholic Ladies Group and the Emmaus Prayer Group.

With more of the Sisters moving to retirement, the Convent became a place where the Sisters could continue to reside. In the late 1990's and 2000's, Bishop Bill Morris indicated his preference that the Convent be available for the use of the Sisters of St Joseph for as long as they needed to avail of this facility. This continued to be the case for the Sisters.

It was with a great deal of sadness that the Parish received the news that the Sisters would be vacating the premises as at the end of June this year. The Parish came together with Bishop Robert McGuckin in early July to celebrate a prayerful farewell and show of gratitude for the Sisters of St Joseph. Fifteen Sisters attended the celebration which included a special blessing for them and shared words of acknowledgement and thanks during a hearty morning tea after Mass. A highlight of the day was seeing Srs Leonie and Marion planting a St Mary Mackillop Callistemon shrub in the Church garden as a special remembrance of 57 years of service.

The St Thomas More's Community is deeply grateful to the Sisters of St Joseph for all they have contributed to the faith and life of the Parish and the School and wish God's special blessings on all who have served here.

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph extract from St Thomas More's Parish, Fifty Years of Community compiled by Majella Albion, 2010

# PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT A WINTER WARMER

PATTI MCNAUGHT

**What do you do on a freezing cold night, curl up in front of the fire at home?** No, you go and have a ball at the Annual Parish Trivia Night. In late May, our Pastoral Parish Council hosted their annual trivia night with a superhero theme. Although it was optional, interested people were encouraged to dress up as their favourite superhero. It was such fun seeing lots of people dressed up getting into character and simply having a marvellous time. Babysitting was made available again this year, so that their parents could relax and enjoy themselves.

On arrival a sheet was waiting on our table with questions on a certain subject. This year, as guessed by most of us, it was to name the superhero's alter ego. As phones or iPads were not allowed on the night, we spent most of the week studying. Young people who have sharp minds fared quite well, but we poor oldies, even though we had studied all week, forgot most of them when we got there. Some of us just popped in the names of people that were sitting at their tables, which added to the fun of the night.



Superheros was the name of the game for Highfields Parish Trivia Night

Various competitions were organised for the night, hula hoop, guess the song (made harder this year as you had to shoot a basket as well if you were right). If they had a "guess who" there would have been a lot of failures as the costumes were so good, the people wearing them were unrecognizable! Nibbles and pizza were on hand along with other delectables provided by attendees. Once again, our MC Extraordinaire, Mal Porter was in fine form, conducting interviews with various superheroes. His extraordinary quick wit and fun demeanour added to this fabulous fundraiser.

The multi draw was a winner again this year, with prizes donated by the Parish Council members themselves and various parishioners. Thank you to the Parish Council members for all your hard work prior to and during the night, allowing us to have another amazing event. We are looking forward to seeing what you have in mind next year!

# WALK OF HISTORY PROVES TO BE A HIT WITH THE PRESENT

JANINE BUTLIN

L to R: Lloyd Cronin, Marie Mahoney, Angela Scott and Fr Thomas Areekuzhy unveil plans for the Walk of History Project



**Pittsworth Parish is undertaking a Walk of History Project to help raise funds to restore the historic St Stephen's Church which is over 100 years old.** Parishioner Lloyd Cronin came up with the idea for the project as not only a fundraiser, but another historical feature for the church.

Past and present parishioners have jumped at the chance to purchase pavers to support the project.

The parishioners at St Stephen's love the church and saw the need to restore it to its original state. The community is hoping to secure enough money from the Walk of History to help cover restoring all of the leadlight windows as well as painting the interior of the church. It will be a very expensive project, but organisers are optimistic.

The initial fundraising target of \$10,000 has been reached

and the project has created a buzz in the town. Lloyd receives phone calls, emails, letters, cards from people every day who are very interested in the project. There have been orders from all over the countryside, including Railton (near Devonport, Tasmania), parts of New South Wales, Gold Coast, Townsville and Rockhampton. The Walk of History Project has proven that the church holds a special place in the memories of people far and wide and there is a bond between parishioners even after they have left the community.

St Stephen's Church will be 110 years old in 2019 and it is hoped that the Walk of History, window restoration and painting will be completed in time for the milestone celebrations next year. Everyone is excited about the celebration and walking the Walk of History.



# CUNNAMULLA IS A WELCOMING COMMUNITY

SR MAUREEN ANDREWS

Hard at work at the Cake Stall to benefit Cunnamulla community celebrations



**“THERE WAS MOVEMENT IN THE CHURCH,  
AND THE WORD WAS PASSED AROUND  
THAT THE BISHOP FROM TOOWOOMBA  
TOWN WOULD PASS THIS WAY  
TO JOIN SACRED HEART COMMUNITY  
– ON THE DRY AND DUSTY GROUND  
SO MANY FOLKS HAD GATHERED  
TO CELEBRATE THAT DAY.”**

*We were pleased to welcome Bishop Robert McGuckin for Confirmation and First Communion for 5 children and Confirmation for 3 adults.* It was such a thrilling occasion with the children processing in playing the maracas. Both Anna King's grandmothers were confirmed as well as long-time resident, Judy Henning. Judy's daughter had come from Townsville to be her mother's sponsor and was accompanied by her small son. The community was also delighted to extend their hospitality to two friends of Bishop Robert who were visiting the west for the first time.

It was also a time to congratulate the participants of a course conducted by John Briffa some weeks previously. John had expertly led Carolyn Crick, Paul McCarthy, Anne Hogan and Polly Crawford through a 'how to' for funerals and as well an update on leading a Liturgy of the Word with communion.

This month the community was overjoyed to welcome Carolyn Crick into full communion with the Catholic Church. Carolyn been a part of Sacred Heart Cunnamulla for many years as the competent and dedicated Administration Officer at the school. During the same Mass Father Peter baptised Brooke Haig, daughter of Cara and Ben Haig.

In 2018 Cunnamulla has been celebrating 150 years as a town and there are a number of big community events planned from November 8-11. The celebration concludes with the Armistice Day service. Jan Gorrie, fund raiser par excellent, suggested that the Catholic ladies of the town organise a cake stall. Over 3 hours an extraordinary amount of money was collected through the stall. This is one way our Catholic Community can show that we are open to being an ecumenical presence.

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# BRIEF

## PARISH NEWS



Youth With a Mission visited the Youth Group Holy CYA recently while in Warwick for the week. The groups shared a fun night of games, prayer, drama skits and sharing a meal together.

Recently St Mary's Parish, Charleville warmly welcomed Huy Vo, a member of our local Vietnamese Community. Huy was Baptised and received First Communion and Confirmation surrounded by Charleville parishioners, family and friends.



Sr Elaine Morzone has been visiting parishes across the Diocese to facilitate a day of spiritual reflection. The day titled A Day of Inner Nourishment, explores two readings from John's Gospel via an interactive process to relate events of Christ's life to the reality of our lives now. Sr Elaine visited Roma Parish at the end of June and will be visiting Wallangarra, St Anthony's Toowoomba, Warwick, Miles, Jandowae and St Thomas More's Toowoomba between September and the end of the year.





St Mary's Parish Warwick took 19 members of their Youth Group, Holy CYA (Catholic Youth Action), on camp to YWCA Leslie Dam on the first weekend of school holidays. So much fun, from archery to waking early for the sunrise to meditation and camp fires. A fantastic time had by all.



St Patrick's Cathedral will once again come alive with a riot of colour and heavenly scents for the 2018 Carnival of Flowers. The soaring space of the Cathedral will be filled with floral designs based on this year's theme, Spirit of Creation. Local schools, parishes and diocesan agencies, along with Janelle and Michael Petrie and a band of merry volunteers will be up for the creative challenge this year. Parish Administrator, Fr Michael O'Brien, will be learning the ropes this year and is happy to see the event continue. All are welcome to visit the Cathedral during Carnival of Flowers.





L to R: Rev Tom Bower and Fr Jim Cronin

## ECUMENICAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

NARELLE MCINTYRE

*Held on Good Friday, the Stations of the Cross have largely been an opportunity for the Dalby Catholic and Anglican communities to share prayer, reflection, song and fellowship since 2014.*

In that year, Fr Michael Cooney and Rev Tom Bower organised a combined service which was held in St Joseph's Catholic Church. St Joseph's hosted this Good Friday gathering again in 2015 and then in 2017. Fr Jim Cronin has continued the combined churches tradition on Good Friday morning.

In 2018 St John's Anglican Church were hosts, challenging those in attendance to reflect on the Stations through the lens of all who are burdened, fall, feel marginalised and stripped of their human dignity.

It was a powerful and thought-provoking experience, a reminder that the Resurrection of Jesus calls us all to reach out in hope and to help those whose life's journey is painful and lonely.

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