

Horizons

Ignite Sparks Faith

**Plenary Council:
Asking the
Big Questions**

**Chevalier Week
at Downlands**

**THE VOICE
OF YOUNG
PEOPLE**

**#52
NOV18**

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

I have no idea what to write about. It seems like this past 2 weeks have been a blur of putting Horizons together, prior to that was jumping from conference to diocesan event to conference and back again! When I'm not doing that, I'm at the washing machine, I'm not sure who breaks into my house and wears every single piece of clothing we own because I don't remember seeing us wear half this stuff. When I try to have a quiet moment, one or both of the small people are loudly encouraging me to come look at the playdoh blob that's meant to be some sort of animal or maybe it's a star. I don't know, but I ohh and ahh in encouragement, then ask them to not grind the playdoh into the carpet pleeeeeease.

I'm sitting in my office and it's nice and quiet, but the words still don't come. Some desk yoga, stand up, stretch, breath in, breath out, sit down. I feel better but still nothing. I look around my desk for inspiration to hit me

and realise it's a mess again, man I had it so tidy about a week ago. There's a to-read pile of books and diocesan publications, a couple of camera lenses, a packet of mixed nuts, so much loose paper, post it notes a-go-go and a set of Rosary beads. Funny, the last 2 issues of Horizons I've needed beads.

I pick the beads up, I haven't really looked at them closely, they're pretty, silver. Holding the beads in my hands I close my eyes and sit quietly. I did something I haven't done in such a long time and silently prayed a decade of the Rosary. I savored this genuinely still moment, I didn't need to rush through, just think about what I am doing in this moment. Mind clear, I type...

(Thank you to Fr Hal, reflecting on your piece for this issue and our conversation about it was interesting and inspiring.)

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:** Lake Neverfill, Roma. Photo taken by Oliva Bowden. **Graphic Design:** Thorley Creative 1300 883 454. **Deadlines:** Editions will be quarterly. Deadline for February Edition 2019 is 30 January 2019.



In August Shalom World TV recorded Ingrid McTaggart, Communications Officer for the Toowoomba Diocese, in conversation with Bishop Robert McGuckin. This was for the program Heart Talk. Bishop Robert's episode will air in early November through Shalom World TV's website, mobile app and smart tv app.



The call to holiness is a call to everyone and continues to be an urgent call. The subtitle to Pope Francis's recent Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* (Rejoice and Exult) is On the call to holiness in today's world. How do we respond to this call in a practical way as we journey together?

The Holy Father warns us that this has risks, challenges and at the same time opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each of us "to be holy and blameless before him in love" (Eph 1:4).

I am sure we will all have known people who led full, exemplary, selfless and holy lives but who will never be beatified or canonised, nevertheless we may call them saints. Pope Francis talks about the Saints Next Door. "I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in the elderly religious who never lose their smile" (GE7).

Holiness is for everyone! "We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves" (GE14). We cannot opt out of this, nor can we be mere spectators. By baptism each of us is called to share in the mission Jesus entrusts to us. We need to turn to God in prayer and listen lest we just hear our own words. We need to be open to the Spirit who continually calls us to renewal.

We are not being called to opt out of our everyday activities. "Everything can be accepted and integrated into our life in the world and become a part of our path to holiness. We are called to be contemplatives even in the midst of action and to grow in holiness by responsibly and generously carrying out our proper mission" (GE26).

Pope Francis reminds us that nothing is more enlightening than turning to Jesus' words and seeing his way of teaching the truth. The Beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card (GE63).

Holiness is not measured by knowledge but by self-giving love. "For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Gal 5:14). If we are to live this commandment of love we must maintain a solid grounding in the God who loves and sustains us (GE 112). May we remain in the love of the Lord (Jn 15:9).

Similarly we should be joyful, positive and hopeful. "Let us ask the Lord for the grace not to hesitate when the Spirit calls us to take a step forward" (GE139).

As we begin to put our Pastoral Plan into action and as we listen to the Spirit as we journey to the Plenary Council (2020-2021), in the words of Pope Francis may we realise that "Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others" (GE 141).

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



Archbishop Peter Comensoli, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Bishop Mark Edwards and Sebastian Duhau gathering with youth leaders before heading to Rome. The group offered a prayer for the delegates at the end of the meeting. Photo courtesy of ACBC Office for Youth

AUSTRALIAN VOICES HEARD AT VATICAN YOUTH SYNOD

ACBC MEDIA

An apology for past failings and calls for a renewed Church that listens and offers the guidance young people seek were common themes from the Australian voices heard at the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome. More than 250 bishops from around the world joined Pope Francis, religious sisters and brothers, clergy and lay youth representatives for the Vatican's 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment in October.

Australia was represented by Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli, personally selected by Pope Francis to attend, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference delegates Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP of Sydney and Melbourne Auxiliary Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, and youth auditor Sebastian Duhau, from Parramatta.

The delegation also presented the findings from the 2017 survey conducted by the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference. The survey, answered by more than 15,000 young Australians, formed the basis of the report, together with feedback from many dioceses.

Each representative offered insightful interventions about issues of importance to young people and the future Church. Archbishop Comensoli urged action to rediscover a young, outward looking church. "It is time to leave behind a Church that only sits around waiting. Our task is to rediscover a young Church that goes out; not to re-create a Church for the young to come to," he said.

Archbishop Fisher apologised to young people for the ways the Church had failed them, but urged them to not give up on Jesus. "But I say to young people also: never give up on Jesus because of our failures. Never give up on the Church that you can help make more faithful. Never give up on the

world that, with Christ and the Church's help, you can make a better place."

Bishop Edwards called the tense times in which we live an opportunity for fertile intergenerational encounters – a time to work out how to be missionary and pass on God's message. "Young people are closer to being natives in this new era than we are. They more instinctively grasp the lay of this land with its values of equality, inclusion, respect, authenticity and the integration of multiple aspects of life such as body and soul," he said. "My suggestion is that fertile intergenerational encounter, in my country at least, might involve us saying to our young people: 'You show us the lay of this land, the way to the place where you dwell, and we will show you the way to God.'"

Sebastian was one of 20 young people selected from 40 countries to represent youth and advise Pope Francis at the Synod. Sebastian, who is 22 and a retreat and programs coordinator for Lasallian Mission Services, reflected on his own experience of the Church and how the Church needed to learn to listen to the world and the voices of young people who had much to offer.

"I was led and mentored by a young person, who had been empowered to do so by my grandfather. In this space, I was encouraged not only to learn, but to help lead the congregation through my music, and to lead other young musicians when I was capable," he said. "The Church must empower young people, giving them the opportunity and tools to lead at all levels. We young people bring with us a visible sense of joy, hope and enthusiasm, and it is these things that the Church currently needs. The Church must open its doors and become a Church that is led not only by the ordained, but by all of us, together and alongside one another."

CHURCH STANDS WITH PRIME MINISTER AND RENEWS APOLOGY



Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Sr Monica Cavanagh at the combined Australian Catholic Bishops Conference/Catholic Religious Australia response to the Royal Commission's recommendations in August. Photo courtesy of Broken Bay Diocese.

ACBC MEDIA

In October, Prime Minister Scott Morrison issued an apology to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. Mr Morrison described the abuse as a trauma hiding in plain sight. The Prime Minister went on to acknowledge the profound grief and loss that was suffered by children and ask "Why didn't we believe?"

During the apology, Mr Morrison thanked the thousands of survivors for coming forward to tell their story, as well as thanking commissioners and staff for their dedication and diligence, and former Prime Minister Julia Gillard for initiating the Royal Commission.

The leaders of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) have welcomed the Prime Minister's apology to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and recommitted to working with the community to eliminate the scourge of child sexual abuse.

"The National Apology today and the apologies made by institutions during the life of the Royal Commission and since have been an important validation of the courage of survivors of abuse in seeking truth, justice and healing. We

think first of them at this time," said CRA president Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ.

"On behalf of the Catholic bishops and religious leaders of Australia, we renew our profound and heartfelt apology to all victims and survivors of abuse and to their families, friends and supporters, who have shared their suffering."

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, president of the ACBC, said abuse perpetrated by priests, brothers, sisters and lay people was "an utter betrayal of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it should never have happened".

He said the Catholic Church acknowledges that today's apology was for survivors and their supporters, not for representatives of institutions.

The Toowoomba Diocese is also committed to ongoing formation of clergy, laity and staff in child protection and the protection of the vulnerable. Chinchilla is the latest parish to take advantage of training tools on offer from Catholic Church Insurances. Fr Gonzalo Duran and the Safeguard Representative in Chinchilla organised online training after Mass one Sunday in October for a number of parishioners.

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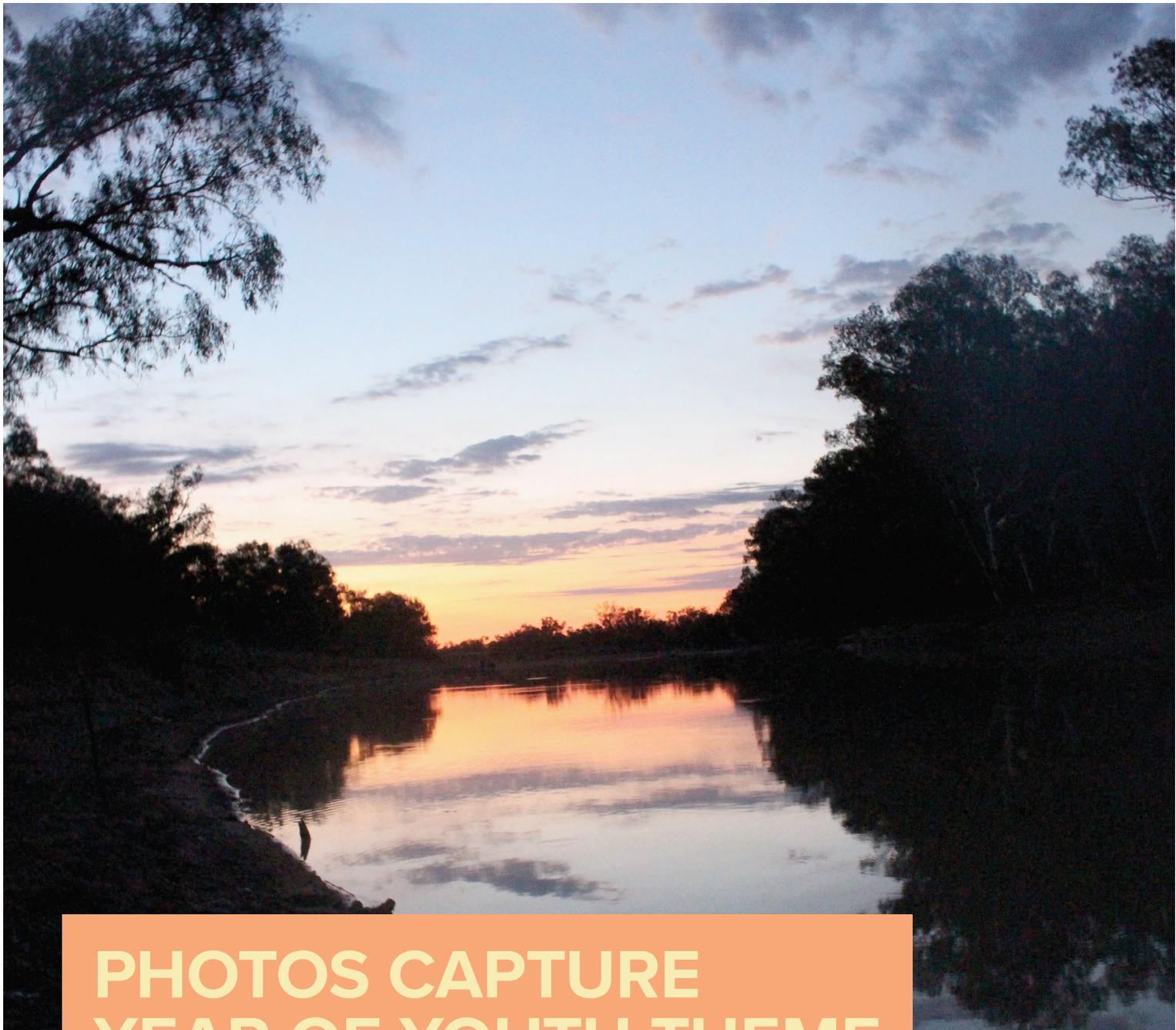
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PHOTOS CAPTURE YEAR OF YOUTH THEME

Runner up: Josie Jekyll
St Mary's School
Goondiwindi

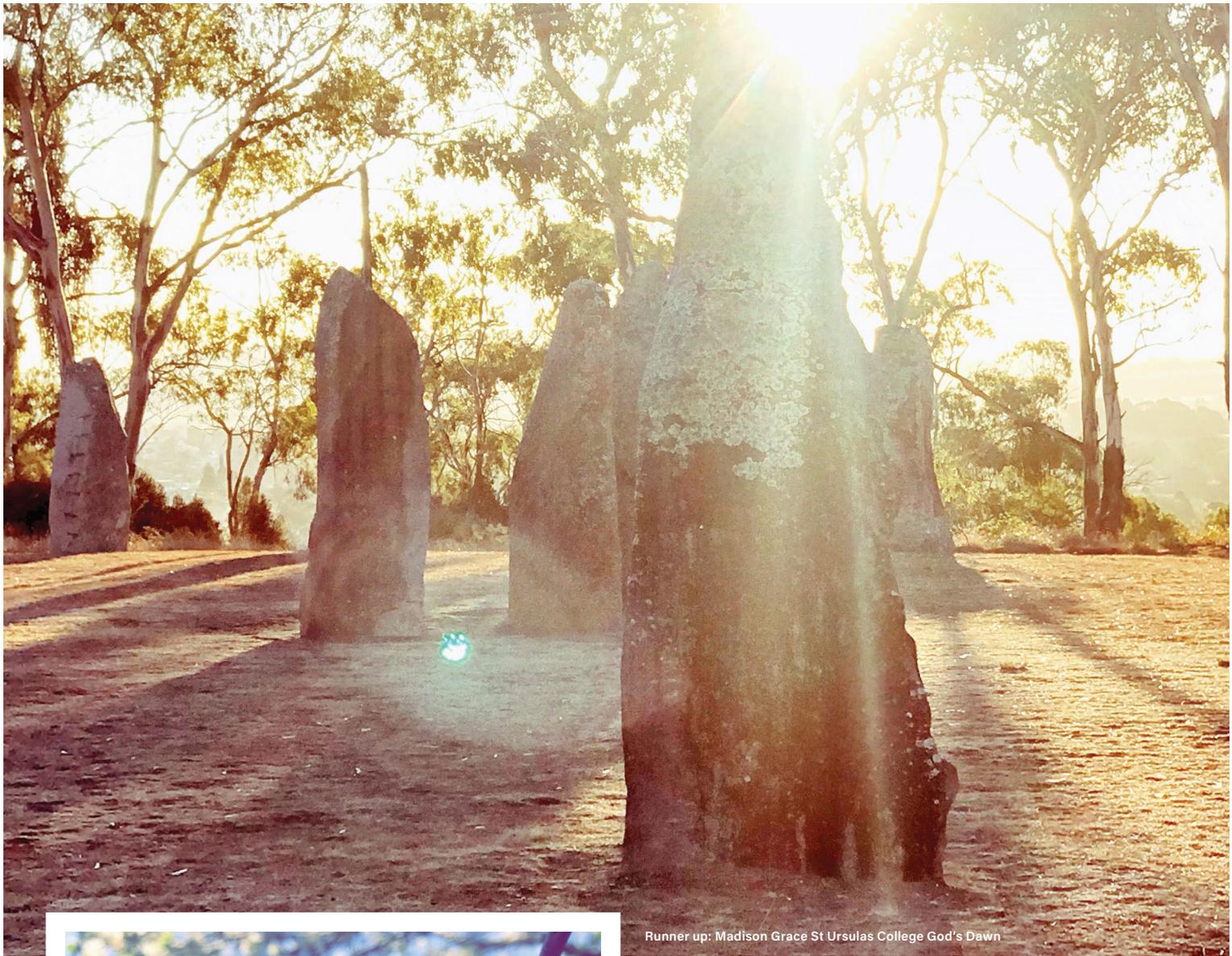
This is the second year we have reached out to the school students in the Diocese asking them to get creative for the cover of Horizons. This year students were challenged to take a photo of something that captures the Year of Youth theme for them and then write a short essay explaining their entry. The Year of Youth has been celebrated by the Australian Catholic Church for 2018 and will come to a close shortly. The theme for the year was Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy.

As always our talented students didn't disappoint with their creativity and heart felt words. It was hard to choose a winner, however St Ursula's College Toowoomba student, Olivia Bowden's entry stood out as the perfect cover image.

COVER COMPETITION 2018 WINNER: OLIVIA BOWDEN

Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy, is an action. The world around us is changing and evolving every day, but as much love is shown and described in first world countries whole countries are devastated due to drought, poverty or

other unimaginable scenarios. The sunrise embodies the aspect of earth life. Not an individual lifetime, however all the lives of every being in the world from past to future. The silhouettes stand in front of the sunrise as beings on earth promising to create new openings for themselves, beyond the horizon they can see. The open water in front of the silhouettes represents the deep unknown of life, vulnerable to what may happen the next day. Besides this, the silhouettes look over the water calmly and unfazed not terrified of what tomorrow brings. How this reflects this year's theme? The spreading of water is in the same way that joy should be spread across the world. The tree symbolises the path of growth from a sprout to adult. It grows as tall as possible aiming for the horizons while also creating a place for joy to be spread between children and adults alike. Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy has the meaning to me is; we should not be afraid to spread joy not just how far we can see, but the world no matter how old you are.



Runner up: Madison Grace St Ursulas College God's Dawn

COMPETITION RUNNER UPS GIVE A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The 3 runner up images of showed a different take on the Year of Youth's theme.

Madison Douglas, St Ursula's College Toowoomba, titled her image "God's Grace". A scene she captured while on a journey between Toowoomba and Sydney, Madison described the feeling of vastness the trip gave her. "... Realising that expanding from local to global friendships is how the youth, our next generations can solve the problems of the world today and therefore create a brighter and more joyful future for every being on God's earth." Madison said in her essay.

St Mary's School Goondiwindi student, Josie Jekyll, was inspired by the beautiful colours at Cooper Creek in Innamincka to grab her dad's "good camera". "I like how the sky reflects onto the water and how peaceful it is." Said Josie in her essay.

Ethan Rohde, St Joseph's College Toowoomba, was inspired by spring and new growth as he snapped his photo. "Just like the youth of Toowoomba in spring we all come out to spend time in each other's company." Ethan said in his essay.



Runner Up: Ethan Rohde
St Joseph's College Toowoomba



ENGAGING WITH AND LISTENING TO THE LOCAL VOICE



WOMEN'S GATHERING BRINGS A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

NICOLE RANGIIRA

A large cross section of women from the Toowoomba Diocese gather to listen to what the spirit is saying

Hope is flourishing within the beautiful and faithful women of the Toowoomba Diocese! Over 60 women of varying ages and from different areas of the diocese gathered at St Ursula's College Chapel for a time of fellowship, on the eve of the Diocesan Inservice, to explore the Plenary Council. An energetic and positive atmosphere was created as women greeted each other, welcomed the opportunity to be with each to other and enjoyed hospitality.

Our time together was supported by the Social Justice Commission, gratitude to Mark Copland for his thoughtfulness and efforts to provide refreshments and other necessary resources.

In a circle, we acknowledged the traditional owners of the land we gathered on and our opening prayer included a litany of all the extraordinary women who have gone before us. Aware of our pain, grief and disillusionment at times, we also honoured the beauty and goodness of our experiences as women of faith.

Relaxed in each other's company we felt safe to come into a time of silence, to then dream about how our experience of church could look and feel in the future. With our heads together and our hearts filled with the gentle spirit of Jesus

alive in each of us, we could inspire each other with our shared wisdom.

Our time was incredibly blessed and encouraged by the enthusiastic and passionate Lana Turvey-Collins. Women felt encouraged from our time to together to engage in the process of praying, listening to one another around the issues that pertain to their experience and to then submit their stories and insights in response to the Plenary's question, 'What is God saying to the Church in Australia?'

Our rich and diverse experiences of God's faithful love and compassion in our lives and in the lives of our families and communities leads us to feel compelled to discern prayerfully and to have our voices heard and to hope for a church that truly reflects the values of the story of Jesus.

Thanks to everyone who played a part in organising this event and thanks to the women in attendance for sharing your story. For those who were unable to attend, there's an anticipation that the Diocesan Women Circle will gather regularly. Looking forward to living out of the reality that "eye has not seen and ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love God."



DIOCESE COMES TOGETHER TO LISTEN TO WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING

MARY OTTO

Plenary Council Facilitator, Lana Turvey-Collins, encourages the Toowoomba Diocese to ask the big questions

Thanks to Lana Turvey-Collins, Plenary Council Facilitator, and the work of the Diocesan Inservice Planning Team, there was an overwhelmingly positive response to the Diocesan Inservice Day held at the James Byrne Centre in September. Eighty-nine people gathered from around the diocese, representing parishes, diocesan agencies and aged care and health facilities, to learn more about the Plenary Council planned for the Australian Catholic Church in 2020. The day included input on what the process will be leading to the Plenary Council, a hands on experience of a Listening and Dialogue Encounter and brainstorming ways of engaging the local community in the conversation.

At the start and the close of the day, the assembly gathered in prayer, lead by the Liturgy Team from St Thomas More's Parish, Toowoomba with support from John Briffa, Diocesan Liturgy Office. Brett Rangiira, St Anthony's Parish, Toowoomba, accompanied the prayer with music.

Lana proved to be an excellent presenter and facilitator for the day, addressing all aspects of the process of the Plenary Council. She responded to a number of questions and concerns from those gathered with respect and a

listening ear. A handful of communities who had taken some tentative steps towards undertaking the process also took the opportunity to share their experiences thus far.

Not only did Lana provide details of the background to the process of the Plenary Council but also an outline of how the Listening and Dialogue Encounter works. Those gathered were given the opportunity to practise the process of the Listening and Dialogue Encounter in small groups. The general feeling in response to this experience was very positive with people finding that the storytelling aspect was particularly powerful.

The atmosphere at the end of the day was one of eagerness on the part of the participants, keen to return to their communities with confidence to put into practice what they had learned through Lana's expert guidance and directions.

Several participants generously offered their support for a team lead by Mary Otto, the Diocesan facilitator of the Plenary. Over the coming months, Mary, with the help of her team, will be available to support parishes and agencies who either were not able to attend the Inservice Day or who may require more guidance on the process.



10,000 VOICES AND CLIMBING

ACBC MEDIA

Momentum is building as the Church reaches the midway point of the Open Listening and Dialogue phase of preparations for the Plenary Council in 2020. Facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins says hearing the voices of more than 10,000 Australians is a great start and she hopes that's just the tip of the iceberg as the Church builds towards the Plenary Council sessions to be held in October 2020 and May 2021.

Since the launch of the Plenary Council's Open Listening and Dialogue stage at Pentecost, individuals and groups – large and small – have shared their stories of life and faith. By the end of September, more than 10,000 individuals had contributed their responses. Dr Trudy Dantis, director of the National Centre for Pastoral Research, said momentum has been building in recent months, with the total number of responses almost doubling each month.

She said the vast majority of responses had unsurprisingly come from Catholics, but noted that a number of responses have also come from other Christian communities, including the Anglican, Baptist, Uniting, Pentecostal, Lutheran and Orthodox churches. A small number of responses had come from people who self-identify as “no religion”, as well as people from other faith backgrounds. “Everyone’s experience of faith and the Church is unique and it’s important that the Plenary Council hears the voice of as many people as possible,” Lana said. “The diversity and differences of responses will be messy and we must resist labels, boxes

and the urge to resolve things ‘neatly’. This discernment will require a nuanced and deeply prayerful consideration as we continue to listen to what the Spirit is saying.”

Of the 10,000 people who have considered the question “What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?”, about 1000 of them were people under the age of 30. Stories from around the country have outlined creative ways that individuals and groups are ensuring their voice helps shape the Plenary Council agenda. “A number of wonderful Catholic secondary school students are visiting aged care communities to have an inter-generational conversation about God, faith and life,” Lana said. “Young people are hearing the stories of older Australians and their hopes for the Catholic Church, as well as sharing their own.”

The Open Listening and Dialogue stage of the Plenary Council runs until Ash Wednesday 2019, but this will not mark the end of the engagement with the community. The National Centre for Pastoral Research team will then analyse the stories and responses that have been shared and, using best-practice research techniques, will identify the emergent themes.

The stories and responses grouped into themes will be considered and examined more deeply using a theological reflection method during a period of “Thematic Dialogue and Discernment”, which will commence in mid-2019 as the process builds towards the Plenary Council sessions in 2020 and 2021.



LIFE CELEBRATED DOREEN O'SULLIVAN

ANNE O'SULLIVAN

Although small in stature, Doreen O'Sullivan was blessed with a big heart, great spirit and determination.

Described as gentle and generous with the warmest of smiles, Doreen was a unique and extraordinary woman who went out of her way to touch the lives of many people. She will be dearly missed by all who were fortunate enough to cross paths with her.

Doreen was a natural storyteller and a gifted writer. A favourite story to recount was that of her birth. In matter of fact fashion, she would relay the details of her breach birth on the verandah of the old family home in Gayndah on 18 August 1924. It was a traumatic event which nearly resulted in the death of her mother. Miraculously, both mother and baby survived. Baby Doreen was tiny with a twisted foot.

This tenacity and determination to survive remained with Doreen for her entire life. Towards the end of her life unsteadiness on her feet started to cause problems. It was complications following yet another fall in May that resulted in her death on 23 June 2018 at St Vincent's Care Services (Lourdes) Toowoomba.

Doreen's life was one devoted to faith, learning, helping others and drawing on her storytelling talents. She won a Scholarship to the Teachers' Training College and taught in small country schools in Gayndah, Mackay and Monto. She spent two years in the Good Shepherd Novitiate in Melbourne, training to become a Carmelite nun but did not appear suited to the religious life. Doreen would be known by many from her weekly column with The Catholic Leader in the Brisbane Archdiocese. The column was called "Woman at Home" and later "Doreen" and lasted for 30 years. In 1961, she married Neil O'Sullivan, teacher and kindred spirit – sharing her faith and love of history and world affairs.

The 1970s and 1980s were times of change in the Catholic

Church and in society and Doreen learned the need for community building. At this time Doreen was teaching at St Anthony's School in Toowoomba. As teacher, wife and mother, she respected aspects of the women's movement, but witnessed the struggle between personal success and the demands of the mystery of love. Doreen took an active part in the Cursillo movement, the International Year of the Child and the International Year of Disabled Persons.

Following this, Doreen became a member of the SPRED community assisting persons with intellectual disabilities, and later joined the ministry of Pastoral Care at Baillie Henderson Hospital and the Toowoomba Base Hospital.

After Neil retired from teaching due to ill health, he and Doreen became foundation members of the Darling Downs Broadcasting Society, 4DDBFM, and the couple presented a weekly radio program for several years.

With the sudden death of her beloved husband Neil in 1990, Doreen found an opportunity to pursue her interest in writing, beginning with the "Dairying History of the Darling Downs," followed by more histories and three novels.

In 2002, Doreen received a Premier's Award for Queensland Seniors presented by Mr Peter Beattie, Premier of Queensland at that time, in recognition of her outstanding service to the community and to Queensland.

Doreen is survived by her sons, Bede and Justin with their caring spouses Debrah and Iain, her daughter Anne and grandchildren Liam, Morgan and Walter. There has always been a close bond between Doreen and her siblings, Mary, John, Father Jim (deceased), Kevin, Maurice, Angela and Peter. No doubt the bond was forged by the faithful care of their parents Patrick and Sarah and their robust faith.

Doreen's funeral was celebrated in July at St Anthony's Church, Toowoomba and was laid to rest at the Drayton and Toowoomba Lawn Cemetery.

PRAYING *the* ROSARY

Rosary in the Park, an annual event in Toowoomba, was held in mid October, although not in the Park as planned. Because of the rain, wind and cold on that morning the organizers had to quickly find another venue and were very grateful that St Patrick's Cathedral was available.

A good crowd of about 100 prayed the four Mysteries of the Rosary and sang hymns. It was a beautiful event to honour Our Blessed Mother and give glory to God.



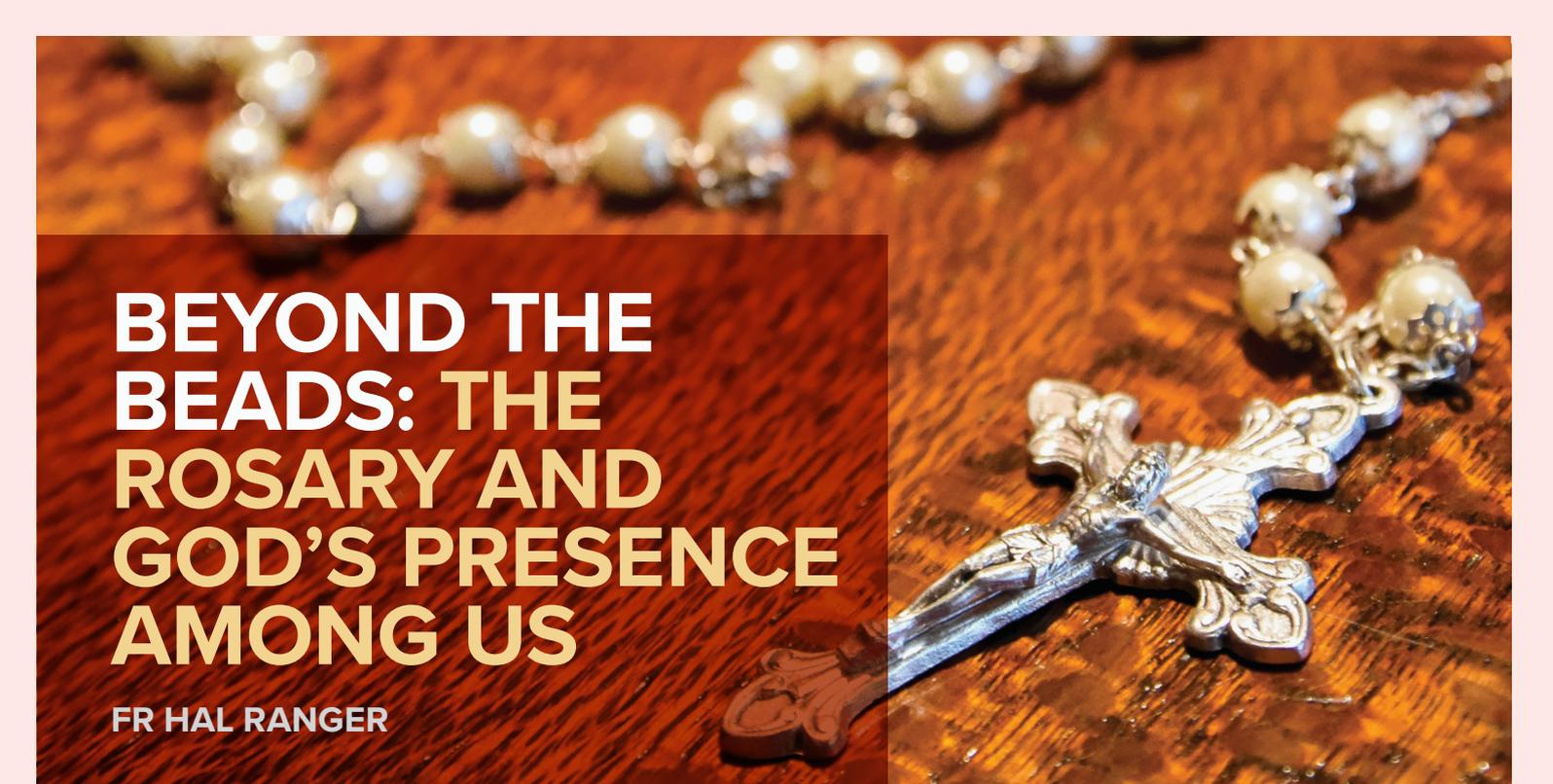
The annual Our Lady of Fatima Rosary was held at the Grotto of Our Lady beside All Saints Church Roma. This year Fr Michael O'Brien joined with parishioners while Fr Jamie Collins was away on leave.

The Children's Rosary Group, which meets on the 4th Sunday of each month at 10:30am at Sacred Heart Church Toowoomba, joined the Parish celebration of All Saint's Day.

The children (and those not so young who were willing) came dressed as their favourite Saint.

After Mass everyone enjoyed morning tea and there were games for the children. Afterwards the children gathered together to pray the Rosary.





BEYOND THE BEADS: THE ROSARY AND GOD'S PRESENCE AMONG US

FR HAL RANGER

In my youth there were a number of daily experiences which anchored all the other ups and downs of life. Among these everyday experiences was family praying, which centered on the Rosary. I don't recall this daily gathering after dinner negatively, or as a boring time. My Mum and Dad just included this time of prayer as something as normal as having breakfast, it was certainly something we all did daily and cheerfully.

But it was more than just prayer. It was a time to talk and listen, to share the little events of the day, to think of others and ask God to be with them, a time of forgiveness and to say sorry. Somewhere at the center of it all was Jesus being born, getting lost in Jerusalem, going through hell in the garden, getting killed and yet alive again. There was also His mother and father alongside Him and continuing to pray with and for us.

Growing up, this daily experience of prayer became precious. Never a day goes by when I fail to take up my beads to pray the Rosary and almost always to find some new insight into the day just finishing or the day coming up.

Upon reflecting on my experience of the Rosary, I would like to share a little of its history and encourage everyone to find relevance and a prayerful place for the Rosary in your day.

Curiously, there are not many direct references to Mary in the New Testament. In the Gospels she is mentioned in relation to Jesus's birth, she also appears in the escape to Egypt, finding the boy Jesus in the Temple, the wedding in Cana and her presence at Cavalry. Paul in all his writings makes only one reference, 'God sent forth His son born of a woman' (Galatians 4:4). The Acts of the Apostles presents her in the upstairs room devoted to constant prayer with the disciples and some women of their company together with his (Jesus') brothers.

The big issue for theologians in the early centuries centered on the Divinity of Christ – was Jesus truly God and truly Man? In 431 the Council of Ephesus ruled that the one person of Jesus was both God and Man. That definition meant that Mary could be called "Mother of God".

The decision at Ephesus set off an increasing interest in devotions to Mary. Over time Mary acquired many titles including, 'Mother of Mercy', 'Refuge of Sinners', 'Our Lady of Sorrows' and 'Queen of Heaven'. By the Middle Ages, theology and devotional life had lost sight of the Scriptures. Monasteries centered on the celebration of Mass and the Divine Office, all in the lost tongue of Latin.

The Rosary became one of the favored ways of praying for most people. It became the ordinary person's alternative to the more formal daily prayer. The intention was to develop the practice of reflection on key events and experiences of God's presence among us which are recorded in the Christian Scriptures and to embrace this way of living our daily lives. We would live that out in union with and inspired by Mary and all the other members of the Christian Community past and present. Mary is the inspiration, the Mother of the Church – not a "feminine version" of God.

This brings us to renewing the focus. Whenever we gather with family and friends, think of the Scriptures and the words and actions of Jesus – God among us, inviting us to be open to His love, mercy and wisdom and to be faithful instruments of all that is in His hands. Open our hearts to His presence, to His mercy, to His power, as Mary did and does. We gather in company with her, inspired by her faithfulness. And so the real heart of the Rosary is the regular entering again into the Mystery of God's presence, bringing hope, mercy, faithfulness, joy into the life of the world.

So I'm suggesting a renewal of Rosary praying that centers on God's presence in our world through Jesus (outlined in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles especially) and through the daily events and experiences of our lives. Find inspiration and encouragement in living in this presence by remembering the lives of Mary and all those other faithful Christians through the centuries and now. Finally, draw into thoughtfully and slowly praying the words of the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be, not just rattling off dozens of Hail Marys.

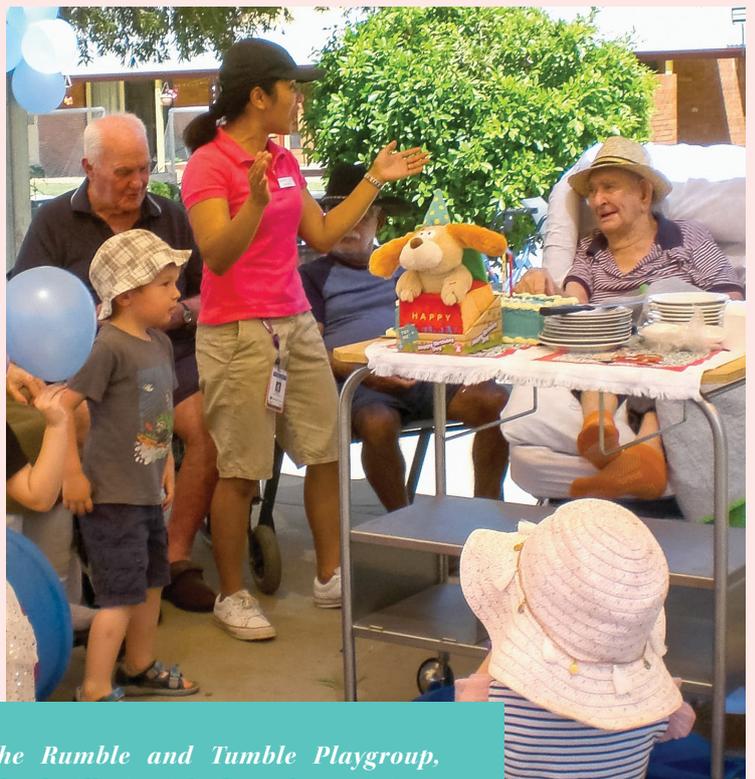
NEWS IN BRIEF



Members of the Roma St Vincent's group and Fr Jamie Collins travelled to the Country Sports Club at Dunkeld to offer assistance to the drought affected graziers. While there the group shared an Ecumenical Prayer Service, led by Fr Jamie.



Fr Jamie Collins lead the community in prayer at a celebration at the Roma Cenotaph to commemorate 100 years since the Bottle Tree Avenue of Heroes was established. He mentioned his recent trip with students to Canberra and related this back to sacrifice of many Roma Soldiers in World War One.



The Rumble and Tumble Playgroup, Charleville Parish, have been visiting the local nursing home and sharing their activities with some of the residents. One visit coincided with Norm's 85th birthday. Bubbles, balloons, birthday cake, not to mention kangaroos, chooks and birds made for a wonderful time spent out in the grounds of the home together. The children sang happy birthday to Norm, with one of the children presenting a few handpicked flowers. The tears in his eyes said it all.

In mid October St Joseph's Debutante Ball was held in the Stanthorpe Civic Centre. 23 Debutantes were presented to Fr Brian Connolly. (Photo courtesy of Stanthorpe Border Post)



Each year St Patrick's Cathedral comes alive with a riot of colours and scents for the Carnival of Flowers. This year floral artists and parish, school and diocesan friends explored the Spirit of Creation. The soaring space of the Cathedral was decorated by designs by environmental artist Suzanne Bauer and created by students and florals artists trained at the Flowers to Impress School of Floristry. Cathedral floral co-ordinators, Janelle and Michael Petrie, with a band of helpers, also added to the beautiful display. Bishop Robert McGuckin opened the display and offered congratulations to all the hard work that had gone into this year's event. Australian Heritage Funerals once again generously sponsored the display.

OUR SACRAMENTAL JOURNEYS

After months of preparation for sacraments in schools and parishes, many children across our Diocese have been celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation, 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.



Reconciliation candidates from Oakey Parish.



17 First Communion candidates from Stanthorpe Parish, the children were prepared for the sacrament by Kayelene O'Dea and Andrew Kendall. First Communion celebrated by Fr Brian Connolly.



First Communion candidates from Miles Parish, the children were prepared for the sacrament by Noreen Bourne, Sheryl Duncan and Ann-Marie Flynn. First Communion celebrated by Fr Gonzalo Garcia Duran.



First Communion candidates from Wallangarra Parish, the children were prepared for the sacrament by Judy Passlow. First Communion celebrated by Fr Brian Connolly.



5 Confirmation candidates from Miles Parish, prepared for the sacrament by Noreen Bourne, Sheryl Duncan and Ann-Marie Flynn. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Gonzalo Garcia Duran.



Confirmation candidates from Pittsworth Parish. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Thomas Areekuzhy.



First Communion candidates from Warwick Parish, the children were prepared for the sacrament by Patrice Riordan. First Communion celebrated by Fr Franco Filippetto.



NEW RESOURCE TO ASSIST WITH LITURGY PREPARATION

JOHN BRIFFA

Liturgy personnel from 15 dioceses gather with Archbishop Mark Coleridge at Wynberg House, Brisbane, to acknowledge the release of the new liturgy resource, Liturgia. Photo courtesy of Liturgia Brisbane.

Liturgists from around the country gathered in Brisbane recently to dissect and digest the latest liturgical resource.

Liturgia is a home grown liturgy preparation tool, developed by the talented team at Liturgia Brisbane.

The new on-line resource is a user friendly, click and go platform, designed to assist anyone who needs to prepare a liturgy. Liturgia, (pronounced liturgy-a), replaces the out dated LabOra program which has been in service for the past 18 years.

Brought together by Liturgia Brisbane, the group put the new resource under the liturgical microscope, running the tool through a series of exercises providing the opportunity to fault find and offer suggestions along the way.



LITURGIA

Liturgia aims to simplify the process of preparing liturgy via a click and go format. To prepare a liturgy, simply check a combination of pre-labelled boxes which prefill the liturgy script with the required elements, including text and readings. Another click and hymns can be inserted including the full lyrics and copyright details. The resource also includes a comprehensive library of all the Ritual Books and the Book of Blessings.

The two day seminar assembled some 20 liturgy specialists, who assist and coordinate the promotion of meaningful liturgy in parishes and schools throughout various dioceses in Australia and New Zealand.

NOT SEEKING TO BE LOVED, BUT TO LOVE

NICOLE RANGIIRA



Pastoral care throughout our Diocese shines a light upon God's faithful love for all people. We especially care for vulnerable people who are experiencing ill health, trauma, those who are dying and grieving in any way.

Those of us committed to serve God through our care of the sick, the aged and dying feel the powerful transformative love of God in our own lives. We seek to love all those we encounter through our presence, our listening to the story and our sincere compassion.

It is particularly meaningful each year when all Catholic Pastoral Carers gather for our Ethos Day. This year we gathered in October on the feast of St Francis of Assisi. Welcomed by our friends at St Vincent's Hospital, we came together in the chapel to listen to God's word, receive Eucharist, to pray and give thanks to God.

Each of us felt grateful to Fr Michael for leading us in such a gentle, inspiring time of prayer. Having affirmed our ministry of presence Fr Michael encouraged us to draw on the wisdom of St Francis in our efforts to lovingly care for others.

After morning it was time to give thanks to special people to Pastoral Care. Heartfelt appreciation was extended to Elaine Bartlett who willingly stepped into the acting role of Executive Director of Mission at St Vincent's Hospital while Darlene Driese took a year's leave. Elaine generously gave of her valuable skills and experience, enriching not only the culture of St Vincent's community but also the Pastoral Care community.

Darlene Driese has now taken up a new position within

St Vincent's Care Service. For over 10 years Darlene has dedicated her time to upholding the values of God's love for all people through her professional integrity and her sincere compassion. Whilst we were keen to express our gratitude to Darlene for her efforts to support Pastoral Care we were also happy to welcome Mark Copland who has embraced this new opportunity to serve God. Mark received a blessing from all of us gathered. We trust that God will freely use Mark's heart for people to cultivate further a culture of peace and justice for all.

Indeed we were richly blessed by Fr Ray Crowley's facilitation of our shared experiences of compassion. Fr Ray's encouragement to extend compassion to ourselves, such a crucial message as we seek to sustain our ministry of care. Enormous gratitude to all who freely inspired one another to be people of presence. We are people who listen to the stories, stay with the suffering and hold the hope for a way forward.

Devoted to our Pastoral Care ministry Lyn Cash gifted us with her time, wisdom and experience to guide us in a ritual of prayer and reflection. As we blessed ourselves and each other we felt ourselves embraced by God so we could continue to be a blessing to others.

Pastoral Carers are beautiful souls! I thank you on behalf of all those you have come alongside on your journey of Pastoral Care for your love. It's International Pastoral Care Week from 22nd October and I ask for your prayers and ongoing encouragement that God grant St. Francis's prayer to be answered through the continued flourishing of this vital ministry.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal: Upcoming Events



Philip and Margaret Maloney, international lay Catholic missionaries, will be at a series of events in the Toowoomba Diocese in November. During this time they will be speaking at various seminars and gatherings in Toowoomba and Stanthorpe.

See <http://www.twb.catholic.org.au/news-events/upcoming-events/> for dates.

CONTACTS

To know more about CCR contact **Michael Pyke 0458 300 880** or michael.pyke56@bigpond.com

Wings of Freedom Prayer Group (Sacred Heart Parish Toowoomba) contact Lisa Minz **(07) 4615 5218**

Sacred Heart Prayer Group (Warwick) contact Trish Seaby **(07) 4661 3133**

Emmaus Prayer Group (St Anthony's Parish Toowoomba day time) contact Kay Hohn **0400 436 498**



DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT CARITAS?

CATHERINE MCALEER

Since 2015, Caritas Australia, through our partner organisation, Caritas Gweru, has supported the Kuzviririta Garden in Zimbabwe. The garden now supplies fruit and vegetables to 34 families across the district. Photo Courtesy of Nicole Clements/ Caritas Australia.

CARITAS MEANS ‘LOVE AND COMPASSION’?

“Caritas” has its roots in Latin and it communicates the motivational foundation for our aid and development work.

CARITAS’ PATRON IS NOW A SAINT?

In October Archbishop Oscar Romero was canonised by Pope Francis. St Oscar Romero’s life of service for El Salvador’s poor and oppressed was truly inspirational. He showed enormous courage in speaking up for the poor despite repeated death threats and intimidation.

Only moments before his death, Romero spoke these prophetic words, “Those who surrender to the service of the poor through love of Christ will live like the grain of wheat that dies... The harvest comes because of the grain that dies.” Like many great leaders who have fought for the truth, Oscar Romero was killed and became a martyr, but his voice could not be silenced. He is a symbol of hope in a country that has suffered poverty, injustice and violence. His feast day will be celebrated on 24 March.

CARITAS WORKS IN THREE MAIN AREAS

Aid and emergency relief is concerned with immediate needs – providing food, water, shelter, and medicine in the wake of humanitarian emergencies such as cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, or war. In recent times, Caritas has assisted the survivors of Typhoon Mangkhut and the Papua New Guinean earthquake which struck the country in March.

Development, which is mostly long term initiatives, aims to assist people to live their lives to their fullest potential – to be the architects of their own futures. Examples of Caritas’s development work are highlighted during Project Compassion each year.

Education and advocacy is about increasing awareness

about all the things that make life unfair for other people as well providing the tools to share this knowledge. Visitors to Caritas’s website have the opportunity to learn about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), our strengths based approach and to download prayer and teaching resources for the parish and the classroom.

YOU CAN GIVE REGULARLY?

Caritas’s community of supporters are well known for their generosity during Project Compassion. As the agency’s representative in the Toowoomba diocese I am often asked: “How else can we support Caritas?” The answer is in many different ways including:

- Making a monthly donation
- Giving through your pay – also known as workplace giving
- By making a gift to an appeal. Appeals are typically run at the end of the financial year and during international humanitarian emergencies.
- By hosting a Women for the World or a Caritas Kitchen event.
- Leaving a bequest in your Will.

Caritas Australia is the official international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. Committed to the eradication of poverty, we go wherever the challenges are greatest, working with people regardless of their religious, political or cultural beliefs. Consistent streams of income such as monthly donations give Caritas the confidence to invest in long-term sustainable programs.

To learn more about Caritas and how you can help please contact Catherine McAleer on 07 4638 7977 or email caritas@twb.org.au or visit the Caritas website www.caritas.org.au

HORIZONS WINS ACPA AWARD

INGRID MCTAGGART



Ingrid McTaggart, Editor, receives award from Archbishop Peter Comensoli. Photo by Neil Helmore.



Ingrid McTaggart with Melissa Loughlin, Editor, Broken Bay News, which received Highly Commended for Most Improved Publication

The Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) come together each year for a conference and awards to network with journalists, editors and communications experts from across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region. This year's conference and awards was held in conjunction with the Australian Catholic Communications Congress in Brisbane.

The aim of the ACPA Awards is to encourage and reward excellence in the field of Catholic publishing and media. Judges are media professionals who are qualified to give a critical appraisal of the work presented. Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli and Brisbane Emeritus Bishop Joseph Oudemann presented awards to the recipients.

Outgoing ACPA President Jenny Brinkworth said the awards are a great celebration of dedication and faith-filled commitment. "There is an amazing amount of talent and passion among our Catholic press and it really is pleasing to see the enthusiasm of those who entered," she said.

Horizons won the award for Most Improved Publication. "It was apparent through Ingrid's efforts (and those that she engaged)

that careful consideration and discussion had gone into reshaping this publication. As a result, Horizons identity has evolved into a publication which the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba community should be proud of." Commented the Judges.

Thank you to Thorley Creative (Joe and Maria) who helped immensely with the re-design and ongoing layout. Thank you to parishes, schools and diocesan ministries who submit content each quarter, without your ongoing contribution there would be no reason to have a magazine. Thank you to Rod and Cranbrook Press staff for producing a quality printed end product. And finally thank you to Bishop Robert McGuckin for his ongoing support of Horizons.

Other award winners included Best News Story by The Catholic Leader (by Mark Bowling), the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference daily e-news service CathNews as Best Online Publication, and the Archdiocese of Adelaide's monthly newspaper, The Southern Cross, as Best Print Newspaper. The Journey, by Wollongong Diocese, won Best Print Magazine as well as the prestigious Bishop Phillip Kennedy Memorial Award.

CONGRESS FOCUSES ON REBUILDING HOPE AND TRUST

INGRID MCTAGGART



Teresa Martin and Noela Nolan present a masterclass at the 2018 Australian Catholic Communications Congress

In early September a wide variety Catholic communicators from across Australia, New Zealand and Asia Pacific Region for the 2018 Australian Catholic Communications Congress. The Congress is an initiative of the Australian Catholic Media Council, it is held every 3 years with this year's gathering in Brisbane. It is the largest regular gathering of Australian Catholic media including diocesan communication professionals, secular and Catholic journalists, parishioners and educators.

The theme of the 2018 Congress was "Communicating Hope and Trust", inspired by Pope Francis's message for World Communications Day 2017. It acknowledges that both hope and trust are in short supply today. The Congress was an opportunity to hear from a range of presenters and talk together about how those working in the Catholic Church can do their best to restore some hope and trust in the world.

The Australian Catholic Communications Congress was held in partnership with the Australasian Catholic Press Association Conference, which attracts leading journalists, editors and communications experts from across Australia and New Zealand.

Greg Erlandson, a former Vatican journalist and current Editor-in-Chief of the US-based Catholic News Service, delivered a thoughtful keynote address. Remarking that while the theme of congress had been set some time ago, the theme might have better been titled communicating hope to a despairing Church.

"If we are to bring hope to a despairing world, we must first participate in the renewal and purification of ourselves and our Church." Said Greg. "This reformation, this purification, starts with Christ. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis quotes his predecessor: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." (EG7)

Attendees at the Congress also enjoyed a series of masterclasses on a variety of topics, including podcasting, photography and social media strategy. Nola Nolan, from St Anthony's Parish Toowoomba, co-presented a masterclass on Parish Newsletters with Teresa Martin, from Marooka Salisbury Parish. Noela and Teresa shared their experience of how they put together their local newsletters and how they distribute it locally.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TOOWOOMBA

DR PATRICK COUGHLAN



Pat Coughlan

In a volatile and fast-paced world Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) must be able to respond confidently and convincingly to the ebbs and flows of external and internal demands and mandates which regularly influence and impact on the operation of schools. These demands and mandates, more often than not, fall under the all-encompassing banner of accountability. A more professional approach to and acceptance of a higher level of reporting and accountability to our major sponsors and patrons, Church, government and families, is the new normal for education leaders. The increased level of scrutiny and accountability on school performance requires confident, responsive leadership in articulating a 'new story' for Catholic education.

The Church holds Catholic schools accountable for the provision of an educational program which fully integrates faith and scholarship, academic success and making Jesus known to students in contemporary and meaningful ways. The Government rightfully requires that tax payer funds be used prudently for the purpose for which they are granted, that is, for the operation of the school and delivery of its curriculum. Families entrust their children to Catholic schools to educate each child in ways which honours and recognises their human dignity, their unlimited learning potential and their entitlement to fullness of life. Within this context the role of governance in strengthening the mission in Catholic education is critical.

This year, under the direction of Bishop Robert McGuckin, and the leadership of Chair Mr David Hutton OAM, the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Council completes its second year of operation. The purpose of the Council is to explore, discern and provide strategic advice and recommendations to the Bishop for providing the best possible Catholic

education for students. The Council has experienced a very successful year in adding value to the strategic direction of TCS thanks to the commitment and expertise of its members.

The 2018-2020 Strategic Plan also reflects this changing context by emphasising the critical role of system and school leadership in responding effectively to the challenges ahead. TCS is in the second year of a three-year investment to grow and develop leadership capital within the system. Leadership capital involves developing both authority and capacity to capitalise more fully on the many examples of exemplary practice across the system. This initiative signals a move towards greater 'systemness' (Fullan, 2014), not in any rigid, technical sense, but from the emerging concept of system efficacy. According to researcher Shaun Killian, (2017), system efficacy is about "reaching agreement on how we should be moving forward and a genuine willingness to openly and collaboratively share experiences, success, failures and learnings". Put simply, system efficacy is based on the belief that a champion team will always outperform a team of champions. In response to common needs across schools several system-wide initiatives have been activated or continue this year. The most prominent of these is the Reading Improvement Strategy.

The Reading Improvement Strategy emphasises capacity building in high yield strategies associated with the successful teaching of reading involving all teachers in all schools. This is a major investment of resources which will result in improved reading scores for all students in TCS schools. Of particular note is the focus on the role of school leaders to lead, monitor and support this initiative as it takes hold in classrooms. As an evidence base is gathered we will be in a position to speak more confidently about student growth in this area.



St Patrick's School, Allora

Integral to our 'new story' is Catholic identity. Whilst many people would be able to speak confidently of what Catholic identity used to be, a contemporary understanding of and consistent language for Catholic identity is a continuing challenge. Two initiatives signal a new approach to meet some of these challenges. This year four school and system leaders and one parish priest participated in the Enhancing Catholic Identity Intensive Program hosted by the Catholic University in Leuven. This program provides a language and conceptual framework to better describe and understand the faith styles and belief patterns of staff, students and parents which assists in preparing and implementing contextually appropriate and relevant programs, instructional approaches and faith experiences for students. The intention is to make this program available to all system and school leaders over the coming years.

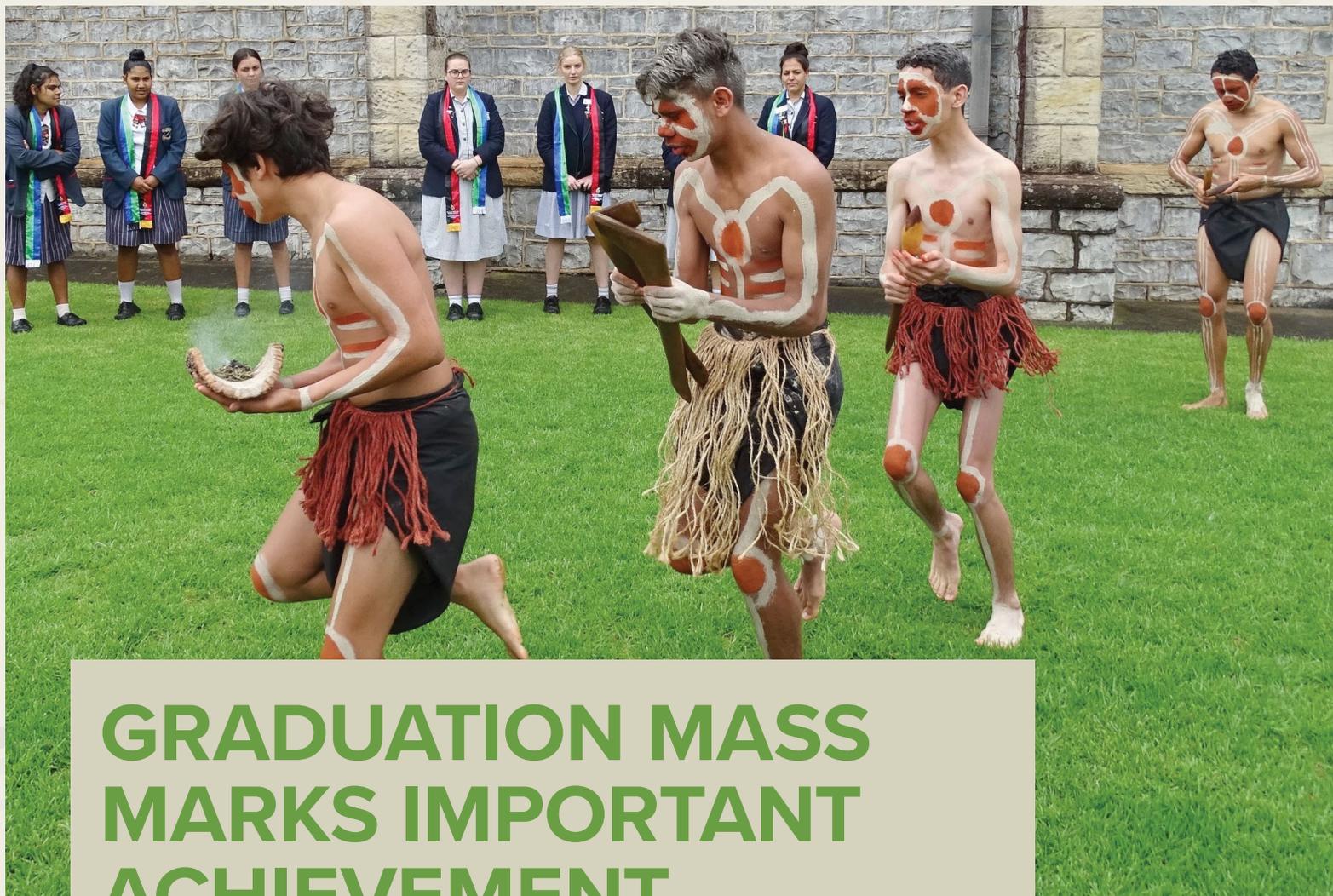
The second initiative is the provision of the Religious Education Accreditation Program (REAP) for staff professional development. In this five-day program staff engage with information and practical strategies designed to enhance their understanding of Church history, theology and capacity as teachers of Religious Education. Completion of REAP contributes towards the requirements of Accreditation to teach RE.

Other major initiatives this year include:

- the continued upgrading of TCS technology systems with a new focus on improved access to system and school information to inform strategic planning;
- a new Human Resource and payroll system to streamline services available to staff;
- new staffing guidelines providing additional staff to all schools;

- new or refurbished buildings and facilities at many school sites with many more in the pipeline next year;
- extensive teaching and learning (including Religious Education) support and professional development for staff;
- continued provision of leadership development programs for all levels of leadership across the system;
- strengthening of support and services in student protection and professional standards;
- establishing the first TCS kindergarten facility at St John's, Roma, opened at the beginning of this year;
- enhancement of the incentives available to teachers who teach in rural and remote schools and accommodation for principals;
- preparation for the relocation of our current three offices sites to the new site in James Street early in the new year.

This year has seen a continuation of substantial structural and cultural change. This improvement agenda is informed by a well-defined vision of our future as a 21st century Catholic schools' system, and enacted by talented, expert staff who believe in the value of education and understand the commitment which comes with it. I cannot express highly enough the enormous contribution made by staff to the ambitious agenda which lies ahead. I particularly wish to highlight the work of the Executive Leadership Team and the wisdom and expertise which they bring to the leadership and direction of Toowoomba Catholic Schools. I am very confident that TCS will continue its journey of improvement and growth into the future.



GRADUATION MASS MARKS IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT BY STUDENTS

Smoking Ceremony as part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduation Mass

Thirty-four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across the Diocese gathered with family to celebrate their Year 12 Graduation at a special Mass on Tuesday, 16 October at St Patrick’s Cathedral.

“The completion of Year 12 is a milestone to celebrate in all young people’s lives. Higher levels of education are associated with improved health outcomes, economic status and quality of life. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, it is especially important. The Prime Minister’s 2018 Closing the Gap Report shows the rate of Year 12 attainment for Indigenous students is 65.3%, while the rate for non-Indigenous students is 89.1%. Therefore, it is important we celebrate this achievement for our Year 12 Indigenous students across the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools, as we do every year with our annual Graduation Mass,” said Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools.

Joshua Smith, a student at St Mary’s College, Toowoomba is excited about completing his education and moving onto a new chapter in his life, “To finish grade 12 opens the door

to many more opportunities for myself to succeed and live a fulfilling life by creating strong friendships and pointing me to a career path that I am happy with. I’m interested in fitness and encouraging others to live a healthy and balanced life, but I also hope to obtain a painting apprenticeship,” said Joshua.

The Mass incorporated cultural features including a Smoking Ceremony and each student received a medallion and specially designed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sash.

The Acknowledgement of Country song was written by St Anthony’s Primary School students and was sung by Year 6 student Layla Carmody. Layla is the granddaughter of renowned Aboriginal singer and songwriter Kev Carmody, of ‘From Little Things Big Things Grow’ fame. St Anthony’s Primary School choir were a beautiful inclusion in the Mass, providing the music throughout.

Afterwards, students and their families, teachers and Aboriginal elders gathered in the St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish Conference Room for refreshments and a graduation cake to celebrate this special milestone.

SUSTAINABILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES ON THE AGENDA FOR SCHOOLS

All 31 schools within the Toowoomba Diocese have their individual School Master Plans that are regularly revised to ensure that we are planning for the provision and sustainability of Catholic schooling in the Diocese. These plans take into consideration areas of growth, not just buildings, but overall space including the purchase of land for future schools in areas of growth and need. Sustainability projects also form a part of future initiatives that will include solar PV cell batteries, LED lighting and maintenance planning.

Some major projects that were completed in recent months include; Stage 2 of Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields which included new buildings to support the growth of the secondary campus. Mater Dei Primary School completed a new classroom block, The Good Samaritan wing, which has created a flexible, modern, learning environment.

Stage two of a \$4.5 million, multi-stage building project is well underway at Assumption College, Warwick. The College needed to renovate and update facilities due to an increase in enrolments.

St Finbarr's School, Quilpie has a multipurpose sports facility currently being worked on in stages. Stage 1 is complete with a roof installed. The next stage will be the installation of synthetic turf and the final stage will be fencing.

St Mary's School, Goondiwindi is in the planning and design stage for the first stage of the new secondary campus. The building will accommodate specialist learning areas for Years 7 to 10 including industrial technology design and art. The new facilities will also provide additional space for an increase in Primary enrolments.

St Joseph's Primary School in Chinchilla is gearing up for exciting facility upgrades. The upgrades will feature four classrooms and teaching facilities, a covered play area and toilet amenities. These building works are largely due to enrolment growth attributed to development in the region.

St Mary's College, Toowoomba is currently working through the Council planning processes to construct an Auditorium. The building is needed as the school has outgrown the current hall. The new building will also have facilities for music and drama in the future.



Eleni Martin and Janelle Whitbread

TCSO STAFF ENCOURAGED TO SPEAK

Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office staff recently held a Reflection Morning to commence their own local engagement for Plenary 2020. The theme of the morning was "Permission to Speak". Staff had the opportunity to openly listen to, and dialogue, with one another in an informal setting as they discerned how the Catholic Church in Australia might best move into the future.

The Reflection Morning began with facilitator, Angela Travers, Education Officer: Religious Education leading a prayer followed by an introduction to the upcoming Plenary Council and its importance to the future of the Church. Everyone was encouraged to speak up, that it was okay to be open and honest with each other in their opinions of the Church. Participants were also invited to "listen to God by listening to one another," and to "listen with the ear of our hearts".

The audience's first interactions were in small groups. The groups were changed often and deliberately chosen to get people to move out of their comfort zones, to speak up and engage with each other sharing stories of faith, life and church.

Fr Hal Ranger was a guest speaker, explaining the mechanics of the Plenary process. He shared stories of his

faith and previous councils of the Church that were enacted to bring about change.

Several staff commented that the Reflection Morning was the best one they had attended to date. Staff were energised by the buzz of the room, interested in hearing each other's stories and to see so many similar themes coming through.

The diverse backgrounds of members of the Catholic Schools Office; some Catholic, some not; some active members of the Church; others for whom the Church had lost its appeal for various reasons; still yielded opinions that were very similar. Participants believed the Church needed to change and many of the same issues were discussed as were presented at the Second Vatican Council, over 50 years ago.

When asked about the feedback that was collected on the day, Dr Ken Avenell, Acting Director: Formation and Identity and facilitator of the morning said, "The diversity of personnel delivered a range of feedback however the strongest thing to come up was the desire for inclusiveness."

The Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office will present the feedback from the Reflection Morning in their submission to the Plenary Council.

SATURDAY EVENING A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION FOR ST SAVIOUR'S BOARDERS

LINDA CREEDON



L to R: Zindendria Erepi, Michaelyne Ellison and Tamika Sisione preparing readings for their weekly prayer service

Every Saturday evening after dinner the St Saviour's College boarders walk quietly to the Boarding House Chapel for their weekly communal prayer in the beautiful surrounds of the old chapel.

The liturgy is led by the senior boarders who base their readings around the College's four pillars of hospitality, justice, compassion and excellence.

The Saturday evening liturgies began in April last year when the chapel became part of the College. Mrs Suzanne Coulter, Head of Boarding, said the liturgies were interactive and every student was involved in some way. The seniors said that they particularly liked the Saturday evening liturgies as

they were always youth based and very relatable.

The old convent was demolished in 1977 and this new chapel was built in its place with a separate boarding house. This was part of an extensive building program that was undertaken at the college from 1971 until 1987. The chapel retains the aura of serenity with all the brass fittings and sculptures and statues from a previous era.

Although much has changed at the St Saviour's College Boarding House, and thousands of girls have called St Saviour's home since the Sisters of Mercy first established the boarding community in 1914; through the Saturday evening liturgies our Mercy tradition lives on.

Handy Hendo



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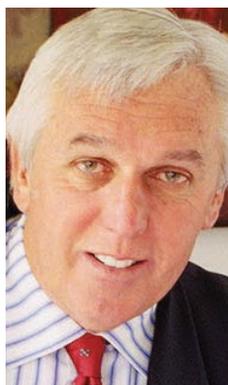
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SPLASH OF COLOUR FOR SCHOOL AND DROUGHT APPEAL

ANGELINA SIMS

Messy fun for students at St Joseph's Stanthorpe.

The annual St Joseph's School Colour Fun Run was held in September. This year's event included an inflatable obstacle course which was both entertaining and challenging. It was made up of a mix of inflatable obstacles, timber walls, tunnels, rock walls, commando nets and stepping stones. The 'Hero' of the course was the 'Big Bopper', a 40 metre long giant inflatable, with jumps, hoops, a spider web and 3.5 metre slide at the end.

Dance music from the Police Blue Light Disco created a fun-filled atmosphere and students took to the course with enthusiasm. After completing the obstacle course students then began the colour run. Student's made their way around a course, where they were bombed by teachers with coloured powder and hosed by the Rural Fire Brigade.

Between the courses, students took part in a variety of fun activities, facilitated by staff and the Year 8, 11 and 12 students. These included a game of Oztag, sack races and Teacher Knock ems', where students aimed to knock down obstacles with teacher's photos on them.

The weather was perfect and the students had an exhausting but great day. The event raised much needed money for the school and the drought appeal.

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ASKING THE IMPORTANT QUESTION, RUOK?

ANGELINA SIMS



Yellow dominated Stanthorpe's Assembly for RUOK Day

In September, the St Joseph's Student Council were thrilled to host RUOK? Day. The day was about noticing if someone is struggling and starting a conversation, asking the question "are you ok?". This important day is an opportunity to focus on staying connected and have meaningful conversations which is something we can all do. There's no need for an expert, just a good friend and a great listener.

A sea of yellow illuminated the school as students and staff banded together in support of RUOK? Day. A number of activities were planned with a Conversation Corner and teachers running age appropriate lessons during their

classes for this day. A whole School Assembly was held with special guests, Mayor Tracy Dobie, Simon Goddard from Headspace and guest speaker Kath Ives who is a community volunteer at Happy Chat.

Students were able to visit the Headspace stall during their lunch break where Simon Goddard gave them information and was available to chat and answer questions. Another highlight of the day was the basketball match held during lunch between Secondary School staff and the Years 9 and 10 students. Students and staff then enjoyed a free sausage sizzle to finish a great day.

ST SAVIOUR'S SENDS DROUGHT SUPPORT CLOSE TO HOME

JUDY SMITH



St Saviour's Students having fun with fundraising

During Term 3, as the impact of the prolonged drought was featuring heavily in the media, students and staff at St Saviour's Primary School decided that they needed to do something to help. Initially, a Free Dress Day was held and over \$1,300 was raised. This money was split between Drought Angels and Sacred Heart School, Cunnamulla. At the end of the term, a Disco was held and an additional \$1,400 was raised. These funds were split between Drought Angels and St Patrick's School, Mitchell.

Judy Smith, APRE at St Saviour's Primary, coordinated the fundraising explained, "Obviously we wanted to support farmers affected by the drought, however we also wanted to raise awareness in our 'city kids' and reach out to the students out west to let them know that we are thinking of them.

Photos from the two western schools were shared with the students at assembly and via the newsletter. "My hope is that by seeing just how dry things are, cattle eating potatoes instead of grass and a school playground taken over by kangaroos, that the students will gain some understanding and empathy for their contemporaries who live west of the Darling Downs," Judy said.

The school has since received correspondence from the APRE at Mitchell, Jess Maris and the Principal at Cunnamulla, Polly Crawford, both expressing delight to receive the donations. The funds are being put towards supporting the students and their families, as well as local businesses. From such a harsh reality as a drought, some positive connections have been made which hopefully will continue to grow into the future.



Getting fire fighting practice with the local Fire Service



Eyes on the sky thanks to the Cosmos Centre

ST MARY'S JOINS IN CHARLEVILLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

SR ELIZABETH O'KEEFFE

Over the first weekend in October Charleville celebrated its 150th birthday and St Mary's School and Parish were keen to be a part of the festivities. On the Friday morning the school played host to the Under 8s Day. A couple of hundred children and their parents and carers arrived to have a wonderful morning of fun and games. Highlights of the day were the firemen who brought one of their trucks along and taught some of the children how to put out a fire and the staff of the Cosmos Centre who brought their telescope along so that the children could have a close up look at the sun. The Murweh Shire Council provided a sausage sizzle for all.

Principal, Mick Ward, and trusty groundsman, Greg Philott, probably don't want to see another sausage for a long time! A big thank you to all who helped put on a great morning.

Friday afternoon was spent decorating the school bus with bilbies in readiness for the Town Parade. Unfortunately, not all could fit in the bus but the ones who got the honour of driving down the main street in the parade certainly let their presence be heard. The school was not the only one to get in the act. Not to be outdone some of our parishioners cooked up a storm with their trusty crockpots and helped to provide food for the masses.

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SWEET MELODIES FROM ST JOEY'S SINGERS

REBECCA THOMSON

Singing talent on show for St Joseph's students

2018 has been the biggest year to date for choir performances and you don't need to be Celine Dion or Michael Mangan to join the St Joey's Singers here at St Joseph's Primary School in Chinchilla! The group meets every Tuesday lunch break and is conducted by Mrs Carolyn Llewelyn, a volunteering parent who is ably assisted by two music loving teachers.

The St Joey's Singers kicked off a year of performances by leading songs at our Parish's 100th Year celebration Mass in Term 1. Since then the gigs kept coming with an invitation to perform at the Chinchilla Seniors Week Celebrations in August and a performance at the St Vincent de Paul Society Diocesan Conference in September. Students were led by Mrs Llewelyn and Mrs Thomson to perform the debut song about Frederic Ozanam, founder of the St Vincent de

Paul Society. The President of Chinchilla's St Vincent de Paul Society, Mrs Veronica Hughes, commented, "Everyone enjoyed hearing your wonderful voices and your song selections. You all looked so professional."

The St Joey's Singers latest performance was for the Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ladies morning tea held in October. The group has also performed at school assemblies, liturgies and Masses throughout the year. They are currently well under way to learning the chosen song for the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony in December.

St Joseph's School is very grateful for and proud of, the talent, time and energy that St Joey's Singers students and volunteers so willingly contribute towards enriching the many school and parish celebrations that we enjoy throughout the year.

STAFF REFLECT ON THE GIFT OF GRATITUDE

POLLYANNA CRAWFORD

On a Saturday in October, the staff from Sacred Heart School, Cunnamulla trekked out to Eulo with their camping chairs for a Staff Retreat Day by the Paroo River. Fr Gary Walker flew from Brisbane to be the guest speaker. Throughout the day, we listened to Fr Gary's remarkable life story including the time he spent in Fiji and Jamaica and then reflected upon our own life journey thinking about certain life events that have shaped who we are and what we are about. We discussed Catholic Education today and what it means for our students. It was interesting to compare the changes of Catholic schooling in Australia over the years. We finished the day with a liturgy reflecting on the theme, 'the gift of gratitude', remembering that there is always something that we can be grateful for.



Sacred Heart Staff Retreat Day by the Paroo River, Eulo



ST STEPHEN'S STUDENTS DRESS UP TO HELP FARMERS

Dress Like a Farmer Day to help raise funds for drought effected farmers

KRISTY CAMERON

St Stephen's School Pittsworth have raised over \$600 for the drought stricken land holders, graziers and farmers throughout Queensland. MacKillop Club organised a Dress like a farmer day for a gold coin donation. During Catholic Education Week, the MacKillop Club also polished school shoes for a gold coin toward the drought appeal. In addition to this, our small community supported a sausage sizzle lunch.

In Term 3, the school ran a Ping Pong Competition to raise money for Mission of Mercy and Hope. In Week 10, we witnessed the nail biting St Stephen's School Grand Final. Set up in the Sports Hall with a huge following of fans, Charlotte Thomson and Tom Croft fought it out. There was plenty of cheering and we were pleased to have Fr Thomas Areekuzhy in attendance. Tom was declared the winner,



Fr Thomas Areekuzhy joins Pittsworth student, Tom Croft for a game of ping pong

then played a friendly game with Fr Thomas. Fr Thomas is always very thankful for the support we offer Mission of Mercy and Hope. Thank you to all who participated and for the \$100 raised.

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CHEVALIER WEEK CELEBRATIONS AT DOWNLANDS

ANNE MCATOMNEY

Fr Chris McPhee
MSC, Provincial of the
Missionaries of the
Sacred Heart in Australia,
and Fr Abzolon Tovar
MSC Superior General
of the MSC distribute
communion during the
Chevalier Week Eucharist.
Photo by Ian Spence

The Downlands community recently celebrated the life of Fr Jules Chevalier, the Founder of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) during Chevalier Week. Fr Chevalier was born in Issoudun, France in 1824. He founded the MSC and the Order of nuns known as Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH), and also inspired the founding of the MSC order of nuns.

True to Fr Chevalier's charism and the Spirituality of the Heart which flows from it, it is our mission at Downlands to love the young people in our care into the fullness of human life and to form in them hearts that are, like Christ's, compassionate, tender and merciful, in the hope that throughout life they will be drawn to engage with the peace and justice issues of our world and so make a difference to the lives of others – in the words of Jules Chevalier, to have a "love for justice and concern for all, especially the very poor".

In keeping with our mission, Downlands students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of 'Jules Social Justice Projects' through active support for Caritas, St Vincent de Paul and MSC Missions, the latter being the recipient of funds raised through the variety of activities and stalls during Chevalier Week.

Our Chevalier Week Eucharist was especially significant this year due to the presence of Fr Chris McPhee MSC,

Australian Provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, and Fr Abzolon Tovar MSC, Superior General (worldwide head) of the MSC. Fr Abzolon is from Guatamala, although his role as Superior General necessitates him residing in Rome. We were delighted to have Fr Chris and Fr Abzolon with us as they joined Fr Vince Carroll MSC to concelebrate our Mass. Underscoring the significance of the occasion was the performance of The Ametur - a signature sacred song in MSC contexts - by the Canticum and Fortesmen choirs.

During his homily, Fr Chris encouraged students to see God in the beauty in the world around them and in themselves; all were carefully attuned to his words and many have been quoting them since! Fr Abzolon also addressed the students, speaking about the great privilege it is for them to have the opportunity for an education, and their duty to honour the young people around the world who do not have such access, by always giving their very best.

Following the Mass, Frs Chris and Abzolon were able to visit a couple of Senior Religion and Ethics classes where they happily responded to students' questions about their backgrounds and vocations as well as sharing their wisdom about the topics the students are currently studying - "Spirituality" and "Good and Evil".

PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS AN EDUCATION OF THE HEART

MICHAEL MONTAFIA



The PIP experience at 'Emerge' helped Downlanders realise that they can make a difference. Photo by Maxine Hetherington

During Term 3, Downlands Year 9 students ventured into the local district and beyond to participate in Personal Interest Projects (PIP). The PIP program aims to develop social awareness and concern for the welfare, rights and dignity of all people - aims that directly correlate with the values and beliefs aspired to by members of the Downlands College Community.

Whilst providing an enjoyable and colourful experience, the PIP program also gives students an opportunity to explore volunteer options and to understand how their actions can make a difference. Two students, Holly Betts and Baxter Allport, described their PIP experience, "'Emerge' supports homeless youth to get through the challenges of their lives. It provides a safe place to be. An amazing lady, called Jen Shaw, founded

'Emerge'; because of her own life challenges she wanted to help others. We knew nothing about 'Emerge' before going there but we quickly learned that we each can make a difference. We felt empowered and realised what a change we could make'.

At Downlands we often say that "the heart of education is the education of the heart". The PIP program serves to open students' hearts to the many and varied wonderful ways they can make a difference in the world and enables students to give personal witness to living the Gospel message in MSC Constitution #22 "In the poor and the little ones, in all the victims of injustice and violence, we will discover the face of Christ. He asks us to bring love into their lives ... show compassion towards them by working courageously to guarantee their human rights ..."



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ST MARY'S HITS THE HIGH NOTES

BRONTE LATHAM

St Mary's College Ensemble Concert

The sound of sweet tunes float across the St Mary's College grounds. The College's musical groups are not only diverse, but they are exceptionally talented.

From featuring in the major Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers parade in front of more than 100,000 people, to bringing home gold from a state-wide Music Festival, the musically talented students from St Mary's College even dominated at the Australian Percussion Eisteddfod. St Mary's College Director of Music, Benn Tracy, says students at St Mary's College can select from a wide range of instruments to learn, as well as being able to join several musical group.

"We have a huge variety of ensembles; Choir, Concert Band, Showband, Drumline, Faith Band, Marching Band and Jazz Combo. On top of that, we provide and encourage students to be involved in different cross-instrumental and cross-ensemble musical activities that helps them to become independent learners and versatile musicians," said Benn, "We have an emphasis on real-world and student-centred learning for our musicians."

The St Mary's College drumline, Drumatic, have done their part filling the trophy cabinet this year. The group were

announced as the winners of the Secondary School Percussion section at the Toowoomba Eisteddfod during Term 3, and just two days later they triumphed at the Australian Percussion Eisteddfod. Drumatic will go down in history as the winners of the first ever Round 1 of an Australian Drum Battle, as well as placing 2nd in their Open Drumline B Division Test piece section at the Australian Percussion Eisteddfod. The group were also awarded a Gold Award in the Queensland Catholic School and Colleges Music Festival in August, adding to their collection from previous years.

Also at the Music Festival event, the Concert Band was awarded Silver for their excellent performance, the Choir debuted at a state-level festival, also achieving a Silver Award, and the Showband completed the day with a final Silver Award for the College.

St Mary's College has recently unveiled its newly formed Marching Band, which dazzled crowds at the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Parade in September. The Marching Band consists of Drumatic, plus a selection of students from Years 5-12 performing on brass and woodwind instruments, and junior musicians committing to their first ever ensemble with a Colourguard routine. The students memorised five pieces to perform whilst marching in the parade.

Principal Mr Michael Newman says he is proud of all the recent achievements from the music students, and believes learning a musical instrument is highly beneficial in a student's learning.

"Learning an instrument encourages dedication, organisation, discipline, creativity, analysis, goal-setting, problem-solving and empathetic expression. It provides a creative outlet for students that aids emotional well-being. It creates a positive social network of peers. The research shaping the Australian Curriculum emphasises higher-order thinking such as creative expression, problem-solving, teamwork, 21st century skills, social and emotional understanding, meta-cognition; all of which and more are the basis of musical study."

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St Joseph's College
Circle of Silence in
peaceful protest of
the injustice against
refugees and asylum
seekers

CIRCLE OF SILENCE MAKES LOUD STATEMENT

REBECCA LYNCH

The St Joseph's College, Toowoomba community was lead by the Just Joeys Community Service Group and students of Study of Religion in a Circle of Silence during assembly on a Friday in August.

The Circles of Silence movement originated in Toulouse, France in 2007 among Franciscan groups to express solidarity with asylum seekers and immigrants experiencing injustice. However, similar non-violent and peaceful forms of protest have been used by a multitude of social justice movements around the world in the pursuit of change, including Mahatma Gandhi's protests against British colonialism and the American Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Since 2007, the movement has spread and there have been Circles of Silence events across Europe in Spain, Britain, and Malta. All are unique to the experience of immigrants in

that particular society, but united in the purpose of standing in solidarity with all people, regardless of where they have come from and their life experiences.

Over 850 students and staff stood silently for 10 minutes to express support and solidarity for refugees and people seeking asylum. We stood in silence to recognise the injustices faced by people caught up in Australia's immigration detention system. This powerful display was intended to voice our desire for Australia's political leaders to free the 117 children trapped on Nauru by Universal Children's Day, November 20.

Just Joeys showed great courage and leadership organising this event. We thank all students for their respectful participation. Thank you also to Cathie Barton for capturing the event.

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MINI VINNIES SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

SHARON YOUNG

Warwick Mini Vinnies take an interest in social justice and the environment

In Warwick the St Vincent de Paul Warwick Conference and St Mary's School's Mini Vinnies are blessed to have a wonderful working partnership. This year we have worked together on projects including a winter soup appeal, putting together hospital toiletry packs and recently putting together some care packs for local farmers having a difficult time in the drought.

Our next projects to finish the school year will be our annual Christmas hamper collection and the students are working on a banner to give to the conference as a Christmas present. We look forward to working together in 2019.

Mini Vinnies at St Mary's is made up of over 20 students who volunteer their time to meet for prayer and spiritual

reflection. We are also involved in social justice and environmental discussions. A whole school initiative that came from these meetings was the instigation of Rubbish Free Tuesday. The Mini Vinnies put together a survey for the students explaining the environmental issue of rubbish and landfill and from that we now have every Tuesday where students are encouraged to not bring any plastics, paper or foil to school. On these days only compost bins are put out for food scraps. Our hope is that this has created an awareness in our school families and we are more conscious of the impact that our choices make when preparing lunches.



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CELEBRATIONS ABOUND IN WARWICK

SHARON YOUNG

Feast Day celebrations, L to R: Fr Franco Filipetto, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Erin Walsh, Jia O’Dea, Regan Henderson and Fr Terry Hickling

Term 3 is always filled with fun and tradition at St Mary’s School. Catholic Education Week celebrated in July was a week jam packed with exciting events to celebrate everything that makes Catholic Education great. This year we began our week with a combined Liturgy of the Word between Assumption College, St Mary’s School and St Mary’s Kindergarten. The liturgy was led beautifully by our Grade One classes and was an opportunity to give thanks for our exceptional schools and to celebrate together. We also acknowledged the amazing contribution of Mrs Alicia Spranklin who retired earlier this year after a career full of passion and kindness. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the schools took over the oval with around 700 students competing in some fun ball games and a feast of cake, which spanned as far as the eye could see.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the parish and school’s Feast Day, was celebrated with Bishop Robert McGuckin presiding over the Mass. Also as part of the celebrations St Mary’s School hold a Market Day to raise funds for various charities. This year most of our funds went to the St Vincent de Paul Local Drought Appeal, with funds also going to the McGrath Foundation and Drought Angels. This is a fun day for our families where every year level and other groups manage stalls and activities. This year’s markets included chocolate freckles, second hand books, paper airplane making, lucky dips and side show alley.



Bishop Robert joined the Market Day festivities in Warwick

FOND FAREWELL FOR PRINCIPAL

STEVE MOYLE

After nearly four years of service Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields Principal, Mr Peter Murphy, will return to his coastal home town of Port Macquarie. During his time as Principal, Peter has overseen an abundance of growth and change as the College continues on its journey to a Prep to Year 12 school. Notable changes include the renewal of the Building Master Plan, new buildings in the senior school, a new College credo, logo, song and prayer, as well as the introduction of new courses as we develop and grow our senior school.

Absorbing his final moments at the College, Peter thanked the entire community in his final Principal's Address at an assembly. "There are many wonderful dimensions to Mary MacKillop Catholic College. Great teachers living a model of generosity and service, wonderful support staff, welcoming students and an actively involved parent body," said Peter. "Stepping down from my role has afforded me the opportunity to look at the College with fresh eyes and marvel in the generosity and of what our teachers offer our students. It's been a busy year of activities, excursions, camps and sporting events, all of which are led by the passionate teaching and support staff that make up this great College." Staff, students,



Students at Mary MacKillop Catholic College form an honour guard to farewell Principal Peter Murphy

parents and members of the Catholic Schools Office were in attendance to farewell Peter.

The whole College gathered in the MacKillop Centre to celebrate a farewell liturgy for Peter giving the assembled students and staff an opportunity to give thanks. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the gifts God has given Peter and how he has used these gifts to serve our community. His calm and kind manner has taught all of us the importance of being people of faith, love and hope who serve God, a challenge that was taken up by Mary MacKillop who never saw a need without doing something about it.

At the conclusion of the liturgy a heart-warming video send off from students was viewed and senior students formed a guard of honour to show Peter their gratitude for his service and leadership.

IMMERSION TRIP A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR HIGHFIELDS STUDENTS

STEVE MOYLE

Mary MacKillop Catholic College senior students had the opportunity to take part in the College's first Immersion Trip to Myall Creek, accompanied by Mrs Kim McCosker and Mr Steve Moyle.

The trip included staying 2 nights at St Mary's School, Goondiwindi, exploring Boobera Lagoon and the MacIntyre River, attending the Myall Creek Massacre 180th Memorial event, swimming at the Moree Artesian Aquatic Centre and visiting Goombungee, as well as participating in prayerful reflections adjacent to our own Indigenous Story Poles near the Year 1/2 classrooms.

The students learnt about Aboriginal culture and life in the local area, enjoying storytelling from a range of guest speakers who accompanied them on the journey. Buddy Hippi joined the group at Boobera Lagoon and welcomed the group to his country, sharing with the group his



Highfields Immersion Trip to Myall Creek

knowledge of the area. Joshua Waters and Jennifer Wills, from the Catholic Schools Office, and Mark Copland also shared stories with the group.

The hope is to expand this experience in 2019 so more Year 9/10 students can gain greater knowledge and understanding of the past so we can move towards authentic reconciliation as a nation.

The immersion students shared their experience with the school during NAIDOC celebrations as well as with the Toowoomba Schools Office Effective Practices in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Inservice.

BOTS THE GO FOR ST JOSEPH'S AND ST THOMAS MORE'S

REBECCA LYNCH



St Thomas More's students learn valuable tech skills at St Joseph's College

Imagine having a humanoid in your house helping with all the chores or feeling like Iron Man Tony Stark as you use projected computerized images mid-air and manipulate them with your hands. Well, students at St Joseph's College Toowoomba don't have to imagine this anymore because it is an amazing reality. Students of the STEAM Club are learning how to program Noa, the humanoid, and will be involved in using the HoloLens within their curriculum. This technology is changing the way we interact with computers, leaving even touch screens looking obsolete. St Joseph's is keeping students in the real world but enhancing the world and preparing them for the future at the same time.

The College has been taking Year 6 students at St Thomas More Primary School Toowoomba to the next level. St Thomas More students visited St Joseph's to use the new level technology ozobots and the humanoid Nao Bots. The students enjoyed controlling the Ozobots using lines and colours, and code the Nao Bot to act just like a human. Mr Rodney Spain, IT Teacher, opened the minds of the Year 6 students to a life time of attributes and skills that they will need to meet the challenges of the constantly evolving world we live in. This has been a positive way for the two schools to connect and work together to enable student learning to be enhanced. There were six sessions that ran through September.

DROUGHT DAY A LABOUR OF PASSION

In August St Anthony's School Toowoomba held a drought fundraiser coordinated by the school's Mini-Vinnies group. \$650 was raised and has been sent to farmers along with our prayers as they suffer through this horrendous drought. Year 5 student, Arielle Suhr, shared her thoughts and experiences of being part of the day having volunteered to arrange the egg and spoon race. (Arielle's original story has been edited due to space constraints)

Nancy and I walked across the parched ground, the woeful, waking and warning sun watched with a wounding gaze. We found wooden eggs and spoons, as well as some sacks, so we came up with the idea that halfway through, the racers drop the egg and spoon, then hop in the sack for a bit, then resume. We had fun fooling around and finding figurative things. We made a little sign, though when we were setting up it kept blowing away like a small bird swept up in the breeze.

The media team roamed around and took numerous photos of us while we set up, and then we headed up to the eating area, as anxious as tiny little ants trying not to get stepped on by us humans- we were really nervous!

At last the time had come for the earth to drink from a new

source of water- St Anthony's Drought Day! The bell rang its merry song as kids rushed down toward the egg and spoon and sack race. At first, everything was a well needed flood of happiness, but soon the complaints hit Nancy and I like the bat against the ball. The line was too long, the lanes were a shemuzzle and the sacks flew away! I tolerated none of this.

'Everyone listen,' I told the crowd. 'From now on, it's an egg and spoon and sack free for all!'

Drought's searing, sweltering and scorching sight stood no chance against our determined spirit. People raced each other in egg and spoon and sack free for all races. And hope's flame shined a little brighter on all the farmers suffering from this nearly 8 years of drought, while despair's unlit candle was buried under the hope.

When the bell sung its now deflated song, I knew the delight was done. We packed up our river of fun and sat down to eat a well-deserved morning tea. Because as of the 10th of August 2018, 5/6AC had filled the earth's empty bucket with a healing potion I think you know about.

So, to all those who don't care- all those who are rich in rain and soil, I hope you have learnt about something that money can't buy; passion, love and hope.



MILESTONE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY FOR SPECIAL COUPLE

NARELLE MCINTYRE

Les and Eileen Allen, long-time parishioners of St Joseph's Parish, Dalby, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in October.

In 1953, Les and Eileen were married by Fr Leo Donohue at Immaculate Conception Church, Jandowae. Les was supported by his brother Jimmy and Eileen's brother Frank Cridland, and Eileen's attendants were her sisters Pat and Pam. The couple were hoping to have a Nuptial Mass however events transpired that they settled for a simple ceremony in the afternoon followed by a reception in the Jandowae Memorial Hall.

At the time of their meeting, Eileen was boarding in Dalby and working at the local Forestry Department. Across the road from where she was boarding lived a strapping young man. Les was working at Napier Brothers and the sight of his pretty young neighbour didn't go unnoticed.

Eileen and Les would attend Benediction on Sunday evenings at St Joseph's and Les, ever the gentleman, would escort Eileen home afterwards. They also loved the Friday night dances held in St Joseph's Hall and the couple became engaged in January 1952. After their marriage, they lived in

a small unit in Dalby which was owned by Napier Brothers.

After leaving Napiers, Les established his own successful business in Dalby which was later bought by son, Peter, after Les and Eileen decided to retire. Les and Eileen raised their eight children, 5 boys and 3 girls, in Dalby and they were educated at the local Catholic and State schools before spreading their wings. The couple now enjoy their extended family of fifteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

As Les and Eileen had a big celebration with family for their 63rd anniversary, this year was a quieter time, but they still enjoyed receiving congratulations from their family and many friends.

Faith has given them much support in their married life and in raising their family. In turn, both have given much back to St Joseph's parish through their time and talents. Recently, one of their children commented, "You've been an example to all of us of how to live a good life and be good people. You are a hard act to follow!" That sums up Les and Eileen beautifully, as they continue involvement in parish life at St Joseph's and in the local Dalby community.

STUDENTS ENJOY PARTICIPATION IN PARISH MASS

KATHY DOHERTY

Each Wednesday, a class from St Anthony's School Toowoomba joins with the parish at the morning Mass. The Students are learning how to assist in celebrating the Mass through altar serving, reading and carrying in the offertory gifts. The children also prepare the Prayers of the Faithful which are shared during Mass. Following a suggestion from Year 6 student Liam Fitzpatrick, the Year 5/6AC class organised to share morning tea with parishioners following

the Mass. Students enjoyed the opportunity of chatting with members of the parish and serving them morning tea. Parishioners enjoyed a warm drink and some young company on a cold winter's day. Fr Michael Cooney and Sr Maria Joyner joined with the parishioners and the children for a chat and a hot cuppa. This initiative supports our Parish and School goal to actively seek out ways to share our common purpose. Thanks to Miss Alice Cavanagh who coordinated the morning



CULTURES MEET FOR BURUNDI WEDDING AT ST THERESA'S

MONICA BRENNAN

Yohani Ntacobamaze and Chantal Ntakirutimana's wedding was a joyful mix of Western and Burundi traditions

Recently, St Theresa's Parish had the great pleasure of celebrating the wedding of Yohani Ntacobamaze and Chantal Ntakirutimana. Yohani and Chantal, both from Burundi, are parishioners at St Theresa's and are regular members of the Sunday morning congregation.

The couple had been prepared for this sacrament with the help of parishioners, Mary Otto and Francis Njoroge. Francis provided significant support through the translation of the prepared sessions into Swahili and through his presence at the preparation sessions helping with communication.

Recognizing the important presence of God in their lives, Chantal and Yohani chose to celebrate their marriage with a Nuptial Mass. Held in July, the marriage celebration was a mixture of Australian and Burundi customs. A large white stretch limousine arriving at the portico, gave the first indication that something special was about to happen. The bridesmaids danced down the aisle followed by the bride towards her groom to joyous Burundi Catholic music. Yohani and Chantal wore Australian style wedding attire along with their attendants. The parish choir, under the direction of Elizabeth Flynn, sang Burundi Catholic hymns.

A reception was held after Mass and involved many of the wedding rituals and customs of Burundi. Yohani and Chantal each had a table representing their respective

families, facing each other. A member of each side of the family gave speeches. The purpose was to show that each family was worthy of being part of the couples' life. Another poignant moment was when the members of each family came together and danced and sang a song of joy so that the newly married couple would remember this time of joy in hard times.

The food was provided by friends within the African community from Toowoomba and beyond, with table service provided by young people from the same African community.

Yohani and Chantal had a traditionally Australian three-tier wedding cake which they cut together, then fed each other some cake before presenting a tray of cake, as a couple, to their respective families.

Another beautiful element of the reception was the Burundi tradition of the giving of gifts. The whole wedding party stood in a line dancing to traditional music and each guest, table by table, danced a 'congo' line across the front of the wedding party and gave their gift individually to the bride and groom. It was full of joy, laughter and love and a wonderful expression of community.

We are blessed to have enjoyed such a deep cultural experience and our community is enriched by the presence of this loving family in our parish.

IGNITE CONFERENCE INSPIRES WORSHIP, PRAYERFULNESS AND FAITH



Gabriella Harris enjoying the Vocations Expo at Ignite Conference



Members of Holy CYA (Catholic Youth Action) from Warwick Parish spent a day at Ignite Conference

GABRIELLA HARRIS, STANTHORPE PARISH

IT'S so amazing to have the chance to go to the Ignite Youth Conference each year in Brisbane, in the September holidays. It takes effort to get there, from our home in Stanthorpe parish, three hours from Brisbane, but it is so worth it. I have been going most years since I was five years old.

This year I really enjoyed being with other Year 11 students and thinking about the conference theme, "Empty". The talks and small groups were about emptying ourselves of things that take us away from God, things that stop us from being all He wants us to be. When we empty ourselves, God can fill us up with all the promises of being His children.

More than anything, I loved the times of prayer, led by Emmanuel Worship at the conference. They can be fun and energetic but they can also help me to be quiet and still, like in Adoration. It's so amazing to see so many teenagers - this year was more than 1000 - to be so quiet in the presence of Jesus!

One of my other favourite things to do at Ignite Conference is to cruise through the Vocations Expo and meet so many friendly and encouraging nuns and priests, all ready to have a great chat. I think all teenagers in Toowoomba diocese should make the effort to go to Ignite Conference, or anything run by Ignite Youth, because you will think it's just as epic as I do!

TAYLAH HOFFMAN, ASSUMPTION COLLEGE WARWICK

As a member of the St Mary's Parish Youth Group, I was given the opportunity to attend the 2018 Ignite Conference at Mueller College in Brisbane. Ignite Conference draws together a network of over 1,500 youth from all corners of Australia coming together in unity to learn and share our love for Jesus. Throughout the duration of the conference we engaged in workshops, listened to keynote speakers, participated in reconciliation, worship and prayer groups, but most importantly we were able to grow our faith amongst many other likeminded youth. Being a Catholic youth in modern day society often has its challenges; remaining committed and faithful to our religion often comes at the expense of being judged and feeling isolated in our beliefs. But, Ignite Conference did not only teach us more about our faith, it also gave us the courage to express our beliefs and show others God's endless love. As I walked into the conference for the first time, I instantly felt like I belonged. Ignite opened my eyes and made me realise that I am not alone in my beliefs and that being Catholic is not something to be ashamed of.

DELIGHTING IN DIVINE ARTWORKS



L to R: Breanna Harrison and Alessia Harris-Venier on an unforgettable tour through the Vatican, Rome, in early October.

Two young parishioners from Stanthorpe Parish had a wonderful opportunity to participate in a trip to Rome with their school. Here they share their experience of visiting the Vatican and taking in the sights at this holy and historic place.

BREANNA HARRISON, YEAR 10

Being at the Vatican was amazing. It was breathtaking knowing that I was able to walk down the same halls as Pope Francis, sending shivers down my back.

Seeing all the artworks and sculptures was stunning, knowing that they were hundreds of years old. Standing in the Sistine Chapel and seeing all the artworks that Michelangelo had spent hours putting every bit of detail into, was so exciting to stand underneath.

I have always heard so much about the Vatican and being able to witness it for myself was something I had always dreamt about doing.

Even though it wasn't a very sunny day St Peter's Square, it was still incredible, as I had heard. Looking around at all the saints that line the walls around the square was astonishing, knowing that I stood in such a holy place.

ALESSIA HARRIS-VENIER, YEAR 10

As young Catholics, Breanna and I were thrilled to find ourselves standing outside the Vatican on the last day of our three-week adventure with the Italian immersion program of Stanthorpe State High School. Throughout the week prior we'd visited many churches and cathedrals but the best was yet to come!

Although it was a rainy day, our excitement was not dampened as we walked on such holy ground in the Basilica of St Peter, the Sistine Chapel and amid the amazing artworks of the corridors and special areas.

I really loved seeing the Sistine Chapel artworks by Michelangelo, our passionate tourist guide explaining the history and beauty of this amazing work to my friends and I. Although we weren't allowed to take any pictures whilst inside this breathtaking place, I found myself recognising those whose stories were told across the ceiling and walls. Taken from both the Old Testament and New Testament, I enjoyed seeing such thought put into them.

My favourite piece amazed me beyond words. It was "The Last Judgement" and spread across a wall in full scale. This painting showed Jesus giving the final judgement, with both heaven and hell on either side of him. To see this in its full size, with such bright colours and in the knowledge that such a talented man painted it, was completely breathtaking.

The Gospel of St Matthew (5:16), talks about letting your light shine to give glory to God. Michelangelo's light and that of all artists who made artwork for the Vatican, showed their talents in the best and brightest possible way – to glorify God. Without a doubt, these works would put a smile on Our Lord's face, and it was a priceless gift to see them up close.

Perhaps it was the people, perhaps it was the personal reflection in my heart, perhaps it was the amount of devotion to make this place holy, either which way I sensed God's love in every corner.

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CHURCH ON THE HILL SET TO CELEBRATE CENTENARY

MONIQUE BRYSON

Centenary in 2019 for Sacred Heart Church, Deuchar



It was 23 March 1919 when over 500 people were present for the opening ceremony by His Grace Archbishop Duhig of the Sacred Heart Church at Deuchar. The original date of 3 March had to be postponed due to wet weather.

In just four years the Allora St Patricks's Parish under the direction of Rev E Carroll erected a Presbytery, School and Convent followed with the Church at Deuchar.

Many families in the district donated land, money and time to erect the little 'Church upon the Hill'.

The Deuchar Railway Station was constructed and opened in 1878, which assisted in the arrival of the white bricks travelling from Brisbane for the erection of the church. With a unique (at that time) marbled altar (donated by the Dwan family) and the beautiful stained-glass windows, along with the hammer-beamed ceiling with diagonal sarking, the Sacred Heart has certainly made a lasting impression on

many who attend, visit, and travel past by car or steam train.

The first wedding was in 1921 when Miss Annie McMonagle married Mr Stephen Ryan with the First Holy Communion a Rosslyn Bradfield and Shirley Henry with Parish Priests of Rev E Carroll and J Hennessy amongst 13 others.

Next year the Deuchar Church, which overlooks the beautiful Glengallan Valley will celebrate 100 years since this opening day. All past and present parishioners and locals are invited to help celebrate this centenary.

If you would like to attend or know of anyone who would be interested please help spread the word. The centennial celebration will be held on Saturday 23 March 1919, 11am Mass followed by a shared long lunch. Tea and coffee will be supplied, please bring along a plate to share for lunch.

For more details, please contact Monique Bryson on 0487 828 280 or Greg Collins on 0408 673 763.

MT TYSON MARKS 60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

ANELLE WEIR

L to R: Janelle Weir, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Fr Rod MacGinley, Edith Matthews, Margaret Haydock, Fr Mick Carroll, Gloria Smith and Fr Thomas Areekuzhy. Photo courtesy of Kerry McIntyre.



The community at Mt Tyson celebrated the 60th anniversary of Mary Immaculate Church in July.

Bishop Robert McGuckin celebrated Mass and was assisted by Fr Thomas Areekuzhy, Fr Rod MacGinley and Fr Mick Carroll. During the Mass, Bishop McGuckin paid tribute to the members of the Mt Tyson community who had worked tirelessly to see the church built in 1958 and for those who continue to worship there.

There was standing room only to celebrate Mass and some travelled from as far afield as Wandoan, Cunnamulla, Brisbane and Sunshine CoaSt Fellow parishioners from Pittsworth and Toowoomba also enjoyed the chance to reminisce, as it had been ten years since the last big gathering. On completion of Mass a light luncheon was held in the church grounds and those present enjoyed sharing their memories of long ago.

REFLECTING WHILE WAITING FOR THE RAIN TO COME

SR MAUREEN ANDREWS



The ladies of Cunnamulla enjoy a visit from Christian Women Communicating Internationally

I'm sitting in the church waiting for the members of the Parish Pastoral Council to arrive. We are hoping to look at the Pastoral Plan, the Budget and further discuss the submissions to the Plenary Council. Minnie the dog is sitting beside me shivering at the claps of thunder and the flashes of lightning. Surely the rain will come soon. As I sit I am wondering if there is anything I could possibly write about for the Horizons article. What has happened in this small parish?

Polly, our school Principal, is writing about the school retreat. Father Gary, a Columban priest from Sandgate gave the retreat and attended the Sunday service as well as four other visitors. One of the men remarked that the service and the reflections were "a ripper." They also spoke about their experiences of this ministry in their parish and thought our services were great. Thanks to the Diocesan Liturgy specialists.

Christian Women Communicating Internationally have

arrived for an overnight stay. Tomorrow morning, they will meet with women from the Christian churches in Cunnamulla and they provide some entertainment where we sing the old Pentecostal songs, hear a lecture from them and then have an opportunity to purchase tapes, books or cards. Sacred Heart Parish was pleased to host the event and the women who attended enjoyed the time spent together.

Cunnamulla has reached the milestone of 150 years as a town and there will be celebrations in November. Sacred Heart Parish has agreed to provide morning tea for the visitors. Jan Gorrie is coordinating the event assisted by Nola Barlow. Our numbers of women are small however we are asking the women of the town to assist by providing food.

The season of glad songs did arrive as we received 84 points of rain. We gave thanks and remembered those who missed out. It is heartbreaking to drive to Thargomindah and notice the number of dead trees. We keep hoping and praying.

CHARLEVILLE COMMUNITY THANKFUL FOR PARISHIONER'S CONTRIBUTION

SR ELIZABETH O'KEEFFE



Phuoc, centre, with his helpers constructing last year's Christmas crib

Early October we said goodbye to one of our long standing parishioners from the local Vietnamese community. Phuoc Lee has endeared himself to St Mary's and nothing was too much trouble for him. Whenever anything was needed or when anything was needed to be done, he was there in the middle of it offering a helping hand. Probably his most important role was to encourage the Vietnamese community to become a part of St Mary's Parish. With his encouragement they have become readers in their native tongue at our

parish EuchariSt Recently they have formed a choir and their singing has added another dimension to our liturgy. Under his leadership they have provided us with a magnificent crib at Christmas, not to mention all the work that they have done to maintain our church. His cheery face and demeanour will be sadly missed. Every day he could be seen pottering around the church and presbytery doing something. So that we don't feel bereft he has arranged for some of his countrymen to take over the roles that he has filled so well.

WELL TRAVELLED STATUE FINDS A HOME AT HIGHFIELDS

PATTI MCNAUGHT

L to R Steve Moyle, Fr Brian Noonan, John and Roberta Cooke with Mary MacKillop Catholic College Students, placing the statue in the shrine to Our Lady



In May a statue of Our Lady was donated to the Highfields Parish by John and Roberta Cooke, in memory of John's mother, Margaret Cooke. Margaret was a treasured parishioner at Highfields who had recently passed away.

John said that it was his mother's wish for the statue to have some place in the parish and it was decided to be blessed and placed in a garden at Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields.

Margaret often talked of her grandparents bringing the statue with them when they emigrated from Italy around the 1880's which would make it at least 130 years old. It travelled with the family to New Italy, New South Wales, where a lot of Italian families settled, the statue later found

its way to Margaret's home. Margaret was the youngest of 13 children, which is probably why she ended up with it in her possession.

In September the statue was placed in its new home, a shrine to Our Lady at the Mary MacKillop Catholic College. A beautiful celebration took place involving students and teachers as Fr Brian Noonan blessed the shrine. Also in attendance were Margaret's son John and close friend Colleen Weber. John and Roberta said that they were very touched that the statue had found a special place at the school, remarking that Margaret would have been overjoyed knowing the children would benefit from it. Students will pass the statue every morning as they go to school.

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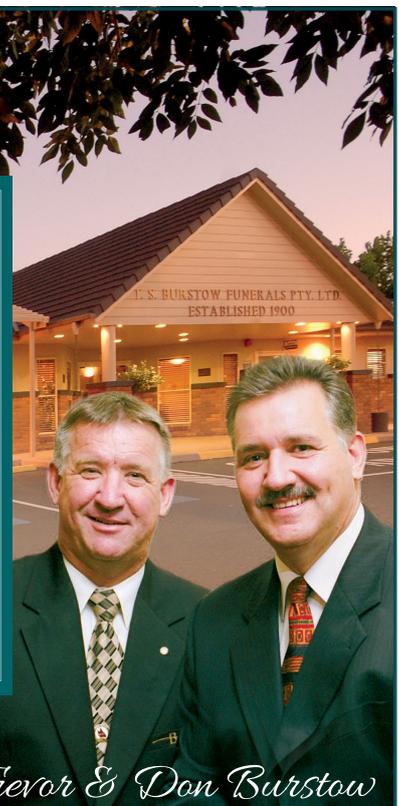


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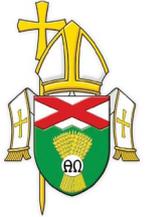
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