

Horizons

**New Face at
Catholic Mission**

**Sacred Heart Toowoomba
50 Years of Education**

**Cunnamulla
Hot and Dry but
Keeping Busy**

**PLENARY COUNCIL
LOCAL VOICES TELLING
LOCAL STORIES**

**#53
FEB19**

FREE Publication
of the Catholic
Diocese of
Toowoomba



LEADING RENEWAL: GIFTS AND STRENGTHS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

SR ELAINE MORZONE

Darren McDowell guides the Parish Pastoral Council Day in how to discern gifts and strengths.

In early February, over 60 diocesan, parish and ministry leaders gathered at the James Byrne Centre for the annual Pastoral Council Development Day. Darren McDowell and Jude Hennessy, Diocese of Wollongong, helped participants to focus on a strategy outlined in our Diocesan Action Plan - to assess and utilise existing resources to assist parishioners to discover their particular gifts for ministry so that they might experience joy and creativity in sharing their God-given gifts for the common good. It was highlighted in many ways throughout the day that a deep sense of one's giftedness comes from personal encounter and ongoing relationship with our God and leads to a passionate and joyful response to God's mission. Both Darren and Jude offered congratulations to the Diocese at large for the development of the Diocesan Statement and Pastoral Plan.

A key concept underpinning the work of the day was expressed in the words of James Mallon (Divine Renovation): "Don't use people to build up your Church; rather use your Church to build up people." What better way of building up people than recognising their giftedness and empowering them to let these gifts flourish, and in so doing to give life to the community.

The day was broken down into Our Why, Our Who and Our How by Darren, punctuated by Jude's personal

testimony which highlighted each section in a practical way. Participants were encouraged to think small and work within their local community's means. Darren asked those gathered, "How many people did Jesus start with?", highlighting that even Jesus' own ministry did not start with a large following. It started with one and grew, "He started with one, so who is the one you can share your faith with?"

The booklets, "Guide for Parish Ministry Volume 1: Discovering My Gifts for Ministry" and "Guide for Parish Ministry Volume 2: Ministry Directory", provided us with an interesting practical tool to help us reassess our gifts for ministry and assist others in the community to do likewise, empowering everyone to be energised by their discovery. A fun and easy-to-fill-out questionnaire and scoring system helps individuals pin point their top five gifts and talents, and associates them with potential roles within a church setting. This in turn helps people and parishes to match skillsets rather than pigeonhole people into roles just because they need to be filled. Both these booklets are available from the Diocese of Wollongong.

About 13 participants have indicated a willingness to be part of a deanery or diocesan team to share the experience and learnings of the day with any parishes who would be interested and who make this need known.



L to R: Andrea Dean, Jennifer Parker, Professor Jim Nyland and Dr Maeve Heaney.

The Xavier Centre for Theological Formation hosted a panel forum on Women and Leadership in the Church to celebrate the launch of the second Catholic Women Speak book, *Visions and Vocations*, at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) Leadership Centre in Brisbane in mid-December 2018.

More than 100 people attended the public meeting which provided a space for theologically informed discussion about women in leadership in ecclesial communities and organisations. Of those in attendance, 6 people, including Bishop Robert McGuckin, were from Toowoomba.

The forum explored how the formation of women for leadership roles in the Church can be supported and examined topics such as what should the Church look like in the future; What does leadership imply; What needs to change; and how does the role of women need to evolve to make this happen?

Panel members included the Director of the Office for the Participation of Women and Director of Lay Pastoral Ministry at the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Andrea Dean, EY Partner and Oceania Health and Life Sciences Leader, Jenny Parker, ACU Associate Vice-

Chancellor (Queensland) Professor Jim Nyland, and Director of the Xavier Centre for Theological Formation Dr Maeve Heaney VDMF.

Dr Heaney said it was a good time to talk about women's leadership in the church from a theological perspective, as Pope Francis has called pastors and theologians to reflect upon "the possible role of women in decision-making in different areas of the Church's life". (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 2013, #104) "The aim is a thoughtful, inclusive, perhaps challenging but essential conversation around women's presence in leadership in ecclesial circles that might help shape a way forward in our journey towards the 2020 Plenary Council in the awareness that we belong to one another. We are members of one another," Dr Heaney said.

"Our Ecclesiology is one of a structured communion, founded on our Baptism, with a diversity of charisms and ministries given for the life of the whole: these include a sound, for us sacramental, leadership."

"Do we not need more research into a theology of ministries that could include, validate and enable a sharing of these charisms?"

Pre-planning Your Funeral *Just Makes a Lot of Sense*



Judith McGrath-Colquhoun
Owner and Director

Judith and her caring staff are experienced in all the requirements of a Catholic Funeral Mass or Prayer Liturgy and can help you plan the details. Planning ahead certainly makes it easier for you and your family, and is a free service. You can also choose to pre-pay should you wish. Call us today for more information.

Phone: 07 4634 9946 (24 hrs)

314 James Street, Toowoomba, Qld, 4350

admin@ahfunerals.com.au

www.ahfunerals.com.au

Australian
HERITAGE
Funerals

Proudly Australian and Local Family Owned



NEW FACE AT CATHOLIC MISSIONS TO CALL TOOWOOMBA HOME

EMILY CONNORS

L to R: Catholic Mission National Director Fr Brian Lucas, Bishop Robert McGuckin and Emily Connors

In the year when Pope Francis has declared October to be an Extraordinary Month of Mission, the Toowoomba Diocese has been gifted with an extraordinary arrangement: a full-time staff member with Catholic Mission will now serve Queensland from within Toowoomba.

Emily Connors has been appointed to work as both the part-time Diocesan Director in Toowoomba and also the Donor Relations Officer for Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Emily recently moved to Australia from Ireland and was keen to find an opportunity within the non-profit space in Australia as she is passionate about supporting those in need around the world having previously spent time volunteering with many charitable causes in Ireland.

She joined Catholic Mission Brisbane last June, as the Donor Relations Officer, in what was a great fit with her Catholic upbringing and faith.

"I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities the Toowoomba Diocesan Director role will bring, while also continuing to engage with our supporters and other

stakeholders across the state," Emily said.

For the past couple of years, the Toowoomba Diocese has been supported from Brisbane. Emily is excited about relocating to Toowoomba, as part of her desire to build links with local parishes, schools and supporters.

"It has been made clear to me that the Toowoomba Diocese has always been a loyal supporter of the work of Catholic Mission as the Australian agency for the international Pontifical Mission Societies, the Pope's mission agency," Emily said.

The Pontifical Mission Societies were founded more than 185 years ago and operate in 160 countries around the world, supporting communities in 1100 diocese, including remote Australia. Through the Home Mission Fund, Catholic Mission has supported dioceses such as Toowoomba with funds for vital ministries to remote Indigenous communities.

If you would like any further information on Catholic Mission or on how you can become part of this inspiring work please contact Emily on: 07 3324 3425 or email econnors@catholicmission.org.au.



SEEDS OF VOCATION BEGIN TO SPROUT

FR JAMIE COLLINS

Deacons Joshua Whitehead and Tom Duncan after their ordination to the diaconate at Holy Spirit Seminary. Photo courtesy of The Catholic Leader.

Back in November last year, many priests of the diocese gathered at Holy Spirit Seminary in Brisbane with Bishop Robert McGuckin to celebrate the Ordination to the Diaconate of Tom Duncan.

Tom has regularly attended the Bishop's Vocations Dinners through the years of his seminary education and has shared with those attending some unique aspects of his own vocational journey. Originally from the Parish of Miles, Tom likes to "fly the flag" in promoting vocations among those from the country areas of the Diocese.

As priests we can never underestimate the influence we may have on those considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Therefore it was great to see the priests who had influenced Tom during his formative years being able to attend his Ordination liturgy last November. Included among these was Fr Mick Carroll, whom Tom recalls fondly from his childhood days around Miles.

Later in the year we look forward to celebrating Tom's Presbyteral Ordination. As we move toward this momentous occasion for the Diocese I encourage all the diocesan family to continue your prayers for Tom and for all who may be considering a vocation to priesthood or the religious life. A little prayerful encouragement and nurturing can never be understated or taken for granted.

The seed that was Tom's vocation was planted and nurtured by his family and his local community. Tom discerned the call he received and 'tested' his vocation by attending Holy Spirit Seminary in Brisbane. That 'seed' has flourished to the point where he now takes his place as the faithful labourer of harvest time.

Welcome back to the Diocese, Tom we look forward to

many more years of your ministry bearing fruit among the faithful of the diocese, in a similar way that those priests who influenced your faith, endeavoured to do by their own ministry. As Mary MacKillop reminded her Sisters, "We are but travellers here".

You now set off along a similar road taken by those who have influenced your faith journey. It will be a road with many twists and turns, it will be a road less travelled, but it will be a road that spiritually enriches both you and those whom you encounter. Journey on, Tom, with the prayerful support and encouragement of the Diocesan Family of Toowoomba.



Bishop Robert McGuckin ordains Tom Duncan. Photo courtesy of The Catholic Leader.

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



www.seminary.catholic.net.au

Holy Spirit Seminary QUEENSLAND



Msgr John Grace Rector Telephone: 07 3267 4800
Email: seminary@qld.catholic.net.au



SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY WORK AN IMPORTANT LEGACY

LIAM HOLCOMBE

Following 16 years of dedicated service as the Executive Officer for the Social Justice Commission, a farewell event was held for Mark Copland in November last year. The evening was an opportunity to celebrate the work achieved during this time and the many links established across the Diocese and broader community. The large attendance at this event was testament to the broader links Mark established during his time with the Social Justice Commission.

The three current priority areas of the Commission - justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; caring for the environment; and support and advocacy for refugees - all received significant mention during the evening. A special thanks to Priscilla Holborn (Regional Indigenous Education Coordinator, Department of Education), Anyoun Mager (Catholic Care Social Services) and Rob McCreath (Friends of Felton), who spoke about the support and advocacy provided by Mark during his time as the Executive Officer.

Bishop Robert McGuckin also shared his reflections on the significant role played on a local, national and international level by the Toowoomba Diocese on Social Justice matters. The Toowoomba Diocese has certainly been highly regarded by other Australian Dioceses for our

ability to respond to these matters.

As a gesture of thanks, local artist Kim Walmsley was commissioned by current and former members of the Commission to produce an artwork to present Mark during the farewell event. A special thanks to Mark's wife Amber and his family for their support and commitment over many years. Music, a common part of Commission events, played an important role in the evening with a stirring rendition of From Little Things Big Things Grow performed by Brett Rangiira.

Thank-you Mark for your 16 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Toowoomba Diocese through the Social Justice Commission. Our best wishes and blessings as you move into your new role as Director of Mission at St Vincent's Hospital.

In late 2018, the position of Executive Officer for the Social Justice Commission was advertised nationally and the selection process is ongoing. Meanwhile, the Commission continues to operate through the work of wonderful volunteers and our brilliant Office Coordinator, Laura McColl. In 2019, we look forward to continuing to meet and listen to the voices of the vulnerable and marginalised in our community.

Farewell surprise, Mark Copland (left) presented with a parting gift by artist, Kim Walmsley (right).



100% ON BOARD FOR PROJECT COMPASSION 2019

CATHERINE MCALEER

Tati on the veranda of the eco-tourism project long house showing a woolen oragutan doll she made to sell to tourists. Photo Richard Wainwright, Caritas Australia.

As Lent approaches it is the perfect opportunity to revisit the three different areas in which Caritas works; Aid; Development; Advocacy and education.

Project Compassion demonstrates quite clearly the development aspect of our work. It offers significant opportunity to advocate for our brothers and sisters around the world and educate ourselves and each other about how many around the world live and the challenges they face. School and Parish resources are now available on our website www.caritas.org.au.

This year Project Compassion challenges everyone to give Lent 100%. Over the course of Lent we will meet some extraordinary people who have given 100% to their family and community. Each week will visit with new faces and revisit three stories from past appeals as well as delve into the issues of water availability, the environment, community, motherhood and inclusion.

During Lent we will connect with Tati, from Indonesia, who lives in the remote forest of West Kalimantan. She is a mother of three who was earning an income working in a local rubber plantation. Since taking part in eco-tourism training with Caritas Australia and its partners, Tati can now afford to send her children to school. With new hope and commitment Tati aspires to a future free from poverty for her family.

We'll also learn about Michaela, 21, from Australia, who is a trainee at Purple House, a dialysis centre in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease. With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.

There are plenty of inspiring and hope-filled stories for

Project Compassion 2019, keep an eye and ear out for them and learn how lives change when we all give 100%. Visit lent.caritas.org.au for resources, videos and more.

This year the Toowoomba Diocese will welcome Yohanes Baskoro from Caritas Indonesia (Karina). With its partners on the ground, Yohanes has worked with Caritas Australia to promote disaster preparedness. In the last year alone, five major natural disasters have hit Indonesia. Yohanes will visit the diocese from 18 to 22 March.

Please contact Catherine McAleer, Toowoomba Diocesan Director for Caritas, if you have any questions regarding Project Compassion or Caritas, require any resources or looking for a guest speaker in your Parish this Lent phone 07 4638 7977 or caritas@twb.catholic.org.au.



Michaela stands outside the Purple House where she is a trainee. Photo Emma Murray, Caritas Australia



GET OVER YOURSELF: THE ONLY WAY TO PREPARE FOR THE PLENARY COUNCIL

SHANE DWYER

Plenary Group at St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba

If by now you haven't heard that the Church in this country is preparing for its first Plenary Council since the 1930's you may not have been paying attention. It has been on the radar for some years now, even prior to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that many mistakenly believe has prompted the call for the Council. You might recall the 'Year of Grace' in 2013, which was held as a way for us to begin to prepare for this event. So, we have been on the road for at least five years now. In the last year it is has gone up a notch, with the formal launch of the preparation and dialogue phase occurring at Pentecost this year.

Since the formation of the Plenary Council Planning Committee I have acted as a consultant, in theory providing assistance on any theological matters that arise. I say 'in theory' because I've seen that the committee members themselves have this area pretty well covered. I continue to attend the meetings not so much because I believe I am needed, but because I find myself inspired as I listen to the way those attending to this important work talk about their hopes and desires for the Church in this country. A guiding conviction that has emerged from this committee is that all people, no matter their degree of affiliation with the Church, be welcomed to the discussion and have a voice on who we are as Church into the future.

This is not an easy road to take. Having sat with a number of groups throughout Australia as they seek to prepare their submission to the Plenary Council, I have come across a recurrent snag. It relates to how groups instinctively go about the listening and dialogue process. From what I have seen it comes down to the basic predisposition of the more forthright members of the group. For those where the dominant figures are comfortable with prayer and open dialogue, the group functions more or less as the planning committee has intended. The discussion begins with prayer and silence, where each person present attempts to get in touch with what they believe God is asking of us today. Because the discussion is grounded in prayer, people then more easily share their stories and insights, knowing

that while not everyone might connect with what they are saying, they will be heard and respected. This allows them to be non-defensive and, therefore, open to modifying their views when they listen to what others have to say.

It becomes another matter altogether if the dominant figures either foreshorten the prayer and silence, or dispense with it altogether. In those circumstances I notice a more adversarial approach. Instead of focusing on what each of us believes God is asking of us, the question much more quickly becomes what do I think is wrong with the Church? Or, what are my personal opinions about what 'the Church' should be doing? In these circumstances I notice two inevitable outcomes. The dialogue either curtails very quickly or it becomes argumentative. Instead of the inspirational sort of encounter that I referenced above, people feel shut down and confirmed in their view that the Church is not a place where their experiences and insights are welcomed. Hope begins to fade, and those who are already disillusioned with the Church remain so.

So I end with a plea. The journey to the Plenary Council began in 2013 with the Year of Grace: a year in which we were invited to 'Contemplate the Face of Christ'. We were invited to do this, not as a 'one off' but as the beginning of a deep conversion process. We are being invited to reflect again on what it truly means to be the disciples of Jesus Christ. When we take our eyes of him we experience the very thing that happened to St Peter when he got out of the boat and began to walk towards Jesus (Matthew 14: 22). Peter was fine as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. The moment he ceased to contemplate the face of Christ he began to drown. Which will we be: the Church of Jesus Christ with our eyes on him, or a self-focused group of people in danger of going under?

Shane is the Director of the National Centre for Evangelisation, an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Originally published in Catholic Voice (Canberra-Golbourn Archdiocese), November 2018. Reprinted with permission.



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

PLENARY COUNCIL: LOCAL VOICES TELLING LOCAL STORIES

FAITH SHARED, FAITH BLOSSOMS

TRACY STINSON

As a small child I would watch my grandmother in church, hands joined and deep in prayer, and was transfixed. I loved everything about it: the scent of the candles, the tall stained-glass windows, the statues with outstretched arms and the beautiful, mysterious language. Most of all I loved that this was something she and I did together, just the two of us. Our special place.

My mother grew up in a Catholic family and my father was Methodist, but when they started a family in the big city, life took them away from going to church every Sunday. Perhaps it was difficult to know which church to go to, or because busy modern life offered other options. I went to the local state primary school where we weren't allowed to mention religion.

But my interest in the church did not wane. Even when we returned home to the city, far from my grandmother, I wanted to learn more about my faith. One of my school-friends was Catholic and I joined her in Communion lessons. I would walk to the catechist's house on a Saturday morning, singing hymns to myself on the way. I found out which of my friends went to church and would tag along with the family.

At first I was attracted to the physical elements of the church: the buildings, the rituals and traditions and hypnotic refrains. But adolescence, and the loss of my grandmother, brought a greater depth to my longing. It was no longer just the church that drew me in, but my faith. God and existence, life and death, purpose and meaning.

I moved away from home to go to university and fell away

from going to church. It was too far away, I had no car, and life was busy and social. Church fell off my radar for a while. But one day, during a particularly difficult period, my faith came back to embrace me just when I needed it. It was like finding a long-lost friend. No wonder I had felt so dark – I was missing my light.

While teaching at a Catholic school a colleague mentioned the dynamic church services his family attended on the other side of Sydney. He invited me along, and the invitation changed my life. This was the church I knew and loved, only better. The pews were full to overflowing. The music was offered by talented musicians. The priest understood the faith deeply and his inimitable charisma would spill over the congregation and leave me inspired to live life more deeply, more meaningfully. I was home.

When I married my wonderful husband, we were both pleased to share a love of the church. We enjoyed our long, traditional nuptial wedding and as parents we hope to transmit the same joy of church to our children. However, in these days where life offers so many other options, it is tempting for children to resist what they see as long hours of having to sit still and listen to "words that are too big for me, mummy". But we are hopeful that we will be able to share with them a love of faith and the church that helps us to nurture it.

Tracy is a parishioner at Crows Nest Parish, and part of the local Plenary group.





LISTENING LOCALLY ALREADY A POSITIVE RESULT

DR PETER NOLAN

One of several "Listening and Dialogue Groups" from St Theresa's Parish, Toowoomba. L to R: Denis Brown, Denise Briggs, Gerard Hore, David Wilson and Tess Hall.

It says in the Jewish Babylonian Talmud, that we are not to despair at the grief and distress of this world. We are encouraged to show Mercy now, to seek Truth now and to walk Humbly now. We are not obligated to solve all the world's problems but neither are we allowed to neglectfully walk away from them.

This understanding may be applied to the Australian Catholic Church's 2020 Plenary Council for which our parishes are now preparing. Though we may look with despair at the degradation of our world and troubles within our Church, it is our duty to seek first what we can do locally and provide practical suggestions to those in positions of authority in the Church who, we dearly hope, will listen to the movement of the Spirit in our time.

Even if we do not see major structural changes in the

organisation of our Church as a result of the Plenary Council, I have already become aware of the positive benefits of meeting with like-minded parishioners. We have shared personal stories and concerns from our faith journey. We have come to know each other and to value and support each other more on our pilgrimage.

At the end of the day, our lives and the lives of those around us will only be changed if we become truly authentic followers of Christ, being aware of his presence with us each day and reaching out to our neighbour in love and compassion.

Peter is a parishioner at St Theresa's Parish, and part of one of the local Plenary groups.

PLENARY RESPONSES BY THE NUMBERS

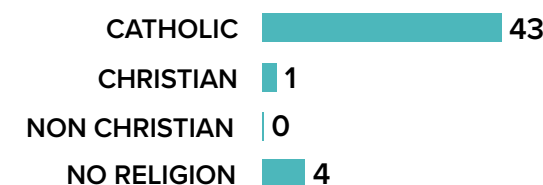
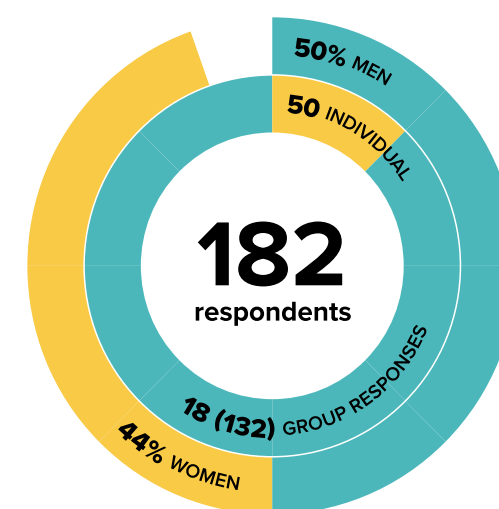
MARY OTTO

By the time this issue of *Horizons* is distributed throughout the Diocese, it will be one week until Ash Wednesday which is the closure of the Listening and Dialogue process for the Plenary Council. While not the end of listening to public opinion, it is the final chance to get the topics near and dear to people, what God is asking of us in this time and place, on the table.

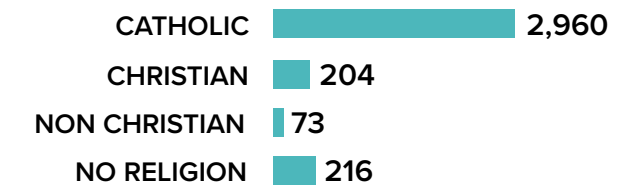
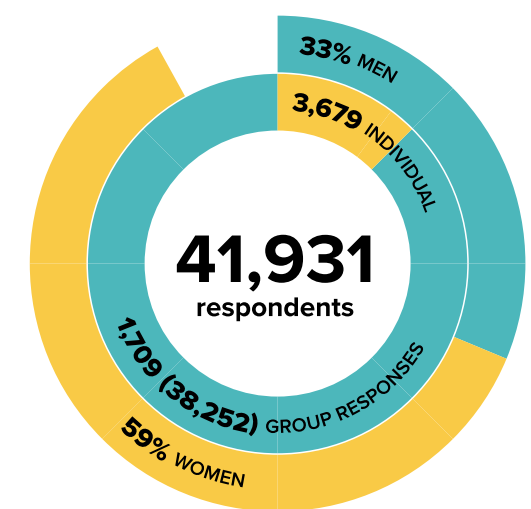
The National Centre for Pastoral Research, the church body tasked with processing the raw data of submissions, released a brief report earlier this month on statistics on submissions received from 20 May to 31 December 2018.

If you haven't yet added your voice, you should visit plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.

OUR DIOCESE



NATIONALLY



NEWS IN BRIEF

In early November of last year, Catholics and Anglicans gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate the Annual Service of Prayer for Reconciliation. Lead by Bishop Robert McGuckin, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, who presided, and Bishop Cameron Venables Assistant Bishop for the Western Region, Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, who preached, the Service recognised the past differences between the two churches, and celebrated what they have in common. As part of the service, the two leaders lit a single candle from the Pascal candle, asking for forgiveness where the churches have travelled the wrong way, and give strength to efforts towards unity and for justice and reconciliation.



Early January saw the priests of the Diocese gather to reflect and refresh at the annual Clergy Retreat. Although dry, the priests enjoyed the peace and quiet and hospitality of the staff at the James Byrne Centre. Special thanks to Julie See, Clergy Health Coordinator, who assisted some of our retired clergy in joining their brother priests for Mass.



NEW CAMP INITIATIVE CONNECTS YOUNG INDIGENOUS WITH COUNTRY AND CULTURE

JAYNE THORPE

Creating fond memories
and learning important
cultural lessons.

During 2018 CatholicCare staff were out and about in the Indigenous community chatting with parents and children about what they believe the community needs for the youth. Through these conversations, we heard 100% of the community saying a holiday program was a must along with the need for young people to connect to country and culture.

In the new year, CatholicCare responded to this community feedback through the rollout of our Which Way Pilot Camp as an expansion of the Whaddup Youth Group. In mid-January, 30 Aboriginal youth aged from 10 to 17, along with 7 staff and volunteers, headed to QCCC Mapleton Triballink Outdoor Education Centre for a 3 day cultural and leadership camp.

The campers were split into a boys group and a girls group for the activities. This made them more comfortable to take on the challenges. They were brought together for meals and to reflect together on the day. With an action-packed program, participants learned about their own

limits, made their own choices about the difficulty level of each activity and gave support and encouragement to each other.

Our first morning started with our Triballink Guide explaining the cultural use and meaning of ochres for body painting. Everyone enjoyed having symbols painted on their face with cool, smooth, white ochre paste. We then went foraging in the forest for bush foods and medicines ending with an afternoon gathering of conversation as the young people prepared Bunya nuts and Lemon Myrtle tea on the campfire sitting under the shade of the rainforest.

With all campers gathering in the evening we headed for the Triballink Centre to hear some of the local dreaming stories. Kerry from Triballink encouraged each camper to share their nation and totem with the group and then he shared stories he had heard from his grandmother.

Over the three-day period, to capture the experience of the camp, each child had their own individual visual diary. At the end of each day, photos were printed for the kids to



Eager to head off to camp.



Campers enjoyed learning about and gathering bush food and medicine.

add to their diary. Each night after dinner, campers would come together in our lounge room to debrief and share their thoughts on their daily activities.

Here's what some of the kids had to say:

"I liked learning more about the land and what it can provide."

"I felt a bit better that I know a bit more about my culture."

"I felt like I'll never forget this memory."

"I feel really good about coming on this camp because I learnt a lot of things I didn't know before"

"I felt this was an awesome experience"

"I liked everything about this camp especially pool time"

They were also asked to say "what I loved most":

"The whole trip"

"I loved meeting new people"

"I liked the giant swing the most"

"Bushwalk and pool"

and "what I'd like to see or do next time":

"more cultural activities"

"challenging activities"

"to learn how to do more cultural dancing and to try more traditional foods"

"more canoeing"

"more eating and learning about bush tucker and storytelling"

After reviewing the comments from the campers, it is clear that CatholicCare was able to meet the Aboriginal community expectations of connecting our Indigenous youth to country, culture and each other. It was so rewarding for our staff and volunteers to see how the youth responded to the knowledge and challenges offered by the team.

CatholicCare sincerely thanks our volunteers, and the staff of QCCC Mapleton Camp and Triballink Centre, for their time and patience with us during our first camp. See you next year in 2020!



Sometimes, we all need a little **extra support.**

We offer a range of counselling, mediation and education services for people across all stages of life:

- » Relationships Advice
- » Family Mediation
- » Family Counselling
- » Employee Assistance Programs
- » Parenting Education and Support
- » Workplace Mediation and Counselling

We welcome your call.

➔ Contact us: ☎ 1300 477 433 🌐 www.catholiccare.services

SISTERS FUTURE-PROOF SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE IN REMOTE AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

LIZ MCALOON, HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

The Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS), established by Fr John Wallis in Tasmania 75 years ago, has launched an initiative that will see their important work in remote and regional Australia continue beyond the life of the Sisters. To mark the new stage in the work of the MSS, grant applications will be invited for projects which can make a difference in the lives of isolated, and often forgotten Australians.

The Sisters have set up Highways and Byways, which will expand its reach across Australia, taking over the works of the John Wallis Foundation. In the coming year Highways and Byways will allocate more than \$90,000 to small grants and community programs. It is hoped that this figure will increase each year.

“Seventy-five years ago the four founding Sisters entered risky territory having very meagre resources but a powerful commitment to begin a mission which would take them into the lives and homes of people beyond cities and towns,” said Sr Stancea Vichie, MSS Congregational Leader.

In the past 75 years the Sisters have worked in the most remote parts of Australia as well as in urban areas. They have sat around the kitchen tables of people from all walks of life, supporting families and communities. Highways and Byways makes this possible for decades to come.

Highways and Byways continues the work begun by the MSS. A snapshot of this work in the last two years includes:

- Offering low cost art classes to disadvantaged members of the Peak Hill community in central west NSW.

This created a rare social engagement opportunity for people who are often isolated.

- Supporting Port Augusta’s 80-year-old Country Women’s Association to continue by providing transport to meetings and activities for many of the older and marginalised younger CWA members.
- Helping in the putting together of bedding packs for homeless young people in South Australia, ensuring they have a clean sheet, towel, doona and pillow when couch surfing.
- Helping a very small Aboriginal community on Cape York Peninsula, which has been struck by many deaths in recent years.

Highways and Byways Executive Officer Liz McAloon said the focus of grant allocations for the coming year would be in areas where the Sisters have worked for many years, including the vast majority of the Toowoomba Diocese.

“We have always gone out into the world, looked at the signs of the times and responded, and that’s what Highways and Byways is doing today,” Sr Stancea said.

To support the work of the Sisters by donating to Highways and Byways, please visit highwaysandbyways.org.au (donations are tax deductible).

Application forms and grant guidelines are also available from highwaysandbyways.org.au or phone 03 9873 5520. The grant application process has been extended to 14 March, 2019.

LENT: IT’S ABOUT EASTER

GERARD HORE

Like everything in the Church’s life, Lent is about Easter. Pentecost is about Easter. Advent and Christmas are about Easter. Ordinary Time is about Easter. Every Sunday is a “little Easter”. Being a Christian means being called to have the Easter Christ, crucified and risen, at the centre of our lives.

Our membership of the Church, our baptism, is our being joined to Jesus. All the other things we remember and celebrate about Jesus’ life and work, all our efforts to live as his followers, make sense only in the light of Easter.

The three great days we use for our single celebration of Jesus’s death and resurrection give meaning to the rest of the Church’s year. This year, those three days (the “Triduum” in Latin) go from Holy Thursday evening on 18 April to the evening of Easter Sunday on 21 April.

The Church throughout the world begins to formally prepare for Easter well in advance. To do this we use the six-week season of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, is on 6 March. Preparing for Easter may have practical aspects for some members of Church communities; preparing homilies, checking over ceremonies used only once in the year, being or accompanying RCIA candidates, organising readers, singers, servers etc. all have to be done.

That preparation is not the purpose of Lent. Scotland’s best-loved and died-too-young poet may not have been talking about Lent but his words can still help us:

*God knows, I’m no the thing I should be
Nor am I even the thing I could be.
(Robert Burns 1759-96)*

Lent is a time for us to consciously and seriously (but not glumly!) respond to the Father’s invitation to be better followers of his Son, better people. We know we can be better Christians and we want to be better Christians. We respond to that invitation knowing that there is no way we can be better followers of Jesus, God the Son, by our own efforts. The Father gives us the invitation and it is the Holy Spirit who strengthens us to respond in an effective way. It’s up to us to be prepared to make that response. Being prepared involves both a clearer recognition of what is truly important in life and some gentle disciplining of ourselves to give those more important things their right places in our lives.

As we look forward to celebrating Easter 2019, a good use of Lent will help us to do so as better followers of Jesus than we were at Easter 2018.

St Pat's Best of Luck! BINGO

Where the big money is played for and won!

BINGO EVERY WEEK
WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT 7.15PM
SUNDAY AT 4.30PM
UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATE ST PATRICK'S DAY AND WIN YOUR SHARE OF THE \$6000 POT OF GOLD! 4.30PM, 17TH MARCH

Wondering where to have your next function?

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL FUNCTION CENTRE
For Bookings phone Anthony on (07) 4637 1500
\$100 bar tab for your function if booked before June.

St Patrick's Cathedral 123 Neil Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350 www.stpats.org.au

Buying | Renting | Selling

Make dreams happen™

We've been helping people make their property dreams happen for generations. Whatever your property dream, we're here to help.



Interested in finding out more?
Please contact
Mike & Julie Stewart
📞 **07 4688 2222**

www.toowoomba.ljhooker.com.au





PILGRIMAGE A JOURNEY OF FAITH BEYOND BEING AN ORDINARY TOURIST

DEACON TOM DUNCAN

Left: Pope Francis arrives in Panama for World Youth Day 2019.

Right: Over 1000 Pilgrims from Australia gathered in Panama for a special Aussie Opening Mass.

Photos courtesy of Annie Carrett and Diocese of Broken Bay

“We are pilgrims not tourists.” This frequently occurring phrase tends to appear at any World Youth Day experience to remind the pilgrim that the present journey is not a comfortable holiday junket. It is rather an act of faith, seeking and conversion –sometimes rough and uncomfortable– which becomes a microcosm of one’s lifelong journey of faith, seeking and conversion. For the group of pilgrims from the Townsville Diocese, mainly from Mt Isa but also accompanied by myself and Nathan Webb of the Toowoomba Diocese, this pilgrimage allowed twenty-one young (and not so young) people to touch and be touched by the living faith of the universal Church, going beyond our rural Australian experiences of Church.

Beginning with a week in Los Angeles we found a home in the vibrant, generous and hospitable parish of St Euphrasia. There was consensus among the whole group that the goodness and generosity we experienced there was something extraordinary. After a week of sightseeing, engagement with local youth groups, meeting with ex-gangsters, NBA basketball games, sleeping on the floor, getting the flu and daily group reflection, we found ourselves joined in a beautiful bond. At this point we were ready for Panamá, that country no one would have ever visited if it weren’t for World Youth Day. Panamá is an interesting and exciting place to be, particularly when there’s hundreds of thousands of other pilgrims visiting.

The locals were beautiful people who were genuinely pleased to have us there, and they certainly made us feel that way by their warm welcome. We attended daily catechesis led by various Bishops from around the world, followed by Mass. For me it was an extraordinary feeling to exercise my diaconal ministry at these various liturgies and to proclaim the Gospel to people of many different nations and languages.

Then Pope Francis arrived. The city was humming with Francis fever and a certain expectant joy. Many were overcome with emotion simply by laying eyes on the man. During the final Mass, at which all the pilgrims camped out together in an open field, Pope Francis spoke beautifully and passionately to the youth of the world. What struck me was his encouragement not see ourselves as the future of the Church, as we sometimes hear, but as “el ahora de Dios” – the now of God.

As we returned to Los Angeles for a bit of a rest after two jam-packed and challenging weeks of pilgrimage, I found myself grateful that we were “pilgrims not tourists”. For it was precisely in the shared “roughness” and difficulty of our trip, coupled with a constant connection to faith and liturgy, that we really bonded as a group and were pushed beyond ourselves. In other words, communion and conversion characterised our journey as pilgrims, realities that undoubtedly reveal “el ahora de Dios”.

EXPANSION PLANS ON THE HORIZON AT USQ

Late last year, the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) announced the purchase of Concannon College from the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba.

The College has played an important student accommodation role at the University since its construction in 1985 – an initiative of Bishop Edward Kelly, the Bishop at the time. One of three residential colleges at USQ, Concannon College offers accommodation facilities to 40 students, with room for up to 100. Situated on Baker Street adjoining the USQ Toowoomba campus, the University currently manages the College. After a successful 33-year partnership, the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba and the University have agreed to transfer ownership to the University.

USQ Executive Director (Campus Services) Dr Dave Povey said the College had always played a key role in student accommodation and was a welcomed addition to the portfolio. He also confirmed that Concannon College would continue to function as usual into 2019.

“It’s an exciting time for our Toowoomba campus, with a lot happening here at the moment,” said Dr Povey. “USQ recognises and greatly appreciates the collaborative relationship it has, and will continue to have, with the



Photo courtesy of USQ Photography

Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba.”

Concannon College was named after Monsignor Edward Concannon, a Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, known for his devotion to youth and education in the region.

Bishop Robert McGuckin said the Diocese fully supported the University in its move to expand. “The sale of Concannon College is indeed an exciting moment in the relationship between the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba and USQ,” said Bishop McGuckin. “The Diocese will continue to be a part of student life at USQ, with plans to appoint a part-time chaplain to the University in 2019.”

The Chair of Concannon Council Fr Ray Crowley, said that key members of both the Church and USQ had worked tirelessly since the initial agreement between the University and the Diocese to integrate the values of both parties into a framework that provided students with a holistic view of humanity where all are welcomed, skills were developed, diversity was celebrated and justice was embraced.

“With the new agreement, we have a strong hope that these same values and principles will continue to permeate the lives of students and staff as we move into this next phase of University life,” said Fr Crowley.

CONCANNON COLLEGE WELCOMES FUTURE LEADERS FROM NSW



L to R: Bronte Hodge and Harriet Mullany

Students from regional NSW will gain valuable management and teamwork skills with the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Residential Colleges announcing leadership positions for 2019. Former Young High School and St. Scholastica’s College student Harriet Mullany will take on the role of Concannon Resident Student Club (RSC) Treasurer.

Members of the RSC are elected by fellow students, and are responsible for organising social events such as formals and sporting fixtures. “Leadership allows me to have a voice in the community and express other peoples’ voices, to make sure all options are heard and considered, to better

the community,” Harriet said.

Tackling the role of Concannon College Secretary next year will be former Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) Armidale student Bronte Hodge. “Leadership opportunities are incredibly important and valuable because it allows a person to extend themselves past their course,” Bronte said. “I hope that I can create a good change within the colleges, so that more people will feel comfortable and accepted in our community.”

Ms Hodge said she loved living at on-campus accommodation and enjoyed the family feel of Concannon College.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TOOWOOMBA

DR PATRICK COUGHLAN



The start of any new venture brings with it a mix of nervous anticipation for what lies ahead. This is no truer than the start of school. Even the most seasoned students and parents, as much as they might try, can't hide their excitement and wonder at what might lie ahead. For the rank beginners though, parents and students encountering school for the first time, the experience can, at least initially, seem daunting and mysterious. Fortunately, the transition from kindy to prep, or from primary to secondary school is not as daunting as it once was.

One reason for this is that schools are now far more attentive to the need to educate parents and students early into the "language" of schools – how schools work, familiarity with staff, their routines, expectations and the learning process so that both parents and students feel a strong sense of belonging and can engage confidently with their learning. There is now greater emphasis on parent engagement in the learning process, rather than simply parent involvement in school activities.

Parent engagement with the learning process is essential for students to develop a positive disposition towards school as a place where they feel secure, where they are known and valued and where they can learn and achieve successfully. The partnership between parent, student and teacher is crucial to 13 years of successful schooling. Even when things don't go as planned, and they won't, the strength of that partnership will always ensure the best outcome for the student.

After the family the teacher is the most influential person in the lives of students whilst they are at school. There are 1700 reasons why students flourish in Catholic schools – our staff. Our staff are some of the best in the business at delivering academic success within the lived expression of a Catholic worldview. The opportunity for a Catholic education in one of our 31 schools is affordable and open to all.

I thank all families who are sharing in this journey with us and extend an invitation to all to experience the positive difference our schools are making in the lives of students.



Get the latest news about the Church

SAVE TODAY BY SUBSCRIBING TO OUR PRINT OR DIGITAL PUBLICATION FROM JUST \$1 A WEEK

Call (07) 3324 3555 or go online to www.catholicleader.com.au/subscribe

THE CATHOLIC LEADER
www.catholicleader.com.au



MY FIRST YEAR AT THE HEAD OF THE CLASS

JESSICA PARKER

After finishing my studies at the University of Southern Queensland at the end of 2017, I was lucky enough to gain employment within Catholic Education. From my first official day as a Year 4 teacher to the very last day of the school year, it was a wonderful, rewarding, exciting, and educational journey.

Being able to work within such a supportive community, not just within my school, but the wider Catholic School Office was both encouraging and enriching. I was able to develop my professional capabilities both inside and outside the classroom. Through professional development opportunities provided by Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, I was able to enhance my overall understanding of teaching practices.

Effective implementation of these practices within my classroom was ensured through the constant support of fellow colleagues and coaches. These resources enabled me to be the best possible educator I can be for my students.

Knowing I was able to provide the platform for students to achieve their goals, no matter the size, was an absolute honour. Being able to witness the determination and joys of my students in their learning experience not only filled me with an abundance of pride and happiness but amplified my own passion to teach.

To say that I look forward to the upcoming school year would be an understatement, as I know I have yet another classroom full of wonderful students to journey with again this year at Holy Name Primary School.

A LONG CAREER IN EDUCATION NOURISHED BY FAITH



Roly Poulton

December 2018 marked the conclusion of a long and successful career spanning 39 years for Principal, Roland (Roly) Poulton.

Starting at St Mary's School Goondiwindi in 1980, Roly served at several schools in the Toowoomba Diocese as a primary teacher prior to becoming an Assistant Principal in 1994. A stint as Acting Principal at St Patrick's School Allora in 1996 was the beginning of his school leadership career, with principalships at St Stephen's School Pittsworth, St Mary's School Warwick, St Anthony's School Toowoomba and St Monica's School Oakey.

"During my time as a school principal, I found support and encouragement from an organisation deeply founded on Christian principles, from my interactions with talented peers and my understanding family," said Roly. "My faith has also nourished me in what has been a very people centred profession."

Roly also acknowledged the committed and talented teachers he has worked with and the influence and impact

they have. "Many times, I have been in awe of the efforts teachers in our Catholic schools will go to in making the educational experiences of their students more exciting, enjoyable and effective. Seeing teachers work collaboratively with their colleagues to plan, teach and evaluate; learning from each other; this has been what has inspired me over the years."

When asked what he believes makes Catholic Education distinctive, Roly's response was resolute, "To me, making the message of Jesus real and lived within the school community provides a tangible model for students to follow in their relationships with their classmates and the wider community. It engages them in relationships where human dignity is central, and the unfailing love of God is ever present. It is through these relationships that you get to witness and contribute to what is most rewarding – the immense pride of young students when they reach academic and personal milestones."



INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRINCIPALS FOR 2019

New School Principals welcomed by Dr Pat Coughlan (centre, back) and Bishop Robert McGuckin (centre, front).

A warm welcome to all new staff who have joined Toowoomba Catholic Schools in various roles this year. We extend a special welcome to the new principals in the diocese.

Luke Barrett – St Monica's School, Oakey

Christopher Gabbett – Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields

Liisa Hammond – Youth and Community Learning Centre, Toowoomba (YCLC)

Melissa Hobson – St Joseph's School, Chinchilla

Lawson Short – St Joseph's School, Millmerran (Acting Principal 2019)

Emma Timmins – St Mary's School, Warwick

Each of the newly appointed principals has shown strong leadership during their respective teaching careers. Some, like Oakey Principal Luke Barrett and Millmerran Acting Principal Lawson Short, draw on home grown rural experience to ground their leadership experience. "I believe that to be a good principal you must continue to teach and learn," said Luke. "In working with and alongside teachers a professional learning community flourishes. My Catholic values inform my faith leadership and the growing of a culture that values staff and students alike."

Mary MacKillop Principal Christopher Gabbett and Warwick Principal Emma Timmins are both returning to the Toowoomba Diocese, bringing with them a breadth of experience. "My career in education has taken me from the Gold Coast Hinterland to several education posts in the United Kingdom, as well as study at Oxford and St Mary's University, Twickenham. I have a real passion for fostering a loving, empathetic community that brings people together with a strong focus on learning and progress. I am very much looking forward to reconnecting with those I know from my youth and my family who are here in Toowoomba." Said Christopher of his extensive travels.

Both Liisa Hammond, YCLC Principal, and Melissa Hobson, Chinchilla Principal, will continue as principals after holding acting principal roles in their respective schools. Both principals are happy to be continuing with the communities that they have come to know and enjoy working with. "I am passionate about working with the young people who attend YCLC, focusing on their learning and wellbeing; developing their self-belief and capability. My vision is to support the teachers to provide high quality alternative education for young people and to build stronger connectivity to Toowoomba's Catholic secondary colleges," said Liisa.



Graduate Teachers benefit from time spent at St John's School Roma

SUPPORTING GRADUATES TO BECOME EXPERT TEACHERS

St John's School, Roma is one of Toowoomba Catholic School's largest Prep to Year 12 schools with 730 students and is a great place for graduate teachers to start their career.

"To support the growth and development of our graduate teachers we have as strong recruitment and mentoring program. Once we know which final year students would like to teach in a regional centre, we encourage them to work with us through a 6 week internship. In this way they can experience rural teaching and our lifestyle," said Donaugh Shirley, Principal of St John's.

"Once a teacher is appointed, we offer opportunities to visit and support them with information during the school

break. All first year teachers have a teacher mentor, and their support program includes, meetings, in class support, a buddy system and classroom profiling."

Kimberly Challenor, a mentor teacher said, "With the support we get from Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, through the Early Career Teachers Network, we can ensure our new staff feel supported, nurtured and are given a professional skill base to ensure we have an exemplary teacher in every classroom."

"I believe that this is an investment in the future for our diocese as these young teachers will be the education leaders of tomorrow," Donaugh said.

FUN WELCOME FOR NEW STAFF

POLLYANNA CRAWFORD

Fun and games bring Sacred Heart teachers together for the new school year.



This year we welcome two new teachers to the Sacred Heart School Cunnamulla, Mr Todd Pullar and Miss Shae Sore'. Todd joins us from New Zealand and Shae joins us from the Gold Coast. Both teachers are very excited about their appointments and are eager to get involved in the Cunnamulla community. Mrs Jordeigh

Standfield and Miss Emily Conlin return for their second year with the school. All staff have completed four days of professional development on the Mercy Charism, Teacher Presence, Student Protection, Code of Conduct, Curriculum and Indigenous Perspectives. Staff also took part in team building activities including 'Hungry Crocodiles'.

Handy Hendo



LUKE HENDERSON

Phone: 0428 330 542

Email: tennisunitedluke@yahoo.com

REPAIRS • PAINTING
YARDWORK • DINGOWORK & MORE!

Call me for an obligation-free quote!

Saying goodbye is never easy. At McGrath Funerals we can help you make this journey...

Beautifully Simple



McGrath
FUNERALS

5 Mylne Street
opp. Grand Central
1800 221 022



NEW SERVICE HELPS STUDENTS SPEAK UP FOR FELLOW STUDENTS

REBECCA LYNCH

Top: L to R: Hamish McIlveen, Rachel Downie, Eloise Young and Patrick O'Brien.

Bottom: Rachel Downie chats with parents after the launch.

St Joseph's College Toowoomba knows that the wellbeing of their students underpins their learning success. A student with well-developed individual personal skills enables them to be happy and to thrive in an increasingly complex world. However, statistics show that one in four kids are bullied at school. In today's digital world, students are very socially invested and many of them don't feel as though they can speak up and often, they just don't know how. St Joseph's wants them to know that they will never walk alone.

St Joseph's has acted by launching Stymie into the College community. Parents, students and staff heard from

Rachel Downie, founder of Stymie, on how the service helps combat the bystander effect by empowering students with confidence to stand up for each other to report incidents of bullying and self-harm, safely, anonymously and without fear. Once the notification is made, the College receives the information via email, and responds according to their wellbeing framework.

Rachel's knowledge and experience in the work of Stymie proved to be very engaging and valuable for all audiences. St Joseph's offers Rachel a huge thank you for sharing her journey with Stymie and providing our college community with an invaluable tool.



A bright future begins here



St Ursula's College
Toowoomba Ph 4632 7611

SPORTING SUCCESS A POSITIVE ON AND OFF THE FIELD

BRONTE LATHAM

In the classroom and on the sporting field, 2018 was an excellent year for St Mary's College, Toowoomba. The College made headlines for their variety of major sporting achievements across the year, and continue to encourage students to take time to involve themselves in physical activity and team sports.

St Mary's College Principal, Michael Newman says it's important to balance in-class learning and physical activity, to achieve the best results all-round. "Along with the wonderful academic achievements of our boys in 2018, it is great to see many boys being able to balance study and sport so successfully. Educational studies have shown that boys learn better, and retain more information after physical activity, and here at St Mary's College, we are all about adapting learning to best suit young men."

Talented and dedicated sportsmen are a constant feature of the St Mary's College landscape. In 2018 alone, St Mary's College had two Australian representatives in

softball and rugby league, 15 Queensland representatives and more than 60 Darling Downs representatives.

2018 saw St Mary's College break a 20-year drought, when the Rugby League team seized the Confraternity Shield after a sensational tournament. The team travelled up north to Charters Towers in July, to compete in one of the most formidable schoolboys' Rugby League competitions in Australia. Since the Confraternity Shield was first contested in 1980, the carnival has featured 150 future NRL players, including 30 State of Origin representatives and 20 Kangaroos players, including notable St Mary's College Old Boy, Johnathan Thurston.

Following that, the St Mary's College U15 Rugby League team won the South-East Queensland Schoolboys Major Rugby League Competition (Walters Cup) defeating Keebra Park State High School 22 to 12. In its essence, this competition is the elite Schoolboys Rugby League Tournament in Queensland. The students demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship and humbly accepted the trophy at the Grand Final.

St Mary's College Director of Physical Education and Sport, Rob Anderson says he's proud of how the boys dedicate themselves to ensure they achieve quality results in their sporting activities. "It is fantastic to see the St Mary's College students put as much effort into their sporting endeavours as they do their academic achievements. At St Mary's, we pride ourselves in being able to offer boys a large range of sport to participate in, from basketball, to hockey, mountain biking and soccer, and we encourage the boys to give it their all. It's clear that St Mary's College not only produces young men who support each other in the classroom, but on the sporting field too, and this is evident in their deserving results."



Want to Become a Catholic?

Contact your local parish or Mary Otto, Diocesan RCIA Coordinator
Mobile: 0447 074 807 **Email:** rica@twb.catholic.org.au

Come and See the goodness of the Lord

BUILDING UPGRADES AND RENOVATIONS MAKE FOR A FRESH START

GINA ROBERTS

Photo caption "L to R: Brooke Butson, Lisa McPherson, Courtney Law and Courtenay Mason"

While students enjoyed their last week of holidays staff at St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe attended Personal Development training and focussed on preparing for a successful Year in 2019.

Much work has already been completed by the teachers to create learning environments that are stimulating and supportive and learning experiences which promote curiosity, creativity, a sense of reflection and a desire to be an active participant in the learning process.

New Leadership and Middle Leadership teams were announced, and we welcome new staff Brooke Butson, Lisa McPherson and Courtney Law along with returning staff, Courtenay Mason, Jim Armstrong and Nadia Stanford.

Over the holiday period the school made some changes and improvements to the school's infrastructure as part of the 2018 Masterplan.

On the Primary Campus a major renovation was carried out on the new 5/6C classroom. This involved the installation of acoustic tiles on the walls, window tinting, a new whiteboard and a new television. This improvement serves as a trial for the renovation of all primary classrooms over the coming years. Window tinting has also been completed on the primary balcony and part of the Multi-

Purpose Room, resolving glare and heat issues. The cricket pitch was replaced in late Term 4 last year and will have its first use this term.

On the Secondary Campus there have been two key projects. The area between the tennis courts and the Frayne Building was concreted and shaded, creating an outside teaching and meeting space and a more useable space for students during lunch breaks.

Another key project has been the upgrade of the pathway from the crossing on Connor Street to the Secondary Campus and an area in the Staff Building that has been renovated as a Reception and Sports Department space. The Art Room is also renovated for the re-introduction of Visual Art in the Middle School and a room on each Campus has been renovated to create dedicated Technology and Robotics teaching spaces.

Future improvements planned for this year will include, amongst others, a major redesign of the secondary toilet block, a renovation to the entrance to the Bathersby Centre, fencing at the bottom of the Secondary Campus along Connor Street and a possible full-size outdoor sports court on the Primary Campus.



COLLEGE CELEBRATES SCHOOL LEADERS AND NEW PRINCIPAL

CATHERINE MIMS

Fr Bob Irwin MSC, Director of Education presents Downlands Principal, Mr Stephen Koch with the MSC Mission Statement for the education.

The entire Downlands College Toowoomba community came together in joyful celebration during the Investiture Mass of the Holy Spirit. In keeping with College tradition, all 2019 elected College student leaders and all Senior students were presented with their badges.

An added and very special dimension to this year's Investiture Eucharist was the commissioning of Downlands Principal, Mr Stephen Koch. Fr Bob Irwin MSC, Director of Education across the four Australian Missionaries of the Sacred Heart schools, prayed over Mr Koch before presenting him with the Mission Statement for the education apostolate of the Australian Province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Fr Bob blessed Mr Koch, commissioning him to lead the College with wisdom, understanding, kindness, compassion, gentle strength and love.

In an act symbolising the call of leaders to humble service, and in the presence of invited guests, staff, students

and their families, Mr Koch washed the feet of the College student leaders while all staff gathered to sing the Servant Song. During the homily which followed, Fr Bob thanked Mr Koch and all student leaders for having the courage to step forward in readiness to show the way in serving others.

Reflecting on his new role as Principal of Downlands, Mr Koch said "I am very proud and privileged to be the Principal of this exceptional school that has developed leaders, entrepreneurs and individuals who have made a difference in the world. I believe the cornerstone of a Downlands education is the development of strong, life-giving relationships, and our unique MSC heritage ensures that the Downlands journey is intertwined with an 'education of the heart'."

This was indeed a wonderful, warm, liturgical celebration, the memory of which will sustain the College community during the year ahead.



Downlands

Where your *heart* finds a home®

Downlands has a **unique history, beautiful surrounds, a distinctive spirituality and unequalled character.**

Our **heart-centred** approach promotes **academic excellence**, encouraging students to integrate faith with life and to develop a **love of learning**. Downlands is a great place for siblings to grow up together, **forming memories and friendships that last a lifetime.**

You are invited to experience the **community spirit and vibrant culture of learning** at Downlands - call Marilyn today on 07 4690 9500.

Downlands College
72 Ruthven Street Toowoomba QLD

INDEPENDENT • CATHOLIC • COEDUCATIONAL • DAY & BOARDING • YEARS 4-12




Holy Name Year 6 Students with Principal Kathy Bliss (left), Fr Darrell Irvine (middle) and Teacher David Anderson (right)

SCHOOL LEADERS COMMIT TO SERVING THEIR COMMUNITY

KERRI-ANN MANTHEY

The students of Holy Name Primary School Toowoomba started the new school year by celebrating the induction of the new school leaders at the Opening Mass. The Year 6 students received their leadership badges and announced their commitment to the Holy Name community with a promise statement.

"We promise to work together to achieve the highest standards in all that we do; we will strive always to have respectful relationships with all that we meet, and

encourage each other through all aspects of life."

Congratulations and best wishes to the school leaders. There is much that they will learn and, in turn, contribute back to the school over the year in their roles. Thank you to Fr Darrell Irvine for presiding the Opening Mass and also the parents and parish for supporting the Year Six students as they take on the additional responsibility of leadership this year.



50TH ANNIVERSARY SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL

SALLY YIN



Left: Multi-coloured celebrations for Sacred Heart School.

Right: Detail of the finished mural on display at Sacred Heart School.

In February 1968, Sacred Heart Primary School Toowoomba opened its doors to the first students, 22 children. 2018 marked 50 years of "Journeying Each Day with Jesus in our Hearts".

Celebrating this milestone was a huge success, thanks to the amazing efforts of all those who volunteered their time and expertise and all those who participated! Planning began months beforehand by one of our creative and dedicated parents, Angela Hargens, who worked with a small team to visit the school each week to engage the students in developing a new school mural. Every student in the school took part in the creation of the mural which brings together different art styles like hand and foot prints, 3D cut outs, geometric designs and tying it all together by using bright colours. All involved had a great time during the mural's creation.

Celebrations took place in October when the finished

mural was officially unveiled by the Executive Director for Toowoomba Catholic Schools, Dr Pat Coughlan and blessed by Parish Priest, Fr Roque Maguinsay. Everyone agreed that it is a magnificent work that captures the essence of Sacred Heart. Students and teachers walk past the mural daily with pride and a sense of accomplishment.

Also as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations, music, market stalls and food vans filled the school oval creating a carnival atmosphere. The highlight of the day was Sacred Heart Colour Run. Students, families and staff took part in the Colour Run with paint going everywhere and all agreed it was a lot of fun.

During the evening a celebratory Mass and Dinner were held. Past Principals, Toowoomba Catholic Schools representatives, current and past teachers along with parents past and present enjoyed the opportunity to catch up, reminisce and celebrate the school and its rich history.

CHRISTMAS GENEROSITY

KRISTY CAMERON

L to R: Mary Sullivan, Emily Zeller, Chloe Denning and Janine Butlin



As part of our Christmas concert for 2018, the St Stephen's School Pittsworth community were asked to give a non-perishable food item on entry. These generous donations have been given to St Vincent De Paul to be distributed locally in our Pittsworth community over the Christmas period. Again our school community showed immense generosity for those less fortunate than we are, giving far more than an item each. Our school staff also contributed greatly by donating Woolworths food

vouchers to help support St Vincent De Paul this time of year and early into the New Year.

Thank you to Mary Sullivan who came to accept the many donations and food vouchers from our school community on behalf of St Vincent de Paul. This time of the year is a wonderful time when we stop and 'give' to others who are less fortunate than we are. When we stop, we also need to say 'thank you' for all that we have this Christmas.



Children of Sacred Heart Parish enjoyed participating in the musical Nativity Play.

MUSICAL TWIST A MOVING CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

REBECCA WEBB

Youth in Sacred Heart Parish Toowoomba provided a sung narrative to last year's Parish Nativity play. The young people sang a blend of the traditional carol "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" and the more contemporary tune of "Mary did you Know?", using harmonies from Pentatonix, arranged for the occasion by Isaac Webb.

A mother of some of the cast members, Angela Duff said "It was lovely to see all of our children, Mary, Patrick and Teresa, participate in the Nativity Play especially with the amazing singing in the background. Mary and Teresa were the angels. Patrick was at first reluctant to be in the play but because the other boys were shepherds, he succumbed

to the peer pressure of being a shepherd. Teresa, who is 2 years old took to playing her role as angel very seriously and made sure her arms were up at all times."

Another parishioner commented, "The final line of the sung narration was very moving and inspiring, that is where they sang 'Mary did you know...That the sleeping child you're holding is the great I Am', all the shepherds and angels bowed to the Christ Child and I wanted to bow as well."

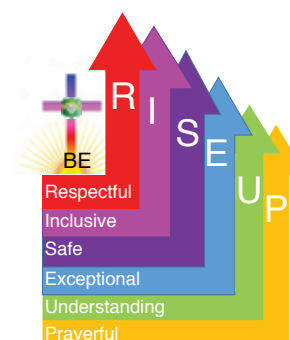
The play concluded with parishioners singing carols before the beginning of the Christmas Vigil Mass.



St Mary's School Warwick
At St Mary's we will: RISE UP!

163 Palmerin St, Warwick Q 4370 phone 07 4661 1872
email smwarwick@twb.catholic.edu.au

www.smwarwick.catholic.edu.au



EMMAUS JOURNEY MIRRORED BY PRAYER GROUP

BEVAN DEVINE



The Emmaus Prayer Group in St Thomas More's Parish Toowoomba celebrated its 40 year anniversary with a Mass presided over by Bishop Bill Morris in October. This Group, unique to the Parish, began with 10 young mothers gathering together weekly to pray, read the scriptures and to sing songs of praise. A sharing of the issues facing young mothers also took place over a cup of tea.

They took the name "Emmaus" because that was the road on which two disciples walked with Jesus without recognising him, as he explained the scriptures to them. This seemed an entirely appropriate name for a group who read the Sunday Mass verses and other scriptural passages to discern their meaning and relevance to their lives. The disciples recognised Jesus when he broke bread with them. This group of ladies shared bread together in the form of morning tea as they attempted to recognise what Jesus might be saying to them. At the beginning of each year the

group was blessed with a home Mass.

Over the years the group took on other responsibilities including raising funds for worthy causes such as the refugees of Rwanda. They made sandwiches and cakes for funerals at times in the early days, a role that now rests with the Care and Concern Group in our Parish. The numbers have waxed and waned, but some of the original members still attend the group who now mostly meet twice a month.

Kay Hohn, one of the original and current members, commented "We have laughed and we have cried. We have felt greatly loved and supported by each other and have felt Jesus come to us in so many ways. The Emmaus journey has given me so much strength".

As well as their own catering by the Emmaus Group, the Care and Concern Group provided a wealth of food for the informal party following their anniversary Mass. It was a convivial occasion with Bishop Bill and a large number of supporting parishioners joining in the celebration.

YOUNG PEOPLE RAISE THE ROOF WITH ROCK MASS

PATTI MCNAUGHT



L to R Front: Gemma Tancred, Cassie Lawson, Isaac Williams and Nicholas Joy.
L to R Back: Jennifer Langerak, Celine Samin, Elise Scrivens, Charlotte Voll, Zeke McColl, and Rohan McKerron

In late October last year, Mary of the Southern Cross Parish Highfields held their first "Rock" Mass. Parishioners had heard of this coming event and were eager to experience this wonderful opportunity for the first time ever. They were not disappointed. The soloists delighted them with their beautifully controlled voices and talents which amazed the congregation, as although most of them were quite young, everything was performed with reverence and professionalism.

The secondary students of Mary MacKillop Catholic College were very dedicated in preparing for this live music Mass. Many students from Years 7 to 10 along with a number of staff were involved in different aspects of the Sunday Mass including readings, a dramatic interpretation of scripture, singing and playing as well as technical

support.

It was wonderful to see so many students take the time to prepare for this Mass. Those involved in the music rehearsed during lunchtimes in the weeks before the Mass. Many of them performed solos, which is no easy task but with the support of the community they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A number of these students had even selected pieces that they wished to perform as they felt the message within the song reflected the theme of the Mass and youth. It is fantastic to see young members of the parish community making these connections.

Full credit to Jennifer Langerak, Steve Moyle and the dedicated students for providing such a wonderful Mass for all of us, especially for Fr Brian Noonan, as it happened to be his birthday. Congratulations to all who took part.

ADVENT SEES PARISHIONERS AT MASS WITH THE RISING SUN

NICOLE YU-YAP

During December last year, Sacred Heart Parish Toowoomba celebrated the Misa de Gallo Mass every morning at 4:30am on the nine days leading up to Christmas. Around a hundred people attended each Mass, after which breakfast was served by different groups of parishioners. Colour-coordinated clothing was also planned for the congregation to wear on each day.

The Misa de Gallo – Spanish for Rooster's Mass, is also referred to as Simbang Gabi or Night Mass in the Philippines – is a 9 day Novena of Masses celebrated around 4 o'clock in the morning when the "rooster crows", in honour of the Expectant Mother of God and in preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Misa de Gallo was originated by Spaniards in 1669 when priests began to say Mass before dawn, to allow farmers and other workers to attend before the day's labour. Dawn is a fitting time to celebrate this series of Masses as Mary

is the dawn of salvation. While still said in solemnity, these Masses are more festive in character than the Advent Liturgy with the inclusion of the Gloria.

For parishioners, the dawn masses hold special significance as they prepare to receive from God the greatest gift, or Aguinaldo of Christmas – Jesus, His Son and Saviour of the world. It is the joy of waiting for the Messiah, remembering when he first came over two thousand years ago and looking forward to His second coming. Attending all nine masses becomes a sacrifice out of love that requires waking up early during regular work days.

Sacred Heart's Misa de Gallo Masses were celebrated by Parish Priest, Fr Roque Maguinsay with Fr Warren Padilla. Since the Parish's initiation of these special masses in 2014, 2018 saw the largest turnout with consistent numbers across all the nine days.

EMMAS JOURNEY TO HIGHFIELDS PARISH

PATTI MCNAUGHT

L to R: Highfields RCIA Co-ordinator, Margaret Hendricks, with Emma Kingdom, her sponsor Monica Brennan and Fr Brian Noonan



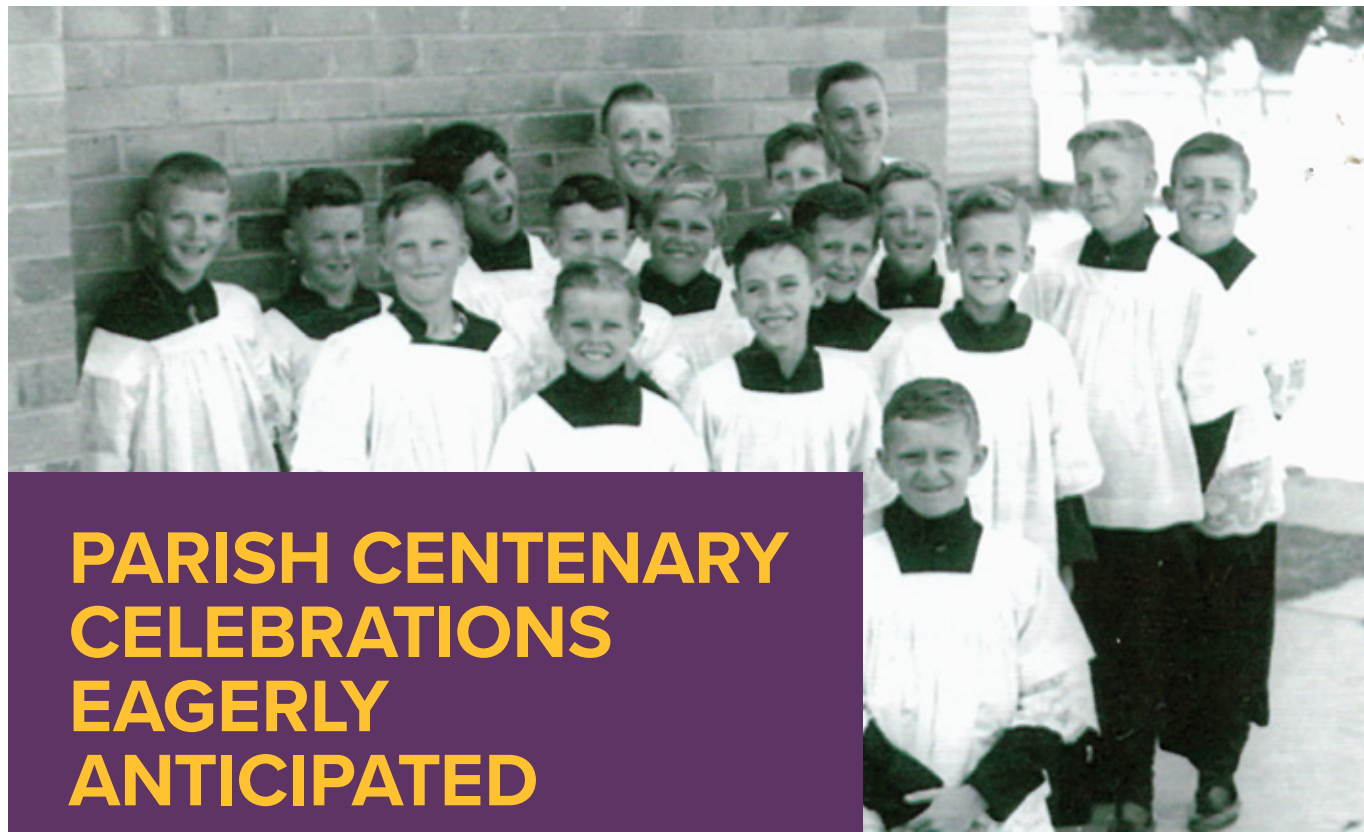
In late November last year there was a feeling of great excitement at Mary of the Southern Cross Parish Highfields. Community member Emma Kingdom has been on her faith journey and preparing for reception into the Catholic Faith. We welcomed Emma's fiancé, family, colleagues and friends who travelled to join with us in witnessing this beautiful ceremony led by Fr Brian Noonan.

Growing up, Emma attended St Mary's College, Maryborough for her secondary schooling and got to witness firsthand the welcoming and warmth of a Catholic community environment. A place where people had a genuine care for one another and passion for doing good within the community. From there, she lived at Concannon College at USQ, where she was lucky enough to be part of a range of events organised by the Toowoomba Diocese such as guest speakers like Fr Morgan Batt and Pyjama Foundation Founder Bronwyn Sheehan. From there she started working at Mary MacKillop Catholic College in Highfields and again felt the love and welcoming of a

Catholic community.

It was only a matter of months before she found herself looking for information about how to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church. She clearly remembers thinking to herself regularly at Mass and school events that this is the type of community she wanted to be a part of, these are the people she wanted to go on this journey with and these are the values she wanted to live her life by.

Emma had been living by this faith for many years and now she wanted to make it official, so with the help of Fr Brian and Margaret Hendricks, she started her journey through the RCIA program. The whole Mary of the Southern Cross Parish community were extremely welcoming and supportive along the way, never making her feel like she was on the outer or new, and thus reaffirming her decision. Monica Brennan was her sponsor through this process and offered great guidance and support throughout. On the day, Emma expressed her gratitude at being part of the Mary of the Southern Cross Parish community.



PARISH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS EAGERLY ANTICIPATED

MAREE TURNER

Altar Servers in 1965

Final plans are being made to mark the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady Help of Christians' Parish Chinchilla. The Parish, which also included Miles, Tara and Taroom at the time, was established on 24 February 1919 after being excised from Dalby. A series of events to mark the centenary have been planned for 1 and 2 March.

The celebrations will commence on Friday (1/3/19) with a Mass at 12:00pm followed by a luncheon in the parish hall. On Saturday (2/3/19) there is a meet and greet morning tea at 10:30am followed by the Centenary Mass at 12:00pm. Afterwards an alfresco luncheon under the trees in the grounds has been planned with old style fun activities for the kids, such as egg and spoon and three-legged races. An open air concert at 3:00pm will conclude the afternoon.

Parishioners have been invited to purchase a family plaque as a tribute to those who have been part of the faith community over the years. These will be placed on a wall in Our Lady's Chapel in the church and will be blessed at the Friday Mass. There will also be an historical display featuring photos, newspaper articles and other memorabilia including some beautiful old vestments.

Lifelong parishioner Jody Hart hopes it will be a great occasion. "A small group along with Parish Administrator, Fr Gonzalo Garcia Duran, have been working on preparations for a few months. We have contacted many past parishioners who are returning to Chinchilla and we also hope that past parish priests and sisters who served at St Joseph's School can attend." She said.

"There will be lots of opportunities to catch up and reminisce, while also remembering those who have gone before us. Everyone is very welcome to attend some or all of the events - no RSVP is necessary - just come along."

"Sticky" (short for stickybeak) the emu would follow his owner, Mrs Norrie Carpenter, to church when she was a girl.



OUTREACH A FOCUS FOR CCR SEMINARS

MICHAEL PYKE



Philip & Margaret Maloney

Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) hosted a seminar program in Toowoomba in November last year. The program centred around the mission of CCR in the Toowoomba Diocese which is based on John 21:15-17 where Jesus asked Simon Peter to "Feed my lambs; look after my sheep and feed my sheep".

In the context of this Scripture, 'Feed my lambs' is reaching out to the youth. 'Look after my sheep' is reaching out to those already in the Church, the practicing Catholics. 'Feed my sheep' is reaching out to the non-practicing Catholics, the marginalised, the lost and lonely. Seminars held at a variety of Toowoomba Parishes addressed the youth, the family, as well as people and families affected by abuse, trauma and addictions.

Philip & Margaret Maloney (International lay Catholic missionaries) spoke at all seminars and addressed issues like developing a personal relationship with Jesus; the Family, the place where faith in Jesus grows; how to disciple and pray with your family; and how Jesus can heal and give hope to families affected by abuse, trauma and addictions.

Philip and Margaret also spoke to parishioners at Holy Name on how the Sacraments help us grow as a family.

They also attended CCR prayer group meetings speaking to members about using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to help family evangelisation and how the healing of memories helps us grow as a family.

The highlight of the program for me was the youth seminar. During the seminar, the young people stepped forward and offered their lives to Christ. Philip and Margaret prayed over them and with 'Words of Knowledge' (1 Cor: 12:8), identifying gifts that the Holy Spirit had given them. It was very uplifting to see highly motivated young people wanting to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Stay tuned for more activities offered by CCR in 2019.

CCR Contacts:

- To know more about CCR Michael Pyke 0458 300 880 michael.pyke56@bigpond.com
- Wings of Freedom Prayer Group (Sacred Heart Toowoomba) Lisa Minz (07) 4615 5218
- Sacred Heart Prayer Group (Warwick) Trish Seaby (07) 4661 3133
- Emmaus Prayer Group Kay Hohn 0400 436 498

Care planning survey invites family participation

Parents and siblings of an adult with an intellectual impairment are invited to participate in research exploring the complexities of future residential care planning for a son, daughter, or sibling with intellectual impairment.



This research survey is available now online. Responses are anonymous. Participation is voluntary.

Please go to www.rebrand.ly/caregiving



Research conducted by University of Southern Queensland PhD candidate Miss Sonya Winterbotham.

Print versions available by phoning Sonya on 0418 185 117

CROW'S NEST A HIVE OF ACTIVITY

JANINE KANOWSKI AND MAUREEN CAUSER

Welcome to the New Year as we pray for all those in need. The Parish celebrated the Confirmation and First Communion of two new candidates in November. Bishop Robert McGuckin officiated and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on our candidates Nakkara Bassani and Paige Daley. Both girls, capably prepared by Julie Nairn, also received their First Holy Communion at this special Mass. A celebratory cake, baked by Paige's mother, was cut by the girls and shared during morning tea.

On Christmas Eve, a Vigil Mass was celebrated by Fr Dave O'Connor at St Leo's Church Haden and was very well attended. Fr O'Connor also celebrated the Christmas Mass held at St Matthew's Church at Crows Nest. At such an important time of year, many visitors added to our

congregation as families came together to celebrate. Thank you to the students in our RI classes for the beautiful colourful decorations which adorned the windows and ceilings at St Matthew's Church. At Confirmation we were furnished with delightful doves and 'stained glass' discs on the windows and for Christmas we had the addition of pretty Christmas decorations. Thanks to Bob, Tricia and Jeff for their enthusiasm.

In January Fr O'Connor officiated at the Baptism of Phoebe Rebecca-Rose, daughter of Brooke Pettifer and Jesse Smith at St Matthew's Church. After Mass a celebratory morning tea for family and parishioners was held in the Parish Hall.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

FR MICHAEL O'BRIEN

L to R: Adrian Pagan, Fay Stein, Maureen Pagan, Fr Mick Carroll and Fr Michael O'Brien

In November, Maureen Pagan celebrated her 94th birthday. Maureen is a well known and loved parishioner of Daymar, with a great sense of humour and fun.

Once on a bus trip a local from Goondiwindi, Basil Lloyd began chatting with her. When asked her name Maureen replied, "I'm a Pagan from Daymar." To which Basil replied,

"That's great, I'm a Catholic from Goondiwindi." She got a great kick out that story.

A lovely birthday celebration occurred at The Barn, Flagstone Creek, with family and friends. Maureen is back on her beloved family property "Rockwell" enjoying life. May she be blessed with many more birthdays.



Jan Gorrie, Promoter of the Silver Circle, watches as Veronica Martin draws the last Silver Circle for 2018



Sr Maureen Andrews delivers a hamper generously supplied by The Haven.

HOT AND DUSTY BUT KEEPING BUSY

SR MAUREEN ANDREWS

If there's a story to be told in Cunnamulla, it is of roos and dust, dust and roos, black clouds looming overhead bringing nothing but strong hot winds, lightning and more dust. We are crying for rain! Despite these disappointments we keep hoping and believing and going about our normal tasks with as much enthusiasm as we can muster.

In December we finalised the Silver Circle for the year and will commence this fundraising activity again in February 2019. Parishioners have been selling tickets for the Christmas raffle. The money raised is the prize money for the raffle drawn at the annual fete in March and successfully raised more than we needed. This is a great tribute to the people of the town who are currently going through hard times.

Before Christmas we spent time delivering hampers to people in need. These hampers were donated by The Haven in Caboolture for people suffering as a result of the drought. The goodness of people never ceases to amaze us, and we are grateful.

Christmas was a joyous occasion. Carolyn Crick, a parishioner and Administration Officer at Sacred Heart School, decorated the Christmas tree in red and gold. Around the tree were presents and gifts for all ages, courtesy of the Girls' Shed in Goondiwindi and The Haven in Caboolture. People from other Christian faiths joined

us to give thanks to our God and to celebrate the presence of God in our lives, with about 50 people attending the Christmas Eve service. A wonderful spirit of joy and hope wafted through the room and such happiness brings tears to your eyes!

Fr Noel Connolly, a Columban priest and one of the facilitators for the Plenary Council, came to visit Cunnamulla. He facilitated a session to enable us to write a submission to the Plenary Council. Seventeen people gathered to discern what God was asking of us in the south west corner. Personal invitations were sent to people of other Christian denominations to add some richness to the discussions. The final submission was distributed to the group and to the Plenary Council. It was a grand night and after the fruitful discussion we all sat down to a dinner cooked by Mike Hogan, husband of Anne who is Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council. Jan Gorrie and Chris Mills provided ice creams.

The Veranda, our parish Op Shop, is to reopen the beginning of the second week of February. At present we are organising the stock, redecorating and cleaning. It is hot work, however we know that when it opens people will be pleased and once again the verandas of the old convent will buzz with chatter. It is all about community and finding a place for people and having an awareness of the intensity of life around us so we can be givers of the Good News.

moreton & coote pharmacy

66 Margaret Street, East Toowoomba.

Ph: 4632 1370



Medico pack. Come and ask for details

- Home Medication Review • Webster Pack for Weekly Medication
- Wide range of vitamins • Gift Lines • Cosmetics • Ear Piercing
- Compounding • NDSS National Diabetes Services Scheme • FREE Blood pressure monitoring • Phone & mobile recharge
- FREE home delivery • Competitive pricing

moretoncootepharmacy.com

Come in and check out a catalogue



Sam (Pharmacist)



BRIEF

PARISH NEWS



Fr Jamie Collins once again had a big Christmas Mass run for 2018, starting early to make sure all the Churches in the smaller towns have Christmas Mass. The Sacred Heart Congregation at Yuleba had an early visit that also included some from the Anglican Community. The community enjoyed a light meal after Mass. The small Community of Jackson also received a visit for early Christmas Mass. Following Mass many of the congregation exchanged Christmas Gifts. The children from All Saints Parish Roma performed the Nativity Play for Christmas Mass.



Graduating Altar Servers at Roma, L to R: Fr Jamie Collins, Ann Moloney, Matthew Moloney, Earl Nino, Patrick Moloney and Maeve Moloney. Earl Nino will be the leader for 2019 taking over from Matthew Moloney.



L to R: Mayor Lindsay Godfrey, Sr Maureen Andrews and Oliver Simon, CEO of Paroo Shire Council. Sr Maureen Andrews has been a big part of the Cunnamulla Parish and wider community for many years, where she has provided a diverse range of services and support. Sr Maureen was recognised for her dedication to the community by being awarded Citizen of the Year by the Paroo Shire Council. Her endeavours through the church have been significant for people of all ages in providing counselling, financial and material aid. She relishes this aspect of her ministry to others.

November is the month to remember all the Faithful departed. St George Parish held a special Mass in each of the communities' cemeteries, including St George, Dirranbandi, Hebel, Bollon and Thallon. It was appreciated by all, with plans to repeat the Mass again this year.



At the conclusion of Term 4, woodwork students from the Youth and Community Learning Centre (YCLC) made the generous donation of two wooden benches to Mr Doug Micklejohn St Theresa's Conference St Vincent de Paul. The benches were designed and constructed by students with the guidance of their teacher in the YCLC workshop. The presentation was made to say thank you for the assistance St Theresa's Conference has given to the YCLC during 2018.





L to R Front: Agnes Dale, Barbara Lacey and Diane Ryan.
L to R Back: Kathie Ober, Mary Ondrus, Dorothy O'Connor, Trish Langan and Denis McAleer.

Ten parishioners from of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Toowoomba have recently completed the short 5-stage course **Christians in Dialogue**, with 2 members of the group attended the Spring School on Ecumenism at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) Banyo campus last September. We are now enthusiastic members of our parish Ecumenism Team.

We are committed to making ecumenical fellowship a local reality. A growth in unity at the local level can aid the value of official conversations between churches and bring to light the visible unity that already exists. Dr Raymond Williamson in his book, *Pilgrims of Hope: An Ecumenical Journey*, states that ecumenical dialogue must involve the

ECUMENICAL TEAM READY AND KEEN

TRISH LANGAN

whole people of God at every level of the Christian Church, helping to acknowledge the degree of communion that already exists.

For the first half of 2019 the team will be involved in the World Day of Prayer in March, hosted by the Uniting Church in Stenner Street, and helping to promote the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity hosted by the Anglican Church in our area. We will also have a presence at James Byrne Centre for a three-day seminar on Ecumenism to be held at the end of May. We are privileged to have Dr Antonia Pizzey, a lecturer in Theology at ACU Banyo campus, speaking on the Catholic perspective on ecumenism.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

WWW.TWB.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU

BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN

68 Lindsay Street, PO Box 756
Toowoomba Qld 4350
Tel: (07) 4632 4277 Fax: (07) 4639 2251

SECRETARY TO BISHOP

Colleen Way Tel: (07) 4632 4277
bishsec@twb.catholic.org.au

VICAR GENERAL

Fr John Quinlan Tel: (07) 4634 1453

CHANCELLOR

Fr Peter Schultz B.Th., JCL Tel: (07) 4632 8835
pschultz@twb.catholic.org.au

ABORIGINAL APOSTOLATE

Fr Peter Dorfield Tel: (07) 4637 1500
peter@stpats.org.au

ARCHIVES

Archivist: Gabrielle Saide Tel: (07) 4632 7484
dioarch@twb.catholic.org.au

CARITAS

Diocesan Director: Catherine McAleer
Tel: (07) 4638 7977
caritas@twb.catholic.org.au

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Executive Director: Pat Coughlan
Tel: (07) 4637 1400
enquiries@twb.catholic.edu.au

CATHOLIC MISSION

Diocesan Director: Emily Connors
Tel: 0467 191 065
econnors@catholicmission.org.au

CATHOLICCARE

Director: Kate Venables
Tel: 1300 477 433
enquiries@catholiccare.services

ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL,
TOOWOOMBA PUBLIC HOSPITAL,
BAILLIE HENDERSON HOSPITAL
AND ST VINCENT'S CARE

SERVICES - (Lourdes) CHAPLAINCY:

Catholic Coordinator, Hospital Chaplaincy:

Nicole Rangira Tel: (07) 4616 6415

nicole.rangira@health.qld.gov.au

Chaplain: Fr Michael Cooney

Tel: 0418 112 193

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Officer: Ingrid McTaggart

Tel: (07) 4632 4277 Mob: 0429 489 748

communications@twb.catholic.org.au

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDS

Acting Exec. Officer: Peter Albion

Tel: (07) 4638 1379

profstandards@twb.catholic.org.au

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Financial Administrator: Tom Jolley

Diocesan Development Fund

Tel: (07) 4632 7589

admin@twb.catholic.org.au

JAMES BYRNE RETREAT CENTRE

Managers: Paul and Wendy Ladewig

Tel: (07) 4630 8339

jamesbyrnecentre@bigpond.com

LITURGICAL COMMISSION

Liturgy Officer: John Briffa

Tel: (07) 4632 0989

jbriffa@twb.catholic.org.au

SPIRITUALITY AND MISSION

Sr Elaine Morzone

Tel: (07) 4632 7619

Mob: 0458 020 906

emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au

RCIA COORDINATOR

Mary Otto

Mobile: 0447 047 807

rcia@twb.catholic.org.au

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE

Trudi Burgess Tel: (07) 4687 4345

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Tel: (07) 4613 0895

justice@twb.catholic.org.au

SPRED - SPECIAL RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT

Coordinator: Loretta Coman

Tel: (07) 4632 8427

spread@twb.catholic.org.au

TRAMS - TOOWOOMBA REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SUPPORT

(Administered by CatholicCare)

TRAMS Coordinator:

Hannah Belesky Tel: (07) 4688 3140

TRIBUNAL Tel: (07) 4632 7443

Associate Judicial Vicar: Fr Peter Schultz

VOCATIONS DIRECTORS

Fr Gonzalo Duran Tel: (07) 4662 7031

Fr Jamie Collins Tel: (07) 4622 1075

vocations@twb.catholic.org.au



James Byrne Centre Highfields

The James Byrne Centre offers groups warm and friendly service, healthy and wholesome meals, comfortable accommodation at an outstanding location. The managers and staff are happy to make your next event an enjoyable and successful one.



Contact us to discuss your event and what the Centre can offer your group.

p: 07 4630 8339 | www.jamesbyrnecentre.org.au

e: jamesbyrnecentre@twb.catholic.org.au



At Burstows, we believe a funeral well done...

Honours life

Comforts those who mourn

And declares to the community that each life is important.

Trevor & Don Burstow

201562BF

BURSTOWS

Ph 1800 803 196 www.burstows.com.au

DEAR READER

For many years we have provided Horizons free of charge to all parishes and schools in our Diocese. We have endeavoured to cover production and distribution costs through advertising, but it is difficult to keep up with every increasing overheads. If you would like to make a donation to assist us, please send your financial contribution, payable to "Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba", to: PO Box 1262, Toowoomba, Qld 4350.

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

Name:

Postal Address:

Town:

Post Code:

Email:

THANK YOU

STAY IN TOUCH

WITH NEWS FROM
ACROSS THE DIOCESE

SUBSCRIBE TO THE DIOCESAN UPDATE E-NEWSLETTER.

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

To sign up simply email

communications@twb.catholic.org.au
with "Subscribe" as the subject.



Like us on Facebook

"Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba"

Horizons

HELP MAKE
HORIZONS
BE THE BEST
MAGAZINE
IT CAN BE!

LET US KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA!

Horizons relies upon your stories to make it relevant and meaningful. We want to know what is happening in your local area so that we can share that good news with the rest of the Diocese. We are looking for local contributors who can write 250 to 350 words about local church projects, initiatives or events. Include a couple of high-resolution photos and your well on your way to being published in Horizons.

For more information about contributing to Horizons contact us at:

horizons@twb.catholic.org.au