

# Horizons

**Catholic Women  
Stirring the Waters**

**Cross Campus  
Chaplaincy**

**Chinchilla Parish  
100 Years Young**

**SPIRITUALITY  
IN FOCUS**

**#54  
MAY19**

FREE Publication  
of the Catholic  
Diocese of  
Toowoomba



# Horizons

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

We wish to acknowledge the Aboriginal people God placed upon this land, the first custodians and caretakers of the land upon which we now build our lives and gather to worship. We also pay respect to Elders past and present.

## FROM THE EDITOR INGRID MCTAGGART

**It's always busy, the to and fro of activity in the diocese always astounds me.** When it feels like it should be quiet and time to catch your breath, there are plenty of things going on. As the process of collating for each issue of Horizons starts, I'm reminded of this over and over. I always start out thinking "well what stories do we have?" and as I pore over photos taken, my diary, newsletters, emails and so on, I end up on "oh boy I forgot that happened!".

While some things are noteworthy to end up in Horizons and that's fun to share with everyone, a lot of times it's the run of the mill stuff that gives me pause and makes me smile. I remember a few years ago during the Year of Grace, a reflection question that was asked was "What are your moments of grace?". This was explained

as – what ordinary things in your day; people, events, things in your life, that are full of grace, God's grace?

It's been a great reflection exercise for me over the years; it helps me find value in a moment or event, even if on the face of it there's nothing. The product of a lovely little moment of grace is in the pages of this Horizons.

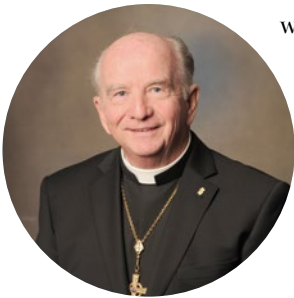
Searching for a story, I reached out to my diocesan colleagues to ask what they thought about working for the Catholic Church. Nicole Rangiira, who I am convinced has a bag full of grace hidden somewhere, had a wonderful spin on the premise, which became Nicole and Lyn Cash's reflection on spirituality and their ministry of Pastoral Care. I am pleased to be sharing part one of this conversation and look forward to revealing more in future issues.

Horizons is a quarterly magazine produced by the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. The Diocese acknowledges with gratitude the contribution made by the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office and CatholicCare Social Services to production costs, as well as the support by our advertisers. Horizons is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA). Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily held by the editor. **Enquiries:** Ingrid McTaggart, Communications Office, PO Box 756, Toowoomba QLD 4350. **Phone:** 07 4632 4277. **Email:** horizons@twb.catholic.org.au **Front Cover:** Chinchilla celebrates centenary – St Joseph's School students head back to class after Mass. Story page 41. **Graphic Design:** Thorley Creative 1300 883 454. **Deadlines:** Editions will be quarterly. August Edition 2019 is 17 July 2019.





Bishop Robert McGuckin consecrates the Sacred Chrism during this year's Chrism Mass.



In the last few months the world has witnessed scenes of utter madness with the wilful acts of fanatics taking the lives of innocent and defenceless people. The events in Christchurch New Zealand and in Sri Lanka will remain in our minds for many years. In the midst of these tragedies people of diverse faiths have come together in solidarity with one another.

Following the events in Christchurch our local community gathered at the Garden City Mosque. This was a visible sign of the reality that we share a common humanity and that we strive to make our part of the world one of welcome and of our working together as good citizens.

Speaking at the mosque gathering I mentioned the need for each of us to reach out to our many new arrivals in a spirit of friendship. In doing so we overcome what might be something of a fear of the unknown or of difference. For the call to love our neighbour to be complete we must indeed move beyond loathsome indifference (1 Jn 4:18).

In my own background I reflect on those we considered strangers when they arrived in Australia during the 1950s and became our neighbours. Our reaching out to them has been returned in so many ways. The initial barriers

of difference were erased, and we remain close friends to this day.

I thank Fr Nandana Saparamadu, our Sri Lankan priest at St Patrick's Cathedral, for leading our services following the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka.

Recently I read that Toowoomba, already a migrant and refugee-welcoming centre, is to become the staging post for those who are to be welcomed to regional towns in our area. To this end it was good to see funding being restored to TRAMS (CatholicCare's Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support).

The statement in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, "Nurturing welcoming communities from the Range to the Borders where God's mercy, love and the joy of the Gospel are experienced, celebrated and shared" should be carried out in a tangible way in our communities.

We are an Easter people. Let us rejoice and be glad. Christ is risen! He is indeed risen! Christ has brought peace and done away with the barriers of destructive division (Eph 2:14). With the candle of hope alive in our hearts, let us light our world with the candles of peace, faith, and love.

**Bishop Robert McGuckin**  
**Bishop of Toowoomba**  
**May 2019**



# COOKBOOK A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

INGRID MCTAGGART

L to R: Liz McAloon, Sr Bernadette Wallis, Sr Stancia Vichie and Fiona Basile celebrate the arrival of the freshly printed commemorative cookbook.

**This year the Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS) are celebrating the 75th anniversary of their foundation.** A series of events have been planned, including a Mass and morning tea to be held locally later in the year, as well as the release of a commemorative cookbook.

Titled “Food for the Highways and Byways”, the book is about the journey the sisters have taken in their mission, weaving their history and stories through recipes collected over the years from friends, family and those they have met along the way. The cookbook features some local flavour too, showcasing recipes from Srs Pat Quinn, Mary Cleary, Nancy Doyle and Cecilia Bailey as well as Clare Smith, Chair of the Toowoomba Branch of Highways and Byways: A Community of Service and Mary Wagner, patron of Highways and Byways: A Community of Service.

This cookbook is project number three for photographer and writer, Fiona Basile. The book has been a labour of love for Fiona, who handled the project management and photography for the book. “It’s a testament to the love and high esteem held by many people for the sisters, including me,” she said.

Fiona has been working with the MSS sisters for the past three years, first as part of their oral history project and photographing portraits of them, through to the formation of its fledgling Highways and Byways

Community. It is obvious the respect and admiration Fiona has for the sisters, “It’s really beautiful. I have been inspired by the MSS story, by Fr John, by the women, past and present, and by what they continue to set in place for the future.”

As with any journey, the production process for the book had its lighter moments filled with some fun times. “I should say, together with the sisters, we had many laughs in the cookups for the cookbook and in the photography,” Recalls Fiona. “There were some mishaps along the way, but you’d never know in the photos!”

“Food for the Highways and Byways” was officially launched at Toolangi, Victoria, on 5 May by Marcus Godinho, CEO of FareShare,

*“Food for the Highways and Byways” is available for purchase from the MSS Melbourne Office, phone (03)9873 5520 or email: [mssadmin@missionarysisters.org.au](mailto:mssadmin@missionarysisters.org.au). \$40 plus postage.*

*Alternatively copies are available locally through Sr Mary Cleary, phone (07) 4634 9786. \$40 .free collection via arrangement.*

*For local celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of the MSS, visit [missionarysisters.org.au](http://missionarysisters.org.au), go to NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS.*



# NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE OFFICER BRINGS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

Diocese welcomes Dr David Tutty as Executive Officer  
Catholic Social Justice Commission.



**Bishop Robert McGuckin is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr David Tutty as Executive Officer Catholic Social Justice Commission.**

David commenced his role with the Diocese of Toowoomba in early April and is operating out of the Social Justice Office, located in the Cathedral Precinct, Neil Street.

David comes to this role with a wealth of experience. Originally from Auckland, New Zealand, he holds a Doctorate in Theology and has spent many years working in varying social justice roles, including 10 years as Justice and Peace Executive Secretary/Faith Educator for the Auckland Catholic Diocese. David

also brings with him experience in working with indigenous peoples, migrant groups, as well as working abroad in South Africa with some of the country's poorest people.

We trust he will be made welcome in his new role and feel at home in the Toowoomba Diocese and we look forward to his valuable contribution to the Social Justice Commission and life of the diocese.

Speaking about his first week David remarked it was less an easing into the role, and more hitting the ground running. The first event on the agenda was the Stations of the Cross procession in the Toowoomba CBD which was held on Good Friday morning.

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# YOU ARE THE “NOW” OF GOD

FR GONZALO GARCIA DURAN

L to R: Deacon Tom Duncan, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Seminarians Nathan Webb, Dominic Jayasuriya and BJ Perrett

**I remember a business man saying to me, “The future of the family business is in my sons’ hands.”** He was considering at that time to retire and leave everything to capable individuals, investing effort in his sons’ preparation and education to succeed as he had.

Sometimes we think of the church and communities like this business man. We want to retire and leave everything to younger generations. Yes, young people are the future of the church in many places around the world. One example of this affirmation can be seen in the attendees of each WYD (700,000 this year in Panama) and the several gatherings where many of them experience the joy of their faith and the renewal of their hope for a better future.

The youth is undeniably present in the church too, broken or lost as they may appear in front of us. For this reason we need to treat them not like children but as young adults, as those assuming numerous “responsibilities, sharing alongside adults in the grow of the family, society and the church.”(CV64). We need to appreciate that their faith is alive as a little flame that continues to burn, fragile but not broken. This perception can be distorted when grey-haired heads populate our pews every weekend. Among the reasons associated with the absence of young people from

our communities, we assume that we know everything about them, but how do we really know what is going on in their lives? Pope Francis invites us to recognise their potential, not only in terms of their youthfulness, but in the seeds of goodness that God the Father sown in their hearts.

“Each young person’s heart should thus be considered ‘holy ground’, a bearer of seeds of divine life, before which we must ‘take off our shoes’ in order to draw near and enter more deeply into the Mystery.” (CV67) We need to help them in nurturing those seeds, their capacities and gifts that will enrich not only themselves but their communities too. We need to listen to them more closely and with an open heart particularly when they have to face a world in crisis. We need to be familiar with their own reality and learn to weep for those less fortunate, because “weeping is also an expression of mercy and compassion”.(CV76)

Yes, we are called to be merciful, to contribute in this world in a way that we alone can make, in our own uniqueness and originality. A contribution made with generous commitment and dedication. Because “being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life new horizon and a decisive direction”(CV129): Christ your Saviour.





# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

FR JAMIE COLLINS

Caption: L to R: Deacons Josh Whitehead (Brisbane Archdiocese), Emene Kelemete (Townsville Diocese), Tom Duncan (Toowoomba Diocese) and Brendan Gormley (Brisbane Archdiocese) with Bishop Robert McGuckin. The four deacons spent some formation time with Bishop Robert in mid-March.

**The Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season has come to be known as Good Shepherd Sunday and the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.** Good Shepherd Sunday derives its name from the themes contained within the Scripture Readings of the Fourth Sunday of Easter each year, referencing the Good Shepherd as one who lays down his life for his sheep.

This year Good Shepherd Sunday and the 56th World Day of Prayer fell on 12 May. This day is set aside on the church calendar each year to pray specifically for ordained ministry (priesthood and diaconate) and religious life in all its forms.

The message from Pope Francis for this year states that the "Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a 'cage' or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the living initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch."

Visit [www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com](http://www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com) for the full text of the message from Pope Francis and other resources.

As we move forward from the 56th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, may we be renewed in our prayerful support,

and nurturing of, Vocations to the priesthood and religious life among the communities of our diocese in the spirit of Luke's Gospel, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

Be on the lookout for the annual Holy Spirit Seminary publication, The Paraclete magazine which will be released to parishes over the coming weeks. It features news about life at the seminary and features stories about our seminarians.

**SHARE... INVITE...  
CELEBRATE...  
PRAY FOR VOCATIONS  
ACCEPT THE CALL**

*Frs Gonzalo and Jamie are the Vocations Directors for the Diocese of Toowoomba. If you're interested in finding out more about your vocational call,*

*email [vocations@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:vocations@twb.catholic.org.au) or phone Fr Gonzalo 07 4662 7031 and Fr Jamie 07 4622 1075.*

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"Seekers of Wells" illustration by unnamed religious sister for USIG International Congress 2004

# WHAT'S IN A NAME? INTRODUCING SYCHAR: HOUSE OF PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

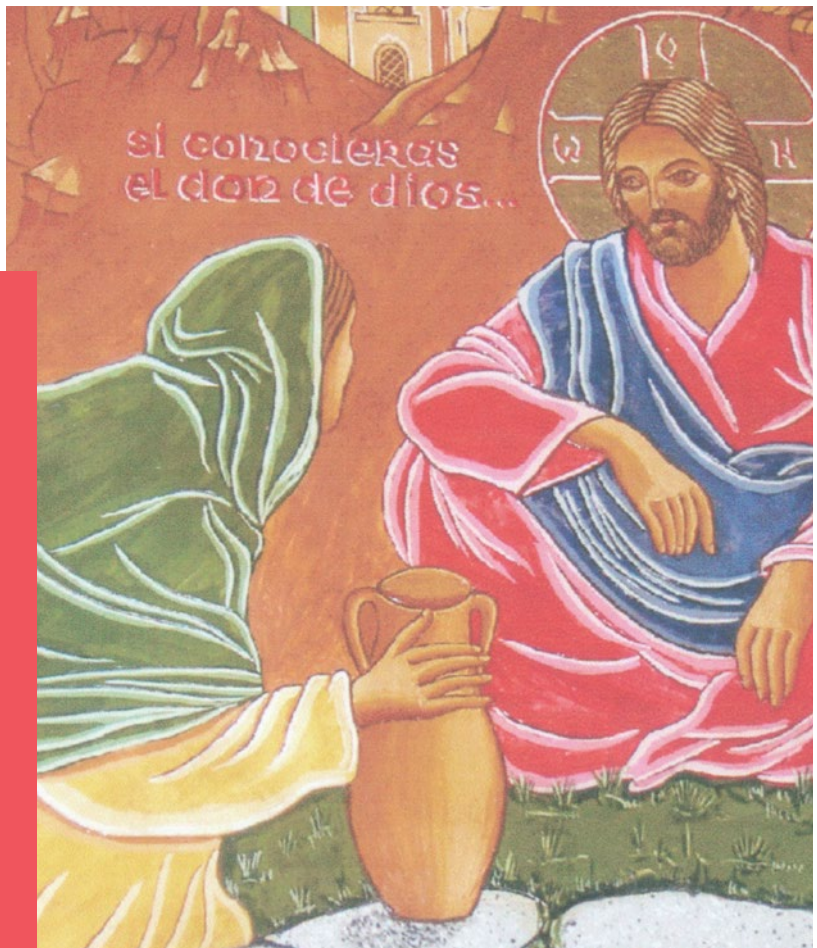
SR ELAINE MORZONE MFIC

**Both people and places can be named for different reasons.** A name may be chosen because of its pleasant sound with the sole intention of being a handle for identification or perhaps to remember a person or event and to honour the gift their past has been to the present. Then again, a name might be chosen to reflect an observable characteristic of the person or place in question or to evoke through symbolism a hope and direction for their future.

At the moment, the diocese is working towards the establishment of a spirituality centre in response to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan promulgated in June 2018. To be located in a house belonging to the diocese at 69 Margaret Street, it could be best described as a "House of Prayer and Spirituality". The intention is to create a place of welcome where all seeking to find deeper meaning in their lives, wishing to deepen their relationships with brothers and sisters on the journey of life or hoping to connect with their God and creation can know they belong.

Our Diocesan House of Prayer and Spirituality will be known by the Biblical name SYCHAR (pronounced see-ka) which refers to the Samaritan town where Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman at the well.

The name SYCHAR, with its associations to the encounter of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:3-41), is rich with imagery which evokes depth of meaning and promise for us.



Our SYCHAR aims to be:

- A place of gathering and encounter with Christ.
- A place of inclusion, where boundaries of gender, of culture, of religious difference are transcended.
- A place of presence to one another, where judgment is replaced by acceptance and compassion.
- A place where we can more deeply receive and rejoice in Christ's promise of living water welling up within us bringing newness and healing and hope.
- A place where we can be set free from the things that bind us to become our authentic selves
- A place of peace where our lives are touched in a way that makes us want to share our joy and gifts with others.
- A place of prayer.

SYCHAR will welcome all who thirst for inner growth and spiritual nourishment; who seek to discover their authentic self and awaken to the Mystery of God in whom they live and move and have their being. They will be encouraged to journey to the heart, to experience more deeply the indwelling presence of Christ and their oneness with all creation. Accessing the unfailing wellsprings of God's creative Spirit will enable those who thirst to be transformed by the fire of God's love and inspired to embrace God's mission with passion and creativity.

*Further developments of SYCHAR, particularly the progress that has been made establishing a quality spirituality library, will be featured in future issues of Horizons.*





# ACYF: EXPERIENCE THE NOW

DEACON TOM DUNCAN

ACYF organisers and youth ministry leaders from across Australia recently spent time in Perth for the ACYF National Briefing Day.

**This December the Bishops of Australia are inviting young people from Year 9 to young adults 30 years of age to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in Perth.** The festival is a national gathering of Catholic young people that provides an exciting platform to have an encounter with Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, as well as to experience the church on a broader national level. For people in rural dioceses and parishes this is a particularly valuable opportunity to experience the Catholic faith in its various expressions and to connect with other young people, realising that we are not alone in our life of faith. This event provides a plethora of excellent speakers and presenters from around the world to help us grow in our understanding of many different aspects of Catholic faith and spirituality, as well as to equip us for mission and discipleship in our world today.

I've had the blessing of attending the two previous ACYFs and can say it is definitely a worthwhile experience both personally and for parishes and schools to invest

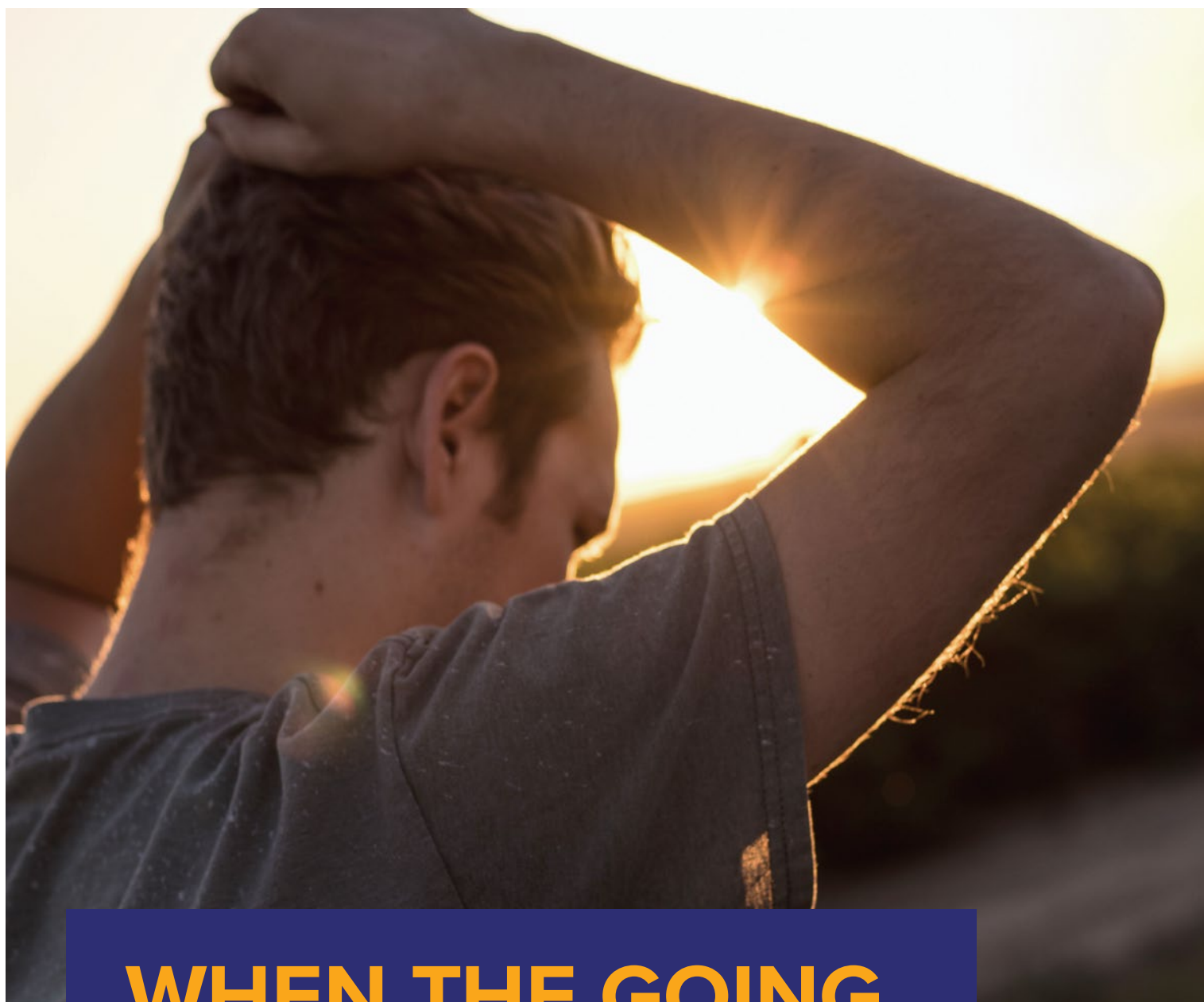
in the faith of their young people. At the 2019 World Youth Day in Panama I had the privilege of listening to the words of Pope Francis in his native tongue as he admonished the notion that young people are the future of the church. He said rather, you are *el ahora de Dios* – "the now of God!"

As the diocesan group coordinator for this year's Festival, I'd like to extend the invitation to families, parishes and schools to generously consider sending a group of young people within the above age bracket. Not simply as an investment in the future, but as a response to the now in which the Holy Spirit is calling us to the life of grace.

The festival itself runs from December 8-10, but since Perth is so far away our pilgrimage will go from December 5-11, which will incorporate a wider experience of Perth. For questions and registration please contact me at [youngcatholic@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:youngcatholic@twb.catholic.org.au) or call 4632 4277.

*For more information you can also visit the Festival webpage at [www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au](http://www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au).*





# WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

SHANE DWYER

**Recently I met up with the Director of one of our Catholic agencies, keen to discuss the difficulties her staff experience as they seek to provide their services in a society increasingly cynical about the Catholic Church.** This was not a surprise to me, as my own work regularly reinforces that this is not an easy time to be Catholic, never mind an easy time to work for the Catholic Church. From most perspectives, things aren't looking great. The 2016 census reinforced that numbers are down and even among those who continue to practice our faith,

there can be an air of confusion and disappointment. Perhaps even anger.

For many, things came to a head with the recent sentencing of Cardinal Pell for the abuse of two choirboys. It was the culmination of a long-running saga that will be revived once more in June, when his appeal will likely be heard. Without wishing to be pre-emptive, this next instalment will leave many unhappy whatever the decision.

So what do we make of these circumstances? No comment is being made in this article about Cardinal Pell's



guilt or innocence. That is for his conscience, the courts and, ultimately, for God to decide. Instead, we reflect on what it means for us to be Catholic in today's environment: an environment in which the church is, rightly or wrongly, being called to account.

So many Catholics I have worked with in recent years tell me that they no longer know what to say about their faith to their friends, their children, or their grandchildren. For example, recently my office was contacted by an elderly man who was reflecting on this situation. As he comes to the end of his life he wonders what he can do as a last ditch attempt to pass on the faith that has nourished him his whole life. His loved ones don't appear to be interested and may even be antagonistic. He feels that his church hasn't always helped him to deal with this situation. In fact, we may even have got in the way.

It would be easy to feel overwhelmed, but even a rudimentary study of the history of the church tells us that we've been in tough situations before. History teaches us that the church is in regular need of renewal and reform and this should not surprise us. Any organisation that lets you and me through the door is going to need reform. For this is one of the glories of the church: that all are welcome – saints and sinners alike. However, this is also the burden of the church: that are all welcome. We honour the saints and we deal with the impact of the sinners. That's how it has always been.

But all is not bleak. As we look back over the history of the church this is what we see: when things get difficult, the great saints come to the fore. God does not abandon his people, even as we might be tempted to abandon God. Instead, in times of difficulty the call becomes very direct and very simple: throw yourself on the grace and mercy of God, learn to pray more deeply and more profoundly, and allow the search for truth to lead you forward. Discover

again what 'faith', 'hope' and 'love' actually mean.

For this I know to be true: there is nothing standing between us and the love of God (Romans 8:31 – 39). There is nothing happening in the world, in the church, or in our own lives that is capable of keeping us from living the faith we have received. Each of us is as baptised as the pope, and each of us is called to live our baptism as if nothing else matters. The choice and, ultimately, the responsibility for what we choose to do, is ours. You are an adult Catholic with a vocation and a mission. How will you respond?

But we are human beings and it can be hard to live the vocation we have been given without support. For this reason I once more make you an invitation. It begins by learning to think of yourself as a man or a woman with a mission and a contribution to make. By this I don't mean anything onerous. I simply mean that we must embrace the call to enter deeply into our faith and, where appropriate and as the opportunity arises, to take the step of sharing that faith with others.

As a possible way to help you with this, each of you is being invited to join the Agents of Evangelisation network that has been set up by the National Centre for Evangelisation. See [www.nce.catholic.org.au/networks/agents-of-evangelisation-network](http://www.nce.catholic.org.au/networks/agents-of-evangelisation-network) for more information.

Pray for Cardinal Pell by all means and pray for the church. Pray especially for any who have been in any way hurt by those who should only have been the presence of Jesus Christ for them. And pray that you too will more effectively become that presence.

*Shane is the Director of the National Centre for Evangelisation, an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference. Originally published in Catholic Voice (Canberra-Golbourn Archdiocese), April 2019. Edited by Shane for Horizons and reprinted with permission.*



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# SPIRITUALITY IN MINISTRY

**Horizons asked staff about their experience of working for the Catholic Church and how their spirituality related to their day-to-day work.** Pastoral Care is a touching and personal ministry within the health facilities of our diocese. Pastoral Care Coordinator Nicole Rangiira spoke with her predecessor, Lyn Cash, and asked her to reflect on her experience of the Pastoral Care ministry and how it meshed with her own spirituality. This is part one of that conversation.

**Nicole:** What does the word Spirituality mean to you?

**Lyn:** Spirituality starts with the heart. It means for me life and love, meaning and purpose, commitment and service. It is connection and relationship. It sees the interconnectedness of all things, with oneself, with others, with the earth and with God. More than anything else it is a yearning, a longing for something more, something beyond myself, for life, for the divine. It is a lifelong search for understanding, for finding the meaning of my life in this world and in the service of those who come into my life. My gifts of spirituality invite me, patiently and respectfully, to engage with people in their own search for truth and meaning.

My spirituality is grounded in my faith, in the sacramental grace of the gifts of the Spirit and the unique relationship with Jesus which unfolds. This nourishes and sustains me and gives me life. When one is awake to the sacred in one's life, continually seeking, exploring, searching for answers, one's spirituality becomes a journey through life and demands one to take up life's challenge in good times and in bad. This inner and outer journey, the connectedness to the sacred in all things, becomes the

foundation of my spirituality and my growth towards a mature and authentic faith.

As I have come to know myself I am able to accept my limitations as well as my giftedness to those around me. I express this in hospitality, compassion and seeking God in all things, I can embrace all. Spirituality is inclusive and it is an attitude of trust and faith in the presence of a loving God which allows me to bring love and hope to those I encounter on this journey. Out of these relationships flow the positive aspects of hope and respect, peace, prayer, consolation, comfort, reconciliation, empowerment, liberation and self- fulfillment. When I recognise God at work in me and through me, everything in life becomes imbued with the sacred. At this point God is a sense of life now and of life beyond life. It is why I place the gifts of my spirituality at the service of those who God places in my path. The Pastoral Care ministry was, for me, my response, my human response, to the marginalized to whom I ministered. It was listening with 'the ear of the heart', responding with a heart that enlivened my spirit to see more than meets the eye in the lives and the stories of people I encountered.

The Spirit of love and mercy is alive in the human reality, each and every day.

**Nicole:** How does the experience of your spirituality guide and encourage your capacity to embrace the care for all people whom we encounter in healthcare facilities?

**Lyn:** The beauty of the diversity of people we come across in healthcare facilities brings joy and challenge to our lives in Pastoral Care. From time to time when I reflect on my journey in Pastoral Care the faces of so many people I've met come to my mind.



I remember the distraught woman outside the emergency department entrance who wanted to run away from the trauma and grief she was living through, suffering from a mental health condition. I remember the Indigenous man who was watching the pain she was in. This beautiful man cupped her hands in his, looked at her and gently asked how he could help.

Another memory I have is of a mother keeping vigil at the bed of her child who had attempted suicide and was dying. The young doctor attending her daughter was clearly from a different culture, a new experience for her, but she begged him to save her child. Overcome with his care and expert attention, she was filled with gratitude towards him for his compassion towards her and her daughter. She made a decision to honour her child's wish to participate in the organ donation process. When the time came, she cried, "Tonight is the saddest time of my whole life, but this organ donation is going to make another mother the happiest person in the world."

In the moments of encounter there are no boundaries or division. It is simply us working as a united team, health and faith, for the good of the person in need. The core of our Pastoral Care delivery is a call for inclusion and welcome – this is our commitment – to care for all people. We believe that every human being has spirituality or a spiritual need. This spiritual need may only come to light when a significant event impacts on them e.g. illness. We believe that our deep reverence for the spiritual nature of each and every person underpins our work in Pastoral Care.

As we welcome the loving God within ourselves, we then know that we can recognize and love the God in another. Our strength and our embrace of all people lie in the fact that we offer our service from our own truth and knowledge and our own spirituality. This is that Jesus came to bring freedom and dignity to each person. He showed us the way of being with others. Jesus is our model, our encourager, our sustainer.

## BISHOPS PAY TRIBUTE TO DEACON'S SERVICE AND FAITH



**The Catholic bishops of Australia have paid tribute to the deep spirituality and decades of service of Deacon Boniface Perdjer following his death on 18 March.**

Deacon Boniface was the first Indigenous permanent deacon to be ordained in Australia following the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, but was also an Indigenous senior elder of the Kardu Diminin clan and the traditional owner of the land on which the town of Wadeye (Port Keats) is built.

"Deacon Boniface was a profoundly respected elder within the Aboriginal community, well known for his deep spirituality and his service to his Indigenous brothers and sisters," said Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE, chairman of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Deacon Boniface had the rare privilege of meeting three popes during his lifetime: Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI. He assisted at the celebration of Mass with John Paul II in Alice Springs in 1986, when the Pope delivered the famous address to the Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander People. He again assisted Pope John Paul II at the Mass for the beatification of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop in Sydney in 1995 and was present in Rome for her Canonisation in 2010. He was among those who welcomed Pope Benedict to Australia in 2008 to celebrate World Youth Day in Sydney.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, chairman of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry, also acknowledged Deacon Boniface's service. "Deacon Boniface was the epitome of the diaconal ministry. He was widely regarded for his preaching in his native language and developing the faith community of Port Keats," Archbishop Prowse said. "He lived his diaconal vocation in complete service of others."

Darwin Bishop Charles Gauci extended his condolences to Deacon Boniface's family and the Northern Territory community. Bishop Gauci said: "May the Eternal Father now welcome him with those words of Scripture: 'Well done, good and faithful servant! Come and share your Master's happiness!'"





# THE THRILLS AND SPILLS OF PROJECT COMPASSION

CATHERINE MCALEER

**Top:** Baskoro and Catherine McAleer visited St Stephen's School, Pittsworth. The MacKillop Club helped raise money by selling ice creams and chocolates and classes held their own fundraising efforts for PC.

**Right, Top:** A group of Junior School students sets off in the Downlands, Toowoomba annual Caritas King and Queen of the Hill fundraiser run for Project Compassion, as Middle School students await their turn.

**Right, Bottom:** St Thomas More's School, Toowoomba held a "Dot Day" to fundraise for PC. Students dressed in dots, enjoyed dot themed activities and held a sausage sizzle.

**As a primary school teacher, one of my favourite ways to end the day or a particular event with students is to ask them to share their thrills and spills.** The things that they enjoyed or found energising and perhaps those things that were more of a challenge for them. With that in mind, I share my thrills and spills from Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2019.

The big thrills for this year's Project Compassion (PC) would have to be the Just Leadership Days, the launch at St Patrick's Cathedral, welcoming Baskoro from Caritas Indonesia to the diocese, the opportunity to speak at a local Catholic/Muslim gathering about Caritas and visit many schools and parishes in the diocese.

The Primary Just Leadership Day at St Thomas More's, Toowoomba had 80 enthusiastic and engaged students playing games, building tippy taps and planning for PC. The Secondary Leadership Day at St Joseph's

College, Toowoomba saw 50 students engage in in-depth discussions, battle it out in an unfair game of Monopoly and plan activities that engaged their peers to raise funds, awareness and to act in solidarity with others around the world.

The PC Launch involved 15 schools from our diocese come together for Mass at the Cathedral on a drizzly Sunday morning. Bishop Robert McGuckin commissioned PC Ambassadors and each representative received a Caritas candle to take back to their school to light the way for Lent 2019. A small army of volunteers helped bake and organise a morning tea after Mass for those who attended the launch.

We welcomed Baskoro from Caritas Indonesia into the diocese to share his story. He did so at 11 different schools, St Anthony's Friendship Group and at a Caritas and Social Justice Commission evening at St Anthony's Parish, Toowoomba. The students, fascinated by the orangutans, asked countless





questions of Baskoro (the animal is part of eco-tourism in Indonesia, and feature in the week 2 story for PC). They were also keen to learn statistical information about how many people in the world need help and their circumstances.

I was invited to a local Catholic/Muslim gathering to share with the Muslim community what Caritas does as a part of Lent. It was a wonderful opportunity to look at the work of Muslim Aid Australia and share our similarities not our differences.

The stories I heard in my travels of how schools, parishes and individuals were raising money for PC were creative, inspiring and heartfelt. It was delightful to see Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby feature on WIN News as the School of the Week and share what they did for PC. St Mary's School, Goondiwindi created collages using coins answering the question: Why are we raising money for

Project Compassion? Theo from Mater Dei Primary saved all his pocket money over a number of weeks and gave it all to PC.

With the good, comes the bad and unfortunately there were some spills. Disappointingly, we were not able to make it to the outer reaches of the Diocese with Baskoro. The upside however was that his presentation at St Anthony's Parish was recorded and we were able to share it with other parishes online.

Also sadly, 844 Million people around the world do not have access to clean water and 2.3 billion do not have adequate toilet facilities. Water was a major focus for PC this year and so funds raised will go towards improving this situation.

Thank you to all who have contributed to Project Compassion in some way, whether it was through a donation, a conversation to raise awareness or participation in an activity.





A major focus when working with parents is to help them rise above the 'adult issues', in order to focus on their children's wellbeing.

# BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

EMMA YATES

**Since 2008, the Toowoomba FRC (Family Relationship Centre, one of CatholicCare's many diverse services) has been supporting separated families to agree on how they will best care for children in the context of family separation.**

When people come to see us, the separation may have been recent or may have occurred many years ago, but the common denominator is that both the adults and the children are dealing with all of the challenges that can occur with the breakup of their family unit.

We know from extensive research in this area that parental separation, if managed well, is unlikely to be harmful for children in the long run. However, it is also clear that the most harmful thing for children's development both short and longer term, after their parents separate, is being caught up in ongoing unresolved conflict between their parents and/or the other adults who are significant in their lives.

We are incredibly aware that any separation, even those which are ostensibly amicable, involves grief and loss for

the adults involved. Very often parents are caught up in their own pain, crisis, distress and negativity towards the other parent, and this unfortunately often plays out in 'adults behaving badly'. Whilst this is often understandable, our focus when working with parents is to seek to help them rise above the 'adult issues', in order to be able to clearly focus on what life is like for their children in the midst of the separation.

**VERY OFTEN PARENTS ARE CAUGHT UP IN THEIR OWN PAIN, CRISIS, DISTRESS AND NEGATIVITY TOWARDS THE OTHER PARENT, AND THIS UNFORTUNATELY OFTEN PLAYS OUT IN 'ADULTS BEHAVING BADLY'.**



Through the process of Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) – which is what the Family Law Act calls mediation conducted by registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners (FDRPs) in this context – a FDRP works with both parents (or other people concerned for the care of the children, eg grandparents) to help them think about questions like:

- What is it like to be each of your children at this time?
- What are any worries or concerns that each of your children might have?
- What does each of your children need from each of you/ other carers at this time, and going forward, in order to be able to just ‘be a child’ and not be negatively impacted by the separation in the long run?

This can be incredibly powerful. For disputing parents, it is often the beginning of being able to re-establish some common ground, and a willingness to put aside or work through their own issues, so as to be able to be the best possible co-parents they can be, for their children’s sakes. The FDRP is then able to go on and facilitate the parents having a discussion together about each of their concerns relating to the children, to fully explore the underlying issues, and to see if they can work together to agree on how best to care for their children going forward.

At CatholicCare’s FRC we understand that every family is different and therefore try to work with the families individual needs. We work with families in the most complex situations, including the dynamics arising out of domestic violence, mental health concerns, substance abuse, parental capacity issues, safety concerns, long-standing parental conflict and cross-cultural complexities. Sometimes parents haven’t spoken to each other for years prior to coming to see us. In other cases, a parent and child may have had no contact with each other for a significant period of time. Every situation requires us to carefully assess whether or not FDR would be appropriate in that case.

**AFTER 10 YEARS OF DOING THIS WORK, OUR FDR TEAM HAS FOUND THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS WE CAN OFFER SEPARATED PARENTS – AND THROUGH THEM THEIR CHILDREN - IS HOPE.**

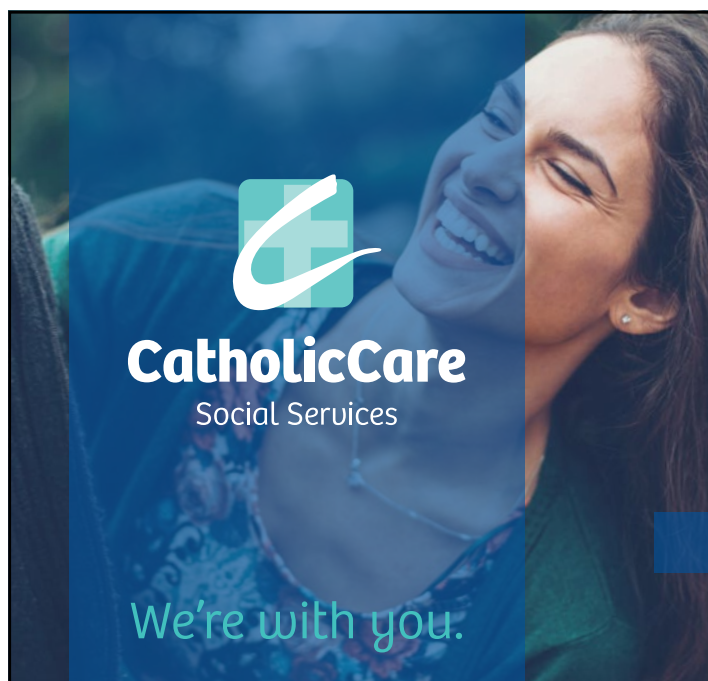
Where FDR is not appropriate, we are still able to offer other supports including referrals for legal advice and counselling, as well as to a range of other organisations. Parents are also welcome to participate in parenting programs offered at CatholicCare.

The ways in which we demonstrate our organisational values in working with clients:

- treating them with kindness
- giving them their dignity
- helping them to get in touch with their own values
- challenging them to put their children’s best interests first
- helping them work out how practically and realistically they can do that
- and modelling constructive communication that does not unnecessarily shy away from difficult issues –

These are all significant stimulus in separated parents starting to re-imagine a more positive future for themselves and their children.

After 10 years of doing this work, our FDR team has found that one of the most important things we can offer separated parents – and through them their children - is hope.



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:

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

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➡ Contact us: ☎ 1300 477 433 🌐 [www.catholiccare.services](http://www.catholiccare.services)



# STIRRING THE WATERS: WHAT IS THE SPIRIT SAYING TO CATHOLIC WOMEN?

**NICOLE RANGIIRA**

L to R Angela Travers, Monica Brennan and Nicole Rangiira, Toowoomba Diocese representatives at the Colloquium of the Council for Australian Catholic Women.

**One hundred and sixty delegates, including three from Toowoomba, gathered in Adelaide in late February for the Colloquium of the Council for Australian Catholic Women.**

With water brought from our hometowns, we commenced our opening liturgy. The combining of our water into a large bowl, symbolically acknowledged our baptismal call to serve, our deep connectedness and the opportunity our time of fellowship presented to support one another and strengthen our commitment to build God's dream for all people.

A reflection that played a significant role shaping the context of our presence at the Colloquium was "Looking Back-Looking Forward: Celebrating Women and 20 years of "Woman and Man". Since its publication in 1999, "Woman and Man: One in Christ" has guided the efforts of a taskforce to explore recommendations to the Australian Bishops. The Council for Australian Catholic Women

(CACW) was established and continues to promote the participation of women in the church. The CACW exists at the "national level to ensure that the dignity of women is honoured and their gifts are given space to flourish for the sake of the church's life and mission" (ACBC Social Justice Statement 2000).

CACW chair Dr Trish Madigan OP shared, "I think what we witnessed at the colloquium is the commitment and passion that women have for the life of the church and for their own life as women of the church. They want to see transformation in the church to recognise women's gifts and ability and their identity as baptised Christians."

Keynote speaker Dr Michele Connolly RSJ explored synodality and inclusion within the Gospel of Mark. "As people in the church, we think to ourselves 'it can't change'. But unlike a political movement, we do not have to do this out of our own imagining. It is the essence of faith to trust that God is working in this with us." Sr Michele said. "Yes



we will work sometimes to our last shred of energy we have, but in the end, we are sustained because the work of transforming the church and transforming Australia rests on God's own self: God, who has limitless reserves of love and compassion and mercy."

Ms Debra Zanella, Director of Ruah Community Services Perth, was our second keynote speaker. The service's focus is in the areas of mental health, homelessness and housing, family and domestic violence. Debra is passionate that this project is not just to manage homelessness but to end it. The WA Government now work alongside Ruah Community Services caring for all who are disadvantaged.

Workshops explored leadership, involvement of women in the church, experiences of migrants, victims of domestic violence, homelessness, stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, voices of LGBTIQ Catholics and the need to care for God's creation.

Having broken bread together at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral we gave thanks to God with the local people of Adelaide before enjoying each other's company over a meal.

Inspiring us on Sunday were the women on the Executive Committee of the Plenary Council; Lana Turvey-Collins, the Facilitator of the Plenary Council, Ms Sarah Moffatt, Assistant Director to the Chancellor, Adelaide diocese and Ms Teresa Simon, Convenor of an English Maronite Social Media initiative (Living Maronite) along with Ms Deborah Sayce, Director of Catholic Education in Western Australia. These women's faith stories and their commitment to honour the opportunity of the Plenary Council led us to a valuable time of meaningful dialogue in our small groups. Our sincere listening, courage to be vulnerable and genuinely discerning the Spirit of God within and beyond us led to valuable submissions to the Plenary Council.

Small bottles of the combined water were distributed for each of us to carry the nourishment of the colloquium

to our families, parishes, ministries, communities and our entire dioceses. With my spirit nurtured and feeling grateful, I now seek to honour the gift this opportunity has been for me.

With the support of Bishop Robert McGuckin, one way to encourage women in our diocese to share their stories, receive much needed resources and to inspire one another to continue on our journeys of faith and ministry, is the hope to create a Toowoomba diocese Council for Catholic Women. This council would seek to promote the inclusion of women along with their participation in the church and do this by drawing on the valuable resources the CACW provides.

A valuable resource our Australian church has is the generous spirit of Ms Andrea Dean. Andrea has the joint role of Director of the Office for the Participation of Women and Lay Pastoral Ministry. Andrea is making herself available to travel to Toowoomba to facilitate a gathering of those who treasure their involvement and commitment to our diocese, unique and large as it is.

We are women with hearts overflowing with wisdom, gifts and compassion through our lived experience reflected upon and nourished by the Spirit of God. We pray and hold the hope for faithful women in our diocese, in Australia and throughout our world. May we all be free to live lives seeking justice, peace, mercy, dignity not just for ourselves but for one another through your love within us.

*If you are interested in gathering with other women to further support, learn and grow with each other you can email [twb.catholic.women@gmail.com](mailto:twb.catholic.women@gmail.com) with your contact details to stay in touch.*

*You can also sign up to Diocesan eNews Update by emailing [communications@twb.catholic.org.au](mailto:communications@twb.catholic.org.au) with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line, to be notified of upcoming events, including the planned Andrea Dean lead gatherings.*

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# ST VINCENT DE PAUL FESTIVAL WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

EMMA SIMPSON



St Vincent de Paul inducted new members into the Society.

**Twice a year St Vincent de Paul Conference members from across the Toowoomba diocese gather to share, learn and celebrate belonging to an organisation with a history of 125 years in Queensland.** On St Patrick's Day this biannual gathering was hosted by the Toowoomba Migrant and Refugee Conference with guest speakers who share a vested interest in the region's ability to settle migrant and refugee families including Mayor Paul Antonio, and refugees Asif Rasheed and Hamzah Kadhim.

Members from as far west as Goondiwindi were able to weigh in on the issue providing valuable insight on the varied ability of communities to accommodate the unique

needs of new Australians. The day finished with a Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral where 10 new members of various diocesan conferences were inducted into the society.

The society would not exist without its members and volunteers, they are the society. They live their faith in action by visiting people in their homes or in the community, providing friendship and support to those they serve and to each other. They are called to seek out the poor and marginalised wherever they may be.

*For more information about your local conference or other volunteering opportunities contact Emma Simpson at the Toowoomba Office on 46995222.*

## CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

MICHAEL PYKE

**Pope Francis has called for a unification of all sectors of the Church that use the Gifts of the Spirit (1Cor:12).** This includes Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), approved Communities under Catholic Fraternity and a variety of other groups. He has called for this initiative as a communion for a new season of the Holy Spirit in the Church. A new body, Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service (CHARIS) will oversee this process. The Statutes of CHARIS give three strong lines to its work: evangelisation, communion of Christians and service of the poor. We in CCR are called to carry out this work.

Pope Francis has emphasised the importance of Baptism in the Spirit and the fact that all Christians should receive it. This is not a second baptism but a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit which enables and encourages us to evangelise and become more active in the life of the Church. This happened at the Baptism of Jesus, "Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him." (Lk 3:21-22).

Mary and the Apostles experienced this Baptism in the Spirit in the upper room at Pentecost, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. While they were praying "they heard

what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven ..... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:2-4)

Many who have been part of CCR over the years have experienced this grace as well. It affects different people in different ways. It is a healing grace, a unifying grace and a grace that gives us the courage to go out to the world proclaiming the good news.

CCR Toowoomba will once again be calling on a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (9 June) as we gather at All Seasons Function Centre, Corner Tor and North Streets, for a time of praise and worship (10.30am – 12 noon). Come along and be open to what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your life

### Contacts

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

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

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

*Emmaus Prayer Group Kay Hohn 0400 436 498*





## DIAMOND JUBILEE OF SR MIRIAM LORENZ SSPC

SR EILEEN MARCH SSPC

**Top:** As part of the Mass, Sr Miriam renewed her vows.  
**Bottom:** Sr Miriam Lorenz's First Profession, L to R Ellen Lorenz (mother), Sr Miriam, Fr John Shorten, Archbishop Justin Simonds, Sr Marcella (sister) and John Lorenz (father)

**“The years have just gone so fast” Sr Miriam Lorenz said of her 60 years of profession as a Missionary Sister of St. Peter Claver, “and I have always been happy. It is a very rewarding life.”**

Sr Miriam's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated on 24 February with a Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba. Bishop Robert McGuckin presided the Mass, concelebrating were Bishop Emeritus Bill Morris, Frs Michael O'Brien, Hal Ranger, Peter Schultz and Mick Carroll.

“My vocation was supported and nourished by my parents and a good family life.” Sr Miriam said. One of the seven children of John and Ellen Lorenz, she was born in Gayndah, Queensland, and grew up on a farm at Branch Creek, attending the local small State School.

Her parents and grandparents subscribed to the mission publication produced by the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver, Echo from Africa and other Continents magazine (affectionately known as Echo) and reading these stories of missionary life motivated her to enter the congregation in 1956, the first Australian vocation.

Sr Miriam made her First Profession in Kew, Melbourne, in 1959 where she also made her Final Profession. She served the congregation in Melbourne, New Zealand, America

and Canada before founding their house in Toowoomba in 1986. Following the permissions granted after the Second Vatican Council, Sr Miriam was one of the first to take Holy Communion to the sick of the parish in their own homes, in five nursing homes and the Toowoomba Base Hospital. She went to Rome in 1995 when elected as First Counselor and served as the Missions Secretary for that six year term.

Sr Miriam has been editor of the Echo magazine for over 50 years, a task she still fulfils. Originally the edition from America was used and adapted, but Sr Miriam soon established an independent edition for Australia and New Zealand.

Editing brought out Sr Miriam's literary talents and poems written for “page 3” of Echo magazine were so appreciated subscribers wished to have them in book form. She is now beginning her third volume of “Touching the Spirit Within”.

During the Mass, samples of Sr Miriam's editing and writing talents were carried in the offertory procession, as symbols of her work and the missionary charism passed on by the Sisters' Foundress, Blessed Mary Theresa Ledochowska. After Mass, the community were invited to join family and friends for morning tea, provided in the Cathedral Parish Centre thanks to the generosity of the Sisters' Mission Committee, Youth Group members and friends. Some 200 people came to congratulate Sr Miriam and thank her for her work in the community.

Sr Miriam thanked everyone present, especially Bishop Robert, Bishop Bill and the priests who concelebrated the Mass. Family members from Melbourne, Bundaberg, Brisbane, Nanango and Nambour were present, making the celebration that little more special.

Sr Miriam also remarked that parents and grandparents should not be afraid of speaking to their children about consecrated life when addressing their future vocations. “Our young people are ready for life's challenges and God is still issuing His Call to the consecrated life,” she said.





# PACKED ITINERARY FOR VISITING NUNCIO

INGRID MCTAGGART

L to R: Frs Hal Ranger and Michael O'Brien, Seminarian BJ Perrett, Deacon Tom Duncan, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Seminarians Nathan Webb and Dominic Jayasuriya.

**The Toowoomba Diocese recently welcomed His Excellency Most Reverend Adolfo Tito Yllana, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia. Bishop Robert McGuckin was keen to share with Archbishop Yllana as much of life in the Toowoomba Diocese as possible with a full agenda of events and parish visits packed into the week long visit.**

Archbishop Yllana has been the Apostolic Nuncio to Australia since February 2015. Originally from Naga City in the Philippines, His Excellency has served in diplomatic positions across the world, including Ghana, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Lebanon, Hungary and Taiwan, and serving as Nuncio in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since becoming Nuncio to Australia, Archbishop Yllana has been making his way across the country to visit as many dioceses as possible.

As part of the visit to the Toowoomba diocese, Archbishop Yllana attended the Diocesan Inservice, presented by Rev Dr Ormond Rush at the James Byrne Centre. The event was an excellent opportunity to meet and speak with many of the diocese's clergy and parish leaders.

Bishop Robert and Archbishop Yllana also travelled to some outlying parishes to further showcase the diocese and friendly people. Warwick, Stanthorpe, Clifton, Allora Chinchilla, Miles, Bell and Dalby were on the travel

itinerary. While in Warwick a tour of Assumption College as well as Assumption Place at the church was on offer. At the College His Excellency met with the leadership team, some staff and students. School Leader, Amy Harrison, was honoured to meet the Pope's representative saying, "Having the opportunity to meet His Excellency was not something that I expected in a normal school day! I found him to be friendly and easy to talk to."

Both Bishop Robert and Archbishop Yllana received country hospitality while visiting Chinchilla. "Morning Tea was a great opportunity to exchange impressions over the church in this part of Australia, a church that His Excellency describes 'as pulsating and growing, not running but walking steady'." Said Parish Priest, Fr Gonzalo Garcia Duran. "I must admit that he was able to recognise the trials and hopes in peoples' hearts in our rural communities."

During his visit, His Excellency also blessed and opened the new Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office building with Bishop Robert. Archbishop Yllana also visited Sacred Heart Parish, Toowoomba and St Patrick's Cathedral. The Archbishop celebrated Mass at St Joseph's Dalby, Sacred Heart Toowoomba and the Cathedral, Bishop Robert concelebrating.

At the Cathedral Mass, Bishop Robert and Archbishop Yllana were joined by Frs Hal Ranger and Michael O'Brien, Deacon Tom Duncan as well as the diocese's three seminarians.

At Dalby, His Excellency also met two local people who had also grown up in Naga City and knew the Bicolano dialect spoken by him in his youth. Following Mass, Bishop Robert and Archbishop Yllana joined the community in sharing traditional dishes such as Spring Rolls, Empanada, Adobo, Noodles and Biko prepared by our local Filipino community. Archbishop Yllana joked that where there are Filipino communities, there will be lots of food!



Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana enjoying a meal with Dalby Parishioners.





## IN BRIEF: WHAT IS AN APOSTOLIC NUNCIO?

FR PETER SCHULTZ

His Excellency Most Reverend Adolfo Tito Yllana, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia delivering his Homily during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral.

**An Apostolic Nuncio is another name for an Ambassador or High Commission and is sent to countries that have diplomatic relationships with the Holy See.**

In Australia, the Federal Government opened diplomatic relations with the Holy See in 1973. Prior to this the Holy See sent an Apostolic Delegate to Australia, as is still does to those countries where there are no formal Diplomatic Relations.

The Apostolic Delegate is the Holy See's representative to the local church of a nation or region. This function is joined to the Nuncio's diplomatic mission to the secular government.

The Nuncio reports directly the Holy See's Secretary of State through its section that has responsibility for external relations. In his role, a Nuncio deals with the Federal Government on areas of mutual concern or on issue where there may be some disagreement just as any Ambassador does.

Before appointment to the position of Nuncio, they have usually served in several diplomatic missions. All Nuncios are Archbishop of a Titular See, a bishop in name only of a diocese that for whatever reason no longer actually exists. Normally, a Nuncio is trained at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy and holds a degree in Canon Law.



## NO ONE IS BORN A PRIEST...

"A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love. Did not Jesus say: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35)?"

Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2014

**CONTACT** [VOCATIONS@TWB.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU](mailto:VOCATIONS@TWB.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU)

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Phone 07 4662 7031

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or FR JAMIE COLLINS

Phone 07 4622 1075

All Saints Parish, PO Box 119, Roma Qld 4455



## NEW OFFICE SPACE CONTINUES STORY OF EDUCATION

L to R: David Hutton (TCS Council), Bishop Robert McGuckin, Mayor Paul Antonio, Mr David Janetzki (Member for Toowoomba South), Mr John McVeigh MP (Federal Member for Groom), His Excellency Most Reverend Adolfo Tito Yllana, and Dr Pat Coughlan (Executive Director: Catholic Schools).

**On 29 March the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office (TCSO) celebrated a significant milestone with the Official Blessing and Opening of the newly completed Catholic Schools Office.**

His Excellency Most Reverend Adolfo Tito Yllana, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia and Bishop Robert McGuckin conducted the ceremony with staff members also participating in the service. Afternoon tea and tours of the new facilities took place after the ceremony.

Other official guests for the event included Dr Patrick Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools, Federal and State Members of Parliament, Toowoomba Regional Council representatives, parish representatives, members of the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Council and Executive Leadership Team (past and present) and principals from Catholic schools throughout the diocese.

The event was also attended by TCSO staff,

representatives of consultants, businesses and suppliers involved in the construction and renovation of the new office building and conference centre.

The new office building brings together 105 staff that were previously located in three different office locations. One central administration building for all staff has been a goal for over 20 years that has involved past and present leaders of the organisation.

The new site was originally the Toowoomba South State School. In 2015 the Diocese of Toowoomba purchased the site with a view to renovating and extending the existing buildings to accommodate the combined staff. The site has a rich history dating back to 1857 when it was one of the first government gazetted allotments of civic land in Toowoomba. Toowoomba's first school was development on the site was in 1865. The school grew rapidly and eventually was extended into separate boys' and girls' schools before the current building was re-built and named Toowoomba South Girls' School in 1939. The building was entered into the State heritage Register in 2013 when the school closed.

The design incorporates the heritage listed building with a new contemporary building; integrating tradition and educational history with a contemporary educational focus. Catholic schools have been educating young people in the region for over 150 years. With over 1,700 staff and 9,000 students, Toowoomba Catholic Schools is constantly seeking to improve education opportunities for all students.

"Operating from one site will make a remarkable difference to our work in leading, serving and supporting 31 schools across our diocese," said Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools, Diocese of Toowoomba.



His Excellency Most Reverend Adolfo Tito Yllana addresses gathered staff and guests for the opening of the new TCSO Office.





## CHILD SAFE CULTURE THE FOCUS FOR SYMPOSIUM

Bruce Morcombe addresses TCSO staff gathered for the annual Student Protection Symposium.

**Toowoomba Catholic Schools held the annual Student Protection Symposium at Highfields Cultural Centre on 21 March.** The event provided information and training to over 140 principals and school student protection contacts who hold additional child protection responsibilities in their schools.

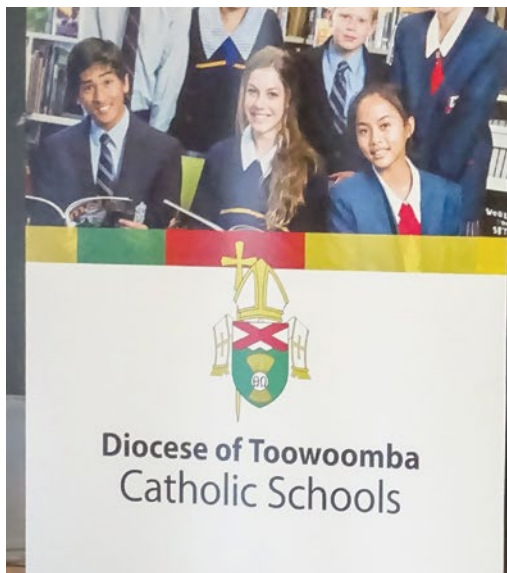
The theme of the symposium was 'leading a child safe culture', recognising the importance of student protection at all levels of the organisation and our inherent responsibility to create and maintain safe environments for children.

Keynote speakers at the Symposium included Bruce and Denise Morcombe, Judi Fallon from the Alannah and Madeleine Foundation and Professor Stephen Smallbone from Griffith University. Bruce and Denise Morcombe opened the day with an update of the important work of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. Judi Fallon from the Alannah and Madeleine Foundation delivered a keynote address on sexting and cyberbullying in schools. Professor Stephen Smallbone also delivered a keynote address titled Abuse in Schools: Prevention is better for everyone.

In addition to keynote speakers, a range of practical workshops were also conducted over the day that included

- Child protection investigations and schools – a police perspective.
- Common mental health disorders in children and adolescents.
- Forever altered – teaching children affected by trauma.
- Intake, assessment and schools: A Child Safety Perspective.
- Self-care, vicarious trauma and managing critical incidents.
- Investigation for resolution – effective and supportive investigation processes.
- The role of a School Student Protection Contact (SSPC).

"Toowoomba Catholic Schools continues to strive for innovation and best practice in this important area. The symposium is one example of our ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our students and supporting our staff members to continue to develop their knowledge and skills," said Dr Pat Coughlan.



Dr Pat Coughlan speaks to staff gathered for the Early Career Teacher Network Days about "Our Culture, Our Purpose, Our Pillars".

## STAFF WELLBEING AND FORMATION ON THE AGENDA FOR TCSO

**Toowoomba Catholic Schools held their first Spirituality and Wellbeing Retreat at the James Byrne Centre from 18 to 20 March.** The theme of the retreat was "Fullness of Life". Greg Sunter, Director at WholeHearted Enterprises facilitated the retreat. Greg has been leading retreats and personal development programs for more than 30 years.

The retreat experience was an opportunity to step away from the busyness of life to celebrate the fullness of life that is both a gift freely given and a challenge to enter fully into our own lives.

The program offered time out to reflect on the journey of our life and work and the things that matter most to us. Using poetry, images and journaling, together with times of silence and dialogue to guide reflections, the retreat created space to (re)connect with the inner wisdom that guides and sustains us and gives meaning to our lives and work.

The next retreat will be held in June at Cherrabah Resort, Warwick and third retreat for staff will be held in August in the western region of the diocese.

What does it mean to teach in a Catholic school? This was one of the formation topics up for discussion during the Early Career Teacher Network Days recently held in both Toowoomba and Roma.

Forty-five recently graduated teachers from across the diocese took part in these days which gave opportunity for discussion and learning about their own spiritual journey. Those who participated in the Toowoomba days also completed part of an Institute of Faith Foundations

Course: Spirituality: Church, Liturgy and Sacraments.

Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director gave an address titled, "Our Culture, Our Purpose, Our Pillars" which provided a background of what it means to work for the Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools.

These days provide ongoing formation and networking opportunities to support those in the early stages of their teaching career.

Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office held a Reflection Day on Easter Thursday. It was the first time since moving to the new office that staff have had the opportunity to network together in such a large group with many people meeting colleagues for the first time. The event also incorporated an Easter liturgy.



The Early Career Teacher Network Days offer new teaching graduates ongoing formation and networking opportunities.



## RE CONGRESS A LESSON IN JUSTICE FOR TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE DELEGATES



**Four APREs, Janice Moore, Julieanne Rasmussen, Cate Brennan and Kirsty Lines along with two Education Officers, Tony Worner and Kathy Doherty recently attended the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress.** Approximately 40,000 delegates from around the world attended the congress over the four days.

The theme of this year's congress, "Thirsting for justice" challenged participants to reflect on the meaning of justice in their own lives, their work places, within their local communities and the world.

A choice of nearly 240 workshops, with world-renowned presenters, helped unpack the theme in many and varied contexts. The presentation and experience of a variety of liturgies also set the scene for the theme of justice. Musical concerts and workshops by well-known composers David Hass, Sarah Hart, Curtis Stephan, Steve Angrisano and our own Fr Rob Galea, Andrew Chinn, John Burland and Michael Mangan along with many others also helped to bring the theme alive and challenged participants in their use and choice of music in prayer and liturgy.

Los Angeles has over 140 nationalities where Mass is celebrated in over 40 languages each weekend. This diverse culture was evident and celebrated during the congress. Whilst the atmosphere, the liturgies and the music were captivating and motivating, it was the words of Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI in his presentation entitled "God, the Poor, and the Church – Knowing our Tradition" that continue to challenge. He spoke of the four non-negotiable

pillars within Christian discipleship: Private prayer and private morality; Charity and social justice; A commitment to Ecclesial community; and Graciousness of Heart – reminding us that all elements are important and need to be present in a whole and healthy Christian spirituality. We don't have a choice, we must reach out to others, it is an essential part of being Christian.

Fr Ron continued to emphasize our responsibilities to reach out to the poor and to practice justice as a non-negotiable mandate given to every Christian, just as non-negotiable as the mandate to keep the commandments. He used scriptural evidence to remind us that in the Old Testament, God favours the poor. In the New Testament, Jesus goes further, explaining that God is the poor. The ongoing challenge is that, in all situations where there is injustice, unfairness, oppression, grinding poverty, either because of the direct action of some or through structures that cause the unfairness, God is not neutral. God wants action against everything and everyone who deals injustice.

Another experience that made a lasting impression on the travellers was a visit to the former mega-church Crystal Cathedral. The precinct now owned by the Catholic Diocese of Orange and has been renamed Christ Cathedral. With the soon-to-be-completed refurbishment and dedication scheduled for July this year, it will truly be a wonderful and sacred place for liturgy, prayer and worship.

All of the attendees found it was an energising and humbling experience to be part of the congress.



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# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EXCEL IN NAPLAN RESULTS

Toowoomba Catholic Schools is proud to have been recognised by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) for demonstrating substantially above average growth in its NAPLAN results across five of its schools. St Saviour's College, Toowoomba, St Stephen's School, Pittsworth, Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba, St Joseph's School, Chinchilla and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba all achieved significant growth.

St Saviour's College had the highest improvement out of all Toowoomba Secondary Schools for the Year 7 to 9 progress in all domains except writing where they were the second most improved secondary school.

"This is great news and a result of all the hard work of teachers and students focusing on individual needs and personal improvement," said St Saviour's College Principal, Ms Sharon Collins. "We have had a big focus on numeracy and literacy development across the whole school which is obviously working as we were also recognised for above average growth last year. We have an enhanced culture in academic excellence which is preparing our junior school for when they move up to the senior school."

St Stephen's School, Pittsworth has been recognised for gains in the Year 3 to Year 5 progress in numeracy. Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba gains were seen in the Year 3 to Year 5 progress in reading. Another Toowoomba Catholic School to achieve growth in the Year 3 to Year 5 progress in reading was St Joseph's School, Chinchilla. Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Toowoomba and St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba were both recognized for gains in the Year 3 to Year 5 progress in reading and numeracy.

"Toowoomba Catholic Schools are performing particularly well around reading improvement as a result of the Reading Improvement Strategy. This Diocesan approach has resulted in significant improvements far earlier than expected," said Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools. "The strategy of staff working together to develop a joint understanding of what students need in order to improve their learning outcomes has been paramount in success in this domain. Our Teaching and Learning Mission is to promote excellence and innovation in all our schools. I am extremely proud of the exceptional work happening in our schools, led and supported by highly qualified staff who act in partnership with parents to bring out the best in every student."

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## PATRON DAY CELEBRATED

ANGELINA SIMS

Stanthorpe students celebrating St Joseph's Day over lunch

**Students and staff of St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe celebrated St Joseph's Day on 19 March. St Joseph, as Patron Saint of our school, was honoured with a liturgy, followed by a sausage sizzle and various fun filled activities which were coordinated by the year 12 students.**

Our school is fortunate to be named after St Joseph, a good man and humble man who obeyed God, showed great love and devotion and who cared for those around him. These are all qualities our school prides itself on.

Daily we place trust in the staff of St Joseph's School to be like St Joseph and do their very best to care for students and each other.

In coming months, planning will begin to start the process of establishing a significant representation of St Joseph around the school to recognise him and the connection to our school. To this end, the school is currently in discussions with renowned Canadian sculptor, Timothy P Schmalz, to commission a piece of work for the school.

## SPREADING THE MESSAGE: BULLYING. NO WAY!

ANGELINA SIMS



The message is clear at St Joseph's School Stanthorpe for National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

**On 15 March, St Joseph's School Stanthorpe joined schools across Australia to participate in the ninth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Again the message was "Bullying. No Way! Take action every day".**

Leading up to the day, students practiced strategies to deal with bullies, with discussions centered around the power that bystanders have to deflect bullies away

from their target. Students also took part in role-playing activities to increase their confidence in handling bullies.

On the day students and staff showed their support by wearing orange. Student Council representatives hosted a barbeque lunch on the secondary campus and primary students were treated to orange jelly, all in support of this important event.





## BRISBANE LIONS ROAR THROUGH ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE

REBECCA LYNCH

**Top:** L to R: Emily Geldard, Mitchell Hinge and Maddison Duggan

**Bottom:** St Joseph's College, Toowoomba Year 9 Students with Brisbane Lions players Mitchell Hinge and Dan McStay.

**Over 120 enthusiastic St Joseph's College, Toowoomba year 9 students embraced the heat to experience a rare one-on-one AFL opportunity with Brisbane Lions representatives in mid February.**

Lions players Mitchell Hinge and Dan McStay generously gave up their usual training and preparation time to take students out on the oval and pass down valuable AFL knowledge and game skills. They were joined by AFL Queensland's Brad Howard who coordinated the clinic with his team, Mia Rennick, Ari Reilly and Tyler Gilmore.

Students were beaming with enthusiasm as they participated within group rotations and learnt how to properly kick the ball, handball successful passes and

accurately calculate their aim. The Lions players shared key thoughts with the students including the value of hard work, good attitude and continual self-improvement to reach your personal best.

Mitchell said, 'I enjoyed the day and being involved with the community. The students were all willing to give things a go and we all had a lot of fun today.'

Students were reminded that achieving your goals takes sacrifice and hard work but that this effort is rewarded in the end. Year 9 participant Ashleigh Caporn was beaming after the session and stated, 'I learnt how to kick the ball properly today and enjoyed learning from experienced players.'





## PAST PUPIL GATHERING A SUCCESS

LINDA CREEDON

Left: Members of the 1982 graduating class.

Right: Enjoying the autumn evening.

As part of our ongoing strategic plan, at St Saviour's College, Toowoomba we have been working hard to strengthen the connections between the alumni and the college. On 1 March a gathering of the college's past students was held, so that we might draw together women from all generations to reconnect with the college. The intent of the evening was to provide a social platform to share stories, memories and to highlight the many changes that have taken place in the college over the last two years.

Principal, Ms Sharon Collins, spoke to the gathering about some of the academic successes at the college, '... I received an email from Andrew Laming MP, Chair of the House of Representatives Education, Employment and Training Committee congratulating the college. Essentially, St Saviour's College is in the top 4% of Queensland schools in terms of gains made between Year 9 NAPLAN in 2105 and final Year 12 OP results in 2018!'

To assist with the evening, ten of our Year 11 and 12 students served our guests and entertained small groups with guided tours and sharing their stories of life at the college in 2019. The students also managed the data gathering, collecting relevant information from those in attendance to update college records. Through this process, Alumni were asked to consider coming forward to be student mentors or offering their services as presenters and speakers for college gatherings in the future.

Once the formalities of the evening were over the crowd was ushered to Mercy Court, under the stars of a beautiful autumn evening. Fairy lights, a bar, music and plenty of tables were available for the gathering of year groups. Laughter and sharing of stories filled the air, whilst old friends reconnected well beyond the official time. The evening was certainly all we had hoped for and is already penciled in our calendar for 2020.

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# TOUCHING FAMILY CONNECTION SHARED ON GRANDPARENTS DAY

CATHERINE MIMS

Proudly attired in her grandfather's 1954 Head Prefect Blazer, Anastasia Lee is pictured with siblings (L to R) Xavier, Eugenie, Sebastian, Benedict, with their grandmother Mrs Denise Kennedy.

Downlands College, Toowoomba welcomed a record number of grandparents at its 24th Annual Grandparents Day. Over 500 grandparents accompanied their grandchildren to class and then enjoyed lunch and musical performances in the Graham Centre.

Grandparents Day is a greatly anticipated event for Downlands families, with many grandparents travelling vast distances from interstate and overseas. This year, the college welcomed ten past students whose grandchildren now attend the college. Prizes were given to the oldest and

youngest grandparent, as well as to the grandparent/s who had attended for the highest number of consecutive years, the grandparent/s who had travelled the furthest and the grandparent/s with the most grandchildren at the college.

One of four grandparents with five grandchildren at the college, Mrs Denise Kennedy enjoyed her first Grandparents Day with the Lee children, Anastasia (Year 12), Benedict (Year 10), Sebastian (Year 8), Xavier (Year 6) and Eugenie (Year 4).

The widow of past student Mr Benedict Kennedy (1954 College Captain, Boxing Champion and Captain of the First XV), Denise's brother also boarded at Downlands. She has walked up the tree-lined driveway to visit the college many times over the years and there is a strong connection with close family, friends and cousins attending Downlands.

On Grandparents Day, Denise brought with her a treasured photo of a young Benedict Kennedy as Captain Prefect in 1954. In addition to the photo, she was able to share with her grandchildren the actual Prefect blazer Benedict had worn. Both Anastasia, currently completing her Senior year at Downlands (65 years after her grandfather), and her brother Benedict, named after his grandfather, enjoyed the honor of wearing their grandfather's blazer.

Although it has been a long time since she sat in the classroom, Denise enjoyed the opportunity to see what her grandchildren are learning. "Technology may have changed but it was such a pleasure to visit and feel that Downlands spirit – it's still thriving here," she said.



Benedict Kennedy, circa 1954



## NEW AWARD RECOGNISES GOOD SAMARITANS AT OAKEY

LISA CAVANAGH

The beginning of a school year is a busy time where teachers set up classrooms, prepare engaging lessons for their students and participate in professional development. For the staff of St Monica's School, Oakey these pupil free days included a presentation from Sr Veronica McCluskie, a Sister of the Good Samaritan based in Brisbane.

St Monica's School was started by the Sisters of the Good Samaritans in 1921 and the sisters continued to teach in the school up until the mid 1980s. Sr Veronica's visit was an opportunity for the current staff to learn more about the charism of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and to brainstorm ideas how they could integrate this into the religious life of the school.

One of the ways St Monica's School is highlighting the



Proud recipients of the first Good Samaritan Award at St Monica's School, Oakey

Good Samaritan charism is through the introduction of a new student award to be presented at the end of each school Term. The Good Samaritan Award is awarded to one student from each class who shows the following:

- Leads more by example than by words.
- Shows care, concern and compassion for others.
- Demonstrates an awareness of God.
- Actively participates in classroom and whole school prayer.
- Shows hospitality to others.
- Is involved in the school community.
- Shows respect and does the right thing.

Term 1 Good Samaritan Award recipients:

Ella Cosh (Prep), Tyjaiah Smith (Year 1), Arabella McCormack (Year 2), Girard Rabaca (Year 3), Emma Prendergast (Year 4/5) and Lilah Matthewson (Year 5/6).



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TOP: St Stephen's School, Pittsworth year 6 leaders with Mrs Janine Butlin (Principal), Fr Thomas Areekuzhy (Parish Priest) and Mrs Dannielle Conway (Year 5/6 teacher)

RIGHT: Returning to school from Easter holidays, St Patrick's School, St George students performed a play telling the story of the Passion for staff, students and parents.



# St Mary's College Toowoomba

Years 5-12



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# SOCIAL JUSTICE A BIG FOCUS FOR ST MARY'S STUDENTS

BRONTE LATHAM

St Mary's College student Jordan Biggar during the Papua New Guinea Immersion trip, bonding with a young local student.



**St Mary's College, Toowoomba, teaches many values that we wish to embed in our students through their time at the College, but one of the most vital aspects of a St Mary's College education is to provide ways for each young man to become a better person.**

St Mary's has been proud to witness its students participate whole-heartedly in many and various Social Justice initiatives. Students support Rosies for the street people of Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba; interview and create a life-story publication for senior citizens with Yellow Bridge as part of the 'Wise Humans of the Downs' program, create a digital 'This is Your Life' gift for elderly residents of Lourdes Nursing Home, facilitate Edmund Rice and St Vincent De Paul camps for disadvantaged young people during their holidays, send messages of hope and financial support to our drought and flood stricken sisters and brothers, visit the elderly in nursing homes like Brodribb Home, and collect items to fill backpacks to send to impoverished students in Malawi schools through the Mary's Meals Backpack Project. Then there is the active fundraising for groups such as Caritas Australia, Pink 'Cancer' Day, Shave for a Cure, Men's Health, St Vincent de Paul and other worthy charitable groups, not to mention advocating for those in need and supporting such events as domestic violence forums, Student United Nations Conferences, EREA for Change Gatherings, 'Orange Sky'

Laundry, speaking out against children being kept in detention and raising awareness for refugees and migrants in Toowoomba, to name a few.

Principal, Mr Michael Newman, says that for the boys to have these experiences, they are not only bettering themselves, but furthering their education. "A better person is someone who is aware of the poverty, injustice and inequality in the world. A better person responds in practical ways to make a small difference to the lives of these people. A better person is an educated advocate for those on the margins of our society."

The St Mary's College hands-on Social Justice program reaches its crescendo in the senior years where the boys have the opportunity to fully engage in an immersion experience. During the Easter holiday break, 15 students, 3 old boys and 2 staff members ventured to PNG to be guest to the local people of Fangalava village, Papua New Guinea. Through doing so, it is hoped that the boys will more deeply come to understand, embrace and open their hearts to people of different circumstances and cultures. The boys fundraised prior to the trip, to build new toilets for a local school.

In the Edmund Rice tradition, the St Mary's College family continues to demonstrate outstanding commitment to social justice, charity and advocacy initiatives, which is the essence of the St Mary's College Spirit.



# CROSS CAMPUS CHAPLAINCY: MORE THAN A FEELING!

RYAN BAINES

St Saviour's College, St Mary's College and Youth and Community Learning Centre students enjoy the challenge of wrestling with global security.

**The work of chaplaincy has brought together the students of St Mary's College, St Saviour's College, the Youth and Community Learning Centre and Mary MacKillop Catholic College.** Term 1 saw students engage in advocacy at the United Nations and work alongside other Catholic Schools at Queensland University of Technology Collaborative Learning Centre. Students also participated in a Youth Camp with St Vincent de Paul Society and partner with Orange Sky Laundry and Act for Peace. They have also sent messages of hope to flood ravaged North Queensland and stand in solidarity with all those affected by global atrocities.

For me, as chaplain, it centres on developing positive, right relationships in our community. Shaping experiences that enable a young person to feel connected to their community more readily helps them identify the needs of that community. Drawing on the example of Jesus, one of the goals of chaplaincy is to have our young people actively doing rather than being pacified wanderers of our world, hapless in their direction. In this way, chaplaincy becomes more than a feeling of altruism but equips our young people with intellectual skills to navigate a world faced with adversity.

At the United Nation's State Conference students wrestled with the complex notion of global security. They stood in solidarity with countries in the developing world and gained knowledge about the critical role they have to play in standing up for the rights of those dispossessed by the decision making of a minority. Some of the participants reflected: "The conference really made me consider my place in the world and what I can do in Toowoomba to make a difference."

"I enjoyed networking with students from other Catholic Schools, it was fascinating to see how everyone had a different solution to complex global problems."

"I was surprised at how little I knew about climate change and security, now I have an appetite to learn more."

In June of this year, Cross Campus chaplaincy will host the UN Youth Ambassador during his visit to Toowoomba. Over 3 days, Ambassador Kareem El-Ansary will conduct advocacy workshops, listening tours and even a town-hall style forum for the Toowoomba Community – this is a tremendous opportunity to give young people in our community a voice on a global stage.

"I believe it has an important role to play in ensuring young people are heard and are given a platform to be able to speak up about the issues they care most about." Said Kareem of his visit. "Unfortunately, as a cohort in society, young people are often left out of the loop when it comes to major decision making, we're misrepresented by the media and are often absent from public debates. I think it's crucial that as young people, we collectively work to change this."

In among the many Masses, liturgies, camps and retreats, Cross Campus chaplaincy aims to holistically advance the attitudes and skills of our young people, support staff in their own personal ministry of teaching and learning as we continue to recontextualize faith-driven experiences that allow for young people to advocate for the issues they are most passionate about.

*Ryan Baines is the Cross Campus Chaplain for St Mary's College, St Saviour's College, Youth and Community Centre and Mary MacKillop Catholic College.*



# AN OCCASION TO MARK WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

LINDA CREEDON

L to R: Georgia McAuley, Joyeuse Nyinawumuntu and Maombi Niyonsaba



**Harmony Day at St Saviour's College, Toowoomba is one of great celebration.** Each year on the last day of term one the college comes together for Harmony Day. The ongoing theme is "Everyone Belongs" and once again, the students and staff at the college brought it to life with a day that celebrated cultural respect for all.

St Saviour's College has students living and studying from countries such as Papua New Guinea, Sudan, the Philippines, Singapore, New Zealand and Tonga. We also have students who board with us from remote locations like Lockhart River, Kowanyama, Bamaga, Aurukun and Palm Island to name just a few. Diversity and inclusiveness are an integral part of our college ethos.

Students spent the morning of Harmony Day taking part in a variety of workshops. Dominic from PCYC, facilitated gentle boxercise classes that combined a brief history about some of Australia's Indigenous boxers. In these sessions he also spoke of the metaphysical dimension which really helps

young people connect with their inner spirit and mother earth. Our Japanese room was an origami extravaganza with colourful envelopes and decorative animals made by our novice craftswomen. In Dublin Place the sounds of country music reverberated as our dance teacher, Ms Leicht instructed her enthusiastic students in the finer points of line dancing.

At lunch time all students proceeded to our hall for our lunchtime feast, where students and parents had set up stalls to sell food from their homeland. We had stalls from Mexico, Italy, Canada, PNG, the Philippines, Africa, Germany, Australia and America, just to name a few. The hall was a hive of activity as stall holders sold their wares. Following lunch, a concert took place on the stage, giving our hall a carnival atmosphere.

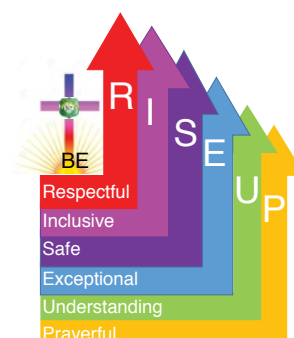
During the day we were joined by students from St Saviour's Primary School and many of our parents from near and far.



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## STATUE RESTORATION BRINGS QUIET FOCUS

INGRID MCTAGGART

**Top:** John Smith with the newly restored St Patrick statue ready for installation in the Cathedral.

**Bottom:** Bishop Robert McGuckin, pictured with Cathedral Administrator, Fr Michael O'Brien, blessed the restored St Patrick statue on St Patrick's Day.

**St Patrick's Day held special significance for the Cathedral this year.** The occasion was marked with the unveiling of a newly restored statue of the patron saint of the Cathedral. This statue of St Patrick has adorned the interior of the Cathedral from close to its opening as a Cathedral in 1935. The original foundation stone for St Patrick's church was laid on 17 March, 1889, 130 years ago to the day, which was also a Sunday. On this day it was fitting to unveil and bless the statue once more. The statue was blessed by Bishop Robert McGuckin during Mass.

John Smith, groundskeeper at St Patrick's Cathedral, who has revealed a hidden talent for restoration of statues, completed the restoration. John started his career as a house painter, but due to paint fumes was unable to continue that line of work. As these are water based paints, he finds joy in returning to something he has always loved and brought his meticulous eye for detail to the project. Remarking that he finds the quiet focus therapeutic in his life, John reflected that painting is like a prayer with many layers and that it is a gift to bring new life to something that has seen better days. John is looking forward to giving the other statues at the Cathedral a renewed spirit as well.

The statue of St Patrick now sits at the baptismal font

in front of a beautiful backdrop featuring a lush Irish landscape. The boarder of the picture lists all the counties in Ireland. It is a fitting reminder to all who are baptised that Christ surrounds them every moment of their lives.





# CUNNAMULLA, A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

SR MAUREEN ANDREWS



Pam, from The Girls' Shed, looks after Fionnie for a pamper day.

**With all the rain in Adavale and Augathella the water rushed down the Warrego River and it rose by 9.3 metres.** Now as I open my front door, I see a lake in the front yard, which is a result of the 215 points we had since yesterday. We rejoice that the rain has come and look forward to a greener drive to our neighbouring towns.

This year the annual fete went very well and there was an increase of takings from last year. Despite being in the middle of mustering and shearing, we were lucky to have Paul McCarthy attending to the heavy lifting on the day. The school had once again provided entertainment with dancing from each class and community people came and assisted. Despite the success we are of the opinion that we are "feted-out", mainly because of age and so we are having a meeting to brainstorm what are other options.

In March Fr Peter Doohan brought Fr Warren Padilla to Cunnamulla for the week. He proved to be multi-skilled, cooking a great meal for Fr Peter and myself and singing during his sermon to emphasise a point, to the delight of the congregation.

The Veranda, our op-shop, continues to be a place where people can meet, chat and hopefully purchase some items. The Girls' Shed from Goondiwindi came to give us a pamper day. About 20 ladies and six teenagers attended. The women

also visited one of our parishioners who is permanently in hospital and brought her some cheer. Thank you, Pam, Midge, Fay and Leith and special thanks for the sheets and towels we are distributing.

Age is certainly no barrier to being creative and helping those in need as we discovered from our contact with the CWL in Runaway Bay. These women produced a cook book to assist farmers suffering as a result of the drought. Our parish was the recipient of monies to provide to the farmers for whom the book was dedicated.

At the last assembly before Easter, Sacred Heart School, Cunnamulla students from Prep and Year 1 class told the story of Jesus on his journey from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection. Prep/1 teacher, Mrs Stanfield was the narrator and the children played their parts well. As I left one of the parents said, "This leaves me with a tingling in my heart."

During Easter I felt that the congregation was very focussed and reflective on a deeper level. Fr Peter came for Mass on Sunday and we had the Light of Christ in the late afternoon. A family of visitors arrived, and the oldest teenage boy said, "People seemed to want to be there". What a tribute! We are so used to each other we can easily forget this truth.

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Leading the way in the Easter in the Country Festival parade.



St John's School, Roma students join the Easter in the Country Festival parade.

## EASTER IN THE COUNTRY FR JAMIE COLLINS

**All Saints Parish, Roma was pleased to play host to Fr Warren Padilla during April. Fr Warren arrived in Roma after spending a month in the far western parishes of Charleville, Cunnamulla and Quilpie.** While in Roma Fr Warren assisted parish Priest, Fr Jamie Collins, in getting around to all the churches during Holy Week. Following the Mass of the Oils in Toowoomba both priests celebrated Mass in Jackson and Yuleba on their way home. Over Easter, Fr Warren celebrated Easter ceremonies at Mitchell, Mungallala, Injune and Roma, while Fr Jamie travelled to Wallumbilla, Surat, Wycombe and both

concelebrated Easter Sunday morning Mass in Roma.

A highlight of Easter in Roma is the Easter in the Country Festival that includes an Ecumenical Service on Good Friday morning at the Church of Christ. The Roma Combined Christian Churches also provide a float that traditionally leads the parade down the main street of Roma on Easter Saturday morning. This year's theme for the float was "From Coast to Country Jesus is the Light", and featured a lighthouse as the centrepiece on the back of the float. Frs Jamie and Warren joined other ministers from Roma in escorting the float at the head of the parade.

## BIRTHDAY GROUP STILL GOING STRONG IN HIGHFIELDS

PATTI MCNAUGHT

Highfields Parish Birthday Group celebrate and welcome Sr Mary Cleary (back, right).



**Some years ago, a group of Catholic ladies from Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, Highfields decided they would get together each month to celebrate their birthdays.** As part of these fun filled occasions, instead of buying a gift for the birthday girl, we collect the money that we would have spent and donate it to a designated charity.

The group began in 2009, with the golf girls joining soon after and our better halves joining in, ten years later it is still going strong.

On 27 March, we had a large crowd attend the Meringandan Hotel for our birthday lunch. This year our chosen charity was Highways and Byways, with Sr Mary Cleary joining us to talk to us about this wonderful charity.

Sr Mary said that they were very excited that the activities of the John Wallis Foundation would be operating under the new banner of Highways and Byways. Sr Mary said that they have developed this new structure to enable them to offer full tax benefits for their donors as they seek philanthropic funds to continue to service the community. Sr Mary thanked us for our continued support and said that it was greatly appreciated.

Colleen Weber, our hostess extraordinaire, thanked Sr Mary very much for her words, that were followed by acclamation. A beautiful cake was enjoyed by all who attended and as usual everyone had a wonderful time. Can't wait for the next happy occasion.





# CHINCHILLA PARISH 100 YEARS YOUNG

MAREE TURNER

L to R: Frs Don Murray and Brian Noonan, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Frs Mick Carroll, Gonzalo Garcia Duran, Terry Hickling and Jim Cronin.

**A marvellous two days of celebrations were held in Chinchilla early March for the Centenary of Our Lady Help of Christians' Parish.** It was 100 years to the day since Chinchilla split from Dalby as a separate parish on 1 March.

The first event was a Thanksgiving Mass on 1 March attended by past and present parishioners as well as students and staff from St Joseph's School. This special Mass was celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin, concelebrated by Frs Don Murray, Kerry Costigan, Terry Hickling, Brian Noonan, Jim Cronin, past parish priests of Chinchilla, Fr Mick Carroll, who is a regular relieving priest, and present parish administrator, Fr Gonzalo Garcia Duran.

During the Mass, Bishop Robert blessed over 200 family plaques which are a tribute to those who have had a connection to the parish community. There were also plaques commemorating each of the 24 priests who have served in Chinchilla and a plaque to commemorate the Sisters of St Joseph who have been a part of the parish for over 90 years. A great time of reminiscing and catching up then followed during a luncheon in the parish hall.

The hall was abuzz again on 2 March morning when a meet and greet morning tea was held prior to the Centenary Mass. Bishop Robert celebrated the Mass, with over 370 people in attendance.

This was followed by an old-fashioned picnic lunch held under the trees in the parish grounds where there was ample opportunity to rekindle friendships and recall days gone by. An open air concert then kept everyone entertained.

During the afternoon the amazing centenary cake, a replica of the church, was cut by the five priests who were in attendance. A comprehensive display of memorabilia was on show in the parish centre and proved very popular. It gave an insight into the life and times of the parish - from the early years of home Masses, stories about the various priests, school days at St Joseph's, Baptisms, Weddings, debutante balls and parish groups. Also creating a lot of interest were some beautiful old vestments, sacred vessels and other Mass related articles which were kindly loaned by the Diocesan Archives.

There have been many messages of thanks and congratulations received since the event. Overall it was a great time, a time to reflect, a time to honour those who have gone before us and a time to rejoice and look forward to the future. We thank God for the many blessings which were received on this wonderful occasion.



Sharon Beard with her handy work - a cake modelled after the current church building.

# A SAD FAREWELL TO MUCH LOVED PARISHIONERS

PATTI MCNAUGHT

L to R: Lisa Minz, Colleen Weber, Ray Young, Jacki Toms, Doug Toms, Peter Hundt, Mary Sullivan, Terry Morgan, Noel Sullivan, Fay Morgan, Tricia Hundt, Clara Tildesley, Kev McCormick and Joe Kochman.



**Noel and Mary Sullivan, much loved parishioners of Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, Highfields have given their time unselfishly for many years to various ministries in our parish.** It was only fitting that on 10 March, during Mass, a special blessing was given to them by Fr Brian Noonan. A morning tea was shared after Mass and a few tears were shed by many who will miss this wonderful couple as they move away from the Highfields Parish.

The St Vincent de Paul Conference, Highfields Parish were all in attendance to thank the Sullivans. This is but

one of the ministries in which they were involved, the others are too numerous to list. Their friendliness and generosity, extended to us for so long, will be sadly missed by all. Who could ever forget Mary's amazing scones when she hosted morning tea after Mass for so many years.

However, we will not say goodbye forever, just a fond adieu as we hope to see them visit our parish from time to time. They will always have a home at Highfields and we wish Mary and Noel every good wish for their future happiness, as they now move on to another phase in their lives.

# MILESTONE FOR HISTORIC CHURCH BUILDING

MONIQUE BRYSON

Celebrating 100 years, the little Church upon the Hill.



**Recently 150 visitors took the trip up to Sacred Heart Church at Deuchar.** The day brought back many memories for past locals and many stories here shared. Frs Jamie Collins, Rod MacGinlay, Don Murray, Franco Filipetto, Terry Hickling and Gerardo Tubis celebrated a Mass marking the centenary of the church. Fr Don served 18 years at Sacred Heart Church.

Many families in the district donated land, money and time to erect what has become affectionately called by the community, the little Church upon the Hill.

The Deuchar Railway Station was constructed and opened in 1878, which assisted in the arrival of the white bricks travelling from Brisbane for the erection of the church. Left over bricks can be seen in the walls of the shrine behind St Patrick's School, Allora and possibly

Cockatoo Cottage near Deuchar/Willowvale.

Sacred Heart Church has made a lasting impression on many who have visited over the years, both locals and visitors alike. Architectural features such as the hammer-beamed ceiling with diagonal sarking, the beautiful stained-glass windows and marbled altar (donated by the Dwan family), are a testament to the community who built it and continue to maintain the church.

*If you would like to purchase a well documented historical book for only \$10, please contact Monique Bryson on 0487 848 280 or drop into St Patrick's School, Allora or St Mary's Parish, Warwick. Past priest Fr Brian Sparksman (Deuchar/Glengallan Homestead Historian) autobiography "Ballinclair Lane, Patterns of Polio and Priesthood" is also available.*





## CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS A FAMILY AFFAIR

BEVAN DIVINE

**Top:** The Niyokwizigira family celebrate with the St Thomas More's community.

**Bottom:** Fr Peter Schultz Baptises the Niyokwizigira family's youngest member, Sarah.

**It has been a busy time in St Thomas More's Parish, Toowoomba for Baptisms. Since Easter 2018 and up to, and including, Easter 2019, we have welcomed 36 children into our community.** The Baptismal Team of Ava Emery, Kathryn Boulus, Sonja and Peter Wilson and Jane and John Kennedy gather the details for each candidate, undertake catechesis for the parents about the sacrament and the commitment that parents are asked to make on behalf of their child/children.

The Baptism during Easter Sunday Mass this year was noteworthy for the welcoming of a family of five boys and their baby sister. They are the children of Elie Kwitonda and Cynthia Niyokwizigira, Arcade Irakiza (8), Allen Irakoza (7), Bryce Iradukunda (5), Eric Mbabazi, (3), Enoch Mahoro (2) and Sarah Ineza (5 months). Elie and Cynthia hail from Burundi in Central Africa with all six children born in Australia. The second names of each of the children are in the first language of their parents and each name has a special meaning such as love or peace. For this special occasion Baptism was performed with

full immersion. The two older boys were fully initiated on Easter Sunday, receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation after Baptism and receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Parishioners participated joyfully in the ceremony and joined the family in the celebration with coffee and cakes afterwards.





# BRIEF

## PARISH NEWS

St Anthony's Parish, Toowoomba celebrated St Patrick's Day with a "Luck 'o the Irish" pot luck dinner in the parish centre.



L to R: Patrice Riordan, Gill Totman and Sharon Young competing for best dressed at the St Patrick's Day dinner at St Mary's Parish, Warwick.



On 3 March St Anthony's Parish, Toowoomba hosted a morning tea inviting the Muslim community to share pancakes and friendship. The regular event is an opportunity for Catholics and Muslims to come together and celebrate before the start of Lent and Ramadan.





St Mary's Parish, Warwick Youth Group, Holy CYA, visited Summerland Camel Farm at Harrisvale during the Easter School holidays.



Fr Terry Hickling getting into the green spirit at the St Patrick's Day dinner at St Mary's Parish, Warwick.

The parish and school communities in Charleville were proud to be a part of the town's ANZAC Day Memorial. Many students participated in the service. Vincent Kwan, who is the music teacher at St Mary's School, Charleville, played the "Last Post" on his violin at the service.





# HELP FROM THE SKIES

## NARELLE MCINTYRE

**St Joseph's Parish, Dalby hosted the monthly gathering of Dalby Churches Together in March.** The gathering attracted over 100 people from the Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and Uniting Church communities, sharing fellowship, a scrumptious meal and an opportunity to learn about the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

The attention of those present was thoroughly engaged by a very informative and heart-warming presentation delivered by guest speaker, Louise Burton.

Louise has local connections, having spent her early years growing up with her four siblings on a farm in the Bunya Mountains district. Louise is the eldest child of Marie and the late Bob Burton, so visiting Dalby was an opportunity to catch up with her Mum and extended family, as well as providing a deeper insight into the



Louise Burton shares her experience working for the Royal Flying Doctor Service at a Dalby Churches Together gathering.

varied roles performed by dedicated staff of the RFDS.

Louise explained how she was drawn to this field of nursing while working as a Graduate Nurse in Darwin, some thirty years ago. Now, with over twenty years of experience as a Flight Nurse with RFDS (QLD section), Louise has visited some quite remote, yet beautiful places. She regards it as a privilege to share her medical experience to bring help and healing to patients and their families.

From the short time we shared with Louise, it was obvious why she chose this profession. She has a keen interest and connection to the communities, people and locations which her work as a Flight Nurse has taken her.

The RFDS is one of those organisations you don't often know about until you need their services!

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