



THE WINDING ROAD: STORIES OF FIRE AND DROUGHT

**Ecological
Conversion is
the Future**

**Bridging the
Gap between
Youth & Elderly**

A Bell for Bell

**#56
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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

Over the past few months, an unease has been brewing in me. While visiting Stanthorpe and Warwick, it crystallised into a question, "If God exists, why do bad things happen to good people?" It's a variation on the classic – does God exist? To this day, we search and quest to answer this question. It's hard; our tinny little minds strive for concrete proof and answers, especially as we come to appreciate science and scientific methods.

Faith is defined as "confidence and trust in a person or thing" and "belief that is not based in proof" (dictionary.com). While many would argue there's plenty of proof of the existence of the divine, faith means that we don't require it. What draws my eyes is confidence and trust. Perhaps that is the answer to my question – if there is a God, have confidence and trust that God provides. That still seems unsatisfying somehow.

Despite being flat out with this Horizons, I was fortunate to be able to spend a little bit of time at the Becoming Soul Full Retreat facilitated by Andrea Dean. The one session I was able to participate in was titled "Life Giving Spirituality". In this session, Andrea explained ten basic principals that might form the foundation for spiritual growth. As I started to read each of the principles and explanation, it came into focus. Principle four, "God does not send us pain and suffering, but works with us in them for good."

It's not just about finding the silver lining, because that attitude on its own almost justifies terrible things. God is there in grief, God is working to bring forth the good, and most importantly, God is calling us to change the conditions that produce the bad and evil.

OOPS, SORRY WE MADE A MISTAKE

We wish to make the following corrections to the previous issue. Page 24 – The word Maori was misspelled, this was not the fault of the article's author. We apologise for any offence this error caused. Page 48 – Fr Peter Doohan was miscaptioned as Fr Peter Dorfield. We apologise to both Fr Peters!

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 Catholic Care 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:** Stanthorpe in the aftermath of bushfire, story page 6. **Graphic Design:** Greenridge Group 07 4659 1444. **Deadlines:** Editions will be quarterly. March Edition 2020 is February 2020.



L to R: Dr Mark Copland, Yentle Rangiira, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Andrea Frost and Dr David Tutty. Bishop Robert launched the ACBC Social Justice Statement in the diocese in September at a gathering hosted by the Social Justice Commission.

It is hard to believe that another year is drawing to a close and that Christmas isn't far away. With November upon us, we know that the end of 2019 is racing towards us. Christmas decorations and gift suggestions are everywhere when you venture into a shopping centre. At this time when there are many end of year functions, may we spare a prayer and thought for those less fortunate than ourselves. Again this presents us with a fantastic opportunity to reach out to others. Caritas Australia www.caritas.org.au is always ready to receive donations.

When walking down the street or sitting in a café everyone, young and old, is very occupied with a mobile telephone or some other digital device. This year the Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement, "Making it Real, Genuine Human Encounter in our Digital World", invites us to reflect on how the internet has changed the way we communicate, work, learn and do business. Pope Francis has spoken of the tremendous potential for human encounter in this digital space. "Good communication helps us grow closer, to know one another better, and ultimately to grow in unity...The internet, in particular, offers immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity. This is something truly good, a gift from God." (World Communications Day 2014).

In our online dealings, we need to treat others with dignity and respect. No one should ever be bullied. Our community should promote digital literacy. We are called to be a welcoming Church, "...keeping the doors of our churches open

also means keeping them open in the digital environment so that people, whatever their situation in life, can enter, and so that the Gospel can go out to reach everyone. We are called to show that the Church is a home of all." (Pope Francis, World Communication Day 2014).

View the full Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement at www.catholic.org.au or www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au.

Given the growing number of refugees in our community, we must continue to show mutual respect and appreciation of the beliefs and practices of others. Everyone is a person with intrinsic dignity and value. In such a welcoming environment the community itself is transformed, and we all become beneficiaries.

As the year comes to a close may the Holy Spirit guide us as we make our end of year plans. May we leave some time for reflection and may we continue to grow in the love of the Lord.

I thank everyone who has assisted in the ministry of the diocese throughout the year. May we continue to pray for each other. May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you and your loved ones.

Bishop Robert McGuckin
Bishop of Toowoomba
November 2019



VISITING ETHICS EXPERTS BENEFIT MEDICAL OFFICERS, EDUCATORS AND PASTORAL CARERS

DR MARK COPLAND

L to R: Dr Rob Gray, Dr Mark Copland, Kathryn McKeefry, Dr David Kirchhoffer and Dr Dan Fleming.

Sometimes living out our faith in the 21st century, it is hard to explain what we stand for and why we stand where we do as people of the Catholic tradition. When you bring modern science and the possibilities of medicine today, the task gets even harder. St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba was privileged to host Dr David Kirchhoffer and Dr Dan Fleming as part of an ethics masterclass during September. Dr Kirchhoffer is the Director of the Queensland Bioethics Centre, and Dr Fleming is the Director of Ethics and Formation for St Vincent's Health Australia. The event was facilitated by St Vincent's Toowoomba staff Dr Rob Gray, Chief Medical Officer and Dr Mark Copland, Mission Executive.

"Both Rob and I are relatively new to our role and on a steep learning curve when it comes to bioethics," stated Mark. "The purpose of the evening was to bring together the clinical

experience of our visiting medical officers (VMO) with input from experts in the field of ethics and bioethics."

Many real-life scenarios were discussed with expert input provided by Drs Fleming and Kirchhoffer. Participants, 32 in total, engaged in a productive and respectful conversation. Dr Fleming also gave a breakfast presentation to Catholic educators from across Queensland as part of the visit. As part of the breakfast, he shared his learnings and experience of the introduction of the Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation in Victoria. Following this Dr Fleming facilitated a Catholic Ethos Day with Pastoral Carers from across the Diocese.

"Dan has a rare gift for sharing the beauty and rich teachings of our faith in an authentic and contemporary way," said Mark.

There are plans to hold another event with St Vincent's VMOs focussed around ethics in 2020.

HONOURING OUR SHARED HISTORY WELCOMED

DR MARK COPLAND

The former Executive Officer of the Diocesan Social Justice Commission, Dr Mark Copland, has welcomed the naming of the viaduct section of the newly opened Toowoomba Bypass after local Aboriginal Warrior Multuggerah. Mark has campaigned for many years with local elder Uncle Darby McCarthy and other community members to have the road named "Multuggerah Way".

"Obviously it would have been great to have the entire road named after Multuggerah; nevertheless, it's great to have this iconic part of the road named after a local icon," stated Mark.

"It may seem like a trivial or fringe thing, but there is such power in recognising our local shared history. When we honour the sacrifice and bravery of local heroes but ignore the efforts of a leader as such Multuggerah, we are only honouring part of our local human story."

The feats of Multuggerah, a local resistance leader, are

captured in a newly released book "The Battle of One Tree Hill" by Ray Kerkhove and Frank Uhr. The book was launched as part of the fifth ceremony marking the Battle of One Tree Hill on 13 September at Bill Gould Lookout, Toowoomba. A song honouring Multuggerah by legendary Australian musician Kev Carmody and family was also performed at the event. The original Battle of One Tree Hill took place on 13 September 1843.



Remembering the Battle of One Tree Hill.



HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS MAKING IN WAYS TO SUPPORT

LIZ MCALOON, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS & BYWAYS

L to R: Megan Brown (Chandra Yoga and Well-Being Centre, Roma) and Catherine McAleer (Toowoomba H&B Branch member) at the beginnings of a community garden Megan is developing at the Yoga centre.

Highways and Byways – A Community of Service has been a hive of activity for the past few months. Bishop Bill Morris has accepted an invitation to become a patron of Highways and Byways. He is very keen to be involved. Bishop Bill spoke about the integral part the Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS) played during his time in the Toowoomba Diocese and the vital role sisters continue to play in the area.

One of the successful applicants in the recent round of funding is the small community of Thallon. Highways and Byways funded a program for a community garden for the drought-affected town. It is exciting news to hear that The Australian Women's Weekly will be there for the launch of the Community Garden project. Nev and Therese Hunt of the Toowoomba Branch of Highways and Byways will visit Thallon during the Weekly's visit to represent Highways and

Byways at the launch.

Highways and Byways recently visited Roma with three gatherings held while in town. The visit was to further develop a new Highways and Byways program which will be based in Roma in 2020 reflecting the spirit and mission of the MSS sisters. This will be a grassroots program of community connection to bring in people on the periphery. The aim is to create opportunities for people on the margins to experience a sense of belonging, a greater sense of self and a place in community life. This will be formally launched in early 2020.

The Highways and Byways 2020 Small Grants Program will open in mid-November 2019 for applications. The theme for the 2020 Grants Program is "Nourishing our people and our communities in times of drought".

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THE WINDING ROAD: STORIES OF FIRE AND DROUGHT

DROUGHT AND FIRE: IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT

INGRID MCTAGGART

Queensland's bushfire season officially started on 1 August, and the warning from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) is that this season will be busy. The combination of existing drought conditions with predicted below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures is set to produce more opportunities for bushfires to take hold throughout the state.

The Granite Belt started the bushfire season almost immediately with fires breaking out around Stanthorpe 6 September. The Stanthorpe bushfire also effected the surrounding communities of Applethorpe, The Summit, Thulimbah, Cottonvale and Dalveen with eventual evacuation notices issued as the fire intensified and spread during the 7th and 8th. Bushfires have also since effected other nearby communities such as Ballendean and Eukey.

The devastating Stanthorpe fire, which was one of many burning across Queensland in at the same time, appears to be started by accident according to Police. The tinder-dry bushland paired with high winds meant that ash dumped by unsuspecting tourists turned into an uncontrollable blaze.

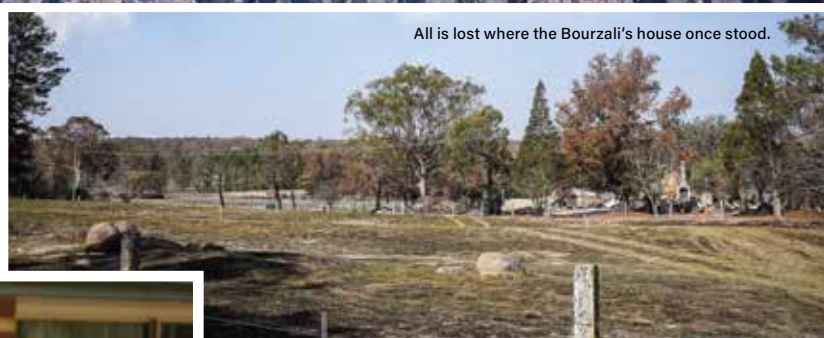
Shared on Facebook were dramatic images and footage of QFES and Rural Fire Service personnel fighting to save houses and property from flames. Locals have praised these heroic men and women.

Despite all efforts, destroyed in the blaze were four houses. Sadly two of these houses belonged to St Joseph's Parish Stanthorpe parishioners.

Alain and Zena Bourzali first came to Australia from France a little over 50 years ago living for a few years in Brisbane. After deciding city life was not for them, the Bourzali's bought their patch of tranquillity in Stanthorpe, calling the town home for over 30 years. Everything they had worked for and a lifetime of precious keepsakes have been reduced to ash.

Still visibly affected by their experience, Alain and Zena describe getting the call to evacuate suddenly. "There were Police at the door telling us to get out. We scrambled to get out because it was dark with the power already cut," said Zena. "There wasn't time to get anything, and it was hard to see even with torches. We just had to get out."

When asked if he had found his service medals from his



L to R: Fr Brian Connolly with Zena and Alain Bourzali.



Delivering a 1,000L pod of water as part of Rotary's "Water for the West" program.

time in the French Foreign Legion, with a great sense of loss, Alain described finding the medals destroyed. He visited the burnt shell of their house with their son. "We found them, but they are melted. Everything is gone."

Alain brightens when asked about how the community had responded. "We get a delivery of food from the local food bank once a week," he said, plucking at the shirt he was wearing, "these clothes from St Vincent de Paul and Lifeline. They also gave us other day-to-day items. Everyone has been so helpful." The Bourzali's were also fortunate to be supplied a roof over their head by residents who are currently away for two months, with the invitation to stay longer if needed.

While the fire has been the most recent disaster to befall the community, it is drought and water shortage which has had the most significant impact. Years of below-average rainfall have led to water supplies running out, affecting not just the area's residents, but local food growers, wineries and tourism. Stanthorpe resident and Catholic Leader contributor, Selina Venier, talked about how water-saving had become part of the routine for her family. Nothing about water is taken for granted. "It's been a long time since the kids ran outside under

the sprinkler, I'm not sure my youngest has done that before," said Selina.

We share lunch at a local café. Taking a seat by the front window, Selina reaches for the latest newspaper to share a story. It's about another local producer making a hard choice between saving long establish plants or risk losing everything. Do they think of the future at the detriment of this year's harvest, or vice versa? It's a decision that could end a long-held family business. "This is happening a lot. Many local producers and businesses have been forced to close or at least make the difficult choice to forfeit this season," she explains. According to a survey conducted by the Granite Belt Growers' Association, it's anticipated the equivalent of 900 full-time jobs will be gone by summer, with seasonal jobs the first to go.

Fr Brian Connolly, Stanthorpe Parish Priest, and Dorothy O'Reilly, parish secretary, kindly take me for a tour of Stanthorpe. We visit the shocking damage left in the wake of the fire and drive past the ruins of the Bourzali's house. However, there is amazement and gratitude for the number of dwellings spared.

It is not all bad news out of Stanthorpe as stories of support

and hope abound. St Joseph's School Stanthorpe report they have received an outpouring of love and generosity. Offers of help, financial assistance and prayers have come from other schools in the diocese and places such as Brisbane, Ipswich and the Sunshine Coast.

Rotary Satellite Club of Tenterfield - The Granite Belt have been their own force of nature. The club has been coordinating a widespread effort to supply quality drinking water to residents of Stanthorpe and nearby communities. To date, nearly 250,000 litres of good drinking water has been delivered to more than 200 schools and families.

The "Water for the West" initiative was started by Rotarians and Rotary Clubs on the Gold Coast. Judy Lee from Rotary tells me that the project had a rather funny beginning. "A few years ago, a club on the Gold Coast heard that a tank that supplied toilets at one of our schools had run dry. They offered to donate water to fill the tank," Judy says with a chuckle. "It's

just grown from there as the circumstance has become much more serious."

Rotary Clubs on the Gold Coast continue to spearhead the project with support from 13 Rotary Clubs and 18 other groups. The generous ways "Water for the West" has been supported include bottled water delivered by plane to cash donations from Vienna, Austria. Local businesses are also helping the program by offering storage facilities for incoming water deliveries and the use of equipment such as forklifts. The project will operate as long as drought conditions continue, donations are received, and more importantly, people continue to need assistance.

Anyone in the Stanthorpe area who require water should contact Rotary Satellite Club of Tenterfield - The Granite Belt via Don Gaske 0428 310 409, Wayne Mathers 0407 899 083 or Angelo Puglisi 07 4684 1226.

WHEN THE RAIN DOESN'T COME

INGRID MCTAGGART

Much of Queensland has been drought declared, including every shire within our diocese's boundaries. Heading to Paul and Monica Maher's farm just outside of Warwick, the ground is not just brown; it's grey. Dry doesn't seem like a strong enough word to describe it. When you look about you don't need a bureaucracy to tell the area is in the grip of a severe crisis.

For the moment though, it's a pleasant day and sitting on the Maher's verandah, it feels like it's the best place in the world. They're proud of the home they built to suit their family and the view is impressive from the front verandah. "We had a good view of the fire at Swanfels the other week," explains Paul. The fires in the area still fill the air with haze.

Paul and Monica are like I pictured they'd be – warm, inviting hospitality and down to earth, but not blunt, just very practical. The beautiful homemade scones are a bonus. Despite a tough run with the increasingly dire situation on their farm and health issues, both are happy to share their experience. Perhaps most importantly, they haven't lost their faith.

We chat about the Maher's recent time in the media spotlight. They have been lucky to receive a donation of water through the Finish and Rural Aid Australia partnership, #FinishWaterWaste. They are one of 100 families in the area who received a tanker of water at that time. Paul said that when he was told they had been nominated, there was a catch. "We were told when they delivered the water, some media would come and interview us. Well, we've had all the TV channels through here and different newspapers, it's been a bit crazy!" Paul laughs off the attention.

Most striking was Paul and Monica's emotional appearance on the Today show on Channel 9 when the tanker of water arrived in September. Paul is a little flustered by his tears during the interview, but Monica is quick to remind him

and tell me, "It's been a really tough year or so, Paul's cancer treatment and the decision to sell off part of the herd, it's been really hard."

The silver lining of time in the spotlight for Paul is that it brings awareness to the situation. It's less about them and more about what it can do for others. For locals, it's essential to let them know that there is assistance available. Also, it's a show of solidarity with all the communities in a similar condition. For those in urban areas, especially big cities, it's to bring into focus just how dire the drought is.

The cycle of dry and wet is something Paul is familiar with, coming from a family of farmers, he has a long memory. Paul recounts 1965 as being a year of drought, and when that drought broke, there was a massive drop in temperature after the rain which resulted in an enormous loss of livestock in the area. Thinking about the current drought situation, Paul gauges it's been building since the late 1980s, early '90s. "89/90, that would have been one of the last times we got good back to back wet seasons," recalls Paul. "Since then, each year, it's been less and less total rain. Sure you might get a good year like 2011 with flooding, but there's not the follow-up rain the next season."

There is sadness in Paul and Monica's voices as they describe the decision to cut their herd by 75%. "It took 40 years to get where we are with our cattle, a long time. We tried different breeds, watched for the right cows and bulls, it wasn't just stick everything in a paddock and hope for the best," explains Paul. Monica explains it came to a head last June. "With Paul's impending surgery and no change in the weather conditions, we had to reduce the herd. Paul has always been cautious with cattle numbers and never overstocked." She goes on to add that they are now trying to maintain a smaller number of younger cattle.

Monica has an eye for detail and played an equal part in



The Maher's decision to destock was not taken lightly.



Monica and Paul Maher.



On the road to the Maher's farm there's not much green in sight.

growing their herd. She explains to me how she would keep statistics on all the cattle they would send to the abattoir and sale yards. That data would then help monitor all facets of the care of the animals.

Paul and Monica are Warwick locals through and through. It is astonishing all the ways this couple are a part of their community, describing it as just part of their life. From the big things like Paul being first officer in the local fire service to simple actions like the phone conversations and check-ins they have with their neighbours, serving the community and their parish is something the Maher's take on with ease.

Monica is currently on the St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council, although her term is coming to an end shortly in reaching six years of service. Monica took great delight in sharing past parish events she had the pleasure of being a part. In particular, she points to the St Mary's Parish Festival, something the parish hosted regularly many years ago. "You'd have all sorts of stalls selling books, plants, food, everything! It was a great fundraiser for the parish and a big deal in the town. It wasn't just Catholics that came, the whole community would come to get a bargain," she said.

Monica is also proud of her long association with the St Mary's Catholic Debutante Ball. She offers her time where needed, particularly when volunteers are short, helping to train the debts and decorate the hall. The ball gives some twenty to forty girls a year the opportunity to make their

debut, and Monica points out that the ball is one of the last remaining in the district.

While the situation is terrible at the moment, Paul and Monica are not pessimistic or self-pitying. You can detect resilience and a drive to continue. Even when speaking about their decimated herd, there is hope that they will rebuild and that the tide will turn again. There is a sense that they don't dwell too long on what is mostly out of their hands. They keep the promise of rain in their prayers.

God our Creator,

You know our needs, our weaknesses and our strengths.

In your love grant us all that we need for life to flourish and grow at this time.

Give us wisdom to use what we receive with respect.

Guide us to become better stewards of all you have created, so that others may come to know your love by our example.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen



Rosary in the Park 2019 participants.

ROSARY IN THE PARK

THERESA BLATCHLY & ELLEN MOROSINI

The annual Rosary in the Park was held on 12 October in St Patrick's Cathedral due to the wet weather earlier in the morning. A group of about 50 people gathered to pray the five Mysteries of the Rosary and sing hymns to Our Lady to commemorate Her final apparition to the children at Fatima on 13 October 1917 and the Miracle of the Sun. We prayed for Australia and for the Catholic Church; for our religious leaders and our civic leaders; for vocations to the

Priesthood and Religious Life; for the sick, lonely and dying; for the protection of life, marriage and the family.

This is an annual event organized across Australia by Australia Needs Fatima based in Sydney. The purpose is to answer Our Lady's request to pray the Rosary often and to publically witness to our belief in God and our love for His Blessed Mother. We hope to hold this event in the park next year.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

MICHAEL PYKE

"Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ, he said, the son of the living God'. Jesus replied; 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy Man! Because it is not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So, I now say to you: You are Peter and, on this rock, I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.'" Matthew 16:16- 18

A great part of this message is that the church will be triumphant, no matter what is thrown against it. Do not give up on our church despite the many trials through which it is going. The Lord will be victorious through his church.

One of the ways through which Jesus will be victorious in His church will be through Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR). Pope Francis has this message for us: "You, Charismatic Renewal, have received a great gift from the Lord. You were born of the Spirit as 'a current of grace in the Church'. This is your definition - a current of grace!... Charismatic Renewal is a great force at the service of the proclamation of the Gospel, in the joy of the Holy Spirit." (Pope Francis' address to the Charismatic Renewal Convention, June 2014)

He went on to explain what he expected from the CCR:

Conversion to the life-changing love of Jesus; Sharing the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit with all in the Church; Evangelising with the Word of God, which proclaims that Jesus is alive and loves all people; Witnessing to spiritual ecumenism with all those brothers and sisters of other churches and Christian communities who believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour, remembering that the CCR is ecumenical by its very nature; Being close to the poor and needy, touching in their lives the flesh of Jesus; Seeking unity in the CCR because unity comes with the Spirit and is born of the unity of the Trinity.

Contacts

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Emmaus Prayer Group
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INAUGURAL USQ VINNIES COMMUNITY SLEEPOUT A SUCCESS

EMMA RAE



USQ Students Sleepout to raise funds to support St Vincent de Paul.

Close to 500 people are homeless in Toowoomba. Add the wider Darling Downs and Southern Downs region and that figure climbs towards 700. The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) hosted a Vinnies Community Sleepout in July to give students, staff and the wider community the chance to make a difference for people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The event raised almost \$7,000.

Event organising committee member and USQ Residential Colleges student, Taylah Currell said it was her work as a Vinnies Youth Volunteer that inspired her to do more. "I'm passionate about helping people, and if an opportunity to do that comes up, I'll always take it," she said.

"I've been involved with Vinnies for two years now working with children to build their life skills and become active

members of society. That's why I got involved with Vinnies Community Sleepout, because I know how beneficial it will be for not only people experiencing homelessness first hand but also for the wider community."

The experiential sleepout event saw the almost 100 participants sleeping rough with a piece of cardboard, a simple dinner, warm drink and a basic breakfast. There was also a variety of fun educational activities, inspirational speakers, live music and movies.

"I believe participating in the Vinnies Community Sleepout is a big step in educating the community and the future of Australia about homelessness," Taylah said.

The money raised will go towards vital life-changing homelessness support services and an affordable housing project Vinnies wants to establish in Newtown.

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Fr Michael O'Brien with Fr Peter's mother, Patricia.

FR PETER FREDERICK SCHULTZ

On Monday 5 August, Fr Peter Schultz died at St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba, aged 58. Fr Peter was born in Wangaratta, Victoria on 26 April 1961 to parents Patricia (Caldwell) and John Schultz. He is preceded in death by his father and survived by his mother, brother Gregory and sisters Catherine and Leanne.

Fr Peter's early education was in Victoria, attending primary and secondary schools in Wangaratta, East Brunswick and St Kilda. He commenced his study for the priesthood at Corpus Christi College, Clayton in 1979, later moving to the Pius XII Seminary at Banyo in 1985. Fr Peter was ordained to the priesthood on 24 January 1990 by Bishop Edward Kelly at St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba. Continuing his study, Fr Peter obtained a Licentiate in

Canon Law from the Catholic University Leuven in 2001.

Fr Peter spent time in various places across the Diocese of Toowoomba as well as holding a variety of diocesan ministry positions. He spent time at Warwick, Cunnamulla, Cambooya and Helidon, and was available as a supply priest from 2010 onwards taking him to many more communities. Fr Peter was also Vocations and Youth Ministry directors, both positions held for most of the mid-1990s. He has been a part of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission since 1996 and the Diocesan Tribunal since 2001. Fr Peter was appointed Diocesan Chancellor in 2014.

St Patrick's Cathedral was filled with family, friends, clergy and parishioners to farewell and celebrate the life of Fr Peter 13 August.



A LIVED EXPRESSION OF THE KINGDOM

Edited version of the homily from the Funeral of Fr Peter Schultz

BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD

Bishop Brian Mascord delivers the homily at Fr Peter Schultz's funeral.

Alongside the homily I gave for my father's funeral, this is probably the hardest homily I have ever had to deliver.

Peter gave some very strict instructions as to how this was going to go and I was not to make this a eulogy or a panegyric, but sometimes you have to bend the rules just a little. Over the last ten years or so, Peter and I have spoken most nights. The phone call could last ten minutes or two hours. However, on each occasion we would share our thoughts on what the Scriptures were saying to us for the upcoming weekend or for a particular homily. When I embarked upon this preparation, I was lost as I had no one to talk to.

In the Book of Deuteronomy, we hear the words: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

This is the call of Israel in declaring their relationship with their God. It was their great proclamation of faith. This Shema also had a profound influence on Peter and his understanding of the relationship he had with his God. This is what he believed at the depth of his being. In many ways he lived this out in a very Rabbinical way, as a teacher, calling people to think through their relationship with God, being secure in that relationship based on all the information that we have around us. His love of the Scriptures was something that he used to bring to life in our lives, how we may understand God for us and in our time.

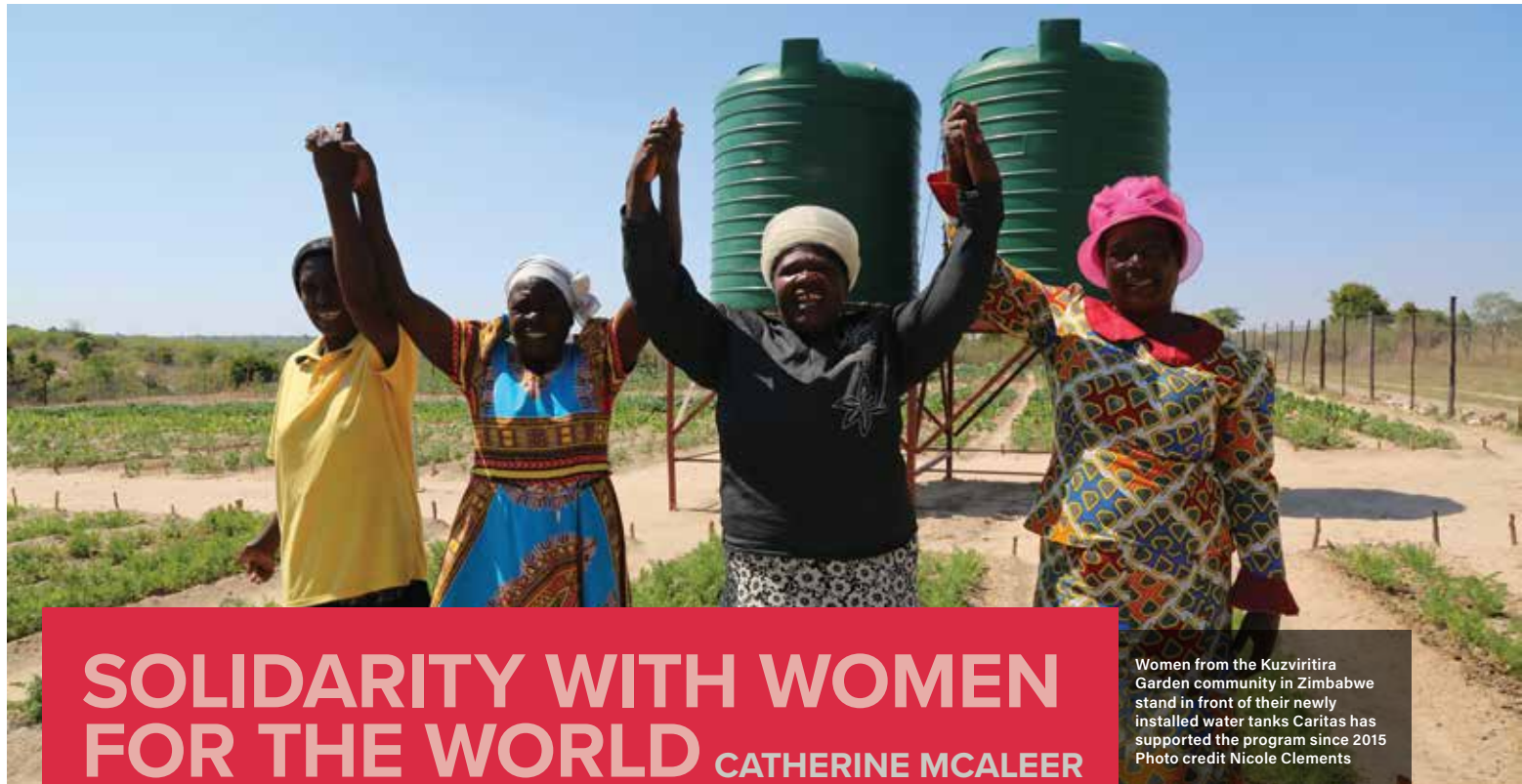
We hear in the Scriptures, today, of the veil being torn in two and the women arriving at the tomb to find it empty. The passage from Deuteronomy forms a back story for us as we hear our Scriptures. Those mentioned in the gospel would have, as faithful Jews, been doing exactly what the book of Deuteronomy told them to do. They would have been discussing what the events of the last few days really

meant; what was happening to them; where God was in all of this; and how they were trying to make sense of what these last few years had been all about. Sounds a little similar to our journey over this past week [since Peter's death].

Someone once said to me, that it's strange when we come to funerals because we always seem to be burying saints – and that we never seem to bury the sinner. That is the last thing I want to do to say about Peter, mainly because he would get up and tell me to shut up and get on with it! But I will speak of a man who in his way, and believe you me Frank Sinatra would have been proud to base his song around Peter because that is exactly what he did, he lived his faith his way. Always trying to free people from that which kept them from the recognising their place in the Reign of God, even though he himself had difficulty recognizing it for himself.

Peter had difficulty understanding how he was loved and admired, and that was so frustrating at times, but living and expressing the kingdom in practical ways was natural for him. That's how his brain was wired. He had an innate ability to stand at the foot of the cross with people and then accompany them to the empty tomb to recognise that the Lord was risen, and no longer bound by death, to discover what that meant for them. Yes, it was unconventional, but that was how he did it. This was how he, "loved the Lord our God with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might". Last year he did that for me with the death of my own dad. When having finished his commitments here in Toowoomba, he drove to Newcastle to be with my family as we prepared the funeral and after drove to Wollongong to make sure I didn't arrive home to an empty house. This was his practical faith expression, which I call love.

Thanks, Peter, for pointing us towards God and the kingdom: by standing with us at the foot of the cross; walking to the tomb with us; and helping us see beyond the tomb, into the new life of resurrection. Pray for us. May you rest in the peace and the loving embrace of God.



SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN FOR THE WORLD

CATHERINE MCALEER

Women from the Kuzviritira Garden community in Zimbabwe stand in front of their newly installed water tanks Caritas has supported the program since 2015
Photo credit Nicole Clements

Women coming together to share life is a common occurrence. It is always fascinating to think that right now as you read this, there are women around the globe doing something similar. They might be preparing a meal, coming together with friends to pray, they may be helping a sick child or resting after a long hard day of work. It is a humbling experience to pause and reflect on what might be going on for them in their lives.

Sadly, there are other things that women around the world also have in common. Nearly two-thirds of the world's illiterate adults are women 1. 15.6 million women and girls work in forced labour 2. 1 in 3 women and girls globally experience violence 3.

Those statistics are staggering, and discrimination and inequality rob women and girls of the opportunities to earn, learn and lead. Gender inequality is a fundamental denial of human rights and a principal cause of poverty. As part of one of the world's largest humanitarian networks, Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Australia works to empower communities and eradicate poverty.

Since 2014, Caritas Australia has run the Women for the World campaign. Long-time Caritas Australia supporter Dr Michelle Fernon said that the disproportionate impact that poverty has on women and girls, action is vital. "Women are the backbone of their families, workplaces and communities," Dr Fernon said. "They are also subject to systemic discrimination that denies their chance to fulfil their potential and contribute fully to their societies. Yet we know that when we help a woman, her family and her community also benefit."

Women for the World events bring together those who are

a passionate about justice and the eradication of poverty. "It is an exciting time for Australian women who are in a position to help others. By joining together, we can build a nationwide movement that makes a real difference to those living in poverty," Dr Fernon said.

Traditionally, Women for the World events are held in September. However, as this is often a busy time for the diocese, with school holidays and the Carnival of Flowers in Toowoomba, so we have chosen to spread the events out. In September, there was an afternoon of rest and restore yoga which raised just over \$600 for the cause and on 9 November there will be a picnic in the park in the Botanic Gardens, Toowoomba. Women coming together to meet, be nourished and to support each other can empower women around the world to bring positive change for their families and communities.

If you would like to support Women for the World financially, please go to www.womenfortheworld.org.au, or if you would like to support the campaign in the future with an event in 2020, please contact caritas@twb.catholic.org.au or 07 46387977.

1 United Nations Statistics Division (2015). "The World's Women." Available online: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/worldswomen.html>

2 The International Labor Organisation and Walk Free Foundation (2017), "Global estimates of modern slavery." Available online: http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang-en/index.htm

3 United Nations Statistics Division (2015). "The World's Women." Available online: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/worldswomen.html>

**VOLUNTEERS
WANTED**

If you passionate about Caritas' work and would like to assist with events throughout the year, such as Project Compassion or Women for the world, I would love to hear from you. Please email me at caritas@twb.catholic.org.au or phone on 07 4638 7977.



Adoration at Holy Name, Toowoomba

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS

ELLEN MOROSINI

“Come to Me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest” Mt 11:28

What is Eucharistic Adoration? It is being in silence, in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist – the sacrament of His love. Eucharistic Adoration can be experienced at Mass, in the tabernacle and through exposition.

Jesus promised He would not leave us orphans, and He will remain with us in the sacrament of His love until the end of time. We adore Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at every Mass we participate in and especially when we receive His body and blood in Holy Communion.

In the early years of the church, all of the consecrated bread and wine was consumed at Mass. As churches were built, consecrated bread was reserved in the tabernacle to be used for the sick or homebound. “As faith in the real presence of Christ in His Eucharist deepened, the Church became conscious of the meaning of silent adoration of the Lord present under the Eucharistic species.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1379)

In time, the church developed the devotion of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The consecrated host, the body and blood of Jesus under the appearance of bread, was placed in a monstrance on the altar so the faithful could spend quiet time in the presence of Jesus.

“Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in Adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world...” (John Paul II, Dominicae cenae, 3).

Jesus is calling us to Himself, visit Him and spend time

with Him. He gives us His consolation, strength and support when we spend time with Him in silent adoration. Experience this for yourself.

Many parishioners throughout this diocese and indeed the wider church celebrate the practice of Eucharistic Adoration. Many feel it is a great expression of their faith, and it strengthens their bond with Jesus.

If you were interested in Eucharistic Adoration, please see the diocesan website for times or contact your local parish.

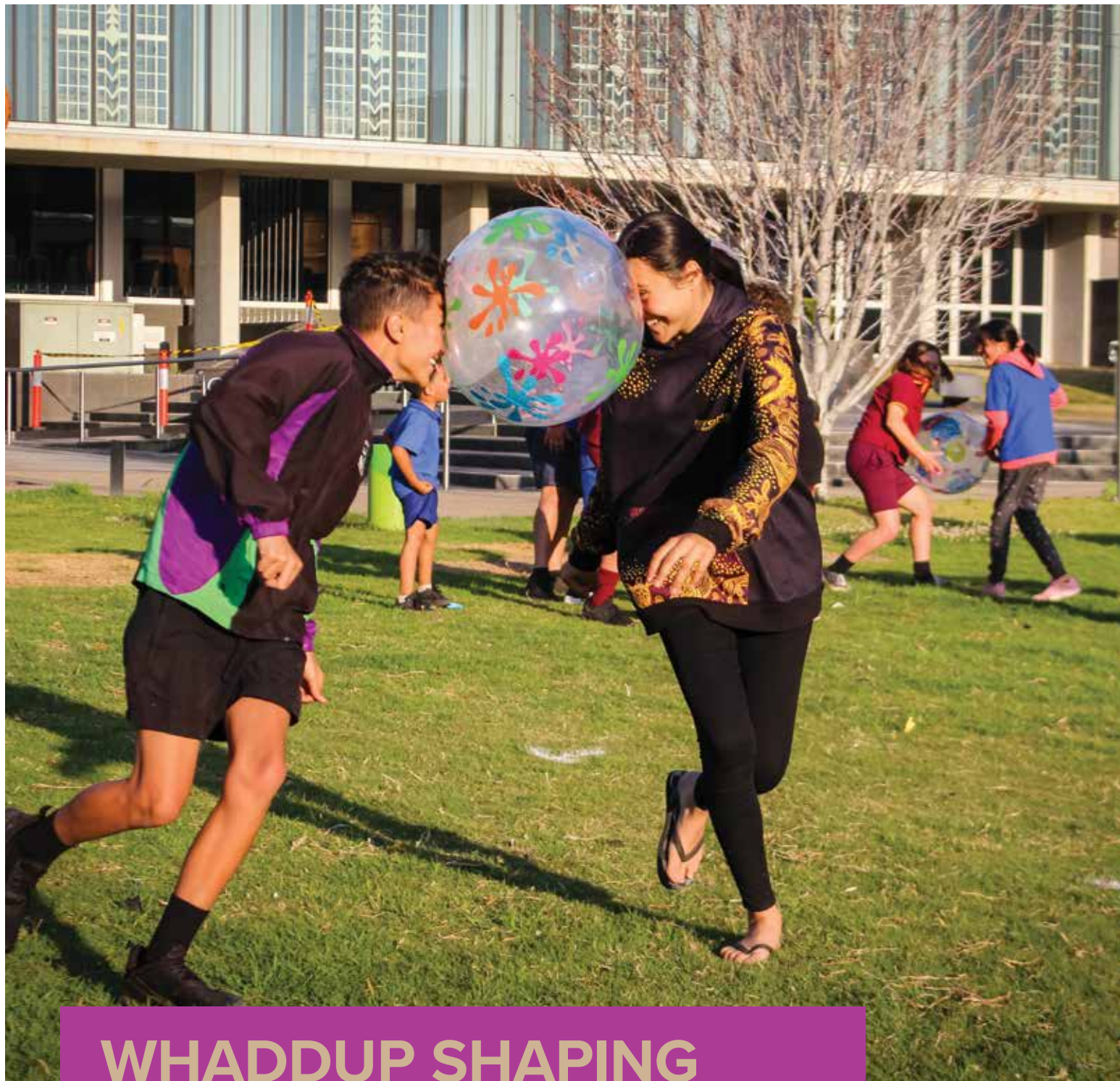
Eucharistic Adoration in the Toowoomba area:

St Patrick’s Cathedral, James St, Toowoomba (Ph 4637 1500)
Wednesday 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Sacred Heart Church, Wilsonton, Toowoomba
(Emilie 0420 542 508/Ellen 0412 435 030)
Monday to Friday 5:00am-6:30am
Tuesday 7:00am – Wednesday 6:30am
Friday 7:00am – 7:00pm
First Friday 7:00am – Saturday 8:30am

Holy Name Church, Bridge St, Toowoomba
(Mary 0427 716 456)
Wednesday 8:30am – 3:30pm
First Saturday 8:30am – 10:30am

Sisters of St Peter Claver Chapel, Margaret St, Toowoomba
(Ph 4632 1818)
Friday 2:00pm – 3:00pm



WHADDUP SHAPING RELATIONSHIPS ROBYN SILCOX

Volunteers are vital to
WHADDUP's success.

CatholicCare provides a range of services to promote individual, family and community wellbeing throughout the Darling Downs and South West Queensland. CatholicCare empowers individuals, families and communities to meet the challenges of life and relationships.

The CatholicCare Whaddup program focuses on inspiring, supporting and working with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders youth aged from 10 to 17 years. It provides a supportive and culturally appropriate space to celebrate and strengthen the connection to country. Elders, parents and volunteers promote social connectedness and play a valuable role in helping shape relationships with

each other and build a strong community for our future.

In this term, the Whaddup Program will focus on supporting young people to create a visual diary. The diary will focus on their Whaddup 2019 experiences, tend to their new vegetable garden located in the CatholicCare courtyard and enjoy the great outdoors.

Recently Whaddup has changed its time and location. It now takes place at CatholicCare in our hall every fortnight on a Friday starting at 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. During the school terms, Whaddup provides transport from Wilsonton Primary & High School and Newtown Primary School to our CatholicCare hall. It's an afternoon of activities that



WHADDUP is not just about fun activities, but providing positive social connection.

includes a light supper and encourages healthy lifestyle choices within a drug and alcohol-free environment.

Volunteers are vital to this program's success, and there are a variety of roles you can get involved with, including:

- assisting with supervision
- participating in educational activities and helping with traditional craftwork
- mentoring to develop skills, relationships and networks that strengthen the connection to culture

- teaching and assisting children in learning about a healthy lifestyle choice and risk-taking behaviour
- preparing light supper for participants

Whaddup provides a positive and supportive environment, and with the involvement of volunteers can make a real difference. Email enquiries@catholiccare.services or call 1300 477 433 if you know a young person who may like to attend or to find out how you can get involved or volunteer.

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- » Family Mediation
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- » Workplace Mediation and Counselling

We welcome your call.

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



ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION IS THE FUTURE

DR DAVID TUTTY

Dr David Tutty at the recent climate change protests.

Early September was a time of significant stress for many in Stanthorpe and surrounding areas. With concern, we all watched and prayed that the bushfires would be controlled and any loss contained. Bushfires are the last thing a community in the grip of drought and water rationing want.

Yet according to the climate scientists, drought and bushfires are going to be more frequent in our region. The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection names that we can expect average higher temperatures, hotter and more frequent hot days, harsher fire weather, fewer frosts, less rainfall in winter and spring, and more intense downpours. The CSIRO even names that by 2050, the average temperature in our region will increase by at least 4.5 degrees if current trends continue.

Alongside this, we witness a new international round

of climate strikes, protests, conferences and speeches that challenge all levels of government to take the threat seriously. Those protesting are accepting the scientific facts and demanding that policy-makers act now so that the average world temperature does not rise more than 1.5 degrees above the pre-industrial baseline. They assert that action is possible because the scientific evidence confirms that human activity causes increased climate temperature. And because it is human-induced, they then assert that it is possible to slow and even halt this increase if governments and their citizens act collaboratively.

The changing climate is now at a stage that Pope Francis recognises it to be an emergency. He names climate change as a social justice issue and calls for an ecological conversion. Pope Francis is not the first to talk about the



need for this sort of conversion. In 2001, Pope John Paul II called for an ecological conversion when he was talking about our role as stewards of creation.

Pope Francis says that we need this conversion. We have lost our “awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of the future to be shared by everyone” (Laudato Si #202). Because of this loss of awareness, there is a “great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge” (Laudato Si #202) we need to face.

Most essential is the need to deepen our sense that the created world is God’s work that God has declared to be good. Like in us humans, there is something of the Creator. In all that God has created, and if we grow in this awareness, we will be motivated to protect our world. But because we see ourselves as disconnected and separate from the rest of the creation, the ecological conversion requires growth in our sense of connectedness so that we better experience the Creator in creation. It is a move away from a focus on the individual, on consumerism, on competition, on unlimited progress and unregulated markets towards a new harmony of right relationships based on what God intends. We need to find a new ecologically based harmony within ourselves, with others, with the rest of creation and

ultimately with God.

Pope Francis says that this ecological conversion is also a community conversion (Laudato Si #219). It is a conversion to greater responsibility for each other and especially for those most impacted by this climate emergency. Locally those most impacted are farmers and people in rural towns. In the wider world, it is also those in the Torres Strait Islands, in the Pacific and the millions of impoverished people living in low lying coastal and delta locations. Even more impacted are future generations. Ecological conversion is conversion to seeing all these people as part of our community, part of our responsibility.

Because of this growing sense of connectedness and community, we will want to live much more simply and to work collectively. A need to pressure businesses and governments to lessen their dependence on carbon-based fuels. Ecological conversion is about a growing sense of ethical and political responsibility to work for change.

Pope Francis recently challenged richer countries that their current responses are too weak. For Stanthorpe, the wider diocesan community in drought, and the wider world, it is our calling to challenge our elected officials to act to prevent things from getting worse.

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EVERY VOCATION IS A GIFT FROM GOD

FR GONZALO GARCIA DURAN

More than a job, Fr. Gonzalo baptises little Alfie in Chinchilla.

This month I celebrate a personal milestone, 10 years of my calling. It has given me pause to reflect on a matter close to my heart. There are many voices about the vocation of the priesthood. We can debate it all we like, but we do not make priests, and the seminary does not make priests. There is no vending machine for a priest. Our calling, our vocation, is God's gift to each of us. We read in 1 Cor 3:6-9: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building."

In this scripture, St Paul is telling us it matters little whether I plant and you water or you plant and I water. It is only through God that we grow. What we must do is pray. Pray for guidance, for stewardship, to be open to whatever task God has called us to do.

"Being a priest is not a job or fulfilling an employment contract but is a gift from God that should be contemplated and treasured as such". (Pope Francis, 19 September, 2019). In Pope Francis' words, we hear that every vocation is a gift from God, to the church, to the family, to the individual, and ultimately to the world. From this perspective, the multitude of opinions surrounding the priesthood will ultimately reside in the individual, in the exercise of their freedom. God's gift, our vocation, our call, is always there and is given willingly to those that are not afraid to accept it. I cannot imagine that God will abandon us to oblivion.

God sends an open invitation to generous hearts. This invitation is to be ourselves as we are created, even as imperfect as we may see ourselves. He is looking for those who are willing to allow Him to be part of their life. Individuals that will not be afraid to heal the broken, even when that means facing their humanity in a world where the value of a person is measured by their net balance between production and consumption.

God is always searching for those fearless hearts willing to bring justice to the poor, even when power and money appear to be the sum measure of personal effort. He is calling earnestly to all of us, in a very personal and individual way, to love without boundaries. Jesus himself shows us, with arms outstretched on the cross, defenceless and vulnerable, but preparing to embrace out of love, the whole of humanity. As St Teresa of Calcutta said, "I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love." We must not forget that Jesus presented the cross as the sign and symbol of God's love and redemption – a redemption made possible through his resurrection.

Do not be afraid to embark on your journey of faith. Of course, it will be different from everyone else! It is your gift, your vocation, your calling. To go with the flow does not mean that we are going in the right direction! There is nothing to be ashamed of - to 'hide your light under a bushel' - if we want to respond to God's invitation. God has called you by name (Isaiah 43:1) and is waiting. Come as you are. God is counting on you.

Planting the SEED

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CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

Fr Gonzalo Garcia Duran 07 4662 7031
Fr Jamie Collins 07 4622 1075

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Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

Matthew 9:37





DIOCESAN INSERVICE

PATRICE RIORDAN

Br Damien Price facilitates a journey of prayer and reflection for the September Diocesan Inservice.

On 10 and 11 September, the Toowoomba Diocese held its annual two-day inservice. This inservice's title was "Spirituality: Ministry and Meaning" with guest speaker Br Damien Price. Br Damien is a Christian Brother of the Oceania Province and was born in Pittsworth. He came to us with a wealth of knowledge linked to counselling, pastoral guidance, youth spirituality, pastoral care in schools, service-learning and campus ministry.

Day one Br Damien spoke of "Ministry and Meaning". We need to open our eyes to see things we have not seen before and to see ourselves as guests invited by the other, to stay with, be with and discover with a presence. The idea of "guest" was introduced and explored, and a gradual progression from guest to presence, presence to liberation and finally, liberation to compassion was developed. Experiencing people where they are at can be challenging, yet if this is not practiced, a lasting encounter will not occur.

Br Damien also spoke about inclusive communities and a deep recognition of the Baptismal call of each of us and what effect it has on our own lives. The "Healing Power of Forgiveness", by Fr Jim McManus cssr, was also explored

and unpacked. How does each of us forgive, and what is the outcome of forgiveness for ourselves? Is it seeking grace and healing?

On the second day, Br Damien encouraged us all to participate in "The Journey to Emmaus". Each attendee was encouraged to walk from one spot to another at the James Byrne Centre, stopping along the way to reflect on the Scripture putting ourselves in that moment. The exercise finished with a spiritual encounter where mindful reflection and prayer took place. The message received by taking part in this was to know the story, tell the story and become the story. Time was also spent listening to and sharing in various reflections and prayers, which were thought-provoking.

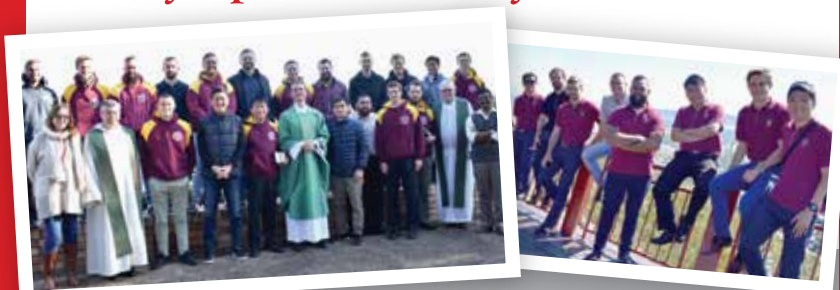
The lesson to take away from the two days, Br Damien explained that being a guest in the life of someone else begins a journey of experience. This journey of experience is multi-layered beginning with a surface experience. Over time this experience may become deeper, then tacit, moving towards existential before finally resting with change. It is this change we, as disciples of Christ, need to work towards every day of our earthbound lives.

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IN GOOD COMPANY AT ACPA AWARDS

INGRID MCTAGGART



Ingrid McTaggart presented with Best Article on Catechesis Award by Bishop Michael McKenna. Photo supplied by ACPA

Catholic media and communications professionals gathered in Bathurst in September for the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) Conference. The conference culminated in Mass at the Cathedral with Bishop Michael McKenna and the awards dinner. The awards, held annually, recognise excellence in Catholic magazines, newspapers and digital publications across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

“The Good Oil” won the major prize, the Bishop Kennedy Award, as well as Best Electronic Publication. The NZ-based “Marist Messenger” was awarded Best Print Magazine, while Adelaide’s “The Southern Cross” won Best Newspaper.

“Horizons” was pleased to be acknowledged with not one, but two awards this year. Loretta Coman was recognised for her article focusing on the ministry of Special Religious Development (SPRED) and the theology of accessibility from Issue #50 (May 2018). Loretta’s article won for Best Article on Catechesis. Judges praised her clarity and thoughtfulness

saying, “Loretta manages to both inform and to challenge the reader to consider, amongst a range of ideas, their understanding of the Christian’s growth in holiness as a journey in community, side by side with others.”

The magazine was also awarded Highly Commended in the category of Most Improved Publication. Judges commended the “...increased diversity of content without diminishing the publication’s diocesan focus”.

Another highlight of the ACPA awards dinner was a presentation by former President, Annie Carrett. Annie was previously Archivist for the Diocese of Toowoomba in the late 1990s to early 2000s, before moving to the Diocese of Broken Bay. She is currently the Director, Office of the Archbishop in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

A book chronicling the history of ACPA was also launched at the conference. The work, compiled by ACPA Archivist Fr Frank Freeman SDB, provides a valuable overview of the history of the association.

SETTING OFF FOR NEW HORIZONS

INGRID MCTAGGART

Life is full of change, and the creation of “Horizons” is not immune to this cycle. It is with sadness that the Toowoomba Diocese and Thorley Creative will part ways on the production of this magazine. Although it’s not all sad news, Joe and Maria Thorley are embarking on a new and exciting chapter in their lives.

“This really has been good for me to be able to do something for the community I grew up in,” said Joe. “I have a great sense of connection with Toowoomba and working on “Horizons” as the designer has meant far more to me than a business arrangement.”

Thorley Creative has assisted with the design and layout of “Horizons” since 2014, and the partnership has evolved into a great working relationship and friendship.

“I’ve appreciated Joe’s unique combination of understanding the needs of the diocese mixed with his design talent,” said Ingrid McTaggart, Editor. “Nothing has been too much for Joe and Maria, both have gone above and beyond.”

The Diocese wishes Joe and Maria all the best and every success in the future.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APPRECIATING THE INFLUENCE OF TEACHERS

DR PAT COUGHLAN

On 25 October, all of Australia celebrates World Teachers' Day, and rightly highlights the privileged position of the teaching profession in our society.

In recognition of this day I want to tell you about two different experiences of schooling which had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of students and me.

It's interesting that I ended up as a teacher because my own experience of school was less than ideal. Probably a product of that time, the regimented and austere nature of schooling did not suit my learning style or personality and I quickly lost interest becoming one of those invisible students in every classroom. After 12 long years I was pleased to see the end of formal schooling to start getting involved with things I was really interested in and good at.

Conversely, I watched my own children progress through primary and secondary school and the wonderful experiences they enjoyed with teachers who truly understood their privileged position to form and shape the all-important identity and self-confidence of students. One teacher in particular stood out as a shining example of what can happen when the chemistry and conditions are right. That teacher uncovered skills and confidence in my children that they possess to this day. She had genuine love of children and relentless belief that all children will learn if the conditions are right. For her it was a matter of persisting long enough to uncover the hidden gold, the elusive "sweet spot". This was no *laissez faire* classroom of low expectations and sloppy routines. Quite the opposite in fact. Students fell over themselves to reach and exceed the demands placed on them. Why? They knew that their teacher unconditionally respected and wanted the best for them. They knew it was safe to be myself in this lesson with this teacher. This teacher realised just how fragile and unique that piece of clay was that she was shaping and did so with the greatest of respect and sensitivity. Students knew almost instinctively that the teacher knew who they were and what made them tick.

Watching this a parent I also knew that my children

would not only be successful at school but in life because enough influential people other than my wife and myself were sending clear and regular messages to them that You are valued and You have something of worth to contribute to this world. That teacher, and many, many like her probably do not fully comprehend what they have done, in spite of my wife and I doing our best to convey our thanks and appreciation. I can think of no more influential person in the life of a child whilst they are at school than their teachers.

Everyone has a teacher story like this and the vast majority of these are positive. Now is the time for a new chapter for the profession, time for recognition that much of the work of the social infrastructure which underpins every democratic, inclusive, fair-minded and cohesive society is undertaken by teachers, as well as the building of our children into literate and numerate, imaginative, compassionate and curious seekers of knowledge and skill. Students across the nation are being taught how to think for themselves, to open their minds to the world, to create a bright future.

Their classroom teacher is a thought leader and influencer who could change their lives.

I am sometimes forced to stop myself falling into the habit of diminishing the dignity and privilege of the teaching profession. There are many, many reasons, why it would be easy to lose sight of teaching as a vocation, a calling to accept, and offer to others, the invitation extended to all of us by Jesus Christ I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly. There are countless students who are forever grateful that they encountered teachers who accepted the call to live life of abundance and enabled others to do likewise.

You are never, ever "only a teacher" and today, on this World Teachers' Day I extend my continued support for and admiration of the impact you have every day on the lives of your students.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY INTENSIVE VALUABLE FOR TEACHERS



Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity Project course a transformative experience for local teachers.

The recent Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity Project (ECSI) course in Brisbane was a week-long course, held at The O'Shea Centre (Brisbane Catholic Education) and included participants from all Catholic Dioceses in Queensland. Topics covered included: views on the contemporary situation; theology and tradition; the nature and purpose of the Catholic school and understanding; and using and analysing the data from the Enhancing Catholic Identity instruments. Kevin Murphy (St Mary's College, Toowoomba), Lisa Cavanagh (St Monica's School, Oakey) and Judy Smith (St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba) attended the course from our diocese.

"My big take-away from the week was the idea that the Catholic identity in our schools needs to be like the yeast in the dough, not just the cherry on top. Once the yeast has been added to the mix, you cannot distinguish it from the other parts yet, without it, your dough isn't the same. Likewise, our Catholic identity should permeate all aspects of our school," said Lisa Cavanagh.

Another take-away was the three roles of the religious education teacher in a Catholic school.

1. Witness – to be the lived example of Christ. If Christ sits at the centre of our OWN identity, how can we not witness this to our students?
2. Specialist – to have an understanding of theology and religious education. Some further study and training in this area is essential.
3. Moderator – to be the moderator of challenging and engaging dialogue in the religious education classroom, to assist the students to uncover their own understanding by experiencing different viewpoints. We expect inquiry

thinking in other subjects, why not in our Religious Education classrooms?

"It would be wonderful if all of our schools were dialogue schools. Where post-critical believers recontextualised religious education so that all of our students come to experience their own identity as formed in the likeness and image of Christ," said Lisa.

"I was very grateful for the opportunity to attend the ECSI Intensive program over the last week. The presenters, Robyn and Teresa, were world-class and delivered what was a full agenda in as engaging a manner as possible. I appreciate how fortunate I was to have this time to get my head around the ECSI program, particularly as I was not required to do the assignments! Everyone involved was very generous with sharing of resources which will be very useful to revisit both personally and to share with staff in the future," said Judy Smith.

Kevin Murphy summarised saying, "In a more general way, I would say that this was some of the most useful and impactful PD I have ever done. The processes by which we set about the recontextualising of our Catholic identity were practical and rooted in empirical research. The ECSI project takes the reality of secularisation and pluralisation into account and moves us into a space where we can affirm our Catholicity in response to these changes in society.

From participating in this course, I feel empowered to work with staff in our school at all levels to help them understand how we recontextualise our identity. The presenters from ACU and BCE were energetic and knowledgeable facilitators who were able to communicate the imperative of change of approach to our identity."



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CELEBRATING GRADUATION FOR ATSI STUDENTS A SPECIAL MOMENT

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, with Frs Hal Ranger and Peter Dorfield, after a special graduation Mass to recognise their achievements.

The Toowoomba Catholic Schools Mass for 2019 Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduands was held at St Patrick's Cathedral 14 October. Thirty students from Toowoomba and Warwick attended the Mass.

"The completion of Year 12 is a milestone to celebrate in all young people's lives. Although you may not grasp it fully now, you have a precious gift that over half the world's population do not have, a world-class education. Something that many people your age around the world can only dream of," said Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Toowoomba Catholic Schools. "I hope the last 13 years have also shaped you to know that this is not a gift to be selfishly hidden away and used to advance only your own personal interests and ambitions. It is a gift to be shared, to help others achieve what you have achieved and to make the most of the opportunities which come their way. Education is the great enabler to unlock and rise above the challenges and disadvantages which get in the way of people leading full and flourishing lives. Higher levels of education are associated with improved health outcomes, economic status and quality of life."

The Mass included several cultural rituals including a Smoking Ceremony, Acknowledgement of Country and

inclusion of cultural artefacts. A Graduation Ceremony followed the Mass, where each graduate wearing specially designed sashes was presented with a medallion as a memento of their graduation. Students shared morning tea following the ceremony.

The Mass was attended by Elders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, parents and family members, teachers, members of Toowoomba Catholic Schools leadership team, Toowoomba Regional Councillors and representatives from other organisations associated with Catholic and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Sam Elara, Vice-Captain of St Mary's College, is excited about completing his education and moving onto a new chapter in his life. "I began my secondary journey six years ago at St Mary's and to finish grade 12 opens the door to many more opportunities for myself. I have a school-based apprenticeship in cabinet making that I started in Year 10 and hope to gain employment with that. I love the college, and it was an honour to be made Vice-Captain this year and give back to the community that has provided so much to me and my family," said Sam.



QCEC Representatives visit St Saviour's College.

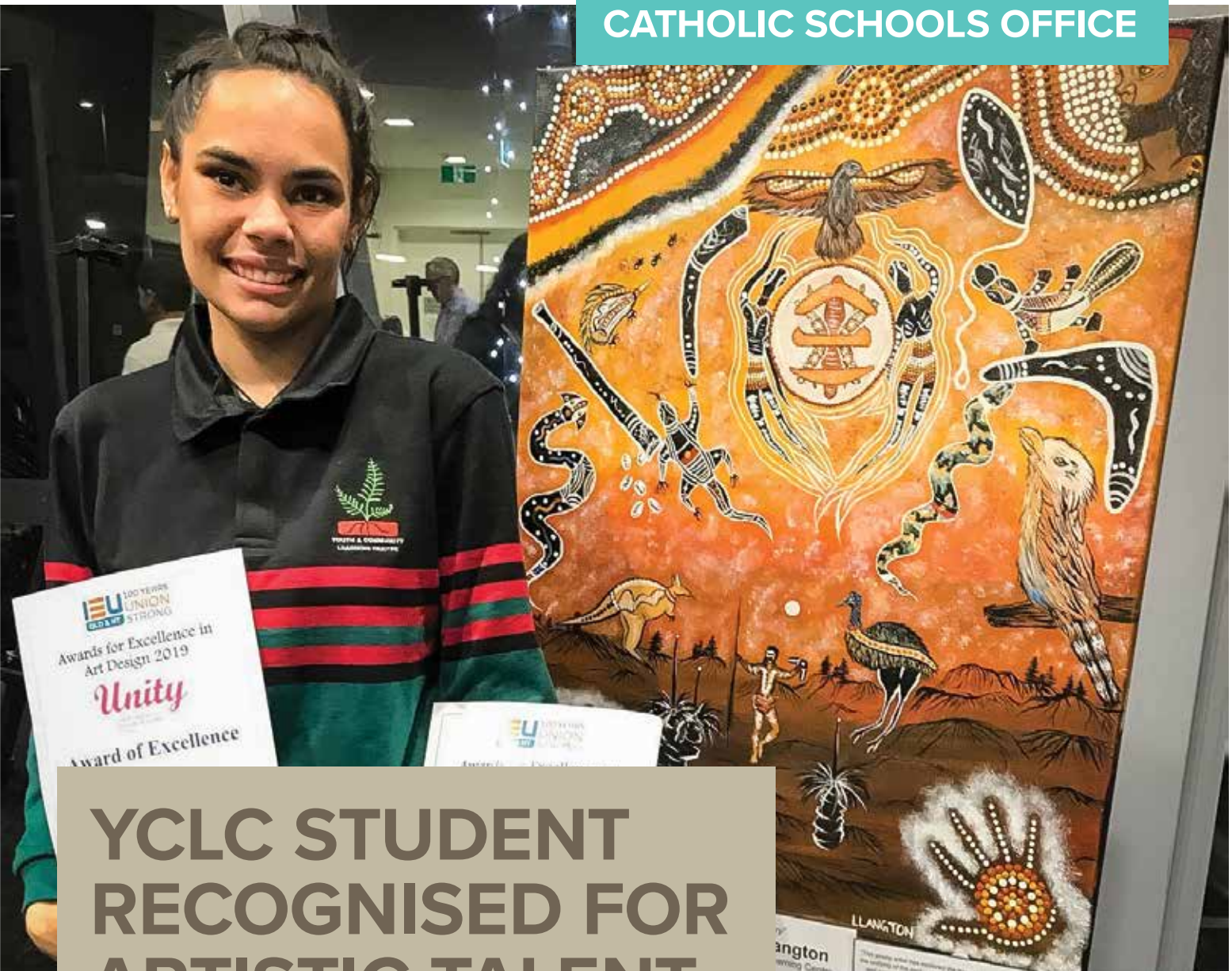
SHOWCASING CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN OUR DIOCESE

On Tuesday, 15 October Toowoomba Catholic Schools hosted members of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) for their October meeting. QCEC is the peak body representing Catholic education in Queensland. The Commission comprises the five diocesan school authorities and 17 Religious Institutes and other incorporated bodies which operate Catholic schools within Queensland and has a state-wide strategic role focused on advancing Catholic education.

“It is important that the Commission visits regional areas to ensure the unique contexts of our schools are fully known and understood by the Commission

members. Having the Commission visit Toowoomba enabled us to showcase the new TCS office facilities as well as facilitate a visit to two local schools, St Saviour's College and St Saviour's Primary School. During these visits, the respective principals were able to share the current strategic priorities and how these were being put into practice in classrooms,” said Dr Patrick Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools.

“It is as a result of such visits that the Commission members can be better informed and lobby effectively for Catholic education in State and National forums.”



Lurleen Langton with her award winning piece 'Our Story'.

YCLC STUDENT RECOGNISED FOR ARTISTIC TALENT

In September, the Independent Education Union-Queensland and Northern Territory Branch, held its annual Awards for Excellence in Art Design competition at the Queensland Multicultural Centre in Brisbane.

The Excellence in Art Design Awards are open to preschool, primary and secondary school students and teachers in non-government schools throughout Queensland and the Northern Territory. This year's competition theme was 'Unity' – inspired by the Helen Keller statement, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".

Youth and Community Learning Centre's (YCLC) student, Lurleen Langton was the recipient of two awards. Her artwork titled, 'Our Story' won two categories, Indigenous Art-Years 5-12, and Art-Years 9-10.

"This young artist has explored the essence of land, culture and the unifying of the past with the next generation, both physically and spiritually. The symbolism and story in the painting are effective and speaks to the audience in an energetic and spiritual tone that is accessible and therefore contributes in 'unity' and

understanding. Beautifully executed!" said judge, Julie Seidel.

Another judge, Aunty Thersa Nunn said, "This beautiful painting represents everyone and everything. It is evident that Lurleen has been listening to her elders and brings everything into her artwork. The Cherbourg country totems are represented beautifully and identifies unity between land and people. I am in absolute awe that a young person can produce such an amazing piece of art."

Comments from other attendees of the showcase acknowledged Lurleen's talent as an artist, as well as, her insightfulness and resilience as a young woman. Comments such as "... her artwork is of a level and quality that I have never seen before", and "Lurleen's work is breath-taking. I couldn't take my eyes off the piece", will inspire Lurleen to pursue her artistic work long into the future.

"Youth and Community Learning Centre encourages young people to develop their skills, talents and abilities. We celebrate Lurleen's success, along with the successes of all our young people and community members," said Liisa Hammond, YCLC Principal.

BRIEF

EDUCATION NEWS



Fr Warren Padilla and Fr Peter Doohan shared their sporting prowess with the St Mary's School, Charleville students. Fr Warren giving a tennis lesson while Fr Peter shared the finer points of golf.



St Stephen's School, Pittsworth have supported our drought-affected friends in the west by donating bottled water. The MacKillop Club would like to thank our kind families for their support as we stand with those communities who are severely affected by the unrelenting drought.



St Patrick's School, St George celebrated NAIDOC Week in August. The community and students were welcomed to the church by Gordon who played the didgeridoo.



St Mary's College student Bode Ferguson and participant Des Orr were proud to share Des's story in "Wise Humans of the Downs"

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN OUR YOUTH AND ELDERLY BRONTE LATHAM

St Mary's College, Toowoomba has led the way in inspiring the boys to undertake intimate conversations with others, especially our local, older residents. Their friendships with Darling Down elderly citizens have gone from conversations to publication. Launched during Queensland Seniors Week, the book "Wise Humans of the Downs", is a special project by not-for-profit organisation YellowBridge QLD in partnership with the college.

Secondary students from St Mary's captured 30 stories of these elderly people. Students sat with YellowBridge senior participants, including St Mary's College Old Boys, to listen to and record snippets of their lives. Students soon realised that talking to older people can be a powerful, sometimes life-changing experience. The boys learn so much about life in past generations and receive grateful tips on how to navigate their life's journey.

St Mary's College Year 11 student Lachlan Whitaker had the honour of sharing Old Boy Jim Madden's story in the publication. "This was an amazing opportunity which I am proud to have been a part. Listening to Jim taught me a lot, about never giving up in life, and always trying and trying some more." Said Lachlan.

St Mary's College Principal, Mr Michael Newman, said the project provided a unique opportunity for students. "The benefits of this listening exercise have been immeasurable." Mr Newman said. "Our society has many a rich story to share into the future. The boys have been blessed to listen

to the wisdom and share in the goodness of the elderly who they interviewed. The men and women have been respected, dignified and acclaimed for the people they are and the contributions they have made through their lives. The result is a superb publication."

The boys from Years 9 to 12 jumped at the chance to meet and interview the senior participants. The project has been a unique opportunity for them to connect with an older person who they are not related to and to be captivated and inspired by their life's experiences.

"We can learn so much from the older members of our community, and we wanted to help share their wisdom and tales," YellowBridge Chief Executive Officer, Penny Hamilton said. "It is fascinating to hear how life was in previous generations and how people survived triumphs and tragedies along the way," she said. "We believe that everyone has a story to tell. The ordinary is just as important as the extraordinary, and they help us to have more compassion, empathy and appreciation for others."

St Mary's College has a proud history of providing experiences for students that cultivate compassion, dignity and justice in the boys. Experiences like being part of this project are invaluable to developing responsible and caring young men who live the College vision, to be men of faith, integrity, action and excellence.

Copies of "Wise Humans of the Downs" can be found in local businesses, or by contacting St Mary's College.



PITTSWORTH PING PONG

KRISTY CAMERON

Junior finalists, Oliver Cameron and Jacob Mahon, battle it out.

During Catholic Education Week, MacKillop Club hosted St Stephen's School's annual ping pong competition for Mission of Mercy and Hope. This competition draws plenty of enthusiastic participation from the whole school. The tournament continued at lunchtime during term 3. This year, a fun staff competition was a welcomed addition for both students and staff. The grand final was celebrated again with Fr Thomas Areekuzhy. Junior finalists, Jacob Mahon and Oliver Cameron, went head-to-head in a nail-biting game.

Senior finalists, Isaac Mahon and Thomas Croft also battled it out. Both matches showed we have some fierce competitors at St Stephen's School.

The staff grand final was well supported also. The winner on staff went on to play the winning senior student, and Fr Thomas took on the winning junior student.

St Stephen's School community have enthusiastically supported Mission of Mercy and Hope, and through the tournament, we were proud to send \$70 to this worthy charity.



St Mary's College
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Years 5-12



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HIGHFIELDS STEPS UP TO SUPPORT STANTHORPE IN TIME OF NEED

Mary MacKillop Race Day shifts focus from local community to broader community to benefit bushfire effected Stanthorpe.

Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields has lead an effort to support those affected by recent bushfires on the Granite Belt. Together with major sponsor Toowoomba Plastics and six other local sponsors and the generosity of the community, the school has raised more than \$13,000 from their recent race day.

Considering the recent fires have further devastated an already drought-stricken community, the college and its sponsors decided to donate all the funds raised.

College principal Chris Gabbett said, "Our neighbours in Stanthorpe are currently battling with tragedy and in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we have to act on this and show our support."

The race day was initially intended to build community, not as a fundraiser, until the idea from the principal came about to help another community. "We know that many people in our wider community and right throughout the south east region have rallied around to send water to the district, which are unbelievable acts of kindness. The hope is that we can help those people who we have seen on the news that have lost everything, have property damage or need a helping hand."

The event would not have been possible without the generosity of the school community and sponsors who donated raffle prizes and bought tickets to raise these funds.

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Team effort for St Saviour's College Teen Vinnies program.

LIVING MERCY AT ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE

LINDA CREEDON

The St Saviour's College Youth Ministry team have had a busy Term 3 organising appeals to help those less fortunate in our community. After a visit from Julie Inskip, St Vincent De Paul, Youth Engagement and Community Development Officer, our enthusiastic team organised a winter clothing appeal. They urged students and members of our community to bring in their surplus winter clothes, blankets, beanies and scarfs to a collection point in our Student Services area. The collection grew, and within weeks we were able to donate the winter woollies to St Vincent De Paul and help the homeless in our community during this difficult time.

Another Youth Ministry initiative undertaken in Term 3 was the *Share the Dignity - It's in the Bag Campaign*. Through an invitation from the Youth Ministry Team, the College was visited by Daniel Patava, a member of Toowoomba Youth Parliament. Daniel spoke to our students about the Youth Parliament's support for the bi-annual *Share the Dignity* drive. The drive involves collecting hygiene products in handbags to donate to women in our community experiencing poverty and homelessness. Daniel placed a large box in our Student Services reception, and within weeks it was overflowing with bags of all sizes.

One of the new ideas initiated by students at St Saviour's who are living mercy is the inception of a Youth Vinnies program. Year 12 students Hannah Purvis and Keeley Crothers developed the concept of a Teen Vinnies group. Both Hannah and Keeley are passionate about getting Year 11 and 12 students involved in helping other young people in the community who are experiencing hardship. The idea is to start a Buddy Program that would give children between the ages of 8 and 10 some fun, friendship and company. The group decided to raise money for the concept through a Trivia Night at the College and invited other schools to join them, raising \$200 for the initiative. Teen Vinnies with Julie Inskip from St Vincent de Paul, and staff from St Mary's and St Saviour's, the group were able to take a busload of children to the Darling Downs Zoo for the day.

The students are putting processes in place that will give the project longevity. Their ideas include reaching out to other schools to ensure they have ongoing volunteers and developing a sound core of dedicated teens with a passion for living mercy.



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SUPPORTING RURAL FAMILIES AT DOWNLANDS

ANNE MCATOMNEY



Downlands College supports rural students and families

Downlands College has a long tradition of catering for students from rural properties. The college is keenly aware of the great sadness and hardship the ongoing drought is causing for many of our families, and care for rural families is a high priority.

In addition to making direct contributions to appeals, Downlands provide students with a sense of connection to the land so close to their hearts. The college supports Vinnies' appeals and charity drives such as Drought Busters and Drought Angels. For many rural students, enjoying the wide-open and treed spaces that make up the College grounds as well as the beautiful gardens and College Rural Centre activities lifts their spirits.

Many students remain connected to the land through their studies in subjects such as agricultural science and agricultural education. Students are also given opportunities to develop industry partnerships through membership of the College Cattle Show Team or participation in Moo Baa Munch at the College Rural Centre. This annual event is designed to showcase career pathways in agriculture as well as educate primary school-aged children about the origins of their food.

In all these ways, Downlands aims to be a place where students can grow and flourish and where their hearts really can find a home.



TURNING PERSONAL INTEREST INTO SOMETHING MORE

MICHAEL MONTAFIA

A group of Downlands Year 9 students give back by repairing local mountain bike tracks for their PIP.

Each year Downlands College Year 9 students venture into the local community and beyond to participate in Personal Interest Projects (PIP). This program aims to develop social awareness and concern for the welfare, rights and dignity of all people, and aim that directly correlates with the values and beliefs aspired to by the Downlands community.

Students are encouraged to identify areas of need that might also challenge them to step outside their comfort zone. The students volunteered with diverse organisations such as Infin8 Care, Bupa Rangeville, Bupa Glenvale, Clifford Park Special School, Rockville State School, Friends of the Escarpment, Mirambeena Kindergarten, Lifeline Superstore, Emerge and Kate's Place. One group of boys who are mountain-biking enthusiasts identified track maintenance at the Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club as a way they could help others and give back. The boys felt that the tracks needed repair, particularly with the ongoing dry

weather and following from school holidays.

According to Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club (TMBC) President, Juliet Redding, the boys' project was an unexpected bonus for TMBC. "Our trails are maintained entirely by volunteers, so having the boys pitch in and help was appreciated."

Local club member Peter Colthup helped supervise and support the students. "I was happy to help such enthusiastic boys who are wanting to give back to their community. They worked very hard over the three days, and I'm sure it has helped them to realise the amount of work that goes into maintaining the trail networks that they enjoy so much".

The PIP program at Downlands serves to open students' hearts to the many and varied, wonderful ways they can make a difference in the world. By doing so, they give life to the words of Fr Jules Chevalier, founder of the MSC: "It is by the heart that we are something".



Mini Vinnies and Warwick St Vincent de Paul come together to celebrate Good Works.

FEAST DAY A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION FOR WARWICK

SHARON YOUNG

This year St Vincent de Paul Society celebrates 125 years in Qld helping with Good Works. Blessed Frederic Ozanam was a French literary scholar, lawyer, journalist and equal rights advocate. He founded, with fellow students, the Conference of Charity, later known as the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Blessed Frederic Ozanam's feast day is September 9. To celebrate the occasion St Mary's School Warwick Mini

Vinnies joined the Warwick Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society for Mass and morning tea.

We are proud that St Mary's Mini Vinnies students are following in the footsteps of 125 years of service to those in need. This year they have worked on creating hospital packs for the Warwick hospital, fundraising and raising awareness around justice issues.

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WIN FOR ST SAVIOUR'S STUDENT

Dominic Seaby, a student from St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba recently won the under 10 high jump at the School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships in Darwin.

This was the first year that Dominic was old enough to compete at this level. All competitors are selected by the respective State/Territory School Sport Associations. Dominic was initially chosen to compete for his school before moving to the zone championships and finally the Darling Downs team where he qualified to represent the State.

"I was successful doing scissors at the school and zone track and field events but for the last three to four months before the State titles I did flop training which I did well at. I won the State titles with a jump of 1.45 metres and then went on to win the National championships," said Dominic.

Dominic also competed in discus, 100m and 200m sprints in the zone championships.



Dominic Seaby with his medal for his under 10 high jump win.

"I am still training as I hope to make the national championships again next year. I will continue sprinting as you need to be a fast runner to be successful at high jump," said Dominic.

Dominic also plays rugby union, cricket and is a keen swimmer.

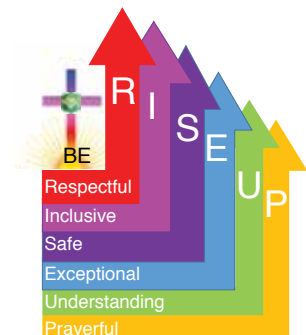


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Catholic Education Week in St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe.

THE SPIRIT OF JOEY'S STRONG IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

STACEY COLTHUP

In July St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe marked Catholic Education Week. A time to celebrate Catholic education, its many achievements and substantial contribution to the broader community.

The theme for this year's celebration, "Many voices, one spirit", reflected the rich and diverse voices which make up the spirit of St Joseph's School. The many voices of the past, present and future have shaped and moulded the school since it was first established in 1875 by the Sisters of Mercy. Through these voices, the school shares a story strong in history and tradition, a story which continues to evolve.

A liturgy held on 30 July was a perfect opportunity to hear from students who have previously attended the school, with several past students coming along to help the school celebrate. From stories about the Walkathon to Storm King Dam to marble challenges and the influence of the Sisters of Mercy, the school took great delight in hearing of days gone past at St Joseph's School.

A sausage sizzle, guided tour and history display showcasing photos, school uniforms and other memorabilia from the school's 144-year history were part of the celebrations to mark the special week.

R U OK THE BRIGHTEST DAY FOR STUDENTS

STACEY COLTHUP



Stanthorpe Students Highlighting R U OK Day.

As part of pastoral care activities, St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe student participated in R U OK? Day on 12 September. Perhaps the biggest and brightest day of the year! The day is dedicated to raising awareness of mental health and suicide prevention. Participants are encouraged to wear yellow and check in with those around them by asking, "Are you ok?".

Each year our school participates in the nation-wide

event, aiming to inspire our students to be the generation that transforms the way we look out for anyone struggling with life.

Students were encouraged to wear or accessorise with yellow items, with a whole school sausage sizzle also held. Students also participated in activities aimed to educate about mental well being and age-appropriate mental health issues, which can be challenging to cover in the classroom.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND GIVING THANKS

JENNY FERGUSON



Our Lady of Lourdes' gratitude tree full of life giving moments.

Each October we celebrate our annual Family Mass. Only one Mass is offered that weekend in the Parish and the various congregations are encouraged to meet and mingle before and after the celebration of the Eucharist.

The Readings of the day inspired the Liturgy Group to create a Gratitude Tree on a wall inside the church so that people could write their individual prayers of gratitude. The tree burst into life with the addition of expressions of grateful thanks for our blessings. Teachers and students from Our Lady of Lourdes School also participated by

adding their own prayers to those of the parishioners. Fr John Quinlan's homily invited each of us to thank those seated near us for the wonderful work that they do in the parish.

The celebration was a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to come together with members of the parish community who they may not know. Morning tea was served in the school hall following the Mass giving all yet another opportunity to socialise.

PRAYERFUL COMFORT FOR FAMILIES TOUCHED BY PREGNANCY LOSS

JENNY FERGUSON

On 15 October, our parish Ecumenism Group and the Toowoomba Hospital Pastoral Care Service hosted a memorial for families affected by pregnancy loss, led by Rev Pauline Harley, pastor at West Toowoomba Anglican parish. The ecumenical prayer service combined song, prayer, scripture, story and symbolic action to name, validate and acknowledge the heartbreak of loss of little lives whether recent or many years past. It was evident

that comfort, meaning, even healing had been received by many attendees. For some, merely a door had been opened, thus enabling opportunity for an ongoing prayerful situation.

An Invitation: Parents and families affected by pregnancy loss are invited to Rock of Remembrance Services, held at 2pm on the last Friday of February, June and October, at the Garden of Remembrance, Toowoomba.



Sr Nora takes stock of the damage from the sacristy fire as a crew of parishioners begin clean-up.



Fr Gerardo inspects the damage to his vestments.

BLAZE DESTROYS PART OF CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ROMA

An electrical fault was the cause of a major blaze in the sacristy of All Saints Church, Roma on Thursday evening 19 September.

Fire and emergency services were alerted by passers-by who noticed thick smoke billowing from the building at about 8:30 pm. Chair of the St John's School Board, Jason Coonan was one of the first on the scene and attacked the blaze with a garden hose until authorities arrived.

Parish Priest, Fr Jamie Collins has been overwhelmed with messages and offers of support since the fire. "One of the most touching offers was from Roma's newly appointed Anglican minister, Heather Dearden, who offered communion supplies for the following Sunday."

Fr Jamie said that fortunately for the parish the fire proof safe adjacent to the sacristy did its job. Many of the parish's liturgical items, including chalices, bowls, candles and parish records were saved from the full impact of the fire.

However, much was lost or damaged by the fire. Parish vestments, lectionaries, altar cloths, banners, a large quantity of flowers, the presider's chair and processional cross, were some of the items lost to the fire.

Fr Jamie said that Fr Gerardo Tubis, who recently arrived in the parish, sadly lost some of his vestments. "I am so grateful for all the support that has been forthcoming since the devastating fire", said Fr Jamie.

Fire damaged fittings in the sacristy have been removed

and the rooms cleared for the restoration process to take place. Local builders and electricians have been appointed for the reconstruction that is expected to commence shortly.





Bishop Robert McGuckin presents Judith Grath-Colquhoun with a bunch of flowers in thanks for Australian Heritage Funerals support of the floral display.

CATHEDRAL FLORAL DISPLAY A SUCCESS AGAIN MARY SCHWARTZ

The 2019 St Patrick's Cathedral Floral Display offered to all who visited an opportunity to embrace the creative gifts of local floral artists, parishes, schools and diocesan ministries. The beauty and perfume of the flowers filled the soaring space of St Patrick's Cathedral with a sense of peace and calm. This year's theme was the Spirit.

Entering the front doors on James Street, visitors eyes were drawn to large arrangements on each of the columns bright with the colours of the Spirit. Small vases of natives lead visitors down the central aisle of the church leading to the marble pulpit to the right, decorated in a cascade of colour.

Environmental artist Suzanne Bauer lead a team of florists and students from the Flowers to Impress School of Floristry who designed and created all works in the central nave area.

Continuing through into the Sanctuary space, attention was drawn to a 5-panelled polyptych featuring an autumn forest. Displays in the entire sanctuary space, including the Mercy Chapel and the two side altars, were lovingly

designed and created by Janelle and Michael Petrie with their very generous team of florists and friends. Their creativity continued along the western aisle which paired with a beautiful display featuring a Spirit Dove in the choir area fashioned by the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.

In the eastern aisle, diocesan school, parish and ministry groups have offered their energies of the Spirit through beautiful and inspiring displays of flowers and art.

The floral display was blessed and opened by Bishop Robert McGuckin on 19 September. Bishop Robert praised the hard work of all involved and commended everyone on another beautiful presentation. Also on hand was Judith McGrath-Colquhoun from Australian Heritage Funerals to present a cheque for sponsorship for the display. Judith said it has been a pleasure to sponsor the floral display for many years and is a wonderful way to be part of this community.

The display received a good number of visitors over the week. One of the volunteer greeters commented that visitors were in awe of the creative arrangements and the beauty of the cathedral itself.





PITTSWORTH MARKS ELEVEN DECADES OF ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

MICHELLE ARNOLD

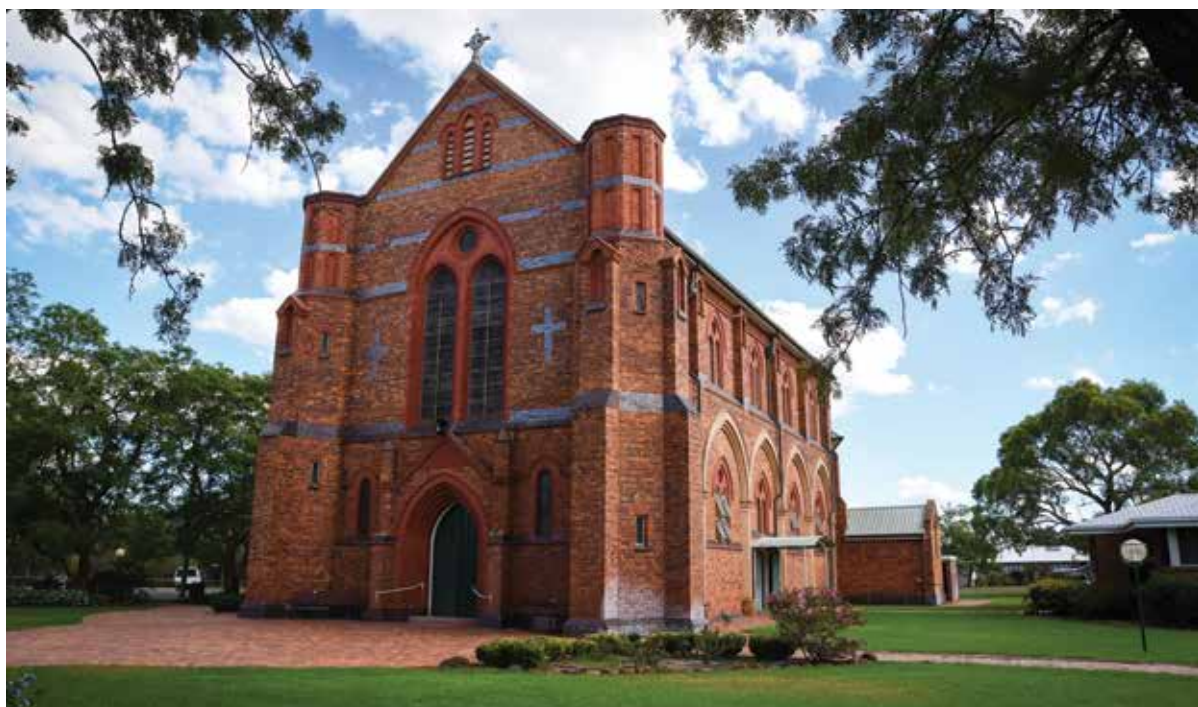
L to R: Frs Mick Carroll, Rod MacGinley, Thomas Areekuzhy, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Cooper Hutley, Ellie and Chloe Denning and Jillian Tandy after Mass

On 15 September, St Stephen's Parish, Pittsworth celebrated the 110th anniversary of the building of the church in Hume Street. The architects commissioned for the design of the church were J A Marks and Sons of Toowoomba. In 1903 the land was purchased, in 1908 the foundation stone was laid, and in 1909 the church was opened.

Bishop Robert McGuckin celebrated the Mass to mark the anniversary, with Frs Mick Carroll, Rod MacGinley and Thomas Areekuzhy concelebrating. The church was filled with parishioners and visitors. Prayers were offered in thanksgiving to our pioneers who had the foresight and enthusiasm to build our magnificent church. The building is a credit to the commitment of the Catholic community and

all who have served and worshipped here and maintained it beautifully.

Special items were unveiled in memory of the occasion, and a new banner was created by ladies of the parish. The banner denotes the strength of the community in a tree laden with animals and foliage, the roots represent the foundation of the parish and community in its branches, reaching out and bringing life to the community. A Priests Honour Board was donated to the church by the Hintz Family in Memory of their parents Bill and Florrie Hintz. A pictorial booklet was published to celebrate the occasion as well and are available from the church office.



St Stephen's Church,
Pittsworth



Highfields Parishioners embark on a local sight seeing tour.

PARISH TRIP DELIGHTS WITH LOCAL SIGHTS

PATTI MCNAUGHT

On 4 August, parishioners from Mary of the Southern Cross Parish, Highfields set off on a trip full of surprises, fun and frivolity. Organised by Mike and Mel Kalinowski and Nadine and Phil Dolan, the bus trip took us on a wonderful journey via Goombungee, Maclagan, Kaimkillenbun and Bell. This trip enabled us to get to know our fellow parishioners a little better and not just by name. The bus left Mary MacKillop College at 9am after Mass. All enjoyed a warm cuppa before boarding Robinson's Coach. The bus was filled to capacity, with Graham Robinson himself at the helm.

Our first stop was at the Goombungee Art Gallery in the local library. We were able to view various art pieces and lots of beautiful craft. We then continued along the highway until we reached the Acland Mine. Although we were not able to enter the mine site, we were told lots of stories about it. From the bus you could see a glimpse of a home among the mining, quite an unusual sight. We heard about the old fellow who remained in his house even though he had been offered quite a sum money to sell out.

We followed our journey through small towns such as Maclagan and Quinalow. We paused at times to learn the history of surrounding properties and dairy farms from Mike and Graham. Our next stop was at Kaimkillenbun for morning tea and a chat.

Moving on, we arrived at our next destination, the Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Bell. A gorgeous country church revealing the most amazing interior we have ever seen.

We'd previously read about these paintings and their artist Megg Cullen, but in reality, it is a sight to behold. The original series of paintings on the side walls of the interior of the building were completed for the church's 95th anniversary. The church gardens are also a mind-blowing sight with specimens of plants and trees mentioned in the Bible and also includes artworks of the Passion of Christ and St Mary MacKillop.

To end our trip, we were taken to Russell's hotel for lunch. We enjoyed a sumptuous lunch and shared a laugh, feeling that we were old friends now.

PRAYING FOR RAIN

CLAIRE MCGOVERN



With the need for rain across our region, a group has been gathering Sunday afternoons to pray for rain. Our first gathering at Holy Name Parish started with the reading of creation from Genesis as a reminder of the greatness of God and His creation.

Fr Darrell Irvine and 60 people from Holy Name Parish and other Toowoomba Parishes gathered on Our Lady's birthday on 8 September to pray for desperately needed rain. With many farmers in the Parish feeling the effects

of the current drought, it was decided that a Rosary for Rain be held. This gathering is an opportunity for people throughout the city to come together to pray for those on the land. Each afternoon of prayer consists of reflections by the saints, rosary, hymns and Divine Mercy Chaplet. A social cuppa held afterwards provides an opportunity for people to have a chat.

Rosary for Rain: Sundays at 2:00pm, at Holy Name (cnr Bridge & West Sts, Toowoomba). All are welcome to join in prayer.



VISITING PRIESTS CELEBRATE IN NATIVE LANGUAGE FOR COMMUNITY

SR ELIZABETH O'KEEFFE

Fr Joseph Vu (centre) with the Vietnamese community, Sr Elizabeth O'Keefe and Fr Peter Doohan.

Recently the members of our Vietnamese community were excited to celebrate Mass in their language thanks to two visiting Vietnamese priests. Fr Joseph Vu, the Vietnamese chaplain from the Inala Parish in Brisbane, flew out to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption with them. While here, he was also able to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fr Anthony Ha, the Vietnamese Chaplain from the Diocese of Wollongong, was also able to celebrate the Sacraments with the community. Fr Anthony travelled to Charleville with his sister and brother-in-law who were visiting from Vietnam, and have a daughter living here.

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A BELL FOR BELL

JANITA THOMSON

When the church at Bell was erected in 1912, it was missing an essential element, a bell to ring! On 5 October, this was remedied when a beautiful bell was installed and blessed at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Bell.

The historic church in the heart of the Western Downs was gifted the artisan forged bell by Olds Engineering and Foundry in Maryborough, Queensland. Peter Olds, whose famous foundry has cast a bed for Pope John Paul II and created spokes for the Queen's ceremonial carriage, learned of the small church's need after an episode of "Great Weekender". The program highlighted the unique church, the beautiful murals painted by Megg Cullen and it's surrounding biblical garden. The tower was designed by Megg and constructed with assistance from Men's Shed Dalby. The bell itself was cast by Lachlan Hansen, and apprentice at Olds Engineering & Foundry.

The bell was installed amidst a lively, well-attended ceremony and will now melodically toll for all special moments in the life of the church in Bell. Its addition, together with the Church murals and Biblical gardens, provide the small community of Bell with a vibrant tourist attraction.



L to R: Bridget Adams (Presenter from Queensland Weekender), Megg Cullen, Cec Woods (Men's Shed Dalby), Lachlan Hansen and Peter Olds.

ALLORA LUNCHEON TO SUPPORT JOSEPHITES

SR DI PHILLIPS

On 13 September the Josephite Associates from Allora hosted their annual luncheon in the parish centre. People came from Brisbane, Warwick, Allora and districts in between.

Sr Christine Symonds came from Brisbane with some Peruvian goods for people to buy. Two lovely jackets were auctioned, with all monies raised on the day benefiting Mary MacKillop Today, a group committed to continuing the work of the Sisters of St Joseph.

Participants paid for the meal and received lucky door

numbers. There were several raffles and games to play at the tables. The Associates and their helpers worked hard to ensure the event was successful.

It was an excellent time for catching up with friends, meeting new people and having fun. Laughter emanated from the tables as people played guessing games and shared conversation. Guests expressed their gratitude to the wonderful women who provided the meal and to those who served it.



Parishioners enjoyed the annual luncheon that raised funds for Mary MacKillop Today.



Fr Brian Connolly with parishioners of a different kind

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

SELINA VENIER



Fr Brian Connolly with Hector Burton's Dog, King

St Francis of Assisi would have enjoyed seeing well-loved pets and their owners gathered for prayer on 6 October at St Joseph's Parish, Stanthorpe. The grounds of the former convent welcomed a number of canine species and one cat for the celebration, to coincide with the patron of animals' feast 4 October.

Parish Priest Fr Brian Connolly spoke of God's goodness in creation from Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*. "The entire material universe speaks of God's love, His boundless affection for us," Fr Brian quoted of Our Holy Father's writings.

"God has written a precious book whose letters are the multitude of created things present in the universe ... (and) no creature is excluded from this manifestation of God," he continued. "Nature is a constant source of wonder and awe. It is also a continuing revelation of the divine."

Parishioner Shirlee Russell missed the blessing of pets in previous years but was delighted to attend with her poodle, Pierre. Fr Brian made a point of meeting and blessing each pet while parish musicians ably led prayerful accompaniment of the celebration.

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Father's Day Celebrated at Sacred Heart, Cunnamulla.

GREAT SENSE OF COMMUNITY AT CUNNAMULLA

SR MAUREEN ANDREWS

Late afternoon walking the dog along the main street of Cunnamulla I listened to the evangelist who visits regularly speak about the Bible. I had to admire his commitment, and I began to reflect on what events had touched my heart over the past months.

First, there was a joyful baptism in Thargomindah. The petite Lillian Pike looked so lovely in her long lace dress, lace headband complete with a flower and a smile on her face. Her two brothers were busily searching the Baptismal register to see where their details were recorded, and soon the adults joined them. There was such joy and total concentration during the service. My hopes were raised that the memory of this event might stay with them for a long time, and they may realise how loved they are by God.

Secondly was the Father's Day liturgy in the school. The careful planning of the service and the songs ensured that the children were involved. A small group of fathers and grandfathers arrived. What touched me was the reaction of the fathers when their children came and placed a rather large medallion around the neck of their father. It was so

good to see the fathers embrace their children, cuddle them and express their gratitude.

Thirdly, Jenny Shellshear, our long-term reliever invited the parents of her class to a "Night at Our Toy Museum". The event was hosted by the year 2/3 class in August. The event was the culmination of a unit where students researched how toys changed over time. They were required to write an informative text about their toy of study, dress like it and use an app to produce a short video of them playing with it. It was a great success and well supported by our parents and caregivers.

Finally, I admired the group of Aboriginal women who spent 31 days of prayer for 24 hours a day in the Shire Hall Supper Room. An invitation was open to all. Perhaps this will play a part in the next sessions we have for the Plenary Council discernments.

So, we learn that grace abounds in the ordinary events of our lives, and we are filled with gratitude.

BRIEF

PARISH NEWS



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish marked Refugee and Migrant Sunday in August to acknowledge and celebrate the cultural diversity within the community. Greeters before Mass welcomed everyone in their native language and songs and prayers were offered during Mass in different languages, including Filipino, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Indonesian and Swahili. Students from Our Lady of Lourdes School also provided beautiful artwork representing their country of birth.



Fr Gerardo Tubis celebrated a special Mass for Fathers' Day at St Columba's Church at Mitchell with students from St Patrick's School. The congregation included several fathers and grandfathers. The students gave a presentation, including a Power Point display, speaking about various aspects of their father being involved in their life.



Highfields Parish recently celebrated a special healing Mass for sick and elderly parishioners.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference in Highfields offered to provide transport for those who wished to go and had no means of travel, as well as refreshments after Mass. The Mass was appreciated by the community.

OUR SACRAMENTAL JOURNEYS

After months of preparation in schools and parishes, many across our diocese have been celebrating the sacraments. Thank you to parents, teachers and parishioners who have helped guide the children through these important milestones in their faith journey in the Catholic Church.

HOLY NAME - COMMUNION

Seven children celebrated First Communion at Holy Name Parish. The children were prepared for the sacrament by Carol Keutmann and First Communion was celebrated by Fr Darrell Irvine. Afterwards, a beautiful cake, made by Belinda Lanzon, was shared amongst the parishioners.



TAROOM - RECONCILIATION

ROMA - COMMUNION

Gerard Mulligan, President of the Roma St. Vincent's de Paul Society, handing out gifts to children celebrating First Communion at All Saints' Church, Roma.



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