

Horizons



**Diocese Welcomes
Audit: Improving our
Safeguarding Practices**

Catholic Education Week

Our Sacramental Journeys

#62
Sept21

FREE Publication
of the Catholic
Diocese of
Toowoomba

Horizons

FROM THE EDITOR

INGRID MCTAGGART

History follows us around, the good, the bad and the in-between. Every so often, we like to look back, reminisce or research. Looking at the stories in this issue of "Horizons", I was struck by the amount of history we are celebrating. This could easily be the history issue.

We have two church buildings that mark 100 years of providing a spiritual hub for the respective communities. There's a school celebrating 60 years of education. Catholic Education as an institution itself marks 200 years of existence in Australia. There are eight teachers, each celebrating 40 or more years of service as educators. Again we invited one of our retired clergy to share his story and history. A nurse at St Vincent's is retiring after 44 years of care. Her service described as a bridge between the founding Sisters of Charity and what the hospital is now.

In this issue, I see other ways we are encouraged to interact with history. In NAIDOC Week, we were invited to "Heal Country!" by delving into history, embracing First Nations Peoples' connection and understanding of Country and valuing it as part of Australia's national heritage. Our diocese will be part of an audit of our safeguarding practices. The audit will give us a real test of our learnings from the combined history brought to light by the Royal

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, present and emerging.

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Commission into Child Sexual Abuse.

The Provincial Seminary at Banyo also celebrated the 80th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone. In the introduction to his speech, Nathan Webb gives a short timeline, a brief breakdown of priestly formation compared to his own journey. I can relate; the sense of your own scale can be brought into focus when you dive into history

that stretches into years, decades, centuries and beyond. Happy diving!

"Our life is made of time, and time is God's gift, and it is therefore important to make use of it by performing good and fruitful actions."

Pope Francis (2014)

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Roma Leadership Mass brings community together (Photo: Katarina Silvester) Story page 25
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Bishop Robert celebrates nine years as Bishop of Toowoomba during Mass, Sunday 11 July.

As we move towards spring, the corona virus is still very active in many parts of the world including Australia.

Parts of Queensland, including the Lockyer Valley, have been in lockdown. This has meant parishioners in Helidon and Withcott were unable to attend church until the lockdown was lifted. Hopefully, we continue to remain linked to those who are isolated. On Sunday 22 August there was a National Day of Prayer in this time of the pandemic. May we not just limited our prayers to this day, may we also pray continually for those most affected by the pandemic, for our health care workers and others working so hard at this time.

At the end of June, I was pleased to be able to receive my second vaccine, and fortunately, I have been able to travel throughout the diocese. It's been a busy time with Confirmations sessions at St Anthony's, Sacred Heart and St Theresa's in Toowoomba and at Highfields, Millmerran, Stanthorpe, Warwick, Chinchilla, Charleville and Quilpie.

In Cunnamulla, Sunday 20 June, I celebrated a thanksgiving Mass for Sr Maureen Andrews MFIC. Sr Maureen is leaving after completing over ten years of ministry in that vast South-Western region of the diocese. It was wonderful

to see how many people turned out for the Mass and for the celebrations that followed. The diocese offers its grateful thanks to Sr Maureen for her ministry to so many people. In mid-July, Fr Sean Carr MSC moved to Cunnamulla to continue ministry in this area.

In New York on Saturday 26 June, Nancy Webb, now Sr Rose Patrick O'Connor SV, made her first profession in the Congregation of the Sisters of Life. Together with Fr Roque Maguinsay and Monsignor John Grace, I celebrated the Sunday morning Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, with the Webb Family and parishioners. Mass was only a few hours after Sr Rose's Religious Profession. During our celebration, we were able to watch a video of the New York ceremony.

May we continue to pray for vocations to the Religious Life and the Priesthood. I commend our Vocations Website that has been constructed by Fr Gonzalo Garcia Duran, our Vocations Director www.vocationstwb.org. Belated congratulations also to Sr Elizabeth O'Keeffe RSM (Charleville), who is celebrating her Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession.

Monday to Friday 26-30 July was Catholic Education Week and scheduled

Bishop's In-Service Days for all our schools' staff. Normally staff gather in one of three regions: Far West, Mid West, Toowoomba Central. Due to covid restrictions on numbers, only the schools in the far west (Cunnamulla, Charleville and Quilpie) could bring all their staff together in Quilpie. I was pleased to join them in Quilpie and was able to thank them personally for the wonderful work they do in Catholic education. In the other regions and schools, my talk and thanks could only be delivered by video.

Preparations continue for the First Session of the Plenary Council due to commence at the beginning of October. Our five Diocesan Members for the Plenary Council have attended a number of formation sessions via Microsoft Teams. With the uncertainty of lockdowns, it seems that state groups may not be able to gather in hubs. Those called to the First Session may only be able to gather remotely. This isn't ideal but may we be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit as together we move forward.

Bishop Robert McGuckin

*Bishop of Toowoomba
August 2021*

TECHNOLOGY IN PLACE FOR FIRST PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

ACBC MEDIA

Despite large parts of the country being in lockdown, those planning the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia say all is in readiness to deliver the first assembly in October wholly online. Bishop Shane Mackinlay, the Plenary Council's vice-president, said the Council journey has adapted to changing circumstances because of COVID-19 – and it is adapting again. "With most of the country's population currently in lockdown or having experienced lockdowns in recent weeks, we have plans in place to ensure the first assembly opens on October 3," he said. "Just as there was disappointment in needing first to postpone the assembly and then to move to regional hubs, the likelihood that most members will now join the assembly from their home is not what we had planned and hoped for. We know, though, that the Holy Spirit can and will work through this assembly, just as the Spirit has led us over the past three-and-a-half years."

Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-

Collins said a huge amount of work had been done to prepare for the Council to be held in hubs, with each member participating on their own device. "As a result, this shift to most people participating from home is a pivot rather than a major detour from what we were planning," she said. "We are receiving exceptional support from technical experts within and beyond the Church to ensure that we can make the virtual assembly one that allows for the prayer, conversation, listening and discernment we've hoped for all along."

Teams working on liturgy, communications and the assembly's program are also altering existing plans for the new format. Bishop Mackinlay said the approximately 280 members of the Council gathered online in four groups in recent weeks to continue their formation, including from a technology perspective. "While there has been greater exposure to videoconferencing in the past 18 months, the Microsoft Teams environment was new to some,"

he said. "What we encountered over the two days each group met was a stable platform, and one on which we can participate in meaningful dialogue with one another. We were able to trial the practice of spiritual conversations that will be used during the assemblies and there were moments of prayerful encounter, even if via a screen."

It is expected that, in some areas not affected by lockdowns, members will gather in small numbers for prayer, fellowship and socialising, as the experience of provincial hubs would have provided. Plans for the public livestreaming of some parts of each day remain in place, and some liturgies will also be celebrated online.

"This is a Council for the Church in Australia, and we look forward to a wide range of people following the assembly, hearing how conversations are unfolding and praying with the members," Lana said.



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Ecumenical Seminar participants "Growing Together to Present Christ to the Community".

ECUMENICAL SEMINAR FOCUSES ON GROWING TOGETHER

DENIS MCALEER



During a weekend in June 2021, Downs and Toowoomba Churches Together hosted an Ecumenical Seminar at the James Byrne Centre. The seminar was titled "Growing Together to Present Christ to the Community", with a subheading of "Why isn't Ecumenism on the everyday agenda?"

Participants came from across the diocese and beyond, Jandowae, Allora,

Kogan, Mapleton, Brisbane, Highfields and Toowoomba. The seminar featured presentations from Bishop Jonathan Holland, Principal St Francis' Anglican Theological College, Milton, Bishop William Morris, Dr Joseph Goodall, former leader of the Queensland Congregational Fellowship, Brisbane and Rev David Baker, former Moderator of the Uniting Church in Queensland and current General Secretary of

Queensland Churches Together. Each presented a challenging talk and encouraged participants to keep working on all aspects of ecumenism.

Mr John Agnew, from the Allora Uniting Church and member of the Toowoomba Interfaith Group, gave a presentation on Saturday night on working with people of other Faiths in Toowoomba and how to facilitate peace and harmony.

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DIOCESE WELCOMES AUDIT: IMPROVING OUR SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES

FR PETER DORFIELD



Shortly after the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse handed down its Final Report in December 2017, all Catholic Dioceses and Religious Orders in Australia committed themselves to a process of external auditing of local safeguarding practices. Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) is the national body which facilitates this process of auditing. Our Diocese will be audited in October of this year.

During the past two years, we have been consolidating our understanding of the Safeguarding Ministry that takes place in local parish communities and in the diocese. Our engagement with children, young people (up to the age of 18) and adults at risk is built on the foundation of placing their best interests first.

Since June 2020, as a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding Ministry, I've had the delight of making three rounds of parish visits, meeting with parish leadership personnel in each community. At a parish level, each of these meetings has usually involved the Parish Priest or Parish Leader, the Parish Safeguarding Contact and the Parish Council Chair. In some parishes, the local group has grown to include Parish Secretaries (full or part-time), Associate Priests, Retired Priests, Pastoral Associates or Co-Ordinators, and occasionally other Parish Council members.

The first of these parish visits (June to early October 2020) focused on understanding the safeguarding ministry itself. This ministry gives priority to the

person, the child or adult at risk, who has been or is being abused, and is expressed through three commitments:

- a. immediate and positive response to those who have experienced abuse;
- b. effective prevention through parish community awareness, education and training; and
- c. continuous learning from the expertise, experience and wisdom of experts in the wider community.

A substantial outcome of this first round of parish conversations was the November 2020 review of the *Diocesan Safeguarding Policy*, a policy first approved in December 2014.



The second parish visit (February to March 2021) focused on the ten National Catholic Safeguarding Standards approved by Australian Bishops and Religious Leaders in May 2019. These National Catholic Safeguarding Standards were based on the Ten Child Safe Standards developed by the Royal Commission. Once again, in the light of many parish conversations, the *Diocesan Safeguarding Policy* was updated and revised in early June 2021.

The third parish visit (June to July 2021) focused on resources that support the *Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for Children and Adults at Risk*. Over time, as resources have been developed and finalised, they have been made publicly available on the Diocesan website. Further resources are in development.

Supporting these parish conversations, meetings have also been held with Priests and Diocesan Ministries. In early March 2021, the priests of the diocese met at the James Byrne Centre. Challenging child protection input from Peter Simpson (Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office) and information on the upcoming Diocesan Audit was part of the day's work. Later in March, leaders of the sixteen diocesan ministries, which actively support parishes and the diocese, met at the Cathedral Conference Room. This meeting involved reflecting on experiences of safeguarding children and adults at risk, being briefed on conversations taking place at the parish level and information

on the upcoming Audit process.

On a more formal diocesan level, there are regular briefings on safeguarding matters between Bishop Robert and myself, supported by meetings of the Diocesan Safeguarding and Standards Committee. Safeguarding matters are included in the agenda of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Council of Priests.

Apart from the visits mentioned earlier, conversations and awareness within local communities around safeguarding matters have been encouraged at a parish level. Parishes take their safeguarding responsibilities towards local children and adults at risk seriously. The safeguarding ministry is a regular item on the agenda of Parish Council meetings. These conversations, discussions, briefings and safeguarding practices form the context for the Diocesan Audit.

This Audit, to be undertaken by Tania Stegemann (ACSL Director of Compliance), will affirm where we have lived up to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and point out areas where we still have work to do. As a Diocese, we welcome the Audit, now set for October of this year, as an essential part of our ongoing journey in making our communities safer for children and adults at risk.

The Diocesan Audit will involve an open assessment of our current safeguarding

practices. In an exercise of accountability and transparency, we welcome the Audit and its final public report. Even more importantly, we will welcome and act on the findings and recommendations of the Audit Report itself. This can only strengthen our determination and our capacity to make our communities safer for children and adults at risk.

Thank you for your ongoing and generous commitment to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in our midst. You turn the good intentions of the opening words of our Diocesan Policy into helpful and constructive actions:

'In the Diocese of Toowoomba, we commit ourselves to ensure the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk in our community. The best interests of the child, young person or adult at risk come first.'

The Diocesan Audit will involve:

- Review of Diocesan safeguarding policies and procedures; to be provided by the Diocesan Safeguarding Ministry Office;
- Interviews with Diocesan safeguarding leadership personnel: Bishop Robert, the Diocesan Safeguarding Ministry Office, and the Diocesan Safeguarding and Standards Committee;
- Parish visits: a sample of six parishes visited for assessment of compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS); interviews with parish leadership personnel - Priests, Parish Leaders, Parish Safeguarding Contacts, Parish Council Chairs
- or delegated members;
- Ministry visits: a sample of four ministries for a review of safeguarding practices;
- Interviews with leadership personnel of regulated entities within the diocese subject to external accreditation and assessment: eg Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office and CatholicCare;
- Review of Diocesan complaints handling processes and of secure long-term storage of confidential personal information: Safeguarding Ministry Office;
- Debrief and reporting of Audit results; report published on Diocesan and ACSL websites.





LONGEST SERVING NURSE RETIRES AFTER 44 YEAR CAREER

ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL, TOOWOOMBA

Registered Nurse Maureen Campiutti finished up at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba in mid-August, after 44 years.

Maureen decided early on she wanted to become a nurse, while her twin sister decided to pursue a career in teaching. Born in Toowoomba, Maureen completed her nursing training at the General Hospital before moving to Sydney in 1976 to study midwifery at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Upon completion of her studies, Maureen moved back to Toowoomba to undertake further training at Bailey Henderson Hospital in Psychiatric Nursing. Whilst completing this training, she was offered a job at St Vincent's.

Maureen began working at St Vincent's in May 1977, when she was 22 years old. She initially worked on the second-floor Medical ward for two years before taking over as the ward manager, a role she held for five years. Maureen has since worked in a variety of roles over the years and has been the After

Hours Nurse Manager in a permanent capacity since 1997. She also completed the first hospital accreditation.

In 1984, Maureen gave birth to twins at St Vincent's. After a quick break from work, she resumed her nursing role after five and a half months, working two nights per week. A short time off work like this was unheard of at the time.

Maureen has seen a lot of change at the hospital during her time here. There was no Intensive Care Unit or Emergency Department when she first started in 1977; however, the Nun's quarters still existed.

When asked about what she loved most about working at St Vincent's, Maureen said it was definitely her fellow staff and caring for the patients and their families. "I have always been given great opportunities and support at St Vincent's," said Maureen. "I loved working with the Nurse Unit Managers over the years. The teamwork between staff is very important."

Maureen plans to enjoy her retirement,

spending time with her family and grandchildren. She is also going to be busy in the garden and hoping to start a book club with friends. "I would like to do some volunteer work down the track as well- perhaps in a nursing home."

Mission Executive, Dr Mark Copland, said there would not be many staff members who did not know Maureen. "Her 44 years of loyal service have bridged our current hospital with our founding Sisters of Charity," said Mark. "I have been privileged to witness Maureen's commitment to patient care, especially ensuring that there is always somebody there to support patients and their families emotionally and spiritually when times are tough. We wish Maureen every blessing in her retirement and hope that she is proud of the crucial part of our 100 year old story that she has played."

St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba wishes Maureen all the best with her retirement. We are so grateful to have had Maureen as part of the St Vincent's family for so many years.



Charge Sisters, circa 1982: (L to R) Phyllis Brady, Veronica Christensen, Lesley Harvey, Maureen Campiutti and Mary Sutherland



After Hours Nurse Managers at St Vincent's Private Hospital with Maureen Camplutti"
Right photo "Maureen Camplutti

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CLAY IN THE POTTER'S HANDS: REFLECTIONS ON THE PRIESTLY MINISTRY OF OUR RETIRED CLERGY

FR HAL RANGER

Somewhere inside me is a desire, with gratitude, to record all the ups and downs, opportunities and disappointments of the journey – all the experiences of God, life, love and mystery that have come my way over the past 86 years. Actually, I'd love to write a book. I'm tempted to describe it all as a wonderful progressive barn dance with God providing the music and the venues and the constantly changing partners!

As always, the journey begins at home with my Mum and Dad and beloved brother Terry. Mum, Mary Florence Sweeney, was the eldest daughter of Irish parents. She brought all the positives of 19th/20th century Irish Catholic Life. My Dad, Bert, was the youngest of ten children whose parents came from England in 1876. Their family story unfolded within the Presbyterian, Unitarian, Wesleyan Methodist and Church of England traditions. They were "free thinkers" who knew the Gospel – genuinely Christian but also anti-Catholic.

Mum and Dad fell in love while working at the old Willowburn Asylum (the predecessor of Baillie Henderson Hospital). That association has always had a profound influence on me. I've learnt to welcome the presence of God in the "little ones".

My parents spent their 12-year engagement learning to understand and appreciate their different convictions about Christian living. They gave lots of time to know, understand and love each other and each others' families. In due course, Dad became a Catholic before they married, wholeheartedly and enthusiastically. Still, the wonderful legacy to Terry and myself was an understanding and experience of varied ways of living as Christians. That broader enriching acceptance

of all that Jesus offers is another treasured gift that I try to embrace daily.

From our earliest days, Terry and I fell in love with taking part in daily Mass. Mum and Dad made that possible, and I have only the best memories of that experience at the beginning of every day.

Flowing out of all this - the confidence that comes with being loved, the broad understanding of the Gospel, inspiring commitment of my parents to the broken marginalised residents of the asylum and the encouragement of treasured family friends, Frs Tom McCormack and Eddie Concannon - I decided to give life as a priest a red-hot go.

Since 29 June 1959, I have been blessed to be part of many communities and personal journeys. At St Pat's Cathedral, 10 years in Warwick, 2 years in Harlaxton and the "old" St Theresa's. There followed a brand new experience, encountering God in the midst of life, full-time in the Australian Army, trying to contribute to the formation of young men preparing to serve the cause of freedom, justice and peace as soldiers and officers.

There could have been no better preparation for that Army responsibility than all those years the 1960s and 70s within the Y.C.W. movement founded by Joseph Cardijn in the 1930s. See, Judge then Act in the light of the Gospel was Cardijn's formula – I spent three unforgettable days with him in 1966.

I thank God and the blessing of Archbishop Frank Little for twelve years as chaplain and coordinator of Community Services in the Melbourne mid-eastern City of Box Hill. Then



Fr Hal Ranger

followed a God given invitation to live and work within the City of South Melbourne, with Bob Maguire and on the streets of St Kilda. In a word, I faced and enjoyed my own treasured experience of Incarnation: God in the midst of the messiness and brokenness of human beings.

Thanks to the kindness and openness of Bishop Bill Morris, I was encouraged to come home in 1997. In all honesty, I've felt "at home" everywhere I've been.

So I came home to Dalby, where my Mother was born in 1895. Thence to Warwick for the second time, and to the Cathedral with Peter Dorfield in 2008. Since then, I've had the joy of re-establishing relationships with so many people, old and new friends across Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, particularly through St Pat's, St Anthony's and St Thomas More's.


Finally, I want to acknowledge the opportunities to play some part in the establishment and ongoing life of the National Council of Priests of Australia and the deeply treasured number of person to person friendships that make God's love real and incarnate.

Please God, the Barn Dance continues. I dearly want to share that dance with lots of partners!



Rainbow over All Saints Church Roma. Photo taken by Fr Gerardo Tubis 23 July 2021.
 "For me I look at it as a 'rainbow of faith', God's assurance of His continues presence amidst pandemic times." Said Fr Gerardo of the well-timed snap.

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CRY OF THE EARTH, CRY OF THE POOR

DR DAVID TUTTY

This year's Social Justice Statement is titled "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor". It provides the focus for Social Justice Sunday, which we celebrate on August 29 this year. In this statement, our Australian Catholic Bishops seek to highlight the interconnection between our care of the earth and our care for those who are poor. They draw on Pope Francis' insight that "social, economic and ecological issues can only be addressed in an integral way" (p3).

"Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor" arises from and reflects on our world as it is. There is a cry that calls us, as people of faith, to respond. This cry can be heard through the ever more severe droughts, bushfires and floods. This cry can be heard through our "interference with the delicate balance of natural ecosystems" (p5), leading to the coronavirus causing COVID-19 and to human-induced climate change. "The suffering of our rivers and waterways, our groundwater, reefs, and oceans, is plain to see" (p7). "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor" talks of the Great Barrier Reef bleaching events, large numbers of fish dying in our rivers and lakes, the vulnerability of the Great Artesian Basin, the loss of biodiversity and the millions of creatures killed by fire, drought and floods. All are expressions of this cry.

The cry of the earth is heard also through those who are most impacted by the disasters, virus spread and increasing global warming. "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor" tells of the experiences of First Nations peoples, Pacific Islanders, farmers, the young and all of us who are impacted by our changing environment. A real distress arises when country is in crisis. Real suffering is unfolding as many Pacific islanders are facing sea level rise and salination of their limited food gardens. Farmers struggle with their inability to plant and feed animals. Increasing heat limits the ability of children to play outside, and global warming is radically changing the future choices of our young.

"Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor" also arises from and reflects on Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si'". Released just over six years ago, "Laudato Si'" provides a comprehensive analysis and faith response to the social, economic and ecological cry I mention above. Since the release of this encyclical, we have had a special anniversary year of reflection on it, and now the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Human Development has set out seven Laudato Si' goals and plans for a seven-year action plan.

Key to "Laudato Si'", the action plan, and this year's Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement is the need to deepen our listening skills. In order to respond to the cry of the earth and those who are the poor of the earth, we need to be deliberate, active listeners. Often this requires we make an effort to be in places where we can better hear. This might be where First Nations or Pacific Islander peoples are talking about their experiences and their responsibility to care for country or island. It might be where scientists are discussing climate, biodiversity and other issues.

Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor reminds us that the 'universe is infused with the love of God' and that the world "continues to reveal the presence of the Divine Word" (p10). There is a beauty and sacramentality that we are invited to treasure and maintain. All that has been created is to be cared for because it witnesses to our Creator.

For all this to come about, our Catholic Bishops, along with Pope Francis in Laudato Si', call us to a profound and ongoing ecological conversion. To hear the cry, we are in need of being transformed in both "outlook and actions" (p10). This transformation arises from an ever deeper encounter with Jesus that is lived out in our



“relationship with the world around [us]” (p14). Pope Francis talks of an integral ecology that includes us human beings. Conversion to deeper caring for creation includes a “community conversion” and an “economic conversion” (p14). Our capitalist consumer economy is at the heart of the problem. Pope

Francis calls us to live very differently. He encourages us to live more humbly and sustainably, inspired by St Francis of Assisi and Laudato Si’.

In our Catholic tradition, conversion always needs to be ongoing. We are limited human beings who usually find it hard to change. By continuing

to take reality more seriously and to better listen to the cry, we open ourselves up to the action of God. Through opening ourselves to Our Creator, we learn to better live in ways that respects, treasures and cares for God’s creation. Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor helps us along this journey.



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Nathan Webb, representing the student body, reflecting on the experience of seminary today.

EXCERPTS FROM THE SEMINARIAN SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE PROVINCIAL SEMINARY AT BANYO, QUEENSLAND

NATHAN WEBB

Setting the Scene

Let me take you back to the '60s, the 1560s. The Northern Alps of Italy, a little town called Trento. A council is in progress. They have just held their 23rd session and are drawing up a Decree on Reformation, where, in chapter 18, they begin to speak of "a perpetual seminary of ministers of God."

Four hundred sixty years of ecclesial seminaries of one kind or another have ensued. Eight decades of

seminary formation in Queensland ranks us humbly in these years, but honourably enough to warrant this most Churchly celebration.

Chance or fate has meant that I have my own meagre part in these chronicles. The sum of 6 years that I have accrued here places me near my best-before date. So situated, I have been picked off the shelf to represent the students at dinner tonight. My pondering this evening centres on life here from the student perspective.

Contemporary Seminary Formation

These days, Holy Spirit Seminary maintains a program of priestly formation which closely follows the guidelines of Pope Saint John Paul II in his "Apostolic Exhortation Pastores Dabo Vobis" (1992). The four foundational dimensions of formation focus on Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Pastoral development. Running through all this is a Missionary Faith formation program.

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This formation is undertaken in phases. Gone are the days of distinct philosophy and theology years. Gone, too, are the minor orders. Moreover, a concerted effort is being made to move away from defining people arbitrarily according to their year level. Instead, we speak now of formation in phases.

- Formal seminary formation now begins with the Propaedeutic phase of transition into the life of the community (1-2 years).
- A phase of Discipleship follows. During this time, the student sits at the feet of the master, taking on course and practical classes from theology and philosophy through spiritual and pastoral praxis and reflections (2-3 years).
- Building on the foundations of Discipleship, a phase of Configuration follows – Configuration to Christ the shepherd (~3 years, but really continues for life).
- Once the student is scrutinised and deemed ready, they may be invited to apply for ordination to the Diaconate. Out in a parish, a phase of Integration begins.
- From Ordination to the Diaconate, and certainly following conferral of Presbyteral Orders, great emphasis is placed on ongoing formation.

In general, this process from propaedeutic year to ordination takes approximately seven years. "Come to Seminary", they say. "It will be the best decade of your life", they say.

Formation in the Present World

The basic nature of the seminary in its reformed Tridentine model has probably changed little, if at all, since its establishment. The major changes that distinguish the

present experience of seminary is the times in which we are situated.

In 2016 (the year my classmates and I joined), Donald Trump was elected 45th President of the United States, The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse called the Catholic Church to its final hearing (covered in its 11th issue paper), Britain voted to leave the European Union, Pope Francis and Patriarch Kirill met in Cuba, ISIS rose in the world's eyes as a terror threat, etc.; 2016 was not a massive year, but the world was certainly spinning.

In the few years that I have served here, the world has continued to move: a new president has been elected in the US, the Royal Commission has concluded and released its reports, Pope Francis has also met the Grand Imam, a Plenary Council has been called for the Church in Australia, Cardinal George Pell has been convicted and subsequently vindicated, and, of course, a pandemic has enwrapped the globe, the world is still spinning.

As students through these times, it is quite fascinating; we are in for a ride. The future of the Church and ministry therein is guaranteed – Jesus said that (Matt 28:20a). However, what either ministry or Church will look like is not clear. So, we discern our own sense of vocation while reading the signs of the times through the eyes of faith. Under the supervision of staff, sponsorship of the bishops, generous support of benefactors in prayer and resources, companionship of brother seminarians, comradery with other theology and philosophy students, and various assortments of family and friends, we place ourselves in the care and direction of the Holy Spirit as our primary formator.

Seminary Over the Years

No doubt, the views from seminary and after years of ministry must be vastly

different. I, therefore, stand as but an infant in this esteemed company, truly humbled. Your presence here this evening is a testament to some level of commitment to the journey of the emerging generation of ministers.

This Jubilee, therefore, is truly an occasion for Thanksgiving. I will conclude with these reflections, merely by offering a vote of thanks from a student in their sixth year of attendance:


1. Firstly, to the staff of administrations past, who have forged the path ahead of us.
2. Secondly, to students of regimes past, who have pushed the limits of what it has meant to form (as) a minister.
3. Thirdly, to the present administration – Monsignor Grace, and your team of Reverend Doctors, Sisters, Fathers, and Sir, along with the indispensable office assistants, facilities and grounds personnel, and also sessional staff: you are charged with the difficult task of us, but also with a legacy to which tonight bears testament.
4. Fourthly, to the bishops of Queensland: you carry on your apostolic mandate with charity and generosity to us to the extent that the respect promised at ordination is earned and established many years prior.
5. And finally, to my fellow students: You have all, in your own way, shown me something of Christ the shepherd. Perhaps, at times, you have also given me opportunities to grow in faith, hope, and charity. Certainly, I have been honoured by your fraternity on this journey.

I do not know where we will go from here, but I have faith that we too can fade, in time, into the mists of history and make our way into the story of this place and its mission.

Planting the

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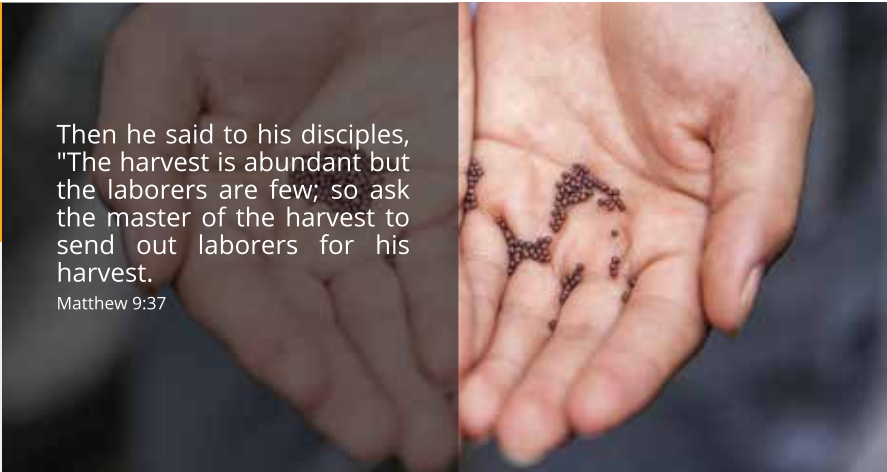
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Then he said to his disciples,
"The harvest is abundant but
the laborers are few; so ask
the master of the harvest to
send out laborers for his
harvest."
Matthew 9:37



IS THERE A CONTINUING PLACE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE?

DR PATRICK COUGHLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

In looking towards the future, the Federal Government undertakes a census every five years to capture some of the demographic changes impacting Australian society. Many Australians will have completed the latest national census last month. The demographic data helps ascertain shifts in people's thinking about, involvement in and attitudes to many long-held traditions, practices and institutions which make up the fabric of Australian society. One institution which always attracts attention is religion. Formal affiliation with a religious tradition has now declined to a point where more people select "no religion" than any other religious denomination. I suspect the trend will continue.

It is within this context that the question is often posed as to whether this fundamental move away from traditional affiliation with a religious denomination strengthens or weakens the case for and place of Catholic education in Australia's future. There are many arguments on both sides

which are familiar to us; however, whenever this question arises, I am always heartened by the reasons cited by families in choosing a Catholic education for their child.

Whilst it is rarely articulated in religious language, most parents express a continuing desire for an education securely anchored in a belief system that is relevant and life-giving. They seek for themselves and their children a foundation for life in an increasingly fast-paced, rapidly changing and unpredictable world. They want to give their child every opportunity to learn and internalise the keys to a successful and flourishing life. A Catholic education, based on a Christian worldview and values, seeks to provide this foundation. The challenge of this in the current context is the sheer range of expectations placed on the school — educating the young while preparing them for the workforce, conferring life skills while also teaching students to think, transmitting cultural identity while tending to students'

individual needs. There is the need to provide a safe and nurturing environment, as well as one that is competitive and successful, so that we can form strong yet gentle, centred but generous young people, ready for the world around them. Thankfully, many parents affirm that their experience of Catholic education is meeting or exceeding the hopes and aspirations they hold for their child's education.

Catholic education has a rightful place in Australia's future as an essential service available to families seeking a faith-based education for their children. Essential because it advocates strongly for and contributes immeasurably to a fairer, more compassionate, inclusive and respectful society. I feel very privileged to be associated with such a worthy endeavour that continues to add value to the lives of our students, their families and the broader Australian society. I see a bright and long future ahead for Catholic education.



St Joseph's College Toowoomba students with Bishop Robert McGuckin and Deacon Brian Redondo.



Catholic Education
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS
Faith in the future

CONCURRENT MASS CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

The National concurrent Mass celebrated on Monday 24 May to acknowledge the bicentenary of Catholic education in Australia was a great success.

In Toowoomba, St Patrick's Cathedral was the centre of Toowoomba Catholic Schools celebrations. Many schools across the Diocese watched this Mass

through the live stream, whilst others held their own liturgical celebrations.

Bishop Robert McGuckin celebrated Mass at the Cathedral with Frs Michael O'Brien, Peter Dorfield and Hal Ranger concelebrating. Also in attendance were over 400 students and staff from 14 schools and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, along with guests. A

key aspect of the Mass was to include students from across the Diocese as a part of a virtual choir and a video presentation of the Prayers of the Faithful. After Mass, all were invited to enjoy morning tea on the front lawn at the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office.

Celebrating the Mass at St Patrick's was particularly significant

as it is located on the same site as the first Catholic school in the Diocese of Toowoomba. St Patrick's School, now St Saviour's Primary School, was opened on the site in 1863. Today, Toowoomba Catholic Schools has nearly 9,200 students and over 1,700 staff, and there is much to celebrate.

Catholic education in Australia came from humble beginnings, led by priests and religious who were determined to provide education to those that would otherwise not have had access. We have built on this great work with schools across our rural and remote communities. We have seen many generations of the same family educated in them, who go on to live full and flourishing lives as active contributors to our nation.

The scale of Catholic education in Australia is unique in the world, serving over 777,000 students and employing over 100,000 staff.



Staff, students and guests enjoy a bite to eat after Mass.

ILLUMINATE RELIGIOUS STRATEGY LIGHTS THE WAY

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS OFFICE



Religious education is the key point of distinction of Catholic schools from other educational settings and is our flagship subject. 2021 has seen the launch of the Illuminate Religious Education (RE) strategy. Twelve of our thirty-one schools have adopted Illuminate as the strategy for the school to have expert teachers in RE. The intent is that students experience academic success whilst they come to know and experience the loving presence of Jesus in their lives. The success of the Illuminate project can be seen when students experience clarity about what they are learning in RE and, importantly, how it relates to their world and the global context. Through the teaching and learning of sacred Scripture, Catholic tradition, Catholic Social Teachings and prayer, students engage in authentic dialogue on contemporary issues from a Catholic worldview.

Teachers in our schools are mentored and guided through the Illuminate project by a small, dedicated team of Education Officers, working to ensure that:

- Our schools are exemplary places of learning, where every student experiences academic success;
- Our schools are exemplary places of spiritual life and Catholic faith where every student comes to know and experience the loving presence of Jesus in their lives.

The key features of Illuminate are professional learning for teaching staff around the teaching of scripture, prayer, assessment of student work in RE and how to maximise student engagement in RE lessons. There is a focus on helping teachers to build skills in dialogue with students, with questioning and giving feedback – all with the aim of enabling students to learn and grow in their understanding and ability to think critically about and make meaning for themselves and their world. Prayer is modelled to teachers to encourage a greater understanding and analysis for them, which they can model for their students. The Illuminate project is shining a spotlight on the teaching of RE in our classrooms, accentuating the Catholic faith experience for students of all ages.

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VOLUNTEER RECOGNISED FOR BEING A GOOD SAMARITAN

TOOWOOMBA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE



Education Minister Grace Grace MP presents Katie Mills with the Toowoomba Diocese' Spirit of Catholic Education Award.

Katie Mills, a parent volunteer from Mater Dei Primary School Toowoomba was chosen as the Toowoomba Diocese's Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipient for 2021.

The Spirit of Catholic Education awards are presented annually in conjunction with Catholic Education Week. The awards recognise staff members, parents and carers or volunteers making outstanding contributions to the life of a Catholic school community or other Catholic education authority.

Katie is the coordinator of The Samaritan's Table, a service started by the school over ten years ago to help support members of their community in times of need. For over six years, Katie has coordinated the efforts of up to fifty parent volunteers

to provide home-cooked meals for community members experiencing times of sadness, grief and hardship; activating volunteers to drop meals to the school, thus maintaining the anonymity of volunteers and recipients.

Mr Chris Bartlett, school principal, explained, "Connecting both students and our community to our Good Samaritan charism is a clear goal for Mater Dei. Katie has looked for and implemented innovative and new solutions to support the school to achieve this goal by encouraging a culture of looking out for others."

"Katie has developed a sensitive, discreet and empathetic radar to somehow learn of hardship in our community. She generously gives of her time to coordinate volunteers to

provide an average of 100 meals each year to those in need. She has done this without seeking any recognition, thanks or acknowledgement."

Dr Patrick Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools, said, "Katie is a great example of the spirit of Catholic education in our schools. Community support initiatives, such as The Samaritan's Table encourage students and families to give back through volunteering and use their gifts and talents for the good of all."

Katie received her award from Education Minister Grace Grace MP at the Official Launch of Catholic Education Week at St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane, on 27 July. She was also acknowledged at the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards dinner on 29 July.

EXCELLENCE AWARDS CELEBRATE A PASSIONATE AND INSPIRATIONAL COMMUNITY

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE



On 29 July, Toowoomba Catholic Schools held its annual Excellence Awards ceremony. The awards identify and showcase practitioners who model, demonstrate and live excellence in their roles, all day, every day.

Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools said, "This year's recipients consistently bring the best ideas and innovations to their teaching, leadership and educational support. Without their efforts and influence, exemplary practice remains hidden in pockets and largely unrecognised."

"No system can rise above the capacity of its staff. We thank all of our finalists and recognise the invaluable contribution they make to moving our system of schools from great to excellent," said Dr Coughlan.

Thank you to our award sponsors for 2021, Australian Catholic Superannuation and Retirement Fund, Sentral, Salary Packaging Australia, Max Brammer and Associates, Aspect Architects and Project Managers and Toowoomba Toyota.

Excellence in education support

Teaching and learning support

Joanne Bradford – School Officer - Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Administration, finance, and facilities support

Marita Day – Administration Officer - Good Samaritan College, Toowoomba

Volunteer support in a school setting

Katie Mills – Volunteer Coordinator: Samaritans Table - Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba

Excellence in teaching and learning

Early career teacher (less than 3 years of teaching experience)

Jade Manteit – Year 2 teacher - Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Primary expert teacher

Johanna Campbell – Year 3 teacher - St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

Secondary expert teacher

Tammy Banks – Secondary teacher - St Mary's College, Toowoomba

eLearning

Rachel Harlen – Year 6 teacher - St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba

Excellence in leadership

Emerging leader

Kellie Pritchard – Year 4 teacher - Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba

Middle leadership

Greg Leathart – Middle Leader:HPE, Sport and Activities - St Saviour's College, Toowoomba

School leadership

Kort Goodman – Principal - St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

8 STAFF CLOCK UP 345 YEARS OF SERVICE BETWEEN THEM

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

With seven staff celebrating 40 years of service and another with 45 years of service, Toowoomba Catholic Schools must be a great place to work. Each year during Catholic Education Week, we acknowledge those who have given 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service to Catholic education in the Toowoomba Diocese or in Catholic Dioceses across Australia. "It seems fitting that we should acknowledge our staff members who have provided such long service and been integral to student's success during this week," said Dr Coughlan.



Margaret Doljanin has taught at St Saviour's Primary School all her working life, celebrating 45 years of service. Margaret has taught Years 2 to 7 and she reflected, "Teaching has changed a lot over the years. I don't think I have ever taught the same thing the same way. Every year, there is something different, and each group of students are different and direct your teaching. Something that I like to

hear or see is the achievements of past students; I like to know where they have ended up and what they are doing."



Garry Birch's teaching career started with Queensland Education on Palm Island. After a brief break, he was offered a position at St Joseph's School Chinchilla. He began a long stint at Mater Dei Primary Toowoomba two years later, teaching there for

28 years. Garry then moved to Our Lady of Lourdes Toowoomba, a school he attended as a student and continues to teach today.

Garry said, "As a career, teaching has been very fulfilling. I have been blessed to work with many wonderful teachers and with many amazing children. After forty years, it still challenges and still brings many joyful moments."

Michael Cash started his teaching career at Our Lady of Lourdes Toowoomba in 1981. Michael has also worked at the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office as a Mathematics Advisor and acting Senior Education Officer.



Michael was appointed principal of St Francis de Sales Clifton in 2004 and then St Thomas More's Toowoomba in 2012, where he continues to this day.

Michael said of his career, "I have enjoyed the variety that my career has brought. Some highlights have been managing the Queensland primary school rugby league team that included Jonathon Thurston in his schoolboy days, representing my principal colleagues and being the chair of the Toowoomba Catholic Education Board, and volunteering with Rosies."



Currently a Library Aide, Josephine Gangemi has been a school officer at St Joseph's School Stanthorpe for 40 years. "I can still remember vividly the feeling of excitement and fear when I received the phone call from Sr Maureen (then principal) at noon asking me to come in for a staff meeting at 3:30pm the same day as I had been the successful applicant to work in the library. At that stage, the only other school officer was the school secretary. There were three Sisters of Mercy and six other

teaching staff," said Josephine.

Over the years, Josephine has evolved with the school, and the library has moved three times.



Margaret Grew moved to Warwick to teach in 1988 after spending her first eight years teaching on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane. She is currently a part-time Learning Support teacher at Assumption College.

Margaret has also spent time at St Joseph's School Millmerran and St Patrick's School, Allora and St Mary's School, Warwick.

Margaret said a highlight was teaching children in their first year of schooling. "The connection with each child and their parents is a true gift. I am also lucky enough to watch children I taught in either primary school or secondary school now send their own children to a Catholic school. I have either been those children's teacher as well or their principal."



Originally specialising in early childhood, Jo Keleher went onto widen her teaching experiences across all primary years. Jo has worked at St Thomas More's School Toowoomba, St Francis de Sales School Clifton and St Anthony's School Toowoomba. Over the years, systemic and curriculum changes have enabled Jo to undertake other in-school roles including P&F Executive, Infant Teacher Coordinator, School Board Member, OWHS, Assistant Principal Teacher-in-Charge, Curriculum Coordinator and working with students in Learning Support. Jo finished teaching full time in 2015 but couldn't give it up altogether. She continues to teach part-time across Toowoomba Catholic schools.



Ross Penrose has been a much-loved staff member of the St John's School Roma community since 1986. Before

Roma, Ross worked at Emerald State High School and St Mary's Ipswich.

He is revered in the Maranoa for his teaching prowess and exceptional relationship-building ability, which has positively impacted many generations of students. School principal Jim Brennan said, "Ross is also acknowledged as a wonderful mentor and coach of teachers, and his influence extends well beyond Roma. Many schools have benefited from staff members who were guided by Ross both professionally and personally."



Mary Porter was raised in Wandoan and appointed to her first teaching position at St Joseph's School Tara

in 1981. She returned to Tara in 1986 after spending time at St Columba's School Dalby. Mary held the position of Assistant Principal for Religious Education (APRE) and was pivotal in implementing the multi-campus APRE (Flying Nun) program providing religious leadership to Catholic schools in Tara, Mitchell, Taroom and Inglewood for several years.

Mary is currently the principal at St Joseph's Tara. In her recent principal review, Mary was affirmed for being an excellent advocate and role model for the St Joseph's School community. Mary is heavily involved with the Tara Parish and has been a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.



Prep students from St Patrick's School St George

Hector Peralta and Jodie Sweeney at the BID at St Mary's College Toowoomba



Prep students from St Patrick's School St George



St Clare of Assisi



Raphael



Charlemagne



St Francis of Assisi



St Catherine of Sienna




Charlemagne



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Junior School Leaders, Eugenie and Ben present Mr John Doherty with proceeds of Downlands fundraising efforts.

NOTES FROM DOWNLANDS

ANDREA COLLINS

Downlands focus on helping others

If we take a moment to focus not on ourselves but on the needs of others, we are moved to find ways to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves or those who may have suffered an injustice.

At Downlands, our focus turned to those who may not have the shelter and warmth that most in our community enjoy. One way for us to help was to purchase new blankets and raise money for the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. At assembly and as part of our Sacred Heart Day celebrations, we recognised the members of our Junior School who contributed nearly

half of all funds raised. It was also an opportunity to present our offering to St Vincent's volunteer and past student of Downlands, Mr John Doherty.

Junior School Leaders, Eugenie and Ben, spoke to the student body about the importance of helping others and presented funds raised to Mr Doherty.

Movers and Shakers Year 8

Reading about history is one thing, but recreating it is quite another. Year 8 students revelled in making history come alive for peers and family. Students pursued an in-depth study of those extraordinary people across history who have made a great impact in our Catholic world.

Given the opportunity to create posters and dress up as their chosen "Mover and Shaker", the Year 8 students explained to staff and visitors why their person captured attention and why they were so important in our own history.

As one student testified, "Most of our 'Movers and Shakers' were just normal people who decided that it was more important to work to help others."

Fr Vince's Adventures

Some may know the story of the Star of Taroom, a precious Indigenous marking stone, and its return to Iman country on a specially designed hand-drawn cart. Accompanied by many supporters, the 160kg groove stone made its way from Brisbane to Taroom, where it was finally returned to Iman elders and its home on July 24. Downlands own Fr Vince Carroll MSC accompanied the stone on part of its 500 km journey. He has been instrumental in bringing the story of loss and reconciliation back to the Downlands community. The stone's journey began on July 4, coinciding with the start of NAIDOC week. Fr Vince, with several Downlands staff, joined the expedition at different stages along the way. Downlands honours these efforts made toward healing and reconciliation.



Proud moment for the Assumption College
Under 15 Girls Football Team.

HIGH ACHIEVING RESULT FOR U15 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, WARWICK

The Bill Turner Cup and Bill Turner Trophy are school football competitions. Around 850 school teams from New South Wales, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory, and Victoria participate each year. All players are aged 15 years and under. The comp is a knockout format with early-round matches starting in Term 1 each year. Bill Turner valued fitness, fun and fair play, and the competition pays tribute to these values. The Bill Turner Cup (open) is in its 42nd year. The Bill Turner Trophy (girls) is in its 30th year.

The Assumption College Under 15 Girls Football Team played very well in the Bill Turner Trophy Competition. In Round 1, the girls played against Stanthorpe and came away with a winning score of 2-0. This win progressed the girls through to the second round, where they versed St Joseph's Stanthorpe. While it was a challenging game for the girls, they got the win with a score of 2-1.

In the third round of the competition, the team versed Downlands and won once again. This was another tough

game with a score of 1-0. This win saw the girls head into the fourth round, where they versed Glennie. The girls played exceptionally well together and also came away with a winning score of 5-2. In winning this game, it secured them a spot in the top 8 of the competition in Queensland.

With a break over the school holidays, the team looked forward to the next round early in Term 3. We received the news that the girls would play Brisbane State High School in Round 5. Super excited to have made it this far through the competition, the girls were all very excited and nervous to verse the Brisbane team. While it was a very physical and demanding game, the girls held their own and worked very well together as a team. The final result for this

game was 0-11 to Brisbane State High School. Although the girls lost this game, they were very excited and proud of how far they had come. Their placing in the competition was an amazing result.

Assumption College is extremely proud of every girl who participated in this competition. The girls are to be highly commended on the way in which they represented the college, both on and off the field.

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(L to R) Briony Burns, Jak McVeigh-Davey and Zofia Abulencia lead the school community in "John and Jesus".

LEADERSHIP MASS BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

KATE MCAULEY

At the conclusion of Term Two, the St John's School Roma community gathered together to celebrate the induction of the 2021/2022 Year 11 School Leaders. Through the vision and guidance of Mrs Trisha Parker, the event included this year's motto of "Living the Spirit" which was experienced by all, as well as the scripture focus of John the Baptist. Close to 800 students, staff and parents came together to welcome

these new senior stewards of our Mercy school and extend their blessings for their year of leadership ahead.

Principal Mr Jim Brennan strongly encourages the sense of religious culture that liturgical events such as this school Mass encompass for all. It is a reminder to the community of their common choice to be a part of Catholic Education. The sense of uniqueness and individuality of St John's School resonates within everyone who is witness to these celebrations.

The celebration also included a favourite hymn amongst students, "John and Jesus", complete with actions. This song has been a long-standing unofficial anthem for the school community. All can feel the surge of pride and spirit when the opening notes of music begin, from Prep students to Seniors. A fantastic way to end the first semester of the year, a Future in Faith.



Principal Jim Brennan with the newly inducted 2021/2022 St John's School Leaders.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE ON THE MARGINS

ST MARY'S COLLEGE,
TOOWOOMBA

The Edmund Rice touchstones, which are authentically linked to the charism of Edmund Rice, underpin the strategic vision of identity initiatives the boys at St Mary's College participate in.

So far in 2021, these experiences have been characterised by an effort to reclaim a positive masculinity, one that recognises the gifts that young men in the 21st century can bring to bear, in contrast to the often-linear narrative tried and tested in contemporary media. St Mary's College students have engaged with the work of Caritas, Catholic Missions, Orange Sky, Emerge Toowoomba and the St Vincent de Paul Society's Winter Appeal.

In Term One, the College launched Project Compassion, a campaign that had the boys demonstrate their love, faith and generosity by raising much-needed funds for people in countries like Bangladesh. The boys gathered each assembly to learn more about people like Jamila, a refugee in the world's largest Refugee Camp, Cox Bazar, or about the conflict in Myanmar and the dislocation of communities. Over ten weeks, the students and staff of St Mary's raised an incredible \$4,000 for Caritas.

Term Two has been a hive of activity, with 5 of our young Year 11 men selected to represent the College at the Ozanam Leadership Course. The course was facilitated by Vinnies Youth Toowoomba, partnering with their Brisbane representatives. Our boys have been engaged almost weekly in leadership camps at Emu Gully and Chapter meetings of prayer and reflection at the Julia Street Head Office. They also prepared for the Winter Appeal and Sleep Out hosted by the University of Southern Queensland in July.



Students collecting donations (L to R) Bode Ferguson, Blake Zirbel, Connor McGinty, Lachlan Debel & Orlando Briggs.

Year 11 students Lachlan Moore, Hamish Earle-Jones, Lachlan Debel and Robert Hales have really driven local initiatives, inspiring the 900 strong staff and students of St Mary's College to donate warm socks in exchange for ice-creams as a way of celebrating the outward-looking charism of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice's feast day. It was a wonderful initiative that even had our youngest students assisting with the packing and labelling of warm socks. These socks will be given to families who might be doing it a little bit tougher this winter.

In recent weeks, students and staff engaged in a free dress day and

came in winter attire. Dressed in their uggies and flannies, students donated warm blankets, jumpers, scarves, tracksuits. Everything collected was given to the enterprising Emerge Café, which responds to the needs of youth in our district with emergency accommodation, employment and training, mentorship. Now their young people can benefit from these donations of warm articles of clothing from the St Mary's College community.

Through these experiences and more, our St Mary's men will gain insight and empathy and transform their hearts to stand in solidarity with those on the margins.



Student Orlando Briggs with Teacher Liz Frame donating warm socks in exchange for ice creams.



Clarrie Reis with his carved Mercy Crosses and St Saviour's College students at the Catherine McAuley Feast Day Mass.

CATHERINE MCAULEY DAY SERVES ABUNDANCE OF GIFTS FOR COLLEGE

GEORGINA BAYLY

Catherine McAuley Feast Day Mass had an extra special touch for St Saviour's College Toowoomba this year with the blessing of 23 wood-

carved Mercy crosses. Friend of the college, Mr Clarrie Reis, hand-crafted 22 small Mercy crosses for college classrooms and one large cross for display at whole school celebrations.

Principal Sharon Collins said Mr Reis had shown a generous gesture of kindness, a true testament to the college's Mercy Values. "As a community we are indebted to Clarrie for his artistic talent and for the magnificent crosses that will hang pride of place in our home classes," she said.

The Mass returned to St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba after strict COVID restrictions last year. Each guest was adorned with a yellow Catherine McAuley rose to celebrate the significant day.

Students, staff, family members and special guests were also treated to a superb performance from the College Choir, the Saviour's Sisters.

Sharon said it had been wonderful to gather together and celebrate the life of the Mercy Sisters founder Catherine McAuley. "Of all our college values, justice is the true hallmark of Catherine's legacy, and at the Mass Fr Ray aptly made the significant connection of how Catherine's example equates with this year's Australian of the Year, Grace Tame, a fighter for justice, who, like Catherine, throughout her own courageous efforts, is giving a voice to the voiceless," she said.

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Coming together to mark 60 years of community, (L to R) Michael Bermingham, Fr Michael O'Brien, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Joe Foley, Cathy Bathurst and Michael Cash

HISTORY 60 YEARS IN THE MAKING FOR ST THOMAS MORE'S

KRISTIN BYRNE

On 23 January 1961, 66 children commenced their education as the first students at St Thomas More's Primary School under the careful guidance of the foundation Principal, Sr Finbarr and first teacher, Sr Anna Maria, who many in our community today know as Sr Leonie. The enrolments in the first year (which grew to 78 students by the end of the year) covered Pre-School to Year 4. Students began their classes in a humble farmhouse, with new facilities completed later in the year. The St Thomas More's community owes a great deal of gratitude to the Sisters of St Joseph for their service to both the school and parish over the past 60 years.

The staff was comprised entirely of the Sisters of St Joseph for the first three years. The school appointed its first lay teacher in 1964. The school grew under the leadership of six different Sisters until 1981, when the first lay Principal, Mr

Pat Dwan, was appointed. The Sisters maintained a presence at the school until 1995 and the parish until 2018.

Today, St Thomas More's continues to be a thriving school community under the guidance of the current school Principal, Mr Michael Cash. The legacy of the Sisters of St Joseph is still felt within the school community today. Current staff strive to be faithful to the charism and values of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Early accounts of school life at St Thomas More's highlight the presence of a great community spirit. While this spirit may look a little different today, it is still very much a defining feature of the school community.

Much has changed at St Thomas More's over the past 60 years. The school now caters for students from Prep to Year 6 and boasts many new buildings and facilities. It was very fitting this year that the school celebrated not

only 60 wonderful years of education, but the official blessing and opening of the newest addition to the school site, the Leonard Block Extension.

While it's interesting to look at aerial shots to see how the school site has changed over time and notice the development, St Thomas More's has always been about the people. Over the past 60 years, almost 6,000 children and 400 staff have been part of the St Thomas More's School community. Many past and present staff, students and families joined in the 60 year celebrations for St Thomas More's community earlier this year, sharing stories of their experiences over the years. These celebrations remind us to remain faithful to the legacy of those who have gone before us and ensure a strong foundation is left for those who have yet to come.



Lizzie Adams (left) and St Saviour's College teacher, Michelle Reid (right) with students representing other schools in attendance enjoyed the inaugural event.

INAUGURAL RECONCILIATION WEEK BREAKFAST A SUCCESS

GEORGINA BAYLY

St Saviour's College Toowoomba hosted its first cross-school Reconciliation Week Breakfast on Tuesday 1 June. More than 130 guests from schools, including St Mary's College, St Saviour's Primary School, The Glennie School and Fairholme College, gathered in The Callaghan Centre for the breakfast celebrations.

Special guest speaker Lizzie Adams, CEO of Goolburri Aboriginal Health Advancement, gave her thoughts on the reconciliation movement in Australia and how our opportunities were forged from those before us.

St Saviour's College Deadly Sisters performed a traditional Kowanyama dance, and Glennie Student Anna Dingley gave a rousing persuasive speech.

College Captain Georgia Bartlett received her QATSIF Leadership badge in honour of the role that she plays in the St Saviour's College community.

Assistant Principal Heather Hagemann said the event was a great success and connected our varied school communities.

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CERTIFICATION A SUCCESS FOR LEARNING AT STANTHORPE

JULIE-ANN SPILLER

St Joseph's School Stanthorpe has been recognised as the first Visible Learning+ Certified School in Queensland and joins only two others in Australia with this award.

Visible Learning is based on the research of world-renowned education expert Professor John Hattie. It is focused on accelerating student learning and setting them up to be learners for life. At its best, Visible Learning enables students to discuss how they are learning with teachers and other students and use these skills in new situations.

"Three and half years ago, the school began its Visible Learning Program with the aim of improving teaching and learning across the school. It has been very successful, and the improvement for both the students and teachers has been significant. St Joseph's School is now seen as a Lighthouse School in Visible Learning for all 31 schools across the Toowoomba Diocese with regular visits by other principals and teachers to learn from us," said Andrew Kendall, Principal.

"In order for students and teachers to be successful in the 21st century, they must be persistent, be communicators, be confident, be thinkers, be collaborators and be resilient. These are the hallmarks of St Joseph's Visible Learning, and the students and teachers focus is on continuing to grow these skills. It is through them becoming active and happy contributors to our world that we know that we have been successful."

With every child's learning journey at school being a 13 year one that starts in Prep and finishes in Year 12, successfully navigating that journey and being ready for life beyond school is driving this focus.

With only eight schools worldwide with Level 3 Visible Learning+ Certified School status, this is a great accomplishment for St Joseph's.



Visible
Learning+
Certified School

WHAT IS VISIBLE LEARNING?

***VISIBLE** refers first to making student learning visible to teachers by:*

- ensuring clear identification of the attributes that make a visible difference to student learning, and
- all in the school visibly knowing the impact that they have on the learning in the school (of the student, teacher, and school leaders).

***VISIBLE** also refers to making teaching visible to the student, such that students*

- learn to become their own teachers (which is the core attribute of lifelong learning or self-regulation), and
- develop the love of learning that we so want students to value.

The **LEARNING** aspect refers to how we go about knowing and understanding, and then doing something about student learning. Learning is at the forefront of all education.

In visible learning teaching is viewed primarily in terms of its impact on student learning.



EDUCATION IN BRIEF

St Patrick's School St George students enjoyed a range of activities to celebrate NAIDOC week, including boomerang throwing and Indigenous art and craft.



Bishop Robert with St Mary's School Charleville sports captains, Lucy Tickell and Lucy Lines. The students had asked about the significance of Bishop Robert's ring.



St Mary's School Charleville students and Charleville Parish Priest Fr Warren Padilla joined the community celebrations for NAIDOC Week.

On his way through from Quilpie, Bishop Robert McGuckin called in at St Mary's School Charleville. Bishop Robert was able to meet with the Year 4/5 class. Many students in this class will be making their Confirmation. Students were excited to meet the Bishop before the big event and ask him any questions they had. Also joining the Bishop during his visit was Deacon Brian Redondo and Fr Warren Padilla.



OUR SACRAMENTAL JOURNEYS

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



10 First Communion candidates from Charleville. First Communion celebrated by Fr Warren Padilla

First Communion candidates from Roma receive the Eucharist from Fr Gerardo Tubis.



40 First Communion candidates from Highfields (2 groups). The children were prepared by the Parish Sacramental Team, with additional preparation for the Mass by Mary MacKillop College APRE Paula O'Rourke. First Communion celebrated by Fr Brian Noonan.



27 Confirmation candidates from Roma (2 groups). Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Bill Morris with Fr Gerardo Tubis.



26 Confirmation candidates from Warwick (2 groups). The children were prepared by Denise Ryan and Fr Bony Abraham. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Frs Franco Filipetto, Bony Abraham and Terry Hickling.



GEM OF THE WEST SPARKLES FOR CENTENARY

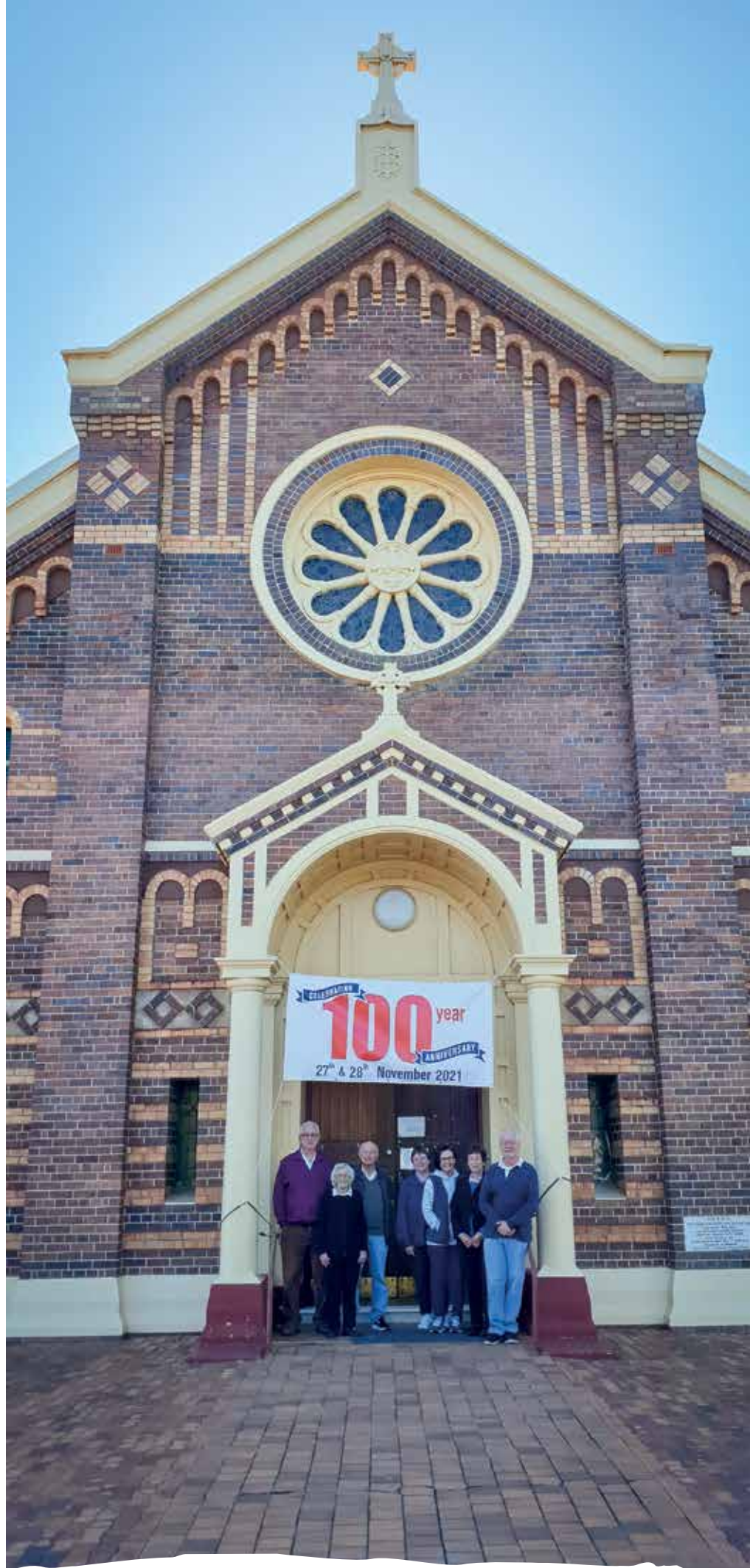
DAMIEN MORGAN

St Joseph's Parish Dalby will mark the centenary of the parish church with celebrations and events on the weekend of 27-28 November 2021. Masses on both the Saturday evening and Sunday morning will recall the events of 4 December 1921 when the church was opened by Archbishop Duhig accompanied by 13 other priests. Among them, of course, was the famous Fr Thomas Nolan, the Parish Priest of Dalby.

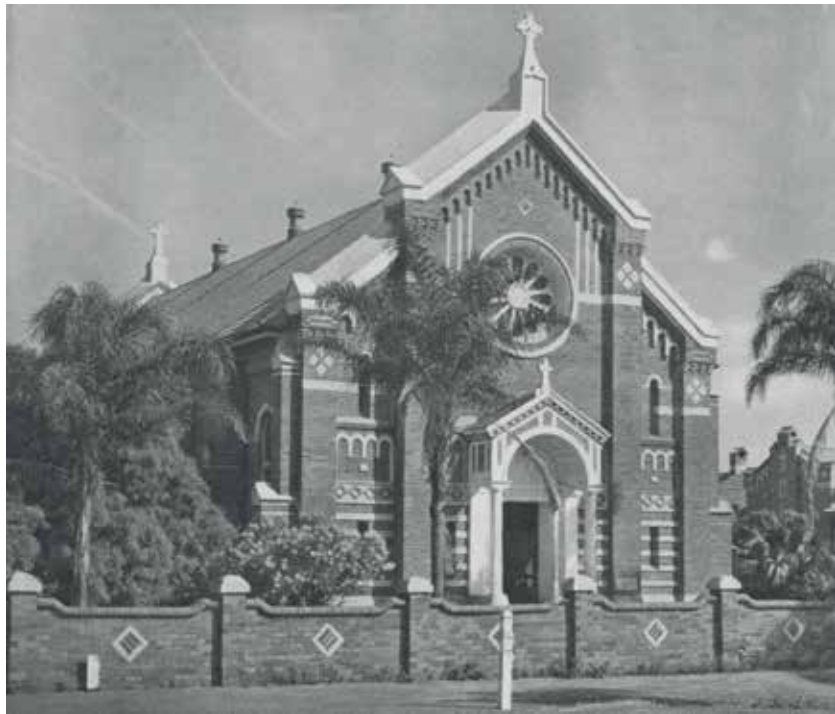
Fr (later Monsignor) Nolan had been appointed to Dalby in 1900 as a young man to serve as an assistant priest to Fr Denis Byrne, who had been Parish Priest since 1868. Fr Nolan had a particular vision for the church in his adopted hometown. He built a convent, presbytery and many churches in the smaller communities of the parish (which was a much larger proposition at the time). St Joseph's Church, the third with that name in Dalby, was tagged "the Gem of the West"; it was indeed a magnificent building in a country town.

The first two St Joseph's Churches have interesting stories, too. Before the parish was established, the first church was built on the corner of Jimbour and Bunya Streets, where the Goondir Health Services building now stands. Work on it had begun in 1865, but in December of that year, before it could be completed, a huge storm struck the town. As the storm receded, it was found that a child had been killed when a house collapsed, many buildings lost their roofs, and the church under construction was significantly damaged. So much so that work on it came to a halt. The following March, what was remaining was demolished, and work began again. It was finally completed in July 1866, and officially blessed and opened by Bishop Quinn, with resident priest Fr Matthew Devitt assisting on 5 August 1866.

This church building survived the large Myall Creek flood of 1876, but by the mid-1880s, it was in disrepair, and plans



The organising committee for the centenary celebrations.



St Joseph's Church (1956).



Fr Thomas Nolan.

were made to replace it with a wooden chapel. This church, on the same site as the first, but now facing the creek, was opened by Bishop Dunne and Fr Byrne on 26 September 1886. This pretty little building served the Catholic community until 1916, when age and an infestation of termites led to its demise. On Sunday 18 June 1916, Fr Nolan gave an emotional sermon to farewell the church. Before the work crew could get in to demolish the building, souvenir hunters were on-site. People who had been confirmed or married in the church were looking for little keepsakes.

For the next few years, Mass was said in St Joseph's Hall, which stood on the corner of Drayton and Condamine Streets, where the Dalby Nissan dealership is today.

Hennessy and Hennessy, architects from Sydney with a significant portfolio of civil and ecclesiastical buildings, were appointed. The excitement for the building in the local community comes through strongly in the newspapers of the time. There were card nights and dances, St Patrick's Day carnivals, and raffles and fetes "under electric light" to raise the money for constructing the new church.

Archbishop Duhig, speaking in Bowen Hills shortly before the opening, said, "In a few weeks I am to open at Dalby a church which is a beautiful sample of Romanesque architecture. This building at Dalby will mark a distinct advance in church architecture on the Northern Downs, and I trust that other parishes will bring their buildings up to



an equally high standard." Fr Nolan's vision was setting the standard.

Dalby welcomed some 2,000 visitors to open the church. They came on special trains from across southern Queensland and were met at the railway station by a marching band that led the way to St Joseph's. It was a huge event to organise.

On the Saturday afternoon, the faithful could have their confessions heard in the new church for the first time. Masses were celebrated on the Sunday from 6:30 am through until 11:00 am;

Fr Nolan had the honour of saying the first one. The ceremony of blessing and opening happened then, followed immediately by a Solemn High Mass. Luncheon, entertainment and speeches, some more serious than others, filled the afternoon. To conclude the day, the Archbishop conducted a Pontifical Benediction in the newly opened church.



Along with the celebratory masses on the 27 & 28 November this year, there will be, COVID-19 restrictions allowing, social events following both the Saturday evening and Sunday morning masses for reminiscing, a display of memorabilia, musical performances, an opportunity for visitors (and locals) to take a self-guided tour of St Joseph's, and a history of St Joseph's, 'The Gem of the West' by Damien Morgan will be available for purchase.



Council of Priests.

COUNCIL OF PRIESTS GATHER IN ST GEORGE

FR FRANCO FILIPETTO

On Wednesday 21 July, the Council of Priests was warmly welcomed by Fr Salvador Fernandes and the parishioners of the Balonne Parish St George.

The Council of Priests usually meets three times a year, and for two of the meetings, the Council gathers in the mid-west and the far-west of the diocese.

We usually arrive at 8:30 am for a quick coffee and tea and a chat. The rest of the day usually follows a well-established program. The meeting commences at 9:00 am and concludes at 3:00 pm with a break for lunch.

At 5.00 pm, we gather for the celebration of Eucharist with the local community. We concluded the day with a meal at the Australian Hotel once again with members of the local community.

Apart from the business of the meeting, it is also a good opportunity for the Bishop and priest members to catch up with each other. A couple of the agenda items discussed this time were guidelines for Pastoral Councils and raising awareness of cultural diversity in parishes of the diocese.

We thank Fr Salvador and the people of the Balonne parish for their great hospitality and friendship. The next meeting will be held in Chinchilla.

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CENTENARY MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS FOR HOLY NAME CHURCH

HOLY NAME PARISH TOOWOOMBA

They say if you look up in any town, you will see the Catholic Church. So it is no surprise that the church of Holy Name commands the highest position on the western range at what is now included in the Mort Estate at Newtown. The original church was of timber construction, built in 1905. Sadly, a fire burnt it to the ground in August 1919. The parishioners, however, were not to be daunted, and plans were made to replace it with a much more substantial building. The foundation stone was laid in November 1919 by Archbishop Duhig.

The present church was completed in 1921, a two story building of solid brick, which incorporated the school, run by the Sisters of St Joseph. Many of our present-day parishioners received their early schooling at Holy Name, some with memories going back over seventy years or more.

The building was financed at a cost of £9,500, half of that being an interest-free loan from the Venaglia family, an incredible sum considering at the time what that amount would have purchased. For context, in the 1970s, a house in Newtown could be bought for less than \$7,000 (£3,000).

The interior was beautifully decorated with large oil paintings and a fresco above the altar, painted by an itinerant Polish artist. In the wake of Vatican II, the

church was remodelled. The altar rails were disposed of in keeping with the times, and the altar was relocated to a side wall with a plywood fascia.

In 2014, a decision was made by the parishioners, with encouragement from Fr Ray Johnson, to restore the church to its former glory and a design was prepared for redecoration. Dan Fitzpatrick and his building team completed the restoration, which returned the altar to its original position and the paintings were restored and replaced. Beautiful rosewood bi-folding doors were installed, creating an area for parish gatherings and Sunday morning tea has become a part of our community life. Amazingly, Holy Name managed to pay for the cost of over \$200,000 with the generous support of our parishioners.

Holy Name Parish continues to grow with a happy community of young families and an active Youth Group that provides regular social gatherings and prayer based activities. The group is open to all youth in the diocese. Contact Ava Naug or Catherine Brennan or see us on Facebook.

We are now planning for our centenary with the support of our Parish Priest, Fr Darryll Irvine.



Altar at Holy Name Church Toowoomba after the renovation.



All are welcome to share this occasion with the Holy Name community, especially past parishioners. The celebrations will commence on 7 November 2021, with Mass at 10:00 am, followed by a Eucharistic procession, luncheon and activities for children.

Please RSVP to the parish for catering and COVID compliance.

Please contact Peter Lynch on 0428 716 455 if you can contribute any photos, historical information or memorabilia.

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Come in and check out a catalogue

The LAST BITE

Welcome

to The Last Bite where we peek into the pantry and check the fridge for the ingredients of a great story and something to eat.

CUSTARD CREAMS

ST URSULA'S COLLEGE
BOARDERS

Ingredients

- 320g of butter
- 1 Cup of Icing Sugar
- 3 Cups of Plain flour
- 1 Cup of Custard Powder

Instructions

1. Beat butter and sugar to a cream
2. Sift flour, salt and custard powder together
3. Gradually add flour mix to butter and sugar, mix to a stiff paste
4. Roll into small balls and place on tray
5. Slightly press down with fork (dusted in flour)
6. Bake in slow to moderate oven until pale golden colour
7. Cool and join together with icing

Happy eating



L to R: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish staff, Sarah Kelly and Jenny Ferguson, with St Ursula's College representatives Bridget Haynes, Principal Tanya Appleby, and Dorothea Amber-Tabuai.

COOKING FOR A CAUSE

ST URSULA'S COLLEGE,
TOOWOOMBA

Undoubtedly, the global pandemic has been challenging for everyone, particularly for elderly members of our community who may be increasingly isolated during this time.

In response to this need and drawing on our touchstone of building unity through community, the St Ursula's College boarding community created the "Adopt a Granny and Pop Project". The initiative included working with the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish to identify elderly members of the community who may have felt socially isolated, marginalised, or required help. The

boarders then baked cookies and delivered handwritten notes and care packages to neighbours, offering them hope during uncertain times.

"We are incredibly proud of our students for taking this initiative and believe that the union between youth and the elderly recognises the value of human connection and our need to belong. We see this partnership as a response to the wellbeing of ourselves and our community," St Ursula's College Principal Tanya Appleby said.

The students have also been recognised for their kindness and outreach as recipients of the Social Justice Award, given by the Social Justice Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. "We are delighted to receive this award, and we look forward to continuing to build on these important connections that have been established," St Ursula's College Head of Boarding Jodi Marshall said.

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Horizons

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

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