

Horizons

MASS FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



SVDP Festival
Meeting in Roma

Locals Making a
Difference in Timor-Leste

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Diocese of
Toowoomba



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.

CONTENTS

COVER STORIES:

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TIMOR-LESTE	6
SVDP ROMA FESTIVAL MEETING.....	9
ULURU STATEMENT.....	14
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE	24
EDUCATION	28
PARISH LIFE	35

FROM THE EDITOR

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

As you drive along West Street in Toowoomba, it is hard not to miss the hope-filled message on the notice board outside the Holy Name Tennis Courts. "Big Hope 2022 Will Be Much Better". Three months in and hope has been difficult to find. Once again, we seem to have become overwhelmed by local and international events that have caused pain, fear and anxiety for so many people.

The Omicron sub-variant of the Coronavirus has seen a rise in infections across the world. Flooding has turned lives upside down across southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has brought bloodshed and tears to the Ukrainian people, bringing widespread instability and tension to the region, not seen in Europe for decades.

On a bright and positive note, the usual editor of Horizons, Ingrid McTaggart is currently on maternity leave, having given birth to Finn, a bouncing baby boy back in February. The Diocesan community I am sure sends their best wishes to Ingrid and her growing family during this very special time for them all.

I have taken on the task of collating the articles for Horizons while Ingrid is on leave, and so I would like to thank all who have contributed to Issue 64. I know that news received from parishes, schools and diocesan agencies through Horizons is much appreciated by many

people living in the far-flung regions of our expansive Toowoomba Diocese.

A feature of this edition is the cover photo from the Mass for Peace in Ukraine held recently at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Let us pray that peace will come to the people of Ukraine and that the rest of 2022 will move some way in the direction of fulfilling the hopes and dreams carried by the members of the Holy Name Tennis Club!

COVER

In the early evening of Monday March 28, a Mass was celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba, seeking peace for the people of Ukraine.

Principal celebrant at the Mass was Cathedral Administrator, Fr. Michael O'Brien, assisted by Deacon Nathan Webb. The prayerful liturgy was enhanced by the participation of Elizabeth Klimkowicz in traditional Ukrainian dress.

Two days earlier, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Amen

(An excerpt from a Prayer for Peace by Pope Francis)

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Easter in the Country Celebrations in Roma

EASTER MESSAGE

BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN



Did you find Lent a challenging time?

I think we can all say that so far 2022 has been very challenging: Covid-19 is still with us and we have witnessed devastating floods in Queensland and New South Wales. At the same time we thank all our emergency and community services and volunteers that stepped in to minimise danger and to offer some relief to those most affected. Many people remain homeless and they know not what the future holds. Will there be a return to normal?

Live streaming and reporting of the floods and of the war in Ukraine must surely have caused us to be saddened and moved to serious reflection on the value of each and every life. The unthinkable war in Ukraine with the terrible loss of life and unspeakable hardship for so many continues.

Pope Francis in his Angelus Address on Sunday 13 March 2022 asked all diocesan and religious communities to increase their moments of prayer for peace. God is only the God of peace, he is not the God of war, and those who support violence profane his name. Now let us pray in silence for those who suffer, and that God may convert hearts to a steadfast will for peace.

Each of us should ask: What have I done to assist those in need? Perhaps we have been a little slow in getting off the mark, but it is never too late to reach out to those in need. Caritas may be contacted <http://www.caritas.org.au> or on 1800 024 413. May we not be indifferent to those in need. May we also heed the Pope's call for prayer.

The women at the tomb received the news of the Resurrection. They

were filled with great joy and ran to tell the disciples. The disciples on the road to Emmaus took a while before they realised it was the Lord, so we too can be a little slow in coming to the realisation that the risen Lord calls us now as his friends to be his active disciples.

As we celebrate Easter, we have reason to give thanks for the wonderful gifts the Lord has graciously and freely bestowed upon us. May the light of Risen Christ shine brightly bringing hope to our world!

Rejoice and be glad for the Lord is Risen!

Bishop Robert McGuckin

Bishop of Toowoomba

April 2022

FR. MURRAY COMES OF AGE

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

With the death last year of the much-loved retired Parish Priest of Stanthorpe, Fr Lino Valente, the mantle of senior priest in the Diocese, by age, has fallen to Fr Don Murray, who passed the age of 90 at his last birthday.

Fr. Don Murray, born Edward Vivian Murray, grew up near Eromanga in the far-flung outer reaches of the Diocese and is much loved in his own right by the people he has served in the communities where he has lived and worked.

Fr. Don's hometown has gained notoriety over the years as the furthestmost point from the sea anywhere in Australia. Fr. Don's family remain connected to rural properties there and have been involved in local government.

From those dry dusty beginnings in the far west, Fr. Don is now retired at Vianney Village in Toowoomba. Along the way, he has travelled the world, studying and eventually being ordained, in Rome in 1960.

Fr. Don has served in many communities throughout the Diocese where he is remembered with

great fondness. Some of those years were spent in the Parish of Wallumbilla, Yuleba and Jackson, where he made lifelong friends.

Fr. Don transferred from Wallumbilla to St. Patrick's Allora and Sacred Heart, Deuchar, where he was present for the 75th and 100th Anniversary celebrations of the Deuchar Church.

Fr. Don assisted in concelebrating the Final Mass to be held there in May last year before the church was sold at auction.



Fr. Murray is now the senior priest by age in the Toowoomba Diocese.



Fr. Murray arrives at the Sacred Heart Church Deuchar on the day of the auction sale.

RELAXING ON RETREAT

Frs. Salvador Fernandes (obscured), Roque Maguinsay, Rod MacGinley, Hermi Rafada, Terry Hickling, Brian Noonan, Sean Lynskey, Tom Duncan catch up before a meal at the recent Retreat





Priests from across the Diocese gathered at Ormiston in Brisbane for the Annual Retreat in January. Photo credit: Fr. Gonzalo Duran

PRIESTS RETREAT TO ORMISTON

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

There's an old saying that a change is as good as a holiday. The priests of the diocese did not have a holiday, but they did have a change of location for their

annual retreat at the start of the year.

With the usual venue, the James Byrne Centre being unavailable, the Diocese this year opted for a real change of scenery, moving the Annual Retreat to the 'Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre' at Ormiston on Brisbane's Bayside.

The Retreat ran for the usual week-long duration under the guidance of the Retired Bishop of Darwin, Eugene Hurley as Director – who based his reflections around quotes from Luke's Gospel and shared many of his experiences as priest

and bishop in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Due to travel restrictions with Covid-19 at the time, Bishop Emeritus Hurley was unable to attend in person, but rather livestreamed his twice daily talks, that included some interaction with those in attendance.

Mass was celebrated daily, along with communal prayer and time for personal reflection. The Retreat concluded on the Friday morning with Mass for the Deceased Bishops and Priests of the Toowoomba Diocese.



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TIMOR-LESTE

BRENDAN RYAN

Timor – Leste is one of Australia’s closest neighbours but is one of the world’s poorest countries having been ravaged by invasion, war and occupation and almost total destruction following the vote for independence from Indonesia in 1999.

Maucatar, north of Suai, is a remote mountainous sub-district of the Cova Lima Province of Timor-Leste. The area has very poor socio-economic conditions, little or no education, malnutrition, high mortality rates especially high maternal deaths of both mothers and babies, lack of water and sanitation and very poor roads over rough and difficult terrain and poor infrastructure.

None of the homes have running water and many villages do not have access to electricity. Most families live a subsistence lifestyle with little or no income.

The Teresa Orsini Maternity Clinic was established by the Hospitaller Sisters of Mercy in early 2016. This is the only medical facility for area. Sr Gilbert is in charge and has 2 Nuns and some qualified nurses, administration staff, cleaners, a gardener, driver, and a Lab assistant to help.

The TOMC provides free care to the people of Maucatar through both care at the Clinic and a mobile clinic to remote villages.

The Teresa Orsini Maternity Clinic and The Hospitaller Sisters of Mercy provide a Variety of Services for the People of Maucatar:

- Pastoral care and church activities in Collaboration with the Parish
- Medical Clinic specialising in Maternity Care, with birth suite and 4 -bed ward.
- Basic laboratory facilities.
- Vaccination and malnutrition programs.
- Education seminars for Family Planning, Ante-Natal and Postnatal care, Nutrition and Hygiene.
- Mobile clinic visits to the villages of Maucatar.
- Home Clinic visits to the Maternity, Aged, and Disabled patients.
- School visits for Dental and general Hygiene education.
- Provision of clothing and household items to needy families.
- On-site Hostel for more than 50 girls aged from 9 to 13 years [enabling

attendance at the nearby school].

- Facilitate finding homes for Orphans and Physically/ Mentally challenged children.
- Distant Adoption – sponsoring children in their own homes.
- Facilitate English language classes, sewing and computer classes.

I was really shocked when I first saw the Clinic’s medicine cupboard. I learned a lot of the medicines and vaccines that the Clinic badly needed could not be stored due to unreliable power and no refrigeration. Constant disruption to the local power was also very problematic for general safe running of the Clinic, especially if a mother was giving birth, or if instruments were being sterilised. This often resulted in burnt out motors.

I felt that the best solution to ensure the Clinic had reliable power was to supplement the local power with adequate Solar Panels, battery backup and a generator.

When I arrived back home, I began to work out a plan how to fund the project for Timor Leste. I was very fortunate that I came off the land, so I was able to source scrap from my former farming neighbours and was

able to convert the scrap for cash.

About 6 months after my return from Timor I met Michael Reiken, owner of Excel Power. Michael was very receptive to my ideas and the vision I had for the Clinic, and he said he would be more than happy to help with the project. Without Michael's help this project would have been near impossible to come to fruition.

Michael also enlisted some of his friends to travel to Timor to help with the installation. They paid their own way and took time out of their busy lives to help the project for the Clinic. I bought a 20ft 9ft 6" high container and began loading it with hospital beds, mattresses, linen, blankets, birthing kits, wheelie walkers, crutches, chairs, sewing machines as well as Baby, children's, and adult clothing.

Meanwhile Michael organised the Solar Panels, Batteries etc. He had to get the mother board all organised prior to going to Timor as it was very time consuming, and time spent at the Clinic was limited. Michael was able to program his computer to accommodate the local power when working and in the absence of local power Solar power would cut in and if needed battery backup and the generator were all programmed to work in sequence when required.

I joined Rotary around this time and was introduced to 'Donations in Kind' [an arm of Rotary that recycle used medical goods and school furniture, books and any other goods in fair condition. They are then donated to communities inside Australia and overseas, wherever the need is.]

I was able to access whatever goods I felt was needed for the Clinic and wider community. I started collecting Sewing Machines from all over as I felt that they would be beneficial to both the girls in the Hostel and the local women to learn how to sew.

Some of the sewing machines come from Parishioners in Toowoomba.

All the sewing machines have been serviced by a sewing machine mechanic prior to shipping. The Men's shed in Toowoomba kindly restored the wooden components of the treadle machines. The container arrived in



Maucater in early October 2020. I went Timor before the Electricians arriving to unpack the container ahead so as not hinder the workers.

The whole project has proven to be a huge success. The Clinic now has good quality and reliable power at all times.

Michael also installed an Airconditioning unit in the birthing room for the comfort of the birthing mothers. Michael is able to keep an eye on the electric system on his computer via WI FI. Not long after the working party arrived home, Michael noticed that the local Timorese power was out for about 6 weeks.

Dollar curtains in Melbourne donated 5 pallets of beautiful materials for Maucater and I was able to organise the material to be shipped to Dili

as part load in a container being loaded out of the 'Donations in Kind' depot in Melbourne.

The village people can access the sewing machines and sewing materials at the Clinic when they go there, or if they live remotely Sr Gilbert will distribute both materials and the appropriate machines for the remote women.

A friend told me of a couple who were running St Joseph's Carpentry school at Maliana. They offered the youth in the area the opportunity to participate in a 6-month basic apprenticeship for youths. At the completion of the course, they would be given some basic tools to enable them to put their newly acquired skills into practice in their community.

The teachers were desperate for tools, both hand and electric for both their



school and for their students. I have been able to send the school a large quantity of tools in different containers going to Dili, paying for space occupied. The tools are picked up directly from the container by the couple. I am always looking for more tools for this project.

A local school here in Toowoomba has donated surplus school items to Donations in Kind which I pick up and take to the depot. I am able to take and pack for Timor anything that is suitable for the community. This has been really well received and much appreciated.

While packing the second container for Sr Gilbert, I asked her if she had any specific medical needs. She really needed a more modern birthing bed, humidicrib, and other specialised medical equipment. Dave, one of the guys who helped instal the Solar Panels etc had a contact at The Wesley Hospital and they were able to help with the wish list.

Another great concern for Sr Gilbert was securing suitable lodging for the senior girls to live in Suai while completing their education. These girls mainly live in the surrounding hills in the Maucatar district and the girl's safety was paramount to Sr. Gilbert. There had been a couple of unsuccessful abduction attempts from the junior hostel last year. This is not uncommon in Timor.

A very generous Toowoomba family donated the majority of the funds to build and fit out the hostel in Sauí. The opening of the hostel was just recently, and Michael and I went up for the Blessing and Opening. The lack of water storage is another big problem at the Clinic and for the girl's hostel. They can access water from a private spring, but that is only running during the wet season, and they need to be able to store some of this water during the wet season to tide the

community over during the dry season

The young girls in the Hostel in Maucatar really would appreciate recreational equipment and personal girls' products if we are able to supply them.

The families of these students really struggle just to be able to feed their families under very trying conditions so there is little or no money for such luxury items which we would call the norm in Australia.

I am in the process of organising another container for Timor and hope to have it up at Maucatar within 6 months or so.

I feel very blessed to be able to help so many people in the Maucatar province, but this has only been made possible by the very generous help of the many wonderful people that I have met on my journey. So many people have helped by their expertise, time and monetary donations which has made a huge difference to our neighbours and friends.

The Timorese people are also very thankful and appreciative for all they have received. Lastly, I am much indebted to my friend and colleague, Michael Reiken for his friendship, and professional expertise which in turn has enriched the lives of so many Timorese people.

WHATS NEXT...!

Our next project is to put solar panels, batteries, and a generator on the Girls Hostel in Maucatar.

We also have a registered charity in Sydney called FOTTOC which stands for "Friends of the Teresa Orsini Clinic".

SVDP FESTIVAL MEETING, ROMA

CATHIE TUCKER

Members of St. Vincent de Paul conferences from throughout the diocese and around the state gathered recently in Roma for a Festival Meeting. The All Saints Parish Conference in Roma hosted the meeting, the first to be held in Roma for many years.

The Festival meeting commenced on the Saturday morning of March 26 with a welcome to country by local Mandandangi man, Tallis Landers. Tallis is a past student of St. John's School in Roma. This was followed by a reflection from Sister Kay McGrath of the Good Shepherd Sisters.

During the Festival meeting a commissioning ceremony was conducted for newly elected Toowoomba Diocesan President, Shane Blakeley, and Regional President, Peter Cavanagh, as well as the induction of new All Saints Roma Conference member, Cathie Tucker.

Queensland State President of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Dennis Innes, was in attendance, having travelled from Cairns with his wife and fellow Vincentian, Veronica Innes, to attend the Festival meeting. Dennis presided over the ritual of commissioning and induction.

As the newly installed Diocesan President, Shane Blakeley spoke of the strategic planning exercise the Society in the Toowoomba Diocese is about to undertake, in setting goals and forming strategies for the implementation of the goals, and to monitor compliance with those goals.

Breaking into small workshop groups, the meeting discussed questions including: the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, issues and challenges which the Society faces. Common issues raised by the small group discussion included: ageing membership, and the need to attract a new and younger members.

The state-wide housing crisis affecting many of the Society's companions was also raised as an issue of vital

importance. The formation of the new strategic plan will consider this range of matters as they affect and relate to the effectiveness of the Society in the Toowoomba Diocese.

State President, Dennis Innes, addressed the gathering, and spoke of the history of the St Vincent de Paul Society. The Society's Director of Mission, Samantha Hill, also spoke and provided a thought provoking presentation about the mission and purpose of the Society in today's world.

A bus tour of Roma took place on the Saturday afternoon, with All Saints Roma Conference President, Gerard Mulligan, providing knowledgeable commentary about Roma landmarks, and the social housing projects established and operated by the local conference. Entertainment on Saturday evening included a dinner and trivia night at the Roma RSL Hall

On Sunday morning, Vincentians attended Mass with the local community in the All Saints Parish Church, celebrated by Parish Priest, Father Tom Duncan, whose mother, Sheryl attended the Festival meeting. Sheryl was presented with a service certificate acknowledging her years of service to the Miles Conference.

Mass began with banners from each attending conference carried in the Entrance Procession. Mass was followed by Morning Tea in the Justin King Centre with members of the local community. After Morning Tea, the business of the Festival Meeting resumed.

Membership and Development Officer, Ada Boland spoke about the Society's Reconciliation Action Plan, and the need for the Society to attract members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Community to join and to engage in the work of the Society, and for their contribution to be gratefully received by the broader membership.

State President, Dennis Innes then spoke of how the Queensland St Vincent de Paul Society is



Peter Cavanagh, Shane Blakeley and Cathie Tucker



Dennis Innes and Ada Boland



Dennis Innes and Margaret Lawton



Shane Blakeley and Margaret Lawton



Margaret Lawton and Sheryl Duncan



Peter Cavanagh

Photos by: Daniel Tucker (St. John's School, Roma)



proactively pursuing reconciliation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community, advising that the Society's Reconciliation Action Plan is now an 'active' plan.

Chief Executive Officer of the Society, Kevin Mercer, and the executive team recently undertook an immersion experience to the indigenous community at Cherbourg. Director of Mission, Sam Hill, spoke of her experience of the visit, and the need to partner with and work alongside indigenous communities.

Newly elected Society Regional President, Peter Cavanagh, discussed attracting new members, noting the good deal of caring in the general community, as was evident with the 'mud army' helping those impacted by cleaning homes after the flood events in 2011 and 2022.

Peter believes some people may be reluctant to commit to joining St Vincent de Paul because they do not know what they are committing to. He spoke of the need to ensure new members have something meaningful to do and encounter the joy that is experienced when helping people.

State Vice President, Annette Baker, travelled from Nambour to attend to the Festival meeting. Annette is also a director of the Society's Housing Board, and chair of the Society's State membership committee.



Annette spoke of the long service undertaken by many Vincentians.

Recently, a Vincentian aged in his 90's marked 70 years of service to the Society. 'Long service' and 'recognition of service' awards were presented to various Vincentians by Shane Blakeley, Annette Baker, and current Diocesan Vice President, Margaret Lawton.

St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland Chief Executive Officer, Kevin Mercer, was unable to attend the festival in person, but addressed the festival by video conference. Kevin spoke of the strategic direction the St Vincent de Paul Society State Council has been working on for the next 5 years

In the closing reflection Sr. Kay spoke of 'going on a sacred journey' at the Festival meeting, the input and willingness to discuss strategic plans, and come together as friends over the weekend. Sister Kay noted she was in a room full of Vincentians, who do the same ministry.

If you are interested in joining in the good works of the St Vincent de Paul Society, or volunteering to help with any of the Society's projects, or simply learning more about the Society, further information may be obtained by contacting Toowoomba Diocesan Membership and Development officer, Ada Boland on the phone at 07 4699 5222.



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DIARY OF A DEACON

DEACON NATHAN WEBB

It is said that a person's mind can, at times, be less active watching TV than sleeping; the mode of entertainment offers just the right level of comfort and familiar stimuli to enter a satisfying and passive state that surpasses even what we know at rest.

Pottering around the Cathedral and surrounds, my mind can be anything but inactive or passive; my senses have to be keenly alert. The Rule of St Benedict (c. 516) opens with the Latin word *ascolta* – “listen” – not just “hear” but “listen.” I think this needs to underlay the service that I offer through the ministry to which I have been called and into which the Church has ordained me. So, even before my calendar was filled, the hours here have been anything but empty.

To whom am I listening? The people around me – those with and to whom I am ministering – to my own intuitions and inclinations, to good ol’ common sense, and for voice of the Lord. Before daring to enter the dialoguing of preaching, I must dare to listen and to watch; before attempting to offer a comforting word, the person concerned needs to be seen and heard; before commenting, complaining, constructively criticizing, co-journeying, or offering a word of advice, I have to offer an honest gaze and listening hear.

This is critical; otherwise, I might as well have kept writing theology papers, talked to the pages in front of me, gazed at the walls of my room, or spoken into a fabricated egotistical echo chamber.

What do I think/hope to see and hear? Well, the answer might surprise me. If I only see what I expect to see or hear what I expect to hear, it might just be a self-fulfilling or self-serving prophecy of sorts. I hope to watch and listen for the deep movements of the Spirit and the very real stories of faith and life, as I serve at the altar and among God's people.

Saint Irenaeus says “*Vita hominis visio Dei*.” This csn roughly translate as “human life consists in beholding God” or “a person's life is seeing God.”



God lives in the Church – the people consecrated to the Lord wherever they may be – and the Lord can be seen and heard there. I hope that I can live and serve encountering God thus, leaning on the Lord's strength and not rely only on my own hopes, visions, and aspirations, or listening only to my own voice.

So, what have I been doing since being ordained deacon? A lot of watching and listening. This might be in prayer, around the parish, meeting

with families and individuals, attending and surrounding Masses, baptisms or funerals, journeying with my own family, friends, colleagues, and confreres, in the classroom or staffroom, or through the voices of formation staff, mentors, superiors, and supervisors. I pray, through the intercession of St Joseph, that I can learn the art of active and humble watching and listening, moulding my life with integrity in response to what I see and hear.



Naree Hellyar, Tracey Scanlan, Kathryn McKeefry, Jaden Frame, Dr Mark Copeland, Cath Kleidon

ST. VINCENT'S KEEPS IT IN THE LOOP

DR. MARK COPLAND

St Vincent's Private Hospital, Toowoomba is the first in the country to embark on an innovative new project, which recycles and reuses medical waste to improve the facility's environmental footprint.

St Vincent's has signed a historic agreement with Envorinex which has partnered with GreenMed through its "Keep me in the loop" program.

Mission Executive at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba Dr Mark Copland said the project, which was prompted by theatre staff, was a significant milestone in the local healthcare sector.

"St Vincent's Hospital is proud to be leading the way in recycling and repurposing waste to better our environmental outcomes as a whole."

"Pope Francis bemoans the lack of a 'circular model of production' in his Encyclical Laudato Si. This project is a concrete way in which we can reduce the use of non-renewable resources," he said.

The collection and reprocessing of this waste will also support

Ability Enterprise employing five new positions.

Ability Enterprises CEO Tracey Scanlan said the "Keep me in the loop" program was a perfect example of a true circular economy which embraced the three pillars of sustainability, those being, social, environmental, and financial.

"As a social enterprise with a 10-year history providing waste management services across the Toowoomba region, Ability Enterprises is proud to be a part of a project which will allow us to offer a greater range of employment opportunities to our staff," she said.

Once collected from the hospital, the waste will be taken to Manufacturing partner Envorinex where it will be reprocessed into pellets and used for remanufacturing into products which can be repurposed at St Vincent's Hospital.

Envorinex CEO Jenny Brown said the healthcare sector was responsible for a huge volume of waste.

"Most of which has traditionally gone to landfill or deep landfill sites." "Our main focus right now is the problematic sterilisation wrap that is used to preserve the sterility of surgical instruments while in storage before use," she said.



Tracey Scanlan, Jaden Frame and Dr Mark Copeland

KSC CELEBRATE A CENTURY

MICK CUSKELLY

The Knights of the Southern Cross celebrated their formation in Queensland on March 18th and 19th with a Special Centenary Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge at St Stephens Cathedral.

The celebration was originally planned for October 2021 to align with the formation of the first branch in Brisbane in October 1921. As with many events, COVID-19 forced the rescheduling of the celebrations.

A special part of the celebration was the display of the St Mary of the Cross McKillop Cross (pictured) made from the floorboards of Mary's school at Penola South Australia. Two copies of the cross were created. One cross was presented to Pope St John Paul II during his open-air Mass at Randwick, Sydney in 1986. The other cross was presented to the Archbishop of Sydney, Edward Cardinal Clancy.

This Cross remained in St Mary's Cathedral for many years and played

a key role in the Beatification ceremony for (the then) Blessed Mary MacKillop in 1995. In 2010, following the Vatican announcement of the canonisation of Blessed Mary MacKillop, the Cross from the Cathedral in Sydney was taken on a MacKillop Cross Pilgrimage by the Knights of the Southern Cross.

The Knights of the Southern Cross were instrumental in the establishment of the not-for-profit organization Southern Cross Care. Over 40 years ago, the Knights saw a need in the community to provide compassionate care and inclusive service to the most vulnerable in our community, the ageing population. After years of hard work and perseverance, the doors to our first aged care facility, Archbishop Duhig Court, were opened at Holland Park in 1979. In celebrating the 40th anniversary, a book on the history of Southern Cross Care will be released as a highlight of the Knights of the Southern Cross 100-year Celebrations.

As members of the Order, Knights remain true to the Knights' original vision of valuing and respecting human life as the purest expression of the Catholic values that lie within us all.



This photo shows the cross during the Queensland leg of the pilgrimage in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Toowoomba.

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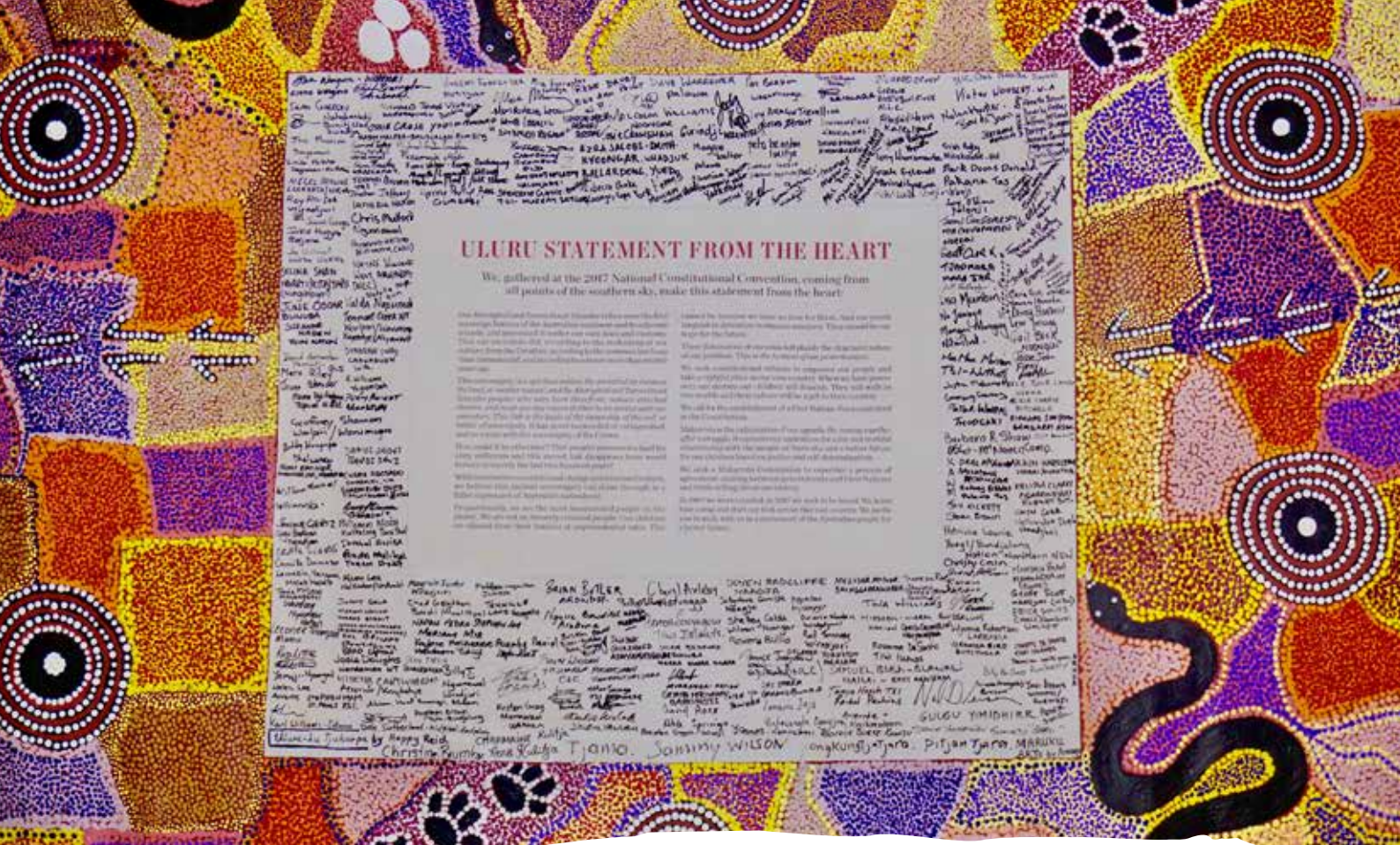
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Children can struggle at school when conditions go undiagnosed. See your GP and ask for a referral to a St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba ENT Specialist.



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Uluru Statement from the Heart.

BISHOPS ENDORSE THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

DR. DAVID TUTTY

At their November meeting last year, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart. While not all First Nations peoples support this statement, the Bishops relied on the advice and encouragement of key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisors and on the words of Pope John Paul II when he spoke at Alice Springs.

The decision to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart means that this statement now contributes to and helps guide our Catholic interactions with First Nations peoples and their aspirations.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart invites us all to walk with First Nations peoples as they seek a better future for Australia. At the heart of this better future is a desire for greater justice shaped by the three steps they seek

to achieve. The statement calls for the establishment of a First Nations Voice to Parliament that is enshrined in the Australian Constitution and it calls for a commission to oversee a two-fold process of agreement-making and truth-telling about the history of this country.

They draw on a Yolngu word 'Makarrata' as the name of this commission as the term Makarrata contains amongst its meanings 'things are all right again after a conflict' and a 'coming together after a struggle'.

The process that led to the Uluru Statement from the Heart began with a meeting of First Nations leaders with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition leader Bill Shorten in July 2015. In response, these two politicians established the 'Referendum Council' which then facilitated thirteen regional dialogues all around Australia.

The final report of the Referendum Council endorsed The Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for Voice, Treaty and Truth. Sadly the Turnbull Government was not willing to accept the call for a Voice to Parliament.

Many may wonder what is the basis for these First Nations claims and aspirations and why this is a concern for our Catholic Bishops.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is just one attempt amidst a long history of First Nations peoples seeking to have their voice heard and aspirations met. First Nations lawyer, Megan Davis, along with Professor George Williams, offer a timeline of First Nations appeals and petitions for autonomy, representation in Parliament and even a separate Aboriginal state (see 'Everything you need to know about the Uluru Statement from the Heart', UNSW Press, 2021).

At the heart of these aspirations was, and is, the desire of First Nations peoples to make their own decisions and to determine their own future.

For over 60,000 years in this land, First Nations peoples have had sophisticated governance and legal systems based on culture, spirituality and millennia living on country. They never ceded sovereignty and since the imposition of British claims their aspirations for self-determination have endured. The delegates that formulated the call for Voice, Treaty and Truth need to be seen within this history.

Historian, Henry Reynolds, names that most Australians were not told of the history of British and Australian interactions with First Nations peoples. He wrote 'Why weren't we told?: A personal search for the truth about our history' (Penguin, 1999) as a way of sharing his journey to learn and

make sense of the history of this land. He realised that he has not been taught anything about the conflicts, massacres and disposessions of First Nations peoples.

This history is one of injustice and therefore it is a concern of our Church and our Catholic Bishops. Each proposed remedy to the unjust history always needs careful reflection by people of faith and brought into dialogue with Scripture and our Catholic tradition.

In the media release from the Catholic Bishops Conference, Bishop Macbeth-Green admitted that 'Sadly, we within the Church have not always lived up to our Gospel calling in our engagement with our Indigenous brothers and sisters' and that the 'endorsement of the Uluru Statement is another step in our journey of addressing those shortcomings' (see mediablog.catholic.org.au/bishops-endorse-ulu-ru-statement-from-the-heart).

For us, the most important part of the Uluru Statement from the Heart is the invitation to share the journey with First Nations peoples seeking greater justice. We are asked to take seriously this invitation and to respond to it with an open heart. We are invited to be allies of First Nations peoples for a better future for all of Australia.

The Social Justice Commission office has the permission to print posters of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. If you would like a copy to hang in a parish or school space, please email David at dtutty@twb.catholic.org.au



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RIDEWEST HELPS KEEP THE FLYING DOCTOR FLYING

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

Over 250 people from Toowoomba and the Downs took advantage of the recent Toowoomba Show Holiday to support a Fundraising Lunch for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The lunch is usually held in Brisbane to launch "Ridewest", a 1311km bike ride from Brisbane to Longreach. This year the lunch was held at St. Saviour's College with the support of Principal Sharon Collins, whose brothers Paul and Brian are taking part in the Ride.

Students from St. Saviour's, St. Mary's and St. Ursula's Colleges assisted in serving the meals that were professionally prepared. Guest speakers on the day included Mary O'Brien, who heads up the "Are You Bugged Mate" campaign that highlights the plight of rural mental health and depression, a cause that recently featured on

Landline. Paralympic Gold Medallist, Katie Kelly OAM spoke of her success at the Rio Olympics and of the work she undertakes within her foundation, the Sport Access Foundation, providing support for young people with disabilities to engage in sport.

The keynote address took the form of an interview by Paul Collins with Australian, Queensland and Broncos Rugby League representative and Channel Seven Sports Presenter, Shane Webcke. As well as the RFDS, the foundations supported by each of the speakers were beneficiaries of funds raised on the day.

"Ridewest" takes place from April 22 – 29, with the route taken by the cyclists passing through Toowoomba and many of the western communities of the Diocese on the way to Longreach.



St. Saviour's College Principal, Sharon Collins with an Acknowledgement of the Country of First Nations people where the Ridewest Tour will pass through along the way from Toowoomba to Longreach.



Paralympian, Katie Kelly OAM



Rugby League International, Shane Webcke, speaking with Paul Collins, a participant in the Ridewest Tour to Longreach raising funds for the RFDS.



"Are You Bugged Mate?" Founder and Rural Mental Health Advocate, Mary O'Brien.

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A NEW YEAR DAWNS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE

DR. PAT COUGHLAN

Welcome to the new year and a new chapter in the continuing story of Catholic education in TCS schools. Already we've seen that this year is shaping up as another one dominated by Covid and its impact. Like me you would be noticing the subtle and not so subtle differences with the way we are now living. We've coped for two years with still no end in sight.

When faced with enduring challenges like this it is not unusual for a sense of fear and helplessness to flourish and take hold. We find ourselves justifying habits and behaviour which are more self-serving and insular than usual. Coping seems to be harder than it used to be.

There is a lovely quote by African American theologian, Howard Thurman which has particular relevance to the current situation. Thurman says:

Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs now is people who have come alive.

This statement turns conventional thinking on its head by suggesting that the best way forward lies not in some external authority or agency but within each of us. He questions that other than complying with the directions of our political and health leaders is there more we could be doing to bring hope and reassurance to our relationships with our family, friends and colleagues?

Thurman's assertion is that at times

like this we should look to rediscover those intrinsic human attributes and qualities which bring life and hope to our relationships. These are what we know as the Gospel values and they are a distinctive feature of the culture of Catholic schools.

There is no more powerful or needed message in times of vulnerability and uncertainty than our strongest commitment to these values.

Our words and actions are powerful weapons to replace fear and a sense of helplessness with hope and reassurance. Actions like, working together, being courteous, thinking of others, complimenting the work of another, saying sorry, greeting others with a positive attitude and doing my job well all send messages of hope and reassurance to others.

Living lives for others helps us to come more fully alive and in doing so spreads a life-giving sense of confidence and wellbeing to those we love and care for. As we begin another school year, our commitment to these values is needed more than ever and sends a clear message that we are unmistakably and distinctively Catholic.

Thank you to all our staff who are part of the noble and honourable work of educating the future generation. As a Diocesan community, the support we all can give the Catholic Schools Office cannot be given by anyone else and is a crucial part of the 'finished product'. Together we all contribute to making a real difference to the many hearts and minds who this year have arrived at our schools across the Diocese.

Have a great year.

CATHOLIC MISSION CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF GLOBAL MISSION ACTIVITIES IN 2022

FIONA NG, CATHOLIC MISSION



In 2022, Catholic Mission will celebrate key anniversaries as a global mission agency. These celebrations include 200 years of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, and the beatification of its founder, Pauline Jaricot. With great anticipation, Catholic Mission is looking forward to celebrating these momentous occasions with donors and supporters throughout Australia.

"2022 is special year for us, as it marks significant anniversaries in our history," says Fr Brian Lucas, National Director, Catholic Mission.

"We will also celebrate Pauline Jaricot's beatification, a key milestone on the journey towards being recognised as a saint. Pauline Jaricot is the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which in Australia is known as Catholic Mission, and we continue to be guided by her great love of prayer and charity in all our mission activities."

The beatification ceremony for the Venerable Pauline Jaricot will be held in Lyon, in May. As a young, faith-filled woman who desired to support missionaries around the world, Pauline

Jaricot founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1822.

"As the first Pontifical Mission Society, it is a cornerstone for our work here at Catholic Mission which focuses on supporting communities in need around the world," says Fr Brian.

The launch of a new monthly newsletter, Mission Today Digital, nurtures that missionary spirit by sharing a unique insight into what Catholic Mission, and its generous supporters, are doing to change the lives of those most in need.

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“It’s your window into mission,” says Fr Brian.

“We invite you to walk with us on this missionary journey. Each month we’ll take you behind the scenes of Catholic Mission as we share the work we are doing around the world and meet some of the people who are making this happen.”

“Supporters can sign up to receive the January edition of Mission Today Digital on our website.”

The celebration of the beatification of Pauline Jaricot, and her founding of the Propagation of the Faith, also coincides with a unique series of significant anniversaries for the agencies of mission that have been at the service of global mission.

“The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, The Society of Missionary Childhood and the Society of St Peter Apostle received their pontifical and universal status as the Pope’s Missionary Societies one hundred years ago, in 1922,” says Fr Brian.

“This year we also recognise missionary cooperation throughout the world with the founding, 400 years ago in 1622, of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, once known as Propaganda Fide.”



FLOODING FAILS TO DAMPEN ENTHUSIASM FOR PROJECT COMPASSION

CHRIS GWYDIR

The recent flood event in South-east Queensland did not dampen the spirits of those who attended the Diocesan launch of Project Compassion at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

The flooding did however prevent Andrew Knife from Caritas Australia in Queensland from attending the launch. Andrew sent his best wishes through Diocesan volunteer co-ordinator, Chris Gwydir.

The launch of the appeal went ahead at the usual 9am Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, February 27, with Bishop McGuckin presiding. A pre-recorded message was received from Kirsty Robertson, CEO of Caritas Australia.

Representatives from several schools were in attendance, and participated in the liturgy. Following communion, a student from each school was presented with a Caritas lantern by Bishop McGuckin to take back with them to use at their school during Lent.

The theme of the Appeal this year is “For all future generations”. Caritas Australia has once again produced resources, including the traditional money boxes and envelopes for all parishes in the Diocese to use during Lent.

Chris Gwydir, as volunteer co-ordinator for Caritas Australia in the Diocese has overseen the distribution of the material.

PLENARY COUNCIL TAKES NEXT STEP IN DISCERNMENT JOURNEY

ACBC MEDIA



The four-year journey of discernment for the Fifth Plenary Council took a step forward recently, with Council Members invited to reflect on proposals emerging from the Council's first assembly, held last October.

Towards the Second Assembly: A Working Document for Members offers a focus for Members' continuing prayer and reflection, especially during the coming month. It includes proposals drafted as part of the process of preparing resolutions for the Council's second assembly in July.

The Members will spend the month of March in personal and shared reflection on the document, prepared in four sections by expert writing groups. Members will then provide their reflections to the Council's drafting committee, which will work with other Council committees and advisors to revise, refine and consolidate the proposals, in anticipation of their publication several weeks before the second assembly.

Plenary Council vice president Bishop Shane Mackinlay, addressing Members last night, said the document "is something which is a work in progress for Members". "It's not just the work of committees or experts or writing

groups," he said. "It is the next step in the process we are undertaking together of preparing resolutions for the second assembly of the Plenary Council. "The contribution of Members over the coming month is critical to this," Bishop Mackinlay said.

Towards the Second Assembly draws primarily on the "fruits" of the first assembly's discernment, discussion and contributions, published in December 2021. The December document articulated the first assembly's raw proposals, which were later gathered into four themes:

- A Deeper Communion Enriched by Diversity;
- Ecclesial Leadership and Governance – Growing as Disciples and Servants of the Gospel;
- To Witness to Faith, Hope and Love as Missionary Disciples in the World;
- To Proclaim God's New Creation as People of Prayer, Healing and Hope.

"Towards the Second Assembly shows further movement of the Spirit; it emerges from discussion, reflection, shared prayer and collaborative writing," Bishop Mackinlay explained. "It moves forward ideas from the earlier documents, gently reshaping or clarifying them."

Each section is based on one of the four themes, and begins with scriptural and theological background for its focus and then offers possibilities for consideration. Members have also received a resource to guide them through a process of individual prayer and reflection and, if possible, a spiritual conversation as part of a small group.

The final step in the reflective process invites Members to make a submission to the drafting committee, based on the fruits of their prayer and reflection. That input will be an essential component for the continued reshaping of the work remaining before the final propositions are ready for discernment and decision at the second assembly. "The Steering Committee entrusts this ongoing process to the Holy Spirit and looks forward to the fruits of the Members' discernment during March," Bishop Mackinlay said.

Bishop Mackinlay asked the Catholic community to continue to lift up the Plenary Council and its Members in prayer, "which has been a driving force behind our four-year journey".

Find out more about the Plenary Council at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

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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





Bishop McGuckin (centre) with Fr. Peter Doohan, Crow's Nest and Fr. Warren from Charleville pictured at the recent In-Service discussing recommendations of the recent audit regarding Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults in the Diocese

DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA DEMONSTRATES STRONG SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

ACSL

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) has today published its safeguarding audit report on the Diocese of Toowoomba.

The audit, conducted by ACSL, assessed the Diocese's progress in implementing the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS), a framework for the safety and protection of children and adults at risk in Catholic organisations.

ACSL Chief Executive Officer Dr Ursula Stephens said that the Diocese has performed strongly, with 87 per cent of the NCSS criteria and indicators relevant to the Diocese either fully implemented, or substantially progressed.

The audit commenced in January 2022 and included a review of the Diocese's safeguarding processes and policies, as well as site visits and interviews with key safeguarding personnel. Site visits to a sample of parishes and ministries within the Toowoomba region took place in February 2022.

'The Toowoomba Diocese demonstrates a strong commitment to the care and protection of children by the diocesan leadership, who have implemented thoughtful and effective safeguarding practices in place within their parishes and ministries. The Diocese highlighted their inclusive Aboriginal Apostolate and their Special Religious Education support ministry for adults with

intellectual disability,' Dr Stephens said

'The proactive safeguarding work of the Executive Officer, who has a dedicated safeguarding role, through his regular visits to parishes and his availability to work closely with personnel, is testament to the investment in cultural change being achieved across the Diocese.'

'It is clear that child safety is a significant priority for the Diocese, and they have done significant work to embed practices that place child safety at the fore of thinking, action, and practice throughout their operations. Yet nothing is ever static within a large diocese, and there is always room for improvement.'

'We have provided seven recommendations to the Diocese that will further strengthen their ability to provide a safe environment for all people. These include updating core safeguarding policies to address children as well as adults at risk, creating detailed risk registers at the level of each parish and ministry, and ensuring safeguarding materials are accessible for children and the local CALD communities.'

'We can also see great opportunities for sharing knowledge across the Diocese. For instance, many parishes already draw upon school-based materials regarding safe and respectful

relationships, since many safeguarding representatives experience come from within schools. There is an opportunity to further this collaboration between parishes and schools by providing access to formation and training with Catholic schools, where there is specialised safeguarding knowledge, and bringing this learning into the parishes,' Dr Stephens said.

The audit of the Diocese of Toowoomba is the 27th child safety audit of a Catholic Church entity by ACSL.

ACSL is now finalising the second edition of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, which will address safeguarding requirements for adults at risk as well as children.

The audit report of the Diocese of Toowoomba is available on ACSL's website.

CATHOLIC NEWS MAKING THE NEWS

The Diocese recently made the news for successfully completing the first stage of auditing in the Diocese regarding Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults and implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission.



SEMINARIAN SPEAKS: THE JOY OF CONNECTION

BJ PERRETT

Anyone who has had the privilege of growing up or spending time in a country town knows that one of life's greatest joys, and one of the most underrated aspects of life, is connection. But not simply connection based on shared geographical location or historical situatedness that ends at the driveway or town border. Rather, the connection formed by deep and lasting relationships characteristic of brothers and sisters, and dear friends.

There are plenty of times over the course of life where connections we've made at school, in workplaces, and on holidays have reappeared in the form of a family member, a friend, or the friend of a friend who we haven't seen for a long time. It is these renewed connections among people that brings joy to our daily lives, and serve as reminders to never take for granted those relationships we currently have.

Since holidaying in my home parish of St Joseph's, Stanthorpe in January of this year, and having spent four weeks in St Joseph's Parish, Dalby in November, I have been given cause to reflect on the great joy that comes from the Christ-centred connections we make with others. For nowhere is connection more beautifully expressed than in that love which is the "bond of

perfection" (Col 3:14, NABRE) uniting us as brothers and sisters in Christ. Although Holy Spirit Seminary is a prayerful, fraternal community of men dedicated to formation for the diocesan priesthood, it is different to the parish community of Stanthorpe which I dearly love, and this is different again from the diocesan community which I am coming to cherish more deeply.

Each of these communities are marked by different connections, and in each of them relationships bonded by true Christian charity bring joy to my life and the lives of others. For instance, there are many parishioners in Stanthorpe whom I have befriended during my time growing up there, and I have witnessed first-hand the common heart and mind (cf. Phil 2:2) in which they strive to put the gospel into practice. Likewise during my time in Dalby I was witness to the joyful connections that exist between families and parishioners, and made connections there myself. And so these connections grow, and spread wider, further, and reach into the lives of more and more people. In their "appointed time" (Eccl 3:1) they will bear fruit in whatever measure the Lord has ordained for them. Isn't this the hope of all relationships, that they overflow in abundance?

Perhaps most especially, it is progressing through the seminary and being involved in its community life that has connected me with a larger group of brothers in Christ, and made me value the gift of friendship and not take it for granted. In this way it was a joy for me to host some of my brother seminarians in Stanthorpe over our summer holidays, and to widen – for my benefit and hopefully for theirs – our connections with the People of God.

Indeed, there is great joy in the connection to which we are all called as children of God and as His faithful people. Insofar as we are members of the same Body, the Church, we are a family.

The connections we make as individuals, as families, and as like-minded Catholics form the basis of our relationships with one another and with the wider Church. Flowing from our individual and personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, with His mother, and with all the saints, comes the joy that is (or should be) characteristic of our connection with one another. May our many and varied connections be for us a source of deep joy, and may we never forget Jesus Christ who is the centre and font of all our relationships.

LAST MASS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH, DEUCHAR



Closing the door after 102 years



Centenary Cake from the Celebrations in 2019



Ode To A Sacred Heart

It's sad to say farewell,
When an era comes to an end,
For our little Church on the Hill,
Standing tall and proud, like a friend.

This sacred place will fall silent,
A place of worship cast to folklore,
But in the midst of the
strangeness of the quiet,
In our minds familiar voices
echo once more.

'Faith of our Fathers' and
'Hail Queen of Heaven',
Guide of the wanderer here below,
'Celebrating Mass and
Hearing Confession',
Allowing a simple, trusting faith to grow.

In the depression and
through times of war,
The Church on the Hill stood tall,
A sign of what our faith stood for,
And the district heeded the call.

Through "drought and ruin and flood",
This Church on the Hill called
the district to prayer,
For 'This is my Body' and
'This is my Blood',
And this is what we've come to share.

Over a hundred years we've
been gathering here,
At this place on the top of the hill,
and now as the last time
draws ever so near,
The sadness, the grief, the
memories they linger still.

As much as we love the
church on this ground,
It is the people that gather
that matter the most,
At Deuchar it is so very profound,
And we farewell the church
with this toast.

To the priests and religious
who brought the faith,
And shared with us the Word of God,
To the homes where prayer
was common place,
And the families in whose
footsteps we've trod.

To the people here today
who've gathered around,
And shared stories from their
heart and their soul,
We move off today from
this Holy Ground,
With a sad smile for what was once told.

For generations, simply "the
greatest people on earth!",
- No fancy words, no
glamour nor regalia,
For this little "Church on the Hill,
the little place in the heart
Of the greatest country in Australia!".

(Inspired by a Speech given by Dinny Collins on the occasion of the
75th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Deuchar in 1994, the "Little Church on the Hill")



Inspecting the new site at Westbrook for the proposed St. Francis Catholic College

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEW CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR THE TOOWOOMBA DIOCESE

BISHOP'S LETTER

Bishop Robert McGuckin recently announced that the new Catholic College for the Diocese, to be built in the growing area of Westbrook, would carry the name of St. Francis Catholic College.

"I am pleased to announce that planning for a new Catholic College for the Toowoomba Diocese has begun. Whilst in its early stages, the proposed co-educational College, located on the corner of Shoesmith Road and Boundary Road South, Westbrook, will be master planned to enrol up to 1500 students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The new College is in response to the growing demand for Catholic education in Toowoomba, particularly in the Western growth corridor. The last new Catholic school opened in the Diocese was Mary MacKillop College, now in its 19th year."

Bishop McGuckin went on to say that

the name for the new College will be St. Francis Catholic College. "Our current Pope chose the name Francis in the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi." This has now inspired the choice of Francis as a fitting name for the new College. "Franciscan spirituality speaks to us more than ever at this time. Our young people need models of people simply living the Gospel life – St. Francis of Assisi (and St. Clare) encourage us to see and experience God's loving and peaceful presence in the world. The unique Franciscan ethos of simplicity, humility, peace and joy will be woven into the life of the College and become the touchstones which guide and inform the growth and formation of students", said Bishop McGuckin.

Bishop McGuckin concluded by saying that this is an exciting development for Catholic education in the Diocese. "I look forward to this new College continuing the provision of high quality, affordable Catholic education by our systemic Toowoomba Catholic Schools", he said.





Six new principals join Toowoomba Catholic schools in 2022

As we look forward to the new school year, a warm welcome awaits all new staff joining Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) in leadership, teaching and support roles. For six of our schools, this includes welcoming a new principal. Some of these principals will be new to the Diocese and others are moving to these roles from our own schools and colleges.



Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba – MICHAEL BALL

Michael joins the Toowoomba Diocese after 20 years of teaching and leadership positions in the Brisbane and Armidale Dioceses. Most recently he has been the Principal at St Patrick's School, Walcha and St Francis Xavier's School, Narrabri.

Michael and his wife and two sons are looking forward to becoming a part of the Toowoomba and Mater Dei communities.

As principal, Michael is keen to continue the very strong teaching and learning culture and quality outcomes which are a feature of Mater Dei.

"I base my leadership on 'faith by example; a relentless focus on quality teaching and learning and always having the students at the forefront of our strategic direction'."

Michael is also very animated about the part COVID has played in this move and the skills he has developed. "I have never had to conduct all of the handover meetings for a role via videoconference before, and I did buy a house after a Face Time call, so I guess this is just growing my skill set once again."

He added, "Seeing the staff and school in person is going to be an extremely exciting day and I am looking very much to it!"



Assumption College, Warwick – LIISA HAMMOND

Liisa has been the Principal of Good Samaritan College, Toowoomba for the past three years and has led an impressive improvement agenda at the College. Liisa's extensive experience in a range of leadership positions in a variety of school settings in Toowoomba including St Mary's College, St Ursula's College, and Centenary Heights

SHS positions her well for her new role at Assumption College.

Liisa is passionate about working with young people, focussing on their learning and wellbeing; developing their self-belief and capability.

"I am looking forward to moving to Warwick with my family and getting to know the school, parish and wider Warwick communities and continue the strong culture of nurturing and challenging the unlimited potential of every student."



St Francis de Sales School, Clifton – BRENDAN REDINGER

Brendan returns to the Toowoomba region after spending five years as principal at St Patrick's School, St George. His diverse leadership experience in educational settings over fifteen years will be built upon as he joins the Clifton community.

"There is something very special about working at Toowoomba Catholic Schools. Being able to share my passion and energy for education, with my colleagues, has created a culture of high-quality learning and teaching through a supporting and caring environment."

I look forward to developing positive relationships within the Clifton community and continuing to foster the wonderful work that has gone before me."



St Patrick's School, Mitchell – KYLIE MILLAR

Kylie is joining Mitchell having had various leadership roles at Injune State School including Early years lead teacher, Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) internal coach and Promoting Literacy Development early years leader.

Kylie's other experiences come from roles in rural Queensland and South Australia in many areas including

Special Education in primary and secondary settings.

Kylie's commitment to ensuring students in rural and remote areas receive high quality educational and wellbeing experiences will make her very welcome in Mitchell.

"I am excited to be taking up the position of Principal at St Patrick's from 2022. My family and I have decided to return home to Mitchell, and we are very much looking forward to re-joining a warm and welcoming community."



St Patrick's School, St George – JAMES WREN

James has been teaching since 2006 and has worked in both regional, rural, and metropolitan settings around Queensland as well as in the United Kingdom. James moved to Toowoomba Catholic Schools in 2019, taking on the role of Assistant Principal Religious Education of Sacred Heart Primary School, Toowoomba and prior to this was

Assistant Principal Religious Education (Acting) of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Gayndah.

"I am looking forward to joining the St Patrick's community and continuing to build on the excellent standards that have been achieved in teaching and learning and student and staff wellbeing. I am also excited to immerse myself in everything rural life has to offer."



Good Samaritan College, Toowoomba – LIBBY ROSENTERTER

Libby comes to the College with over 20 years of educational experience including as a Learning Support Teacher, Education Officer: Inclusion Coach and Head of Department: Positive Learning Centre and Regional Behaviour Coach.

Libby's strong grounding in curriculum, understanding of trauma informed practices and a willingness to think outside the square will ensure that the strong position of the College continues as the community moves into the next exciting phase of development, which includes extensive building works.

"I believe very strongly that all students are capable of achieving academic success and are entitled to a differentiated, well designed and engaging curriculum to do so. I am looking forward to working with the Good Samaritan College community to continue the very significant improvement trajectory of the College in recent years."

Bright futures

- many gifts

Toowoomba Catholic Schools are proud of the achievements of the 2021 graduates of Catholic colleges from across the Diocese.

With 97% of our graduates receiving their QCE (with a state percentage of 93.5%) and many of our students gaining ATARs that have enabled them to continue studying towards their chosen career – we have much to celebrate. Equally, we are proud of the large number of students who obtained Vocational Education and Training qualifications and School Based Apprenticeships whilst also completing their QCE subjects. These students are now working in their chosen field, continuing their apprenticeships or entering University. The bright futures of the 2021 alumni and their many and varied gifts have been nurtured through the partnerships of parents and the staff of the colleges, and the commitment and dedication of the students themselves. The stories of some of these students are shared with you, to inspire and uplift you.

Dr Pat Coughlan
Executive Director:
Catholic Schools
Diocese of Toowoomba



Diocese of Toowoomba
Catholic Schools



ALEX MYERS - St Mary's College, Toowoomba

Conanti Corona, is at the heart of what it means to be a St Mary's College student and graduate. It translates as, 'a crown to the one who strives'. The 2021 College Dux, Alex Myers is the embodiment of the motto as his hard-work, self-belief, resilience, and persistence resulted in an ATAR of 99.50. Alex attributes his ATAR to the mindset he has maintained through his schooling. "I have always tried my hardest and put my best into everything, and over the years I developed my study skills and habits; it just became natural for me. I just focused on each task and took everything one step at a time and knew I had to keep going even when I had disappointments or hardships," said Alex. He also had high praise for the teachers at St Mary's. "My teachers' guidance definitely impacted me - they always got me through my struggles, and I knew they were in my corner." Studying at the University of Queensland is the plan for Alex, with being a physicist, scientist or mathematician on the cards.

www.stmaryscollege.com



EMILY MCNULTY - St John's School, Roma

Emily McNulty has been described as an 'all rounder'. Not only was she the top performing student at St John's School Roma, she was also awarded the Long Tan Award in recognition of her outstanding team and community work, the Tara Bambling Award for excellence in sporting pursuits and the Olympic Change Maker Award. These accolades came as a result of her dedication to her studies, leading as a prefect and in sporting pursuits and giving her time to her community.

The University of Queensland was so impressed with her achievements that she has been accepted to study a Bachelor of Health, Sport and Physical Education and selected to attend the Duchene residential college.

Principal Jim Brennan said, "Emily's diligence and contribution has led to her success. She is a great role model of our school values of Compassion, Respect, Justice and Excellence."

www.roma.catholic.edu.au



PHUCHOMPU (PATRICIA) LANE-GESSIRI - St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

Inspired by the book 'Built: The Hidden Stories behind our Structures' by female civil engineer, Roma Agrawal, her parents and her Maths and Physics teachers, Patricia has future plans to build smart cities and create sustainable environmental solutions. With an early offer to UQ this is all achievable.

"My school success came not only from others' belief in me; it was also my own motivation to succeed in Maths and Science," said Patricia. "Creating a study schedule, staying organised, being an active listener and participating in class were key."

With a strong belief in the necessity for diversity in teams to build solid solutions for our world that are ethical, environment and people friendly, Patricia is looking forward to her future studies...and even fitting in additional activities like a Coding club and some adult ballet classes!

www.sjc.qld.edu.au



KATE HUDSON-JAMES - St Saviour's College, Toowoomba

With a head start on her university studies already under her belt, having completed two units during her Year 11 studies, Kate is well on the way to achieving her goal of a Bachelor of Musical Theatre. Taking a gap year in 2022, Kate isn't resting, but rather, taking every opportunity to hone her skills, with a lead role in the upcoming musical 'We will rock you' at the Empire Theatre.

Kate's ATAR of 95.15 and a 25/25 on the English Extension Exam are the rewards for her commitment to her studies. Alongside this, she was recognised for her outstanding contribution to the arts and community receiving a number of College awards as well as a USQ Excellence Award.

"Kate is an extremely gifted and talented young woman," said Ms Sharon Collins, Principal of St Saviour's College. "She is a deserving high achiever who is certain to have her name in lights in years to come."

www.ssctwb.catholic.edu.au



The sky's the limit!

NATHAN HADDOW

Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields

Nathan is about to fulfill a lifelong dream, a dream he thought near impossible - studying a Bachelor of Aviation at the University of Southern Queensland. The aspiring commercial pilot is part of only the second cohort to graduate Year 12 at Mary MacKillop Catholic College, but even more special, among the first to be completing their full 13 years of education in the P-12 College.

Nathan was not always certain he would fulfill this career aspiration. He attributes his success so far to the support of the Your Pathway Team at Mary MacKillop. Nathan said, "I had no idea how easy it was to find and start pursuing my passion for aviation before then, it really felt like this long-time dream job of mine was finally achievable."

Obtaining an early entry offer at USQ was a huge weight off his shoulders, not only giving him the confidence to focus all his efforts on external exams, but the peace of mind knowing he could commence his degree in his home community of Toowoomba. With an impressive ATAR score of 80.6, this confirms that the sky is the limit for this soon to be pilot!

Here's what Nathan had to say about his achievements and his Catholic school experience...

When did you start school at Mary MacKillop Catholic College?

I have been at Mary MacKillop since Prep, starting in 2009. It's been a long and ever-changing ride since then, staying at Mary Mac all the way through to finishing Year 12 last year.

How did you discover the pathway and opportunity to study a Bachelor of Aviation through USQ?

I was lucky enough to discover this pathway through a Careers meeting with some of the members of the Your Pathway Team at the College; we went through a list of possible pathways that suited my interests and that's when I discovered I could study and become a pilot from right here in Toowoomba at USQ. I had no idea how easy it was to find and start pursuing my passion for aviation before then, it really felt like this long-time dream job of mine was finally achievable.

How did Mary MacKillop Catholic College support you in making this decision?

The numerous career sessions and classes run by the College were incredibly helpful for me in deciding what I wanted to do after school. I was feeling very overwhelmed and pressured towards the end of school to try and decide what I really wanted to do. It wasn't until the Pathways Team met with me that all that stress and pressure was gone and I had made a firm decision and had a clear goal and aspiration.

Can you share the importance of having the support of a Pathways Team in helping you achieve this goal?

I cannot stress enough the importance and significance of the Pathways Team when it came to helping me follow my long-time dream of becoming a pilot. The sessions we had gave me a clear goal, that made it seem possible and achievable. Having that goal gave more meaning to my study - knowing that I was working toward a long-time dream job of mine. It made me want to try and work even harder. I was more focused on my schoolwork and I felt reassured in knowing that I had a bright future ahead of me at the end of school.

You received an early entry offer; can you explain this process and what it meant for you and the remainder of your final year of senior school?

An early entry offer allowed me to apply for the course I wanted to do before the final ATAR results are released, going off my results from earlier in the year. It allowed me to essentially get into the course I wanted early even before external assessments began. Getting an early offer further fueled my aspiration for becoming a pilot and was a great final push to encourage me to work even harder for the final assessments of Year 12.

You're off to study at USQ, can you share the importance of staying in your community and still being able to work towards an exciting career?

Staying local allows me to still spend time with my family and friends, as well as continuing to work whilst beginning my uni studies. It's great for me that I still get to keep the lifestyle I'm familiar with, whilst being able to study at a Uni only 15 minutes away.

What does the dream job look like for you?

Flying is just the dream job for me. Planes and helicopters and anything of the sort have interested me since I was little. Being able to fly with Qantas, Jetstar or even in the Australian Defence Force would be the most incredible, exciting and life changing career I could have ever dreamed of.

Do you have any tips or words of advice for future graduates who might not know which direction they're heading in?

My biggest advice for any graduates trying to choose a career is to not underestimate what you can achieve. You can genuinely accomplish amazing things if you truly follow your passion. Believe me, I would have never thought I would ever have the chance to fly a plane. Don't be discouraged to research and find out what you need to do to find a career you are truly passionate about. And reach out to any careers team or staff at your school that can help you out, because I would definitely not be going to Uni next year with this much confidence, excitement and hope without the staff at Mary MacKillop helping put me on the road to my dream job.



MARY
MACKILLOP
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COLLEGE

www.mmcc.catholic.edu.au

DEPARTING GIFT

ST ANTHONY'S
SCHOOL, TOOWOOMBA

It is tradition at St Anthony's School that our Year 6 cohort leave a departing gift as a legacy for years to come. This year, it was the vision of Year 6 teacher, Leigh Winters, for the Year 6 students to create a mosaic that represented St Anthony's.

With the help of community artists, Denise Chardon and Lee Fullarton, this vision became a reality and the most amazing mosaic now beautifully adorns our front office entrance.

Running across the top and bottom of the mosaic are children in school



uniform, symbolising each student. On the left is a large cross with a Nano Nagle lantern at its heart. This symbolises our 'Lighting Pathways for Life', our connection to our school charism and Nano Nagle - how we can be the light for others.

To the right of the cross is a depiction of St. Anthony. Other symbols include a music note and drama masks, representing the cultural focus of our school. There is also a map of the world representing multiculturalism and our stewardship of creation, and a book angled to form a heart - representing



our St Anthony's 'Love of Learning'.

2 people with a ball represent the school houses and the many sporting opportunities available to students, while an Aboriginal symbol of a gathering place represents our connection to other cultures. Lastly, there is a symbol of two students holding hands with hearts on their chests - representing our 'Love of others'.

All the images were taken from the student's artworks and suggestions, and were created by them over a period of a few days.



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WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER

ANDREA COLLINS

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18:20

While gathering at the start of this school year has been at times difficult, especially as we accommodate our seemingly ever-present companion, COVID; we have still been successful in building a family that is stronger than ever. This year's theme at Downlands College being 'Come to the Table' is especially fitting as we look to welcome Prep to Year 3 students and families to our Downlands community from 2023. Matthew's quote above reminds us that as a Catholic, MSC family, we invite others into a space whose centre is imbued with the Sacred Heart 'charism' or gift of the Spirit. We continue the mission of Fr Jules Chevalier and the MSCs as we bear "witness to the love, kindness and compassion of God, so that the hearts of many may be healed". Jesus promised his disciples that where two or more are gathered in his name, he would be among them. When we gather as an MSC community, we invite the spiritual power of God into our lives, and we become instruments of divine purpose and ministers of hope, justice and love.

Starting the new school year in the absence of Fr Vince Carroll msc has been a challenging aspect of Term One for us. A few weeks before the commencement of the first term, the Darwin Diocese was seeking clerical support on Bathurst Island in the Tiwis. With the delayed start to the school year, Fr Vince felt he needed to respond to this call and is now working hard to offer his support to the people of Bathurst Island. He remains very much in our prayers as he continues the vital work of the Missionaries of the Sacred



Heart in the Tiwi Islands, and we look forward to his weekly updates. This month we welcomed Fr Bob Irwin msc back to the Downlands table and in a single week, Fr Bob became firmly ensconced in the daily routines of Downlands College. Fr Bob will be with us until Fr Vince's return in late May.

Fr Bob has also been our special guest at retreat days for our Year 8 and 10 students. Presented by the inimitable Mr Michael Fitzpatrick, these two days allowed students a chance to get to know themselves and their cohorts better as well as gain a stronger understanding of what it means to be a young MSC person in a world that presents many opportunities as well as many complex challenges.

Earlier in the term, our Year 7s also gathered together to enjoy their Tradition and Spirit Day – a day of discovering what it means to be a Year 7 Downlander and it too was a special day of reflection and celebration. Our Year 6s, as the new leaders of the Junior School, took

time out to explore the importance of MSC leadership. This day culminated in a beautiful badge ceremony where each student, receiving a special blessing by Fr Bob, was presented with their 2022 leadership badge.

Lent is now in full swing and the Downlands Rugby Squad was keen to kick off the fundraising drive for Caritas this year. They served delicious pancakes to students and followed up with a Sausage Sizzle this week. Each of the Pastoral Care groups is focused on this year's Project Compassion theme – 'For All Future Generations' in response to Caritas' call to put "compassion into action throughout the Lent season through prayer, fasting and almsgiving". This is something that Downlands College does so well, as we continually work hard to make our vital contribution for all future generations.

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE WARWICK WELCOME NEW PRINCIPAL

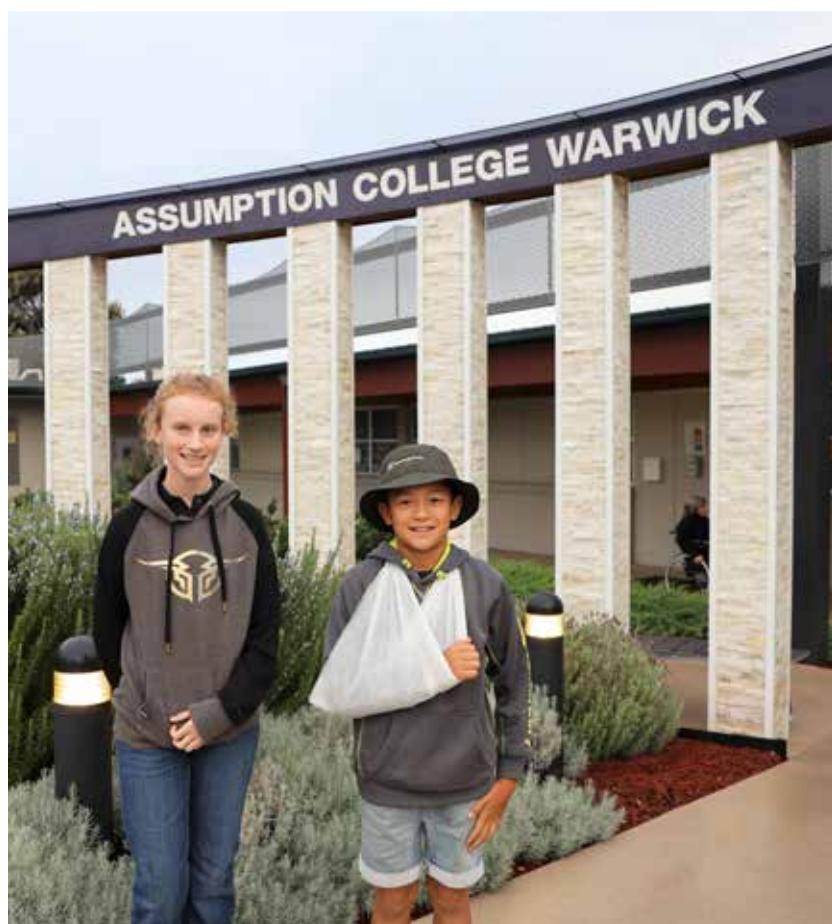
SHARON NEWLEY

A Welcome Barbecue was recently held at Assumption College Warwick to introduce new College Principal, Mrs. Liisa Hammond.

Gathering at the College for the Welcome Barbecue were students, families and members of the wider community, who enjoyed the hospitality of the College for the evening. The two-fold purpose of the function provided the community an opportunity to not only meet the new College Principal, but to also celebrate the beginning of the new school year.

Live entertainment was provided by one of our talented ACW students, Jordan Quinert. Our Hospitality Coffee shop was also running on the night, and our hospitality students provided guests with complimentary coffee, tea and hot chocolates that were much appreciated on the cool evening.

The College takes this opportunity to express gratitude to all who attended the Welcome Barbecue and assisted in making the evening the social success that it proved to be, for the Assumption College Community.





LEADERSHIP IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF EDMUND RICE AND CATHERINE MCAULEY

SHARON YOUNG

At St Mary's School, Warwick, the spirit of the St Mary's Way is to follow in the footsteps of the Sisters of Mercy and Christian Brothers who laid the foundation for our great school. Within that spirit and charism, we have inaugurated five new student leadership portfolios for our students to lead the way in learning and love at our school. These are the Charity Portfolio with students leading the way running the Mini Vinnies group and raising awareness around social justice issues; Creativity Portfolio with students leading the way with our student choir, visual arts projects and media; School Spirit Portfolio with students leading

the way with school tours, team spirit at sporting events and welcoming committee; Stewardship Portfolio with students leading the way in caring for creation, organising our recycling program and garden club; Student

Voice Portfolio with students leading the way with a student council with representatives from each class and our library monitors. We are really proud of our students as they lead the way in learning and love at St Mary's Warwick.



Year 6 Students pictured in St. Mary's Church Warwick with Fr Franco Filippetto and Fr Bony Abraham



OLSCC SPREAD THE LOVE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

SARAH LILBURNE

At Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Dalby, students in Year 7 to 12 devote time each week to service learning during 'Praxis' which aims to promote their experience of faith in action. Students actively participate in service-learning, reflection, and engagement with the needs of our community. This practical application of living Christ's values aims to result in connecting with unity and trust to our community. To serve others involves listening and responding to their needs with integrity, acceptance and goodwill.

Recently our Year 9 Praxis students were approached by a local aged care facility with a request for support. The nurses and carers suggested students

could create 80 cards that could be given to residents to mark the occasion of St Valentine's Day. This community request was embraced by the Year 9 students, with the aim to use their creativity to bring joy and brighten someone else's day.

Realising a fantastic opportunity to create a service-learning opportunity, the students eagerly engaged in cut 'n' paste practices, colouring in, writing messages of affection to fashion the colourful cards.

This simple action was not only enjoyed by students but also well received by the residents. A representative from the aged care facility expressed their

thanks with the following message.

"Thank you for the thoughtful Valentine's Day cards. They brought smiles to the residents all day, and provoked some wonderful conversations about Valentine's Day and some of the friendship and long-term marriages the residents have or had."

Students are already planning what other occasions could be marked in a similar way throughout this year so they can continue to spread joy and happiness in our community.

Handy Hendo



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'EVERYONE BELONGS' – HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE

Harmony Week celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. At St Saviour's College 'Everyone Belongs'.

The College held their Harmony Day celebrations on Thursday 24 March, raising an incredible \$1,000 for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Harmony Day is always such a special day at the College. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of the many cultures

that exist in our College community. These cultures were all on show as the hall came alive with dance and music. Each Homeclass had a stall featuring cuisine from around the

world - England, Mexico, America, Africa, India and France with students and staff treated to an array of delicious dishes.

Our entertainment was drawn from a variety of cultures including the Torres Strait, Cape York, contemporary Australian, Africa, India and the College's 'Deadly Sisters'. Our Year 12

group and Year 7s owned the stage with their dance performances.

Musical and vocal pieces were performed by a number of individuals and duets as well as our very own Saviour's Sisters and The Midnight Mercy Girls. This year we were also treated to a surprise Flash Mob by the College Choir.

Harmony Day proved to be a wonderful celebration of culture and was enjoyed by all!



ROMA FAREWELLS SR. NORA

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

Late last year the curtain fell on nearly twenty years of faithful service to the Roma community by Sr. Nora Fitzgibbon, who has retired to Brisbane. Sr. Nora was a very familiar face around Roma, arriving there via Woorabinda, where she had lived for 21 years.

Earlier last year, Sr. Nora celebrated her Diamond Jubilee with the Sisters of Mercy where for 60 years she has worked at schools in places as diverse as All Hallows and Gympie, Cunnamulla, Woorabinda and Roma.

The role she dedicated her life to in Roma was as 'Pastoral Presence'. In this position, she was heavily involved in all aspects of parish and community life, assisting with the pastoral and liturgical practice of the All Saints community and regularly visiting the nursing homes and hospital.

Ecumenism is close to Sr. Nora's heart, and she regularly took part in activities organised by the Roma Combined Christian Churches. Sr. Nora will be missed by the many friends she had made over the years at the Roma Bowls Club on Friday nights.

Sr. Nora was farewelled by the community at Mass on Sunday morning, November 28. The next morning St. John's School held a special farewell liturgy where she was given the honour of a 'clap out' of the school grounds and presented with a commemorative quilt.



Photo: St. John's Students sing a farewell song to Sister Nora Fitzgibbon.

Sr. Nora has retired to Nudgee in Brisbane. Her departure from Roma brings to an end a continuous association with the Parish and School by the Sisters of Mercy that began in 1881 with the opening of St. John's School.

The verse on the back of the quilt presented to Sr. Nora by the school reads:

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your track.
From Erin's green valleys,
To Queensland's sunny skies,
You lived the Spirit of
Catherine McCauley,
Through smiling Irish eyes.
You came here from Woorabinda,
And made Roma your adopted home,
Now the time has come,
to bid farewell to 'one of our own'.
It is sad to say goodbye,
To the last of the Mercy Clan,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you – securely
– in the palm of his hand.*



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ST. THOMAS MORE'S SUPPORTS MEN FOR ALL SEASONS

LYN CASH & DICK NEAL

Has there ever been in our lifetime, a more important time than now to be staying positive, looking out for our mates and appreciating the freedoms that we are blessed with in our corner of the world? The 'Men for All Seasons' is one such group which services this need. Its aim is to: foster good friendships between retired gentlemen; deepen relationships; offer a platform for socialization. Events members engage in are very much informational. The group promotes men, ministering to men, in their retirement years. Membership is wide and far and all retired gentlemen are welcome to join

This group was an initiative of the St. Thomas's More's Parish Pastoral Council. Under the guidance of Mr. Dick Neal a feasibility study was undertaken of retired men in the parish in order to gauge and evaluate if such a group was necessary to establish. That was some 9 years ago and the outcome has been overwhelmingly positive.

Since its beginnings of just 16 members, current membership sits at 160. All receive a yearly program of events, enabling members to mark off on their home - calendar the first Monday of each month, allowing them to keep the date free to partake in the activity for that month. Members meet at St. Thomas More's Parish before hopping on the Coach to take them to the day's activity.

Feedback from men who have taken part in in the activities of the 'Men for All Seasons' group has been overwhelmingly positive. Some of the various retired gentlemen have commented:

...I did not know what to expect when I joined as I am not an attendee of the St. Thomas More's Parish, but

I was pleasantly surprised by the welcome everyone gave me and their acceptance of me into the group...

...Since I joined several years ago, I have had the opportunity to visit such places as Suncorp Stadium, the Commonwealth Games Venues on the Gold Coast and Wagners Composite Fiber Factory at Wellcamp just to mention a few...

...I have been participating in the activities of the 'Men for All Seasons' men's group since its inception. In a number of ways belonging to this group has been of much value to my mental, physical and social well-being. I am a resident of a retirement village and because of this I have limited opportunities for social contacts outside this residential facility. This men's group fills a most important role in this respect...

...Since retirement after a long and busy working life my husband has missed the company of fellow workers and the interaction with clients and I dare say some loss of identity. However, the men's group has enabled him to make new friends while enjoying the trips and tours to different destinations in a well- organized, safe environment...

...Thank you and the members of the parish for initiating this wonderful opportunity for men to actively participate in the community. So much today is spoken about ensuring the mental health of people in the community and this initiative, I believe, is delivering on that front through St. Thomas More's Toowoomba...

One of the many trips enjoyed of recent times was travelling to Tamborine for a Guided Tour / Presentation of a Museum of Military Vehicles (pictured).



HOLY NAME CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

MARIE KEEN

Sunday 7 November 2021 was the day chosen for the Centenary celebrations of Holy Name Parish in Toowoomba. Past and present parishioners and the wider community gathered at the church to honour the occasion. The church was scrupulously cleaned and polished, and the floral arrangements were perfect, as usual.

The people gathered from far and wide like family members returning to their childhood home at Christmas time. Their faces reflected joy and anticipation as they entered the church, and long-forgotten memories returned with a rush.

The 10 am Mass was celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin. Concelebrants were current Parish Priest, Fr Darrell Irvine, former Administrator, Fr Ray Johnson, and Fr Mick Carroll. Altar servers were Louis and Marcus Naug. Damien Dore was organist and Zelda Richardson was cantor.

The Mass and Eucharistic Procession were re-enactments of the inaugural celebrations of 100 years earlier. As happened then, the worshippers filled the church and overflowed onto the verandahs.

On that distant occasion, many had arrived on specially-scheduled trains from Brisbane, Dalby and Warwick. After Mass, people gathered outside the church to file around the oval and church grounds in Eucharistic Procession.

Fr. Irvine held the monstrance as the people prayed and sang hymns. Lunch in the crowded hall was a noisy and joyous event. Catering was provided by the dedicated members of the Care and Concern group, and some of the men in the Parish provided a Pig on the Spit and Sausage Sizzle.

An estimated 200 people were present. Kerri Brennan was the capable MC for the afternoon, entertaining the crowd by overseeing the drawing of raffle prizes valued at over \$1000 from diverse anonymous donors.

Discreet music entertainment was provided by Nathan Hitzke. Following lunch, Fr. Irvine cut the Centenary Cake which was shared among the crowd. The popular memorial book titled "No



Other Name" - was made available for purchase throughout the afternoon.

Congratulations are in order for Fr. Irvine and the dedicated Centenary Committee, led by Peter Lynch. "May God bless them all for their Faith, Hope and Charity, and may Holy Name stand strong and steadfast for another century, at least!"



GRATITUDE SHOWN AT HIGHFIELDS

PATTI MCNAUGHT

Recently the Highfields Community saw the retirement of Tricia Gall from the Parish Pastoral Council after many years of service. On Sunday February 27, as a token of thanks, St Mary MacKillop Highfields Parish Pastoral Council celebrated with Tricia at a luncheon recognising her years of great work.



Parish Pastoral Council Secretary, Loretta Apel, presented Tricia with a beautiful bunch of flowers. We thank Tricia for her invaluable time and efforts in service of our community. As Tricia is not leaving our Parish, we look forward to seeing her involved in other areas of Parish life.

We also thank Dr Joan Conway who gave her valuable time to the Parish Pastoral Council's Annual Planning Day, facilitating techniques and strategies in leadership, and challenging thinking around

structures and processes. Joan added a depth and value to the day and we are blessed to have her as one of our own parishioners.

Joan also received a lovely bunch of flowers as a token of thanks. Our Parish Community extends deep gratitude to Tricia and Joan for their wonderful contribution. We are blessed to have them in our Parish.



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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER CELEBRATED ACROSS THE DIOCESE



ST. MARY'S PARISH, WARWICK - WARWICK PARISH LADIES

Around 85 people from several churches in Warwick gathered at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Friday March 4, for the annual World Day of Prayer. This year the Day of Prayer was prepared by the women and families of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The theme was "I know the plans I have for you". The guest speaker for the liturgy was Joyce Locke, who gave an informative talk around this theme.

As part of the environment, St. Mary's Parish Ladies prepared a table to depict the flags, flowers and vegetables from each country. The colours of the

cloths used depicted blue for water, green and brown for the earth, roses for England, daffodils for Wales and sunflowers for Northern Ireland. With the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine there were more sunflowers, being the floral emblem of Ukraine.

At the centre of the table was a globe of the world and a bible, opened at the reading of Jeremiah 29:11 to signify hope. A candle was also placed on the table to symbolise emerging out of darkness into the light. Peace Doves were used as a symbolic gesture of our prayer for World Peace. As each person entered the Church they were offered

a packet of two seeds – one a sweet pea for the Month of March and the other a sunflower as a seed of hope.

These served as a reminder of God's constant love for us all.

After the liturgy in the Church all were invited to share in Morning Tea, prepared by the ladies of the Parish, held at Assumption Place next to the Church. The World Day of Prayer was also hosted by the Allora Catholic Parish later in the day, where Afternoon Tea was shared following the prayers in St. Patrick's Church.

ST. THERESA'S PARISH, TOOWOOMBA - MONICA BRENNAN

St Theresa's Parish hosted Toowoomba's World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 4. This year the World Day of Prayer was prepared by the women of Northern Ireland, England and Wales. Around 100 people from many different Christian churches in Toowoomba and Highfields joined in prayer. The St Theresa's team of Mary Otto, Loretta Coman and Sr Robyn Brady organised a very prayerful service which was enriched by Sr Elaine Morzone's address on the theme of "Hope". An offering for "Bibles for Bubs", an initiative of the Bible Society was made. A generous amount was donated by those in attendance. A video was shown, prepared by the

people of Northern Ireland, highlighting their quest to give a bible to each 'bub' to be read in the home over time.

After the liturgy, the gathering shared in morning tea prepared by members of the St Theresa's community. Many people stayed on to enjoy the company of others and engage in conversation and fellowship. The work of the St Theresa's team of ladies was much appreciated and we feel blessed that this day was able to occur. The World Day of Prayer Candle was passed on to next year's host at the end of the liturgy. In 2023, on Friday, 3rd March, St Patrick's Cathedral Parish will host the World Day of Prayer prepared by the women of Taiwan. Gabrielle Saide will be leading the preparation team.





BABY CONNOR'S BAPTISM A FAMILY AFFAIR

PATTI MCNAUGHT

On 13th February this year, at St. Mary MacKillop Parish, Highfields, the Baptism of Connor Joseph Redulla Derrick was celebrated during the 8am Mass. Connor is the son of parishioners Corey and Agnes Derrick. Agnes is the Choir Coordinator in the Parish.

Parish Priest Fr. Brian Noonan officiated at the beautiful ceremony, which was certainly a family affair. Parents, sisters and a large representation from both families gathered for the celebration. Agnes's father, Art, sang all parts of the mass, including the responsorial psalm.

With an outstanding singing voice, a God given gift that filled the church, the congregation were enthralled. Accompanied by his guitar the hymns enveloped the church with sounds of reverence and joyfulness. A lovely gesture was asking the choir to join with him.

Following communion, Fr. Brian invited the Derrick Family to come forward with Connor for his baptism. Agnes's mother and sister were Godparents. Connor was beautifully behaved as the baptism took place – even smiling when the water was poured over his head.

Connor delighted us all as he gave us a huge smile when being presented to our congregation for acclamation. A lovely touch was Karen Hynes from our Baptism Team, presenting Agnes and Corey with Connor's Baptismal Certificate.

A gathering of family and friends at the home of Agnes

and Corey proved a fitting end to a wonderful day. Congratulations Connor. We can't wait for you to be old enough to join our Parish Choir. We will keep Connor in our prayers as he continues on his faith journey.

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PARISH IN BRIEF

Year Six Retreat Day



St. George Parish News in Pictures

MAJELLA MORRIS



Christmas Raffle
Winners



Christmas Raffle Ticket Sellers

SVDP
Christmas Party



Charleville Parish News in Pictures

SR. ELIZABETH O'KEEFE

The Year 6 Induction Liturgy was held in St Mary's Church, Charleville on February 18. Due to Covid-19 restrictions only the Year 6 Class and their parents were allowed to attend in the church. However, the rest of the school did not miss out. They were able to join in from their classrooms via the school Facebook site, thanks to the assistance of the school IT specialist. The Year 6 class enjoyed watching their special morning back again – although the biggest hit of the morning was probably the induction cake which they shared with their parents.

This year St Mary's Catholic Community hosted the World Day of Prayer Liturgy which was led by Sr Elizabeth. Earlier this year we also played host to our Australia Day Ecumenical Service, led by Rev Mark Hempel, the Lutheran minister.



Covid-19 restrictions have not put paid to our fun at playgroup. Instead of our usual playtime in St Mary's schoolgrounds we have been visiting the Graham Andrews Park. The highlight of our

time there has been the feeding of the ducks and turtles. We get really excited when a turtle raises his head above the water and takes our offering.

Change of Vicar - General



Fr. John Quinlan

Bishop McGuckin announced recently that Fr. John Quinlan would be completing his term as Vicar General of the Diocese. In making the announcement, Bishop McGuckin expressed the gratitude of the Diocese to Fr. Quinlan for his "wonderful ministry as Vicar General".

Fr. Quinlan will continue his membership of several Diocesan bodies including the Council of Priests, Consultors, Property Council and Diocesan Pastoral Council.



Fr. Franco Filipetto

Bishop McGuckin has appointed Very Rev. Father Franco Filipetto, Parish Priest of Warwick, to take over from Fr. John Quinlan as Vicar General.

Altar Servers Celebrate Birthdays in Roma



Harry Tucker watches on while Tabole Rapasta and Daniel Tucker cut their birthday cakes with RSL George Mehay looking on. Tabole was twelve and Daniel was thirteen. All three lads are Altar Servers at All Saints Church for Fr Tom Duncan.

George Mehay hosted the 2022 Easter Event at RSL Hall where the birthday cake was a surprise for the lads.

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.

BUTTERSCOTCH SELF-SAUCING PUDDING

PUDDING MIXTURE:

Ingredients

1 cup SR Flour
¾ cup sugar
2oz butter or margarine
½ cup milk

1. Melt butter, add milk and add to dry ingredients.
2. Place in well greased dish.
3. Pour sauce mixture on top

SAUCE:

Ingredients

2 tabs golden syrup
1 ½ cup hot water
1oz butter

1. Combine all ingredients in saucepan and stir over low heat until butter melts.
2. Bake in moderate oven 30-40 minutes.
3. Serve with cream or Ice-Cream.

Happy eating

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

Many of us have fond memories of being involved with the small state schools that dot the landscape of our vast diocese. These small schools are very much at the heart of community life, along with the local hall and, in some places, a small Catholic or Anglican Church.

For some the memories run deep: attending School, Mass, Dances, community Christmas celebrations, Gift Evenings, Engagement Parties and even Wedding Receptions at the local school, hall and church. Some of us may have been involved in religious instruction at the local state school.

Like most things in life, when it comes to the district school, hall or church, many do not appreciate or realise what they have until it is gone. The Yuleba Creek State School in the Maranoa region of our diocese is one such example. Mass was celebrated there on a monthly basis for many years.

Sometimes Mass would be outside under the huge gum trees in the school grounds. While Parish Priest there, Fr. Peter Doohan dubbed the location "God's Cathedral". The school is now closed and with the passing of time Mass is no longer celebrated at Yuleba Creek.

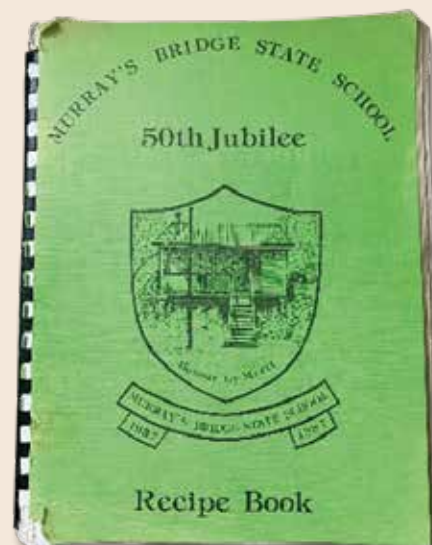
The small Murray's Bridge school on the road from Warwick to Killarney is like many of these small country schools that struggle to maintain

enrolment numbers in the midst of a more mobile population. Families sometimes bypass the local school now, in favour of educational opportunities in nearby centres.

Some years ago, a celebration was held at the Murray's Bridge State School that included acknowledgement of two other schools in the district that had long since closed – the Loch Lomond and the Wildash State School that had been attended by my grandfather, Jack Maher.

Like many country schools, the Murray's Bridge State School has produced a cookbook in years gone by to mark an anniversary or for fundraising purposes. Comparing recipes out of the Murray's Bridge Cook Book has been a topic of conversation among locals for many years.

From the Golden Anniversary edition in 1987, I share with you a family favourite, the Butterscotch self-saucing pudding.



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