

Horizons



ST. MARY'S WARWICK LIGHTS THE WAY

Ordination Joy For
The Diocese

Reflecting on the
Plenary Council

St Vincent's Hospital
Celebrates 100 Years

#65
Dec 22

FREE Publication
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Diocese of
Toowoomba

Horizons

FROM THE EDITOR

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

If attentive to 'reading the signs of the times', we will see that there are many indications the end of the year is fast approaching. The Grand Finals and Melbourne Cup have been run and won, the Jacarandas have been in full bloom, Graduations and Awards Presentations are being planned for our schools and the church year is drawing to a close – with Advent just around the corner.

2022 has certainly proven to be another exciting year for our diocese. In June, Bishop Robert McGuckin presided over the ordinations of Fr. Brian Redondo and Fr. Nathan Webb at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Toowoomba. This proved to be an occasion to remember, not only for these two young men and their families, friends, and parishioners, but for the diocese as a whole.

In the absence of the usual editor, we had just two editions of Horizons this year. From the Plenary Council to local ordinations, there has been much happening in the local and national church since our last edition – back before Easter. Much of the news in this issue is presented in the style of a 'Year in Review'. I thank all the contributors who have supplied content throughout the year for inclusion in our diocesan publication.

Your contributions, I am sure, are very much appreciated by our loyal readers.

A STATEMENT FROM CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AUSTRALIA ON THE DEATH OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Catholic Religious of Australia join those around the world who will be praying for Queen Elizabeth's eternal rest in peace, for her family and for all those who are grieving her death across the Commonwealth, and indeed the world.

"We echo Pope Francis' tribute to the Queen's steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ," said Peter Jones OSA, President of CRA. "She was a wonderful human being as well as profoundly committed servant of her people and conscientious faith leader," he added.

"Despite the many challenges, the Queen faced both as Head of State and the head of her family, the Queen was a connector of people, and she remained committed to her values, to her trust in God and to a life of service," said Anne Walker, National Executive Director.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord,
May perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in your peace.



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

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

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Cover Story

St. Mary's Church in Warwick recently won a LIT Lighting Design Award for 2021 in the heritage lighting category. 17

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Jubilarians celebrating Mass on September 12. Absent is Fr. Ray Johnson

PRIESTLY JUBILEES 2022

BISHOP ROBERT
MCGUCKIN



On 25 June 2022 I was privileged to ordain Fathers Nathan Webb and Brian Redondo to the priesthood at St Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba. God willing, they will celebrate their silver jubilees of priesthood in 2047 and their golden jubilees of priesthood in 2072.

This year we have Father Mick McClure celebrating 60 years of priesthood; with Fathers Peter Dorfield, Michael Cooney, Ray Crowley, Jack Peard, Ron MacGinley, Ray Johnson and Sean Lynskey celebrating 50 years; and Father Shane Carr celebrating 25 years. We rejoice in this and give thanks for them.

Being a priest demands a continuous generous and unselfish response

to God's call. This is not something we do on our own but only with help of the Holy Spirit. Being a priest is a privilege not earned or deserved. May our priesthood always be demonstrated in humble service.

St Paul in writing to the Corinthians emphasised that in ministry, it is not ourselves that we are proclaiming but Jesus as Lord and ourselves as servants. St Paul truly knew that we are but fragile earthenware vessels, always in need of the grace of the Holy Spirit. The priest is called to act in a spirit of service in his ministry and in so doing, is entrusted with a special grace remembering that this grace is not one of power but of service.

The call to evangelise, the call to exercise mission extends to all the baptised. God has made his entire holy people a royal priesthood in Christ. Nevertheless, Jesus chose certain disciples to carry out publicly in his name and, on behalf of humankind, a priestly office in the Church. As Christ was sent by the Father and He in turn sent the Apostles into the world, so that through them and their successors, the Bishops, He might continue to exercise His office as Teacher, Priest and Shepherd.

Bishop Robert McGuckin

*Bishop of Toowoomba
December 2022*



ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

On Saturday morning, June 25, hundreds of people were drawn from all points of the diocese to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba to witness the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr. Brian Redondo and Fr. Nathan Webb. The joyful occasion was also streamed live around the world allowing those unable to attend, including family members affected by travel restrictions, to be part of the special day.

Bishop Robert McGuckin as Principal Celebrant, was joined by the priests of the Diocese, Seminary Staff and visiting priests as concelebrants for the Mass of Ordination. Joining the newly ordained Fr. Nathan and Fr. Brian in the celebration were family, friends and others who have supported and encouraged them along the journey of their vocation.

After ordination, Fr. Nathan celebrated Masses of Thanksgiving in his home parish of Sacred Heart, Wilsonton and at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he is currently on staff. Fr. Brian celebrated his first Mass on Sunday morning in the parish of St. James and St. John at Clifton. Parishioners travelled over from Allora, where Fr. Brian has been stationed in the lead up to his ordination.





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A JUBILEE YEAR FOR MANY

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

Friends and family joined with parishioners, past and present to celebrate a special Mass on September 12 at St. Patrick's Cathedral to honour the many years of dedicated service given to the local church by the priest jubilarians of 2022.

Those who gathered paid tribute to the milestone year of Ordination for nine of our priests. Celebrating 60 years this year is Fr. Mick McClure, 50 years for Fathers Michael Cooney, Ray Crowley, Peter Dorfield, Ray Johnson, Sean Lynskey, Rod MacGinley, John Peard and 25 years for Fr. Shane Carr MSC.

Bishop Robert McGuckin while presiding at Mass was joined by Retired Bishop Bill Morris in celebrating a total of 435 years of combined service to the diocese. Following Mass, a lunch was served to invited guests, family members, friends and visiting priests at the Cathedral Centre.

Fr. Hal Ranger spoke about each of the jubilarians before proposing the toast.

A souvenir booklet to commemorate the occasion that carried anecdotes and reflections by each of the jubilarians

was compiled by Fr. Michael O'Brien with the assistance of diocesan archivist Ms. Gabrielle Saide. The title of the booklet drew upon the words of the Prophet Jeremiah to reflect the spirit of the occasion: "We are but earthenware vessels crafted by the Potter's hands".

Fr. Michael McClure was ordained on June 29, 1962, in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop William Brennan. He has served in the parishes of Stanthorpe, Dalby, Holy Name, Warwick and is now the Retired Priest in Residence at Helidon. He was also Chaplain to the Cursillo Movement for five years.

A major block of Fr. Michael's life was given to lecturing Moral Theology at Pius XII Seminary, Banyo over a seventeen year period. This followed several years studying in Rome at the Alphonsian Academy where he received a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1978 and Doctor of Sacred Theology in 1982.

Fr. Michael Cooney was ordained on August 10, 1972, in St. Mary's Church, Warwick by Bishop William Brennan. Fr. Michael has served in the parishes of Goondiwindi, St. Thomas More's, Pittsworth, Warwick,

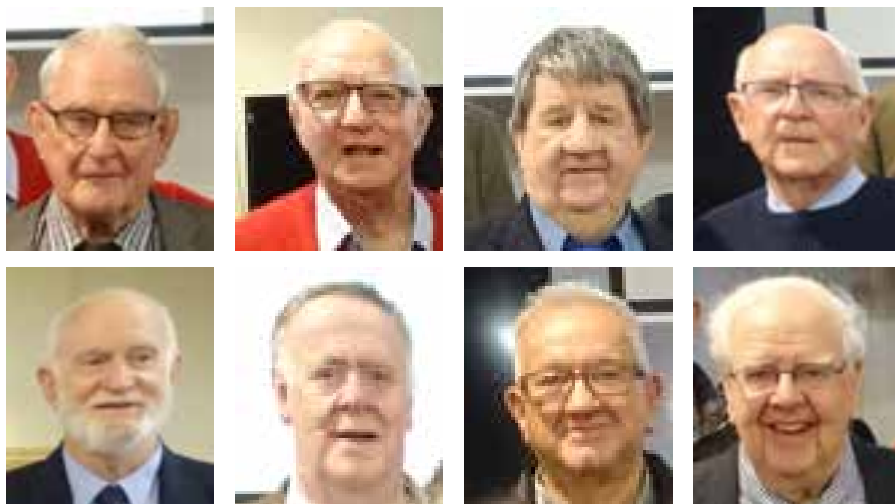
Cathedral, Dalby, Roma and is currently Hospital Chaplain for a second time.

Fr. Ray Crowley was ordained on August 9, 1972, in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop William Brennan. Fr. Ray served in the parishes of Warwick and Roma, went on loan to Cairns (Tully) before returning to Toowoomba to take on his current role of Chaplain to the local Colleges and other diocesan bodies.

Fr. Peter Dorfield was ordained on August 10, 1972, in St. Mary's Church, Warwick by Bishop William Brennan. Fr. Peter served in the parishes of Stanthorpe, Cathedral, Cunnamulla, St. Anthony's and has been on loan to the dioceses of Armidale and Wagga Wagga.

Fr. Peter has worked in special ministries serving the needs of the homeless, the Indigenous Apostolate, Australian Social Justice Council, was appointed as Administrator of the Cathedral and currently serves as Executive Director of the Diocesan Safeguarding and Professional Standards office.

Fr. Ray Johnson was ordained on August 17, 1972, in St. Thomas' Church, Camp



Absent is Fr. Ray Johnson



Hill by Bishop Edward Kelly for the Order of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC). Fr. Ray served in the Northern Territory at Darwin, Hindmarsh and Nhulunbuy and New South Wales at Kapooka, Albury and Junee.

Fr. Ray also served at the Cathedral Parish in Wagga Wagga. Now incardinated into the Toowoomba Diocese, Fr. Ray ministered in the communities of Stanthorpe, Taroom, Millmerran, Crow's Nest and Holy Name before retiring from parish ministry in 2017.

Fr. Sean Lynskey was ordained in Ireland on June 10, 1972, at the Spiritan Seminary, Kimmage Manor Seminary by the Archbishop of Dublin Dermot Ryan. Fr. Sean is a member of the Spiritan Order – the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (CSSp).

Fr. Sean's priestly appointments have been in Sierra Leone, Africa, the Diocese of Parramatta and the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Upon arrival in Toowoomba Diocese, Fr. Sean was appointed to Inglewood and Texas Parish and is currently Administrator of Miles and Taroom-Wandoan Parishes.

Fr. Rod MacGinley was ordained on August 9, 1972, in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop William Brennan. His first appointment was to St. Anthony's Parish. He then went on loan to Cairns Diocese before going to Chile to work with the Columbans.

Fr. Rod has returned to Chile on several occasions since his initial engagement there in 1978. In the Toowoomba Diocese Fr. Rod has worked

in the parishes of Oakey, Pittsworth, Cunnamulla, and Clifton, including the parishes of Allora and Cambooya-Greenmount where he remains today.

Fr. John Peard was ordained on August 11, 1972, at All Saints Church, Roma by Bishop William Brennan. Fr. Jack's appointments throughout the diocese have been to Pittsworth, Goondiwindi, Wallangarra, Warwick, Cunnamulla before going on loan to the Columbans, initially at Turramurra.

Fr. Jack then went to Santiago, Chile for several years. On his return he worked as the Brisbane Migrant Chaplain. Back in the Diocese he then ministered in the parishes of Wallumbilla-Surat, St. George, Highfields, St. Anthony's and in specialised ministries at Toowoomba Base Hospital and St. Ursula's College.

Fr. Shane Carr was ordained in Melbourne on April 4, 1997 for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Fr. Shane's appointments took him to several colleges and parishes around Victoria, prior to undertaking a position at St. Edmund's College, Ipswich. Fr. Shane is currently ministering in the Cunnamulla Parish.

As is evident through these thumbnail sketches of their lives and work, our priest jubilarians have certainly worked tirelessly across a diverse range of ministries and faith communities. Around the diocese, the nation and the world, they have undoubtedly made a difference in the lives of many.

We salute and thank them in their Jubilee Year.



ST. VINCENT'S CELEBRATES A CENTURY

SHEILA SARQUIS

A journey of 100 years is being celebrated throughout this year for St. Vincent's Hospital.

The colourful story of St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba began in 1920 when Archbishop Dr Duhig and Rev. Monsignor Fouhy invited the Religious Sisters of Charity in Sydney to look into the possibility of establishing a hospital in Toowoomba. Two sisters, Mother Mary Berchmans Daly and Sister Mary Raphael, were sent to find a suitable site and they purchased land fronting Mackenzie and Herries Streets.

The initial building was only made possible through fundraising events and the donation of money, goods, and labour. Monsignor Fouhy, Archbishop Duhig and some well-known members of the business

community became founding members, initially donating over \$1000 each.

Incredibly, it took just two years for St Vincent's Hospital to be built, and it was officially opened by Archbishop Dr Mannix on 19 November 1922.

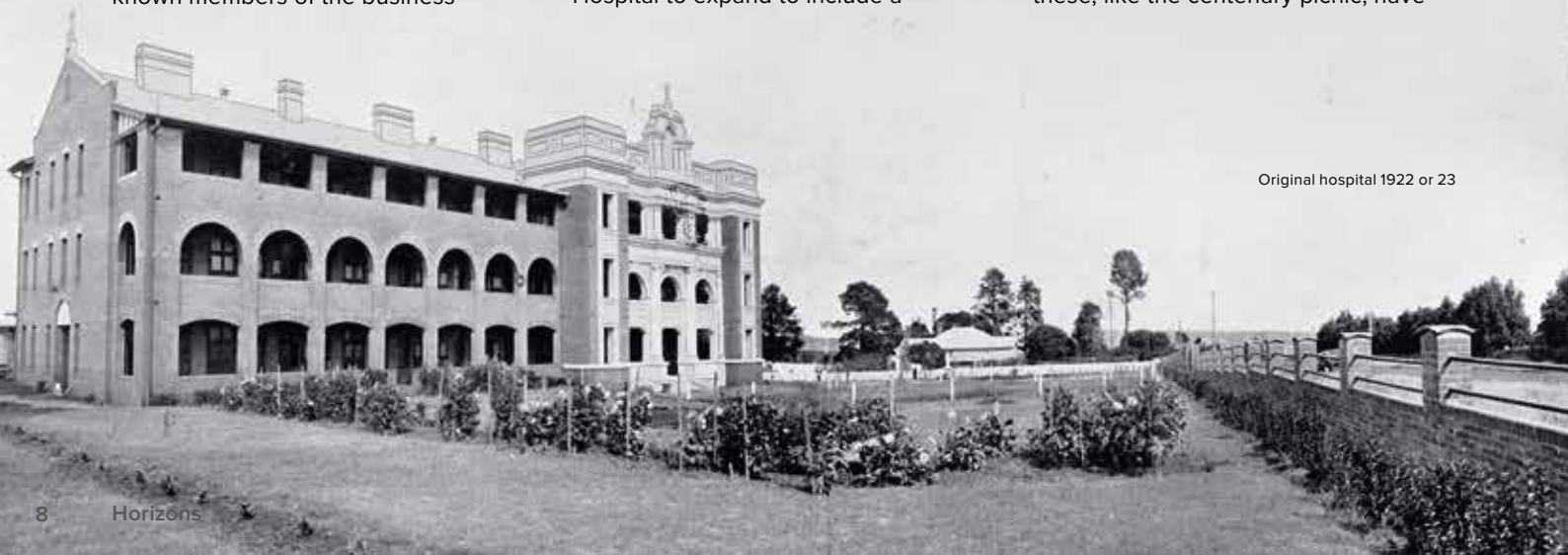
In his opening address Dr Mannix said, "This hospital is going to receive the sick and afflicted, quite regardless of class and quite regardless of creed." Community support has continued over the years, with generous donations of money and/or labour by local businesses and many fundraising activities such as the annual rodeo (a popular event in the city's calendar), balls, golf tournaments, raffles, fetes, markets and other events.

This support enabled St Vincent's Hospital to expand to include a

maternity wing, which was opened in 1952 (and later converted to a medical centre when maternity services were transferred to the west wing), a chapel and convent (opened in the 1960s), a west wing (opened in 1967 and extended in 1995 and 1997) and the Brady Wing (opened in 2008).

Many more refurbishments took place during the following years. More recently the Clive Berghofer operating theatre opened in 2018 and the Clive Berghofer building, which houses the Emergency Department and QLD X-Ray, opened in 2020.

One hundred years has seen so many significant changes, and St Vincent's Hospital is celebrating the centenary with a number of events. Some of these, like the centenary picnic, have



Original hospital 1922 or 23

already occurred, while Foundation Day Celebrations are yet to take place.

The archivist at St Vincent's has compiled a book, *Generations of Care: St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba in Pictures 1922 – 2022*, which is a fascinating account of the history of the hospital, due for release in late October. This publication will be available from Cobb + Co Museum bookshop and the hospital.

Cobb + Co Museum are currently hosting an exhibition celebrating the centenary of St Vincent's that was opened on 25 October. The exhibition will be open for public viewing over several months. On 29 October, a gala ball was held at the Empire Theatre. This proved to be a nostalgic reminder of the many balls that were held in the past to raise funds for the hospital.

Many items of significance have been gathered to be placed in a time capsule which will be buried as part of Foundation Day celebrations on the 18 November. These include – amongst other items – artefacts relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, surgical equipment, staff lists, food menus, directories of services, statistical information and reflections from the Pastoral



Aerial photo 2020

Care Department. These items will provide a snapshot of life at SVPHT in 2022 when it is opened in 2072.

A Mass was celebrated on November 19, in thanksgiving for the work of the Sisters of Charity, the benefactors, staff, volunteers

and the many people who, over the past one hundred years, have made St Vincent's Hospital the wonderful institution it is today, a landmark of Toowoomba city still serving all members of the community as envisioned by Dr Mannix in his opening address one hundred years ago.

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Queensland Participants at the NATSICC Assembly in Townsville.
Photo by Tony Robertson Photography

NATSICC DRAWS ON INTERGENERATIONAL STRENGTHS

DR. DAVID TUTTY

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) held its delayed triennial Assembly at St Patricks College in Townsville from 19 to 23 September this year. The theme 'Holy Spirit in this Land' flowed through all the sessions as there was a growing awareness that First Nations intergenerational strengths provide the basis for the way forward.

I was blessed to attend this Assembly. Also from Toowoomba were Narelle Jackson and her grandson Lachlan and Fr Vince Carroll msc from Downlands College. The focus on the Holy Spirit is significant. Saint Pope John Paul II, when he spoke at Alice Springs in 1986, acknowledged First Nations peoples' depth of spiritual connection to all God has created and he recognised their millennia-old openness to God's Spirit – the Holy Spirit.

This Assembly sought to continue this openness to the Holy Spirit and to celebrate the way the Holy Spirit is working in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Assembly began with a welcome to Bindal and Wulgurukaba Country and an opening Mass led by Bishop Tim Harris of Townsville. Throughout the five days our awareness of being Catholic on First Nations Country flowed through all of the sessions that followed.

There was a deep respect for the Holy Spirit at work both within Country and within the Church.

To deepen this link the first two sessions were on spirituality. We heard Aunty Dulcie Isaro and Toby Cedar speak from their respective traditions and cultures about their deep sense of connection to Country and of the ways

the Spirit is working within Country.

For Aunty Dulcie, the importance of her connection to land and responsible care for land is central to being both Catholic and Aboriginal. This was built on by Matt Brown as he reflected on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* in the light of Aboriginal spirituality. Pope Francis is clear that all creation is of God and for God and that we, as human beings, need to care for what God has created.

This has echoes and parallels with so many millennia-old stories and responsibilities that First Nations peoples have passed on from one generation to the next. Dean Parkin spoke about the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Dean is the Director of the advocacy organisation 'From the Heart' and spoke of the coming referendum. He unpacked the need for a First

Nations voice so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a greater say in what impacts upon them.

This 2017 Uluru statement has been endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on the recommendation of NATSICC. NATSICC sees this as an important step in a new journey for greater justice in Australia.

Aunty Louise Campbell Price shared her personal story of being one of the Stolen Generations. She talked about her struggle to find out who she was and who were her parents and siblings. Aunty Louise was finally reunited with them and learnt of the decades her father had spent trying to find her.

Even 50 years later we all could see the rawness of the pain still evident today. She reminded us that the Church was complicit with the government and while, in 1996, the Australian Catholic Bishops formally apologised for their role, the traumatic experiences of the Stolen Generations continue.

As part of our connecting to local Country, we were led on a coastal walk that tells the story of local First Nations peoples first encounters with the British. The views were stunning, overlooking the water to Magnetic Island but the history of invasion, dispossession and later relocation to Palm Island was painful. Today this story is told with many artworks so that it is not forgotten and truth telling is possible.

Yet in the midst of much trauma, many people at the Assembly chose to focus on their intergenerational strengths. The importance of holding on to culture, of recovering culture and of passing this treasure on to the youth was emphasised. In this way the youth can be strong in who they are and are better able to be the leaders for tomorrow.

NATSICC invites the whole Church to be part of this preserving and celebration of culture. They have produced a Cultural Competency course for non-indigenous Catholics.

The recent Plenary Council endorses this formation. Deeper awareness of First Nations cultures, spiritualities and ways of being open to God's Spirit will enrich our Church and help us care better for God's creation.

Through the Assembly, NATSICC invited those of us who are not First Nations to see the Holy Spirit at work in First Nations spiritualities, truth-telling, intergenerational strengths and call for justice in this land. The presentations, yarning circles and one to one conversation all contributed to this.



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Delegates from Toowoomba are joined by Sr. Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Josephite Sisters.

Mark Copland and Catherine McAleer recently attended the Plenary Council representing our Diocese. Here are their reflections on what unfolded:



CATHERINE MCALEER:

At the conclusion of First Assembly of Plenary Council I reflected on the deep listening that was required of both individuals and the Church as we moved into the Second Assembly. Individually and collectively there were many issues placed at the foot of the cross as we could not carry them alone. And I was hopeful of the resurrection.

Broadly speaking there were eight key motions for discussion that required action by the end of the week. My role, as one of the 277 members, was to listen to the Spirit, discern and then cast a consultative vote on whether or not I believed that the proposed motion was in fact where the Spirit was leading us as the Church in Australia. This in itself, felt a heavy load

to bear given the diversity of views within the Church and what was at stake. I did not take my role lightly.

The agenda was heavily packed with two motions to be discussed each day. At the conclusion of the Plenary I was asked to describe it in one word and I wasn't given much time to do it. I paused. Intense summed it up best. It was physically, mentally, emotionally and in many ways spiritually intense.

The days were long and spent sitting. Nights were shorter than I wanted them to be and sleep didn't come easily as the thoughts of the day that was or the one that was to come swirled through my head. The mental intensity came from the motions presented, the interventions from the floor, the periti sharing their wisdom, the table listening and dialogue sessions, the meeting of new people and the close listening that was required for each of these.

To say the week was emotional would be an understatement. I think I experienced a whole range of emotions hope, joy, sadness, sorrow, anger, resentment, hurt and bewilderment. On more than one occasion I was moved to tears as various members took to the floor to express their thoughts and concerns and through discussion at my table of eight. I was buoyed by the hope in some and shocked by the close mindedness of others.

One of the major issues of the Council was the motion Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men. This was a hot button motion and much hinged on its outcome.

Late on day two consultative voters passed, although narrowly, one of two motions contained within the document. The second did not reach the required number of votes. The first motion was a busy one with many issues contained within it, including

valuing the work that women already do in leading and serving the Church in many ways. We were left to wonder what the following day - Day 3, would bring in the deliberative vote.

The 6th July 2022, will be a day I won't forget in a hurry. The deliberative vote was taken. A qualifying majority was not reached. I involuntarily gasped. That vote and what followed will forever be etched into the Church of Australia, both as a moment of great sadness, pain and disappointment and one on which the Holy Spirit disrupted proceedings. Many tears were shed, sadness and disappointment turned to anger, frustration and utter disbelief.

If you had been following the proceedings you would have heard about what then happened been described as a protest. Women and men, Religious, lay, priests and bishops stood quietly and respectfully together at the back of the room in solidarity. We couldn't proceed with the agenda at hand because for the women in the room our voices it seemed were no longer recognised to have value, so why were we here? We sat on a precipice.

If business as usual was required then, I, for one, was not willing to be a part of it. Thankfully, the Chair of the Assembly Bishop Shane Mackinlay realised this was the case for many. Proceedings and the agenda were abandoned. From the floor heartfelt stories were shared, more tears were shed and voices were heard. Quietly we returned to our tables when asked to and we engaged in deep listening.

We all wanted clarity. Over and over again, throughout the week I was reminded of some recent professional development I undertook through

work. The words were clarity comes through confusion and conversation. There was much confusion and in order for us to understand where each was coming from we needed to engage in conversation. Conversation requires both speaking and listening, deep listening. That pivotal moment changed proceedings for the remainder of the Assembly. From this point onwards we achieved more, listened more and I believe we moved in the right direction.

Words matter. How they are said and the manner in which they are said are crucial. More important are actions. Words become hollow if they are followed up with actions that convey the opposite meaning. I believe we need words first as they help to build the foundation of actions. They call us to account and direct our steps. That is why many stood their ground on words at the Plenary.

Accountability for future actions in our Church rest on the words. First and foremost they need to rest on the Word of God, which I pray the motions of the Plenary Council do.

The Resurrection required costly love. God's love for us was costly when Jesus hung on the cross. Whilst our experience of love will hopefully never take us to crucifixion, it can cost us. I have always understood the Resurrection to be a time of great joy and it is, but it is so much more, or at least it is so much more to me especially now. It was on the third day that Jesus rose and it was on Day 3 of the Plenary that we stood on a precipice, a precipice of hope.

The disciples were unbelieving even after the Resurrection, they didn't recognise Jesus on the road to Emmaus, they were shocked at the

news from the women, they stood in disbelief and did not understand how they could move forward. As followers of a different time and place, so were we, unable to recognise Jesus in the moment, shocked, unbelieving and wondering how we could move forward. The Resurrection didn't end there for the disciples of Jesus and neither does it for us. Let us move forward together in hope.

MARK COPLAND:

I am so grateful to those who encouraged me to be a part of the Plenary Council journey. Bishop Robert honoured the integrity of the process in every way. I was always told that I was not a representative from our Diocese but part of the Australian Church. There was freedom to fully participate and I am so grateful for this gift.

I still have trouble returning to the experience of the plenary without being brought to tears. Tears of witnessed hurt, tears of healing, tears of anger and tears of hope. So let's start with the hope. It had already emerged from the First Assembly that there was close to consensus around the need to address the primary human relationship in this country – that of our First Peoples. The embracing of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and ways in which we can work to make our Church a safe place in which the oldest continuing society on Earth can find a home was an early highlight. This was not just one moment – but many -across the whole Plenary when people with ancient knowledge

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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



and faith and wisdom generously invited us into their world view.

I would encourage readers of Horizons to read the decrees from the council. They include directions in the area of governance, formation, the sacraments, outreach to the marginalized, caring for creation and repentance for the crimes of abuse.

One of the powerful things about the Council was that there was no 'group think'. As clearly as I can understand it – and I have done a little background checking – people were randomly allocated to tables. All tables had Bishops, religious sisters or brothers or priests, lay women and men scattered across the room. We had conservatives, progressives, inner city elites, remote country marginalized. All at the one table for a whole week. Did we clash? Absolutely. Did we listen to each other. I would like to think so. And I did experience some of this.

For me this is probably a key message from the Plenary Council. For so

long we have talked the talk as an Australian Church. Telling society how they need to live and act. Much of this has been drawn from the riches of scriptures and church teaching, but can we now walk the talk?

So my most graced moment was being invited to stand with people inside and outside of the room. And for me this was a threshold moment – a Holy Spirit moment. When two thirds of the deliberative voters (Bishops) were unable to endorse two thirds of the consultative voters (non-Bishops) the Council came to a cross road. There is not space here to describe the full experience but I learnt much from this time. The value of deep and respectful listening and the power of dialogue will stay with me for a long time.

Where to from here? If you look at the Decrees there is plenty we can start work on right away. I know there is the process of going to Rome and having the decrees endorsed and ratified – but much of this work can start now. The decrees could be a strategic

plan for the Bishops Conference, for a Diocesan Pastoral Council, for a Parish Council for a Catholics School, a Hospital or Social Service. The second concluding thought I have is that the process of discernment, the spiritual conversation can also be a tool we use as various Church councils and committees. There is such value in taking time to meditate on Scripture, be open to the Holy Spirit and listen to each voice gathered around the table. Our challenge is to ensure that the voices of those on the margins are at that very same table.

The new buzz word in our Church is synodal – meaning the ordained and the lay, the Bishop and the faithful working together to bring about the kingdom of God – a place where justice and peace reign. And I must say I tasted a little bit of this at the plenary council. It is not us the lay people versus them the Bishops – it is all of us working together to bring about the Kingdom of God in this place. The Church doesn't have a Mission the Mission has a Church.

DIOCESAN IN-SERVICE



In the aftermath of the Plenary Council, the Diocese held an In-Service at the Cathedral Centre on Tuesday September 13. The day was led by Fr. Richard Lennan, who was streamed live from Boston College, where he is a Professor of Systemic Theology. Fr. Richard's presentation was titled "The Synodal Way to be Church: Reflections on the Plenary Council". Pictured following the In-Service is Sr. Elizabeth O'Keefe, Fr. Hal Ranger and Fr. Peter Doohan.



SOCIAL JUSTICE YOUTH AWARD FOR ASSUMPTION COLLEGE STUDENT

DR. DAVID TUTTY

The recipient of the Social Justice Commission Youth Award for 2022 is Juliana Cruda, a Year 12 student at Assumption College Warwick. Juliana was nominated by Carol Sharp, the Assistant Principal APRE at Assumption College.

The Social Justice Youth Award recognises a young person who has put aspects of Catholic Social Teaching into practice. Juliana was the Faith and

Social Justice leader for the school this year and worked to develop and enact initiatives around cultural awareness and the environmental impact of fast fashion. Her main focus has been on advocacy and educating her peers by speaking at school assemblies and sourcing material for students.

Juliana proposed and oversaw the running of food stalls from various cultures around the



world and the implementation of a Thrift Shop at the school.

Juliana worked hard to ensure her social justice initiatives were linked to the school's liturgical theme for the year '... to every person living on the planet'. This comes from Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* which highlights how interconnected we are and how we are called to respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.



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Mass at the Seminary

LETTER FROM BANYO: BE ASTONISHED! THE NEED FOR LITURGICAL FORMATION

BJ PERRETT



Pope Francis recently promulgated an Apostolic Letter entitled *Desiderio Desideravi* on the need for liturgical formation of the People of God.

Grounding his reflection in the desire of Christ expressed in Luke 22:15 – “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” – the Holy Father draws our attention to the primary encounter taking place in the liturgy.

When we gather for the Eucharistic celebration on Sundays (and at every Mass) it is our Lord’s desire for communion with us that draws us together. Before anything else, and certainly before our own decision to even go to Mass, is God’s loving invitation to us to partake in the heavenly banquet (6).

This reality ought to constantly amaze us, for it is in this reality that the Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection “continues to reach us” (25). It is for this reason that the Church has devoted so much energy and attention to the liturgy; it is for this reason that only the finest materials and choicest words are used for the liturgy.

It would be an affront to the gracious gift of God that is the sacred liturgy if we were to fail to be astonished at His love for us. Indeed, as Pope Francis says, if adoration of God is not the outcome of our liturgies then we are failing to be astonished at the saving work of Jesus Christ.

To be astonished once more at what takes place on our altars and in our churches requires a conscious encounter with the symbols and rich meaning of the liturgical action. To be ignorant of the mystery of our salvation that presents itself in the liturgy is to be limited in our participation in this most life-giving and life-sustaining celebration.

To dispel this ignorance that limits our fully conscious and active participation in the liturgy, Pope Francis reminds us that it is always and only Christ who celebrates the liturgy. The Mass is His self-offering to the Father as the spotless Lamb who takes away the sins of the world; He is the Priest offering the sacrifice and He is the sacrificial Victim offered on the altar.

That is why the ordained priest stands in the place of Christ and wears special vestments, says special words, and moves in specific ways – he is no longer just Fr Whoever, but he acts in a real and sacramental way as Christ (in persona Christi capitis). Since that priest is drawn from among the People of God, and since that holy people themselves are baptized into Christ, then every person gathered at the celebration offers the sacrifice as members of the Mystical Body of Christ. So, it is Christ who celebrates the liturgy (15).

In this way, the Holy Father also reminds us that the liturgy does not

belong to any one member or group of the Church. It is not the parish’s liturgy, Father’s liturgy, nor is it the liturgy of a select few who consider themselves liturgists. It is the Church’s liturgy, and we in this wonderful diocese are but a portion of the People of God bound in communion with every other diocese by our bishop – who has the very important task of safeguarding the unity of the universal Church.

That is why we must pray for our bishop, and every bishop, because God has chosen them to keep us united as the Church. Pope Francis warns us that if we do not rediscover the amazing reality of the liturgy then we risk perpetuating an ignorant, indifferent, and superficial attitude towards the Liturgy and the Sacraments.

We risk failing to be missionary if we do not celebrate the Eucharist in a way that is authentic and according to the mind and Tradition of the Church, and we all know that missionary activity in society today is so sorely needed.

For Pope Francis, and for us, the question we must all ask is this: “will we impose our own creativity, ideology, or personality on the liturgical celebration, or will we allow ourselves to be formed by the liturgy given to us by Christ through the Church?” For your own liturgical formation, consider (for example) Liturgy News and the podcast The Liturgy Guys.

SEEING THE LIGHT AT ST. MARY'S

FR FRANCO FILIPETTO

Once described as a majestic building that “calls the city to prayer”, the iconic St. Mary’s Church in Warwick is certainly an imposing structure.

Towering over the skyline of Warwick since 1926, St. Mary’s has now been recognized with an international lighting award. The journey to achieving the prestigious award came about through a series of unfortunate incidents over the last five years.

While construction of a new paved driveway was taking place at the entrance to the church, a cable was inadvertently pulled up. This incident, coupled with an electrical fire in 1997, acts of vandalism and a lightning strike in 2021 that caused another fire, accelerated efforts to ‘save’ St. Mary’s.

Restoration of the church meant more than mere maintenance. The fire that originated with one of the old worn cables compelled Parish Priest, Fr. Franco Filipetto into taking action to safeguard and rejuvenate the town’s icon – as it was discovered that original wiring from 1926 was still in use.

Local architects recommended rewiring and relighting, so it was decided to install ‘new’, rather than repair the ‘old’. The parish engaged the services of a Brisbane-based firm, experienced in the lighting of most forms of architecture, including heritage buildings.

Jenni Gillard, from the Gillard Group, a world leader in this specialist field, set about working with the parish, including local electrician Dave Sinton to bring this substantial project to fruition. What was being proposed with the lighting design was complex.

It had to be compliant, heritage-friendly, within budget, functional, ambient and use quality product. The Gillard Group recommended and designed religiously inspired custom luminaries, using maths and models to minimize product and wattage, define optics, specify beam angles and optimize lighting.

An inspired solution to back light the windows in the Bell Tower was also a practical one. Working closely



with Jenni Gillard, Dave was on the steeple at night aiming lights and on the scissor hoist in the church replacing the old fluorescent tubes.

A widespread shift towards advances in lamp technology for the foreseeable future saw the installation of ultra-low energy long life LED (Light Emitting Diodes). Being digital, the global uptake of LED is envisaged to be profound, including upon places of worship, as the end of non-LED product looms large.

Fr. Franco said the last century of lamping is going fast. “We must now learn how to manage and leverage LED, which is unlike any previous artificial light source”. Fr. Franco is thrilled with the outcome of the lighting project and the expertise and guidance received by the Gillard Group.

However, things were not all plain sailing throughout the duration of the multi-stage project, that took several years to complete. St. Mary’s heritage status imposed certain restrictions on how to relight. “We could not move luminaries to better locations or to improve maintenance”.

“Nor could we drill into surfaces. The mother of invention is a powerful friend,” Fr. Franco said. Professionally illuminated, he says the herringbone timbered ceiling now reveals its authentic lustre. The symbolic motifs and rich colours of the magnificent stained-glass windows are now on show”

“The marble pulpit gleams in the sanctuary”, he said. For the first time at night, all the stained glass windows and motifs are now on public display. In his own words Fr. Franco says the upgrade to the lighting in St. Mary’s Church serves to enhance its place as a ‘spiritual

beacon’ for the town of Warwick.

St. Mary’s Church in Warwick is testament to the region, its skills, resources, perseverance and faith and to Monsignor Potter, the driving force behind its creation. “On behalf of the town, its people, founders, artisans, parishioners and visitors – God bless our sanctuary”, Fr. Franco said.

“We saw the light and restored the church in time”.

As you can imagine this project weighed heavily on the Parish Budget. There are two other future projects in the pipeline as the church approaches its Centenary in a few years time: restoration of windows and re-pointing, both estimated to cost in the hundreds of thousands. Donations to these projects are always welcome. Contact the Parish Office on 4661 1033 for further information.



Photo Credit: Gillard Group and Photographer Scott Burrows

WORK & WELCOME PROGRAM OPENS DOORS FOR REFUGEES

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

World Day of Migrants and Refugees was acknowledged on 25 September and was an opportunity to celebrate programs that help build the future of the migrants and refugees in our community.

The employment experience program called 'Work & Welcome', established by Multicultural Australia, provides refugees and migrants with paid work experience.

Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) encourage their staff to donate to this program as it provides employment opportunities for refugees and migrants in schools and its office.

The regular donations made to this program have enabled refugees to be welcomed into Toowoomba Catholic school communities for ten weeks of work experience in administration, assisting student learning, cleaner, catering, grounds work – just to name a few.

Shaza Alsahwi was recently employed by St Joseph's College, Toowoomba and was working as a School Officer assisting student learning and also assisting in the College library.

Ms Alsahwi comes from Syria where she was a Primary School Teacher for 25 years, a presenter of educational programs and a supervisor at the United Nations (UN) France. She describes what it was like living in Syria before the war. "Syria was a wonderful country; but after the war we lost everything, our houses, our jobs, and our cars."

"I was also kidnapped for seven days in the countryside which has left a mark on my heart - knowing you can't feel safe in your own country," said Ms Alsahwi. "The gangs in Syria took me and 30 other female teachers and we were put in a big shed where



they made us cover our hair and didn't provide any food or water."

"They threatened us with burning and other tortures and all of us received cigarette burns. Our families didn't know where we were, and we didn't know if we would survive. The government ended up making a trade for our freedom, so we did survive and I am learning how to move on from this horrible experience," she said.

Ms Alsahwi fled from Syria to Iraq and spent three long years there where she was desperately trying to come to Australia as a refugee.

Her story is not an easy one as she suffered much hardship in Iraq as a single mother with two small children, where she had no rights and experienced some of the worst years of her life. As a refugee in Iraq she worked very long hours, house rent was very expensive and as a single mother she was treated very unfairly as if she was 'available' to everyone.

Ms Alsahwi finally arrived in Australia in December 2021 and was so happy to be able to provide her two young children a safer and better life. She chose to live in Toowoomba as she didn't want to live in a big city. I love living here as people are so friendly and supportive. It is a wonderful place for a new beginning with my children and I feel very safe here," said Ms Alsahwi.

Ms Alsahwi has been warmly welcomed into the College community by the team at St Joseph's.

"All of the staff at St Joseph's College are so welcoming and supportive. They know that English is my second language and they have helped me with the right words to use and we have become friends. I get great work experience and I now know how the education system works," said Ms Alsahwi.

"I know what my children are learning at school, I am involved in the community, and I have Australian friends which

is perfect for me. At St Joseph's I get the opportunity to work in both the library and the classroom, so I am so lucky to get two opportunities to learn, which is wonderful. I am studying to be a teacher's aide and looking forward to finishing my studies and getting a fulltime job so I have some financial security".

"Work & Welcome is a fantastic program as you can't imagine what it is like to arrive in a new country. I now feel part of this community and I don't feel like a stranger anymore. "This program has supported me by providing me with some experience to put on my resume and also great references going forward," said Ms Alsahwi.

Kirstie Andrews, Teacher Librarian and Literacy Learning Leader at St Joseph's College who works with Shaza could not be more delighted with her contribution to the College.

"Shaza has been a wonderful presence at the College and her warmth, friendliness and smile has brought such joy to the library. It is amazing how much Shaza has been through, and we are very grateful to have her working for us as she does a great job," said Mrs. Andrews

Kellie-Marie Ford, Assistant Principal of Religious Education at St Joseph's, said that when they were approached by Toowoomba Catholic Schools with the opportunity to offer a position as part of the Work & Welcome program, they were really excited.

"It allows staff to see the real impact of their donations to the program, while also offering refugees



and migrants the opportunity to experience life in our schools, to become part of our community and gain valuable work experience for future employment," said Ms Ford.

"Most importantly, our St Joseph's College community has gained a valuable understanding of Shaza's life experiences and gifts. This is an amazing example of resilience for staff and students. We are proud to host Shaza and learn from her," Ms Ford said.

Work & Welcome relies on the generosity of Australian schools, businesses, community groups and individuals to create job opportunities.

Carla Zafiriadis, Manager, Employment at Multicultural Australia said that the Work & Welcome Program in schools supports people from refugee and asylum seeker background on their first paid work in Australia.

"The program provides an opportunity for participants to gain local experience in a supportive environment and be able to have current references to add on their resumes. Participants are able to develop the skills and confidence needed to find employment, as well as build their hope for the future and sense of belonging in a new country," said Ms Zafiriadis.

"Multicultural Australia provides ongoing support to both participants and host organisations for the duration of the placement and supports participants find employment past program. "

"In recent figures, close to 80% of participants were able to find employment since completing the program. The success of the program is only possible due to our amazing group of partner schools and we thank them for the continuous support," said Ms Zafiriadis.

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



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FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS GRADUATE IN STYLE

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

The Toowoomba Catholic Schools' Mass for 2022 Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduands was celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday, 14 September. Over 20 students attended the celebration along with their parents, grandparents and community members.

Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools noted that the completion of Year 12 is a major milestone to celebrate in all young people's lives. "Although they may not grasp it fully now, they have a precious gift that over half the world's population do not have, a world-class education," said Dr Coughlan.

"It is a gift to be shared, to help others achieve what they have achieved and to make the most of opportunities which come their way. Education is the great enabler to unlock and rise above the challenges and disadvantages which get in the way of people leading full and flourishing lives. "Higher levels of education are associated with improved health outcomes, economic status and quality of life," said Dr Coughlan.

The Mass included a student led smoking ceremony, Acknowledgement of Country and didgeridoo playing. There were messages of guidance and inspiration for the Graduands, who were presented with specially designed sashes and a medallion as a memento of this milestone in their lives.

St Saviour's College Year 12 graduand, Kellie McMahon commenced her secondary schooling journey with St Saviour's in 2017. Kellie said, 'I am grateful for the opportunities that I have experienced while studying at St Saviour's College.'

"I graduate with fond memories and a great sense of pride in myself and my school. Finishing Year 12 opens



Indigenous Graduation: Dr Pat Coughlan, Kellie McMahon from St Saviour's College, Bishop Robert McGuckin



Indigenous Graduation_ATSI Graduating Class of 2022

the door to many opportunities for me to succeed and have a fulfilling career. "While I am excited to move onto the next chapter of my life, I will dearly miss this College, but I know the friendships I have made will continue long after school finishes," said Kellie.

Sharon Collins, Principal of St Saviour's College could not be prouder of all the students from St Saviour's who are graduating in 2022. "It has been wonderful to see these girls grow into

young women who are empowered by their mercy values and a quality education that will put them in great stead to achieve much in the world."

"Well done to all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduands, we are most proud of you," said Ms Collins.

The graduating students were from St Mary's College, St Saviour's College, Assumption College Warwick, St Ursula's College and Downlands College.



Dr Pat Coughlan, Leigh and Brian Cantwell
and Bishop Robert McGukin

CELEBRATING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH HOPE & LOVE

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Catholic schools across Queensland celebrated their community spirit as they marked Catholic Education Week 2022 from 24-30 July.

Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) Executive Director Dr Lee-Anne Perry said the week provided Catholic schools with an opportunity to celebrate their unique communities and their common heritage.

"It's a wonderful time for Queensland's 313 Catholic schools and 29 kindergartens to reflect on not just the special nature of their school community but also how they contribute to the wider community," Dr Perry said.

The theme of this year's celebration was Communities of Faith, Hope and Love.

"It's a theme that reminds us that a Christian life is lived in community and at the heart of that community are faith in God, hope for the future, and love of God and each other," Dr Perry said

"Catholic education strives to make a difference in the lives of those in our school communities and in the wider community by challenging young people to live out the message of Jesus and to reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life-giving members of society."

The official launch of Catholic Education Week was hosted by Diocese of Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office at St Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba, on Tuesday 26 July.

Diocese of Toowoomba Executive Director: Catholic Schools, Dr Pat Coughlan, said Toowoomba Catholic schools represented a microcosm of Catholic education in Queensland.

"Our schools range from small remote primary schools like St Finbarr's at Quilpie through to our large colleges and boarding schools in Toowoomba," Dr Coughlan said.

"Some of our schools serve primarily Indigenous communities, others serve agricultural and rural communities, and we also have schools serving those students who have disengaged from mainstream education.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the rich tapestry of

Toowoomba Catholic schools during the launch event and to share the wonderful work of our communities of faith, hope and love.”

Dr Perry said Catholic Education Week was also a time to acknowledge those who go the extra mile in Catholic schools.

“The Spirit of Catholic Education Awards recognise staff and volunteers in our school communities who make an extraordinary contribution.”

“This year we received more than 180 nominations for the awards from right across Queensland and the seven award recipients are drawn from varying aspects of school life.”

The Diocese of Toowoomba winner was Brian Cantwell a Middle Leader at St Joseph’s College, Toowoomba.

Brian’s deep commitment to maintaining and building an inclusive community at St Joseph’s College is what makes him exceptional.

Whether it is sharing the history of the College with new staff, cooking up a feast on the College BBQ or one of his famous mystery bus trips to support towns in drought or flood – he has a way of ensuring staff want to be involved.

For students, his leadership of initiatives that engage them in service and outreach, have built wonderful partnerships and widened their sense of community.

Always looking for new ways to engage students, maximise the impact of technology and improve equity, Brian has been instrumental in a number of successful innovation programs including the ‘Girls in

welding’ event, supporting girls to explore engineering pathways.

Brian’s ‘ministry of presence’ is key to his leadership, his reliability, relationality, consistency and genuine support.

It is all that he is as a person and his ability to bring out in others the Spirit of Catholic education that make him a worthy recipient of the Spirit of Catholic Education Award for the Toowoomba Diocese.

To find out more about the awards and Catholic Education Week visit www.catholiceducationweek.com.au.



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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

The outstanding educators and staff at Toowoomba Catholic Schools have been celebrated at their annual Excellence Awards, held on November 2.

The awards identify and showcase practitioners who model, demonstrate and live excellence in their roles, all day, every day. This year close to 100 nominations from across the Toowoomba Diocese were received.

Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools said, "We are privileged to have an outstanding staff who believe in and are committed to inspiring young people to learn and reach their full potential. They work alongside volunteers and support staff to create a system of schools that is united, connected and progressive."

"This year's recipients consistently bring the best ideas and innovations to their teaching, leadership and educational support. It is through their efforts and influence, that we continue to provide excellent educational experiences, pastoral care and community connections across our 31 schools. We thank all of our finalists and recognise the invaluable contribution they make to both staff and students' lives," said Dr Coughlan.

One of the award recipients of the evening was Madonna Sleba, who was awarded Excellence in School Leadership, and was delighted to have won the award. Ms Sleba is the Principal of St Saviour's Primary School and is an experienced and effective leader who has achieved improved student learning outcomes and a created a positive work and learning culture at the school.

"As a leader I am committed to the Catholic vision coupled with a strong understanding of the curriculum, pedagogy, people and my faith. I believe that all are welcome and that their voices should be heard and ideas considered.

"My leadership team are encouraged to be creative and decisive and I am very confident in their abilities," said Ms Sleba.

"It is through great team work that we can achieve great things in our schools so I have my entire team to thank for their support, work and commitment to educating our students. I also receive support from the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office and it is wonderful to be part of such a strong network of schools in the Toowoomba Diocese," Ms Sleba said.

Gratitude goes to the award sponsors for 2022 including Frontier, Black Canvas, RemServ, Pulse Software, Hayball Architects, Schoolzine, Australian Catholic Superannuation and Toowoomba Toyota.

The awards covered ten categories across three areas. The award recipients are listed below.

Excellence in education support

Teaching and learning support

Andrea Gormley, Middle Leader Learning Support, Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Administration, finance, and facilities support

Kirsty Gillett, Business Manager, Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields

Volunteer support in a school setting

Anita Crawford, Parents and Friends Committee president, St John's School, Roma

Excellence in teaching and learning

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

Lilly Daly, Year 5/6 teacher, Sacred Heart Primary School, Cunnamulla

Primary expert teacher

Kristen Bennie, Year 3 teacher, Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Secondary expert teacher

Lisa McPherson, Chemistry, Physics, Science and Maths teacher St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

eLearning

eLearning collective from Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby, St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office - Matt Brown, Rod Spain, Paul Herbert, Mary Roberts, Tyron Fraser, Joanna Holden and Joseph Shorter

Excellence in leadership

Emerging leader

Kirstie Andrews, Teacher librarian and Literacy improvement leader, St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

Middle leadership

Rebecca McGregor, Middle leader and Assistant Principal: Religious Education, St Monica's School, Oakey

School leadership

Madonna Sleba, Principal, St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba (Acting Director: Education Services at TCSO)





WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANGELA MERICI

ANGELA COLLINS

St Ursula's College Deputy Principal, Ms Bernadette Witham, and myself (Angela Collins – Assistant Principal, Mission and Identity) spent the first three weeks of this term in Italy walking in the footsteps of our foundress, St Angela Merici.

We were so very blessed to be a group of 41 participants including 36 pilgrims, 5 Ursuline sisters on the pilgrimage leadership team from 18 different countries. Our Ursuline Family is spread far and wide across the world and now we are very much connected with so many of these fantastic schools and organisations within our global connections.

We have been attending Zoom sessions with all participants since May of this year and it was lovely to meet everyone at the Generalate in Rome on Wednesday 5th October. After a few days of preparing for the pilgrimage in Rome, we ventured to Desenzano where we saw the house in which Angela grew up in and returned to later in life to live, Le Grezze. This was a very beautiful time. We also saw Brudazzo, the place of Angela's vision and went to Salò where she lived with her aunt and uncle as a teenager. From here, we journeyed to Brescia where Angela formed the Company of St Ursula. Seeing Angela's body in a glass

coffin was a very profound moment. From here, we travelled to Assisi to explore the Franciscan spirituality as Angela was a Franciscan tertiary and this greatly influenced her life. We then returned to Rome for an Audience with Pope Francis in St Peter's Square at the Vatican and to work at the Generalate on how we can bring the spirit of Angela into our own communities.

This was such a fantastic experience and I look forward to sharing the spirit of Angela at St Ursula's College. Many of you will know Sr Sue Flood (former Principal of St Ursula's College and now Prioress General of the Ursulines

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of the Roman Union) and Sr Helen Dyson who is a previous staff member of St Ursula's. We were privileged to spend a great deal of time with these ladies and please know that they send their love and prayers to you all and have great memories of their time at St Ursula's, Toowoomba. It was lovely to meet so many of our wider Ursuline family who have visited our College previously and have a place in their heart for our community. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as we have walked the footsteps of Angela. In her own words, it is now time to:

“Act, bestir yourselves, have hope and confidence. Make efforts, cry to Him with all your hearts. You will certainly see wonders, if you direct everything to the praise of His Divine Majesty and the greater good of souls.”



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JOSEPHITES CELEBRATE DIAMOND AND GOLD

MEDIA RELEASE

Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sister Monica Cavanagh, originally from the Toowoomba Diocese, recently led the Jubilee Celebrations for over 30 Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Sydney.

The celebrations took place at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney honouring Golden and Diamond Jubilees that marked 50 years and 60 years since their first profession. From the opening events and processions at both Jubilee gatherings, the talk, hymns and prayers were of friendship, joyful worship and thanksgiving – for years lived, for commitment given, for Josephite life and ministry.

Sixteen Golden Jubilarians travelled from Timor Leste, Peru, Halls Creek in the Kimberley, Perth, Adelaide, Penola, Melbourne, Launceston, Brisbane and Sydney to acknowledge this milestone and renew their vows with Sisters, friends and family. The Sisters had made their first profession

50 years ago at Baulkham Hills, Sydney, Goulburn and Hobart.

Congregational Leader, Sister Monica Cavanagh, reflected that as young Sisters the Golden Jubilarians had in the words of Pope Francis, “bought a pair of walking shoes and set out on uncharted paths”. Their mission had called them to take risks and to move into unfamiliar territory. Their ministry totals 800 years and those years include education at all levels, social justice, parish pastoral involvement, chaplaincy and pastoral care in various settings, music and liturgy as well roles of congregational leadership.

Fifteen Diamond Jubilarians also gathered in September to celebrate their commitment of 60 years as Sisters of Saint Joseph and a total 900 years ministry. Time together was spent reminiscing, in catching up with lives lived in different areas of Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, Scotland and Peru. Those Sisters who were not able to attend were remembered and shared the experience via the live streamed Mass.

Sr Monica Cavanagh spoke of the journey that these Sisters had set out on 60 years ago which had taken them

into situations that they possibly never dreamed of on that first Profession Day.

Bishop Vincent Long of Parramatta as chief celebrant, assisted by Fr Peter Hudson, congratulated the Jubilarians on their vowed commitment. The Jubilarians were invited to renew their vows by Sr Monica, and their renewed commitment was met with applause from the Congregation.

In concluding Sister Monica thanked all the Jubilarians “for the women you have become and for sharing your gifts and lives with us”. Encouraged and supported by God’s unconditional love the Jubilarians continue in the footsteps of the Co-founders of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, St Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods.





YEAR 12 RETREAT FOR MERCY GIRLS

ST SAVIOUR'S COLLEGE

In the last week of Term 3, St Saviour's College celebrated their Senior Class of 2022, through numerous events including a Valedictory Mass, Year 12 Awards Presentation and Valedictory Dinner/Formal. It was wonderful to pay homage to this group of Mercy Girls, who have demonstrated compassion, joy, efficacy and leadership, particularly during the last year.

In her address at the Awards Presentation, College Principal, Ms Sharon Collins, addressed the community, encouraging the graduating class to take example from the late Queen Elizabeth II:

"Last Friday, when I was at Alexandra Headlands on Year 12 Retreat, like all of us here, I woke to the news of the passing of her royal highness, Queen Elizabeth the second. Like most of us in this room, with the exception of a few of the grandparents present today, for my entire lifetime, Queen Elizabeth II has been our Commonwealth's figurehead. Irrespective of one's views around the relevance of monarchy for our country, there is no doubt that the late Queen has been an outstanding model for all, and remained extremely relevant across the seven decades she has held the throne, particularly for female leaders. For this reason, I wish to leave our graduates with some key lessons we

can take away from the life and legacy of Queen Elizabeth II; seven lessons in fact, one for each decade of influence.

1. *Use your education, power and privilege for good...*
2. *Adapt to the murkiness of life...*
3. *Be of your times...*
4. *Retain your humour...*
5. *Be kind to animals and the elderly...*
6. *Be a person of faith...*
7. *Be an empowered woman in a changing world...*

"Go – Do not be afraid – Serve." This was the timeless message given to the youth of the world from Pope Francis at Rio de Janeiro, on Copacabana Beach in 2013 at World Youth Day. This same message, I am sure would be proffered by the late Queen Elizabeth the second, were she here today. And the same message, I am doubly sure that would be extended by Venerable Catherine McAuley were she here today."

At the Awards presentation, the community were privileged to hear from Senior Education Leader from Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, Ms Maryanne Walsh OAM, who spoke to the community about the importance of reflecting on being



grateful for education, opportunities, and for those we love. Maryanne challenged the graduands to be ever-grateful and give thanks for the quality experience they have enjoyed during their time at St Saviour's College.

The occasion was a great opportunity to recognize the many achievements of our Class of 2022, acknowledging their many successes in the the sporting, cultural, service and academic life of the College.

The Valedictory Dinner took place later that evening and was a particular highlight. As expected, the girls looked stunning. It was a beautiful evening at Clifford Park celebrating our finest.

The girls were encouraged to take heed of the words of Catherine McAuley, as they make their way into their lives beyond formal schooling, "We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us."



STANTHORPE FAREWELLS A LOCAL TREASURE

SELINA VENIER

Contributed by St Joseph's parishioner, Selina Venier in consultation with the Leonardi family and St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

Vale "Miss Santina"

Her attitude to life was as impacting as the vibrant colours she wore.

As Santina Leonardi's family face their first Christmas without their beloved daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunty, cousin and confidante, this edition of Horizons magazine features some of the sentiments expressed since her passing on 29th September.

Close friend and teacher at St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe, Mary McLucas, spoke at the 8th October funeral in St Joseph's Church, of the privilege it was to do so with other school representatives.

"Over her 35 years as a staff member, Santina saw a great number of teachers, teacher aides, groundsman, cleaners and office staff pass through our ranks," Mrs McLucas began. "Can you imagine the enormous number of memoirs we collectively have about, as one staff member put it, 'Our little pocket rocket, bling queen'?"

Due to "Miss Santina's" love of "bling" and vibrancy as a person, the school promoted a "Pink, Purple and Bling Day" on 7th October, with staff, students, parents too, joining in on the colourful spectacle, knowing that Santina was a colourful angel on earth, and then, in heaven.

This idea proved popular around Stanthorpe's main street too with businesses opting into the colourful reminder before the funeral the following day.

"From her office desk, Santina got to know the whole Saint Joseph's community," Mrs McLucas continued as part of the Words of Remembrance. "(These were) the great number of teachers she worked with over the years who were so grateful for her assistance given so willingly, and the many, parents who were so appreciative of her kind and helpful nature. (But) was the kids, our students, who were her main motivation.

They were the ones she loved the most and believe me, this love was reciprocated tenfold. The kids found any excuse to go to the office so as to see Santina and they would leave feeling cared for, loved and listened to and always with a band aid attached to some part of their body. "One student once said to his Mum, 'Miss Santina is the best thing about going to school'."

David Fleming, an equally long-serving staff member, spoke particularly poignant words when he said, "There's a generation of former students who

don't see (her) disability but rather (her) ability. Santina never once complained about the cards she had been dealt. (She said) 'I want to drive, and I will do it'. She often said that there is always a way to get things done if you decide that that is what you want to do."

Santina Leonardi was born on 26th October 1969, the second daughter of Sam and Carmel Leonardi. Mrs Leonardi passed away in 1993 and the couple's eldest daughter, Mary, died in 2007.

John Leonardi and Roslyn Feurer (nee Leonardi) continue to remember their sister with an affection that will never cease, along with all their extended family, especially the "Spina cousins", supporting their family patriarch, Sam, who continues to live in Stanthorpe.

A cousin, Michelle Lyons, gave the eulogy on 8th October with many collective and individual statements. Of Santina's contribution to the community, she said: "A strong sense of community meant that Santina was widely known around her beloved town of Stanthorpe.

She would often volunteer to sell tickets, raise money, or assist in any way she could with numerous organisations. "She could relate to and enjoy the company of a wide range of people – from older generations of Sicilians, right through to the young Prep-students that she cared and looked out for at Saint Joseph's. Her life was full and joyful," Mrs Lyons said.

YEAR IN REVIEW

April

YEAR IN REVIEW

HIGHFIELDS

Our Journey with Christ Throughout the Lenten Period

Once again this year, our Parish had the privilege to attend a very special Lenten Programme. Our hosts being Marita Tuite and Naomi Goddard, who welcomed us into their homes to relax and get to know one another a little better over a hot cuppa before commencing.

For our journey this year, we followed Luke's Gospels in "Remember" - a programme published by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong. We were able to learn throughout the Gospels that Jesus was open and caring to those who were on the edge of society – the outcast, the widow, and the orphan. Luke also challenges those who were proud and self-righteous.

The readings were those of the coming Sunday, that helped us to understand and to know the compassion and mercy of God – through Jesus, both personally and as communities, helping us to reconnect ourselves as members of the body of Christ.

When we heard Fr. Brian read the Gospel the following Sunday, it now had a stronger meaning, because of the reflection, mirroring and deepening of the Gospel by sharing our thoughts with each other in special paragraphs that stood out for us.

As we progressed, we were able to walk with Jesus from his temptation to his crucifixion. Our Lenten journey enabled us to reconnect and reinvigorate our "call". To do this we must encounter and know him, reflect upon the grace of God given to us. Through him, nothing is impossible.

Thank you to Marita and Naomi for making us welcome in their homes and for the endless hours of preparation you both put into this wonderful programme. We are so lucky to have you both in our Parish.



Ecumenical Stations Of The Cross

On Good Friday morning at 10am worshipers from all denominations gathered at the beautiful Peacehaven Park in Highfields for a solemn ecumenical Stations of the Cross.

As we arrived, worshipers from other denominations, came forward to introduce themselves and mingle together with us to embark on our journey with Christ from the time he was condemned to death, to his crucifixion and burial.

As we prepared for this wonderful ceremony, people just kept coming, until the crowd multiplied and became a very large gathering. Each year we have a ceremony, such as this where Fr. Brian Noonan our Parish Priest in conjunction with the Anglican Priest from our Highfields St. Anne's Anglican Church lead the crowd with prayer to follow the "Way of the Cross." This year was no exception as along with Fr. Brian and Rev. Frances, we moved to each station in worship and prayer, the

crowd prayed together and sang the very appropriate hymn of "Were you there when they crucified my Lord."

Sandy and John Whybird were there once again to provide the music for us with their acoustic guitars. This was a very beautiful touch and took nothing away from the solemnity of the ceremony. This year Rob and Collette Jeffes from our Catholic Parish held the banners representing each Station with reverence, for each of us to see and reflect upon Christ's suffering.

The weather was perfect and the venue was a sight to behold. God's wonderful gift to us for this occasion. The whole ambience was that of ecumenical peace and tranquility. We were unable to enjoy fellowship over a cuppa this year, but we will look forward to the time when we can get to know our ecumenical sisters and brothers a little better. Maybe next Easter – God only knows.

Thank you so much to Fr. Brian and Rev. Frances for such a moving experience.



Left to Right (Back Row): Sandy Whybird, John Whybird, Greg Williams, Fr. Brian, Alfia Ginardi.
Left to Right (Front Row): Marita Tuite, Kath Duff, Rev. Frances, Antonia Canto.

YEAR IN REVIEW

April

Mass of the Oils

The celebration of the Mass of the Oils returned to its rightful place in the lead up to Easter, after having been celebrated at different times in recent years due to Covid restrictions.



The Bishop prepares for the Blessing of the Oils



Bishop McGuckin addresses the priests



The Oils are brought forward in procession



Bishop McGuckin blesses the Oil of Holy Chrism



Easter Vigil

Blessing the Easter Candle and Celebrating Baptism at the Easter Vigil at St. Patrick's Cathedral

YEAR IN REVIEW

April

YEAR IN REVIEW

ANZAC Day

Father Tom Duncan, Parish Priest of Roma and Mr. Mark Brennan, Teacher at St. John's School in Roma attended the Rising Sun Dawn Service at Muckadilla on Anzac Day along with several students from St. John's.



May

Confirmations and First Holy Communion

Confirmation at St. Patrick's Cathedral Toowoomba



Confirmation at Highfields

YEAR IN REVIEW

May

Confirmations and First Holy Communion



Confirmation at St. Patrick's, St. George



First Communion at Highfields



Confirmation and First Communion at St. Mary's, Warwick

Father Thomas Duncan
distributes First Communion
to the young people of
All Saints Parish Roma.



YEAR IN REVIEW

June

Countdown to Ordination

Fr. Jamie Collins

A special event such as a wedding for any family can be both exciting and stressful as the big day approaches.

There is all the planning around the ceremony, the reception, the dress and the cake. Not to mention the round of pre-wedding parties that are increasingly important among family and friends of the bride and groom.

What about planning for an ordination?

Brian Redondo and Nathan Webb have provided an insight into some of the events that took place during the course of the last month prior to their ordination at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday, June 25 this year.

May 25

Nathan is called to the office at the Cathedral to greet some guests who inadvertently arrived a month early for the big day. After an awkward exchange, the guests depart promising to return a month later to join Nathan and Brian on the correct date.

June 5

Nathan and Brian depart for Lismore Diocese for their pre-ordination retreat at Invercauld House, the Retreat Centre for the Diocese of Lismore. They chose to travel to Lismore to draw upon the wisdom of the local Bishop as their retreat director.

Having joined the Discalced Carmelite Order in 1985, Bishop Greg Homeming has a background in the contemplative life and in giving retreats. Bishop Greg's direction enriched this week of preparation for Nathan and Brian that included time for private prayer, reflection and daily Mass.

Nathan and Brian had so fulfilled the obligation, that those going on for ordination must undertake a retreat close to the day of their ordination ... and returned to Toowoomba to continue their preparation.



June 10

Brian and Nathan arrived back in Toowoomba, eager to take up the final stages of preparation for their ordination liturgy. This included meetings with Vicki Coccozza, long-standing organist at St. Patrick's Cathedral, and Peter Webb, Nathan's brother and Music Director for the occasion.

June 15

As they make the final adjustments to the Ordination Liturgy, both Nathan and Brian then turn their attention to the final preparations for their Masses of Thanksgiving, colloquially known as their 'First Mass'.

The newly ordained Fr. Nathan is to celebrate Mass with his large family and fellow parishioners at their home parish of Sacred Heart in Wilsonton. A second Mass is also planned for St. Patrick's Cathedral in the days following the Ordination.

Following his Ordination, Fr. Brian will celebrate Mass at Clifton with cousins who travelled from Cairns and the Gold Coast alongside fellow parishioners from Allora and Clifton parishes where he is currently residing. A morning tea is also being planned afterwards that will have a distinct Filipino flavour.

June 18

Brian and Nathan's Ordination vestments have arrived from Brian's hometown in the Philippines. As many of Brian's immediate family are unable to travel to be a part of his ordination, the arrival of the vestments takes on extra special significance.

With vestments stored safely away, a frantic exchange of emails and messages confirms and finalizes details of song choices, saints for the litany, booklet design, ordination cards, and a myriad of final details for the big day.

June 24 (day)

The final day of their preparation arrives. A full rehearsal for the liturgy is held in St. Patrick's Cathedral with Bishop Robert McGuckin, the Principal Celebrant for their ordination. The rehearsal goes well, last minute alterations are made, and Brian and Nathan are set for their big day.

June 24 (evening)

The night before their ordination Nathan and Brian choose to spend the night in their parishes – Brian in Allora and Nathan at the Cathedral. After all their meticulous planning, they have finally arrived at the eve of their Ordination Day, a day for which they have been preparing over many years, and more intensely over recent weeks.



June 25

Ordination Day. Nathan recalls standing inside the Cathedral Presbytery with a bowl of breakfast cereal, looking out the window and taking in the buzz that was building outside. People were coming and going from the Cathedral in excited anticipation for what the day was to bring.

Brian made his way from Allora. Priests arrived from all over. Family and friends were gathering. Parishioners, supporters and well-wishers took their

place in the Cathedral. People joined in around the world via livestream. A day of great joy and celebration for the Diocese took place.

The faith of many was restored, strengthened and enriched through the celebration of a powerful liturgy. Masses of Thanksgiving were celebrated. Tears of joy flowed freely. All the planning and preparation had borne fruit in the lives of these two newly

ordained priests for our diocese.

It was not until some time later, after an emotionally exhausting few days, that Nathan walked into the Cathedral Presbytery and noticed something that might be a sign of the busy lives they had both just been ordained into.

An empty cereal bowl lay where he had left it on the morning of his ordination, waiting to be washed and dried.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

July

Warwick Jazzes It Up In July

Dave Carr

Over 600 local, interstate and overseas visitors flocked to the iconic St. Mary's Church and Museum in Warwick over the eleven days of the Jumpers and Jazz Festival during July.

Trees in the church yard were 'yarnbombed' and bunting put in place to create a festive atmosphere, with a 'contemplative tree' a special feature. During the two weekends of the festival, visitors swelled the Mass attendance – with a soup night held after the Saturday Vigil Mass on the second weekend.

Over 100 volunteers assisted in church and museum tours throughout the festival, with around 250 Devonshire

Teas served at Assisi Place from the Monday to Saturday. Street Jazz music was played in front of the church.

Visitors to Warwick were very impressed with the parish involvement in Jumpers and Jazz and many were seen taking photographs as they wandered around the buildings.

Coordinator of the volunteers, Dave Carr reported back at a recent Sunday Mass, "At first, I did think that we were just 'showcasing' what we have here at St. Mary's Parish. But as the week went on it became clear to me that it's the coming together to create a community of welcoming by our own parishioners that was more important. We are all so proud of our parish.

It's the planning, the doing, and the cleanup that gets and keeps us together."



YEAR IN REVIEW

August

Fr. Michael Cooney Celebrates with St. Anthony's

The Golden Anniversary of Priesthood for Fr. Michael Cooney was celebrated recently with a well-attended Afternoon Tea held at St. Anthony's Community Centre.

Fr. Michael was ordained in Warwick in 1972 and has served in many

parishes throughout the Diocese as well as the hospital chaplaincy on more than one occasion.

Fr. Michael continues to work currently in the hospital ministry, alongside the Pastoral Care teams at Toowoomba Base, St. Vincent's and Baillie Henderson Hospitals.

His many years of dedicated service in this ministry was acknowledged by Nicole Rangiira from the Pastoral Care team at Toowoomba Base Hospital, who organized the celebrations in conjunction with St. Anthony's Parish.

Fr. Michael has assisted with supply ministry at St. Anthony's Parish over many years. The formal proceedings included the cutting of a Jubilee cake, a song based on "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" and some heart-felt speeches.



Celebrations at Clifton Mark Fr. Rod's 50 Years

A Mass and Morning Tea was held recently at Clifton to celebrate Fifty Years of ordained ministry for Parish Priest, Fr. Rod MacGinley.

The Sunday Mass was attended by parishioners from across the many centres where Fr. Rod celebrates Mass including Cambooya-Greenmount, Allora and Leyburn.

Following Mass the congregation adjourned to the FE Logan Hall for Morning Tea, where formal proceedings included speeches from representatives of both Allora and Clifton Parishes and the cutting of the cake.

Many of Fr. Rod's family were present for the occasion, including his brother, Fr. Jack from Tara Parish.



YEAR IN REVIEW

— September



Weetwood Off to a Racing Start with Mass Fr. Jamie Collins

Dozens of people gathered at Clifford Park Racecourse in Toowoomba for the Annual Race Mass on September 22. The Mass is a traditional highlight of Spring Racing in Toowoomba and is always held during the week leading into the running of the Weetwood Handicap.



For the first time the Mass was celebrated during the day this year and was held in the hospitality precinct of Clifford Park after the Barrier Draw had taken place for the Weetwood. Principal celebrant was Father Jack MacGinley, who was assisted by his brother, Fr. Rod MacGinley.



The MacGinley brothers have acted as chaplains to the racing fraternity for many decades, since Bishop Kelly instituted the Racing Mass at Clifford Park over forty years ago. Many people look forward to the annual celebration as a prelude to the famous Weetwood that has been run for more than 130 years.

At the Mass prayers were offered for a successful Weetwood Carnival as well as the safety of jockeys, trainers, owners and all who participate in the racing industry. Loved ones from within the racing family who had died since the last Race Mass was held were also remembered in prayer.



YEAR IN REVIEW

— September



Cathedral Goes Floral For Carnival

Jessica Tierney

Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers was celebrated during the month of September.

After a two year hiatus St Pat's produced a display to be viewed over a six day period. Our carnival committee took the opportunity to reimagine the display, which has always had a strong presence during the Carnival of Flowers. Bringing participation back to a parish level, showcasing parish groups, diocesan groups, our Catholic schools and colleges. The Carnival Committee consisting of Fr Michael O'Brien, Sue Bauer, Hugh Boyce, Melissa Stevens and Jessica Tierney; decided this year's theme of "All Things Bright and Beautiful" to focus on God's love of nature and creation.

St Pat's visitors were invited to take a self guided tour through the Cathedral to learn of its rich history and to immerse

themselves in the twelve official display areas as well as the grandly appointed pulpit, tabernacle, aisles and various arrangements scattered throughout. There were many eager pairs of hands working in the parish garage over the week leading up to create the floral arrangements designed to cohesively enhance the magnificent group displays dotted around the Cathedral. Every small action during the preparation counted as significant.

On Monday the 19th of September we enjoyed the musical talents of Dr Steven Nisbet OAM. Dr Nisbet performed on our restored pipe organ his concert "Let the Organ Thunder". Inviteed guests and visitors were welcomed to the event and display by Bishop Robert McGuckin where he thanked all of the generous volunteers for their time and effort. This was followed by a morning tea and celebratory cake.

Over the course of the weekend more than 2500 visitors, not only viewed the

flowers but the outdoor garden areas which have been under redevelopment over the year. Including the recently created garden beds with roses kindly donated by members of the Parish.

Utilising the local businesses of the area we were able to support Toowoomba Flower Market and Botanica Rose Farm of Highfields. The produce delivered was outstanding and remarked upon by all. Donations of greenery came from around the region and a special thanks to those from Pittsworth for not only donating their own plants but for delivering as well.

There have already been impromptu discussions about other groups we might include in the future, specifically how we might include various cultural groups. The future looks exciting.

If your group would like to be a part of next years display please register with our office at admin@stpats.org.au and we will be in contact.



Celebrating our Diocesan Patron

Under the patronage of Mary of the Southern Cross, the Diocese celebrated its Feast Day on September 1.

Bishop McGuckin presided at a special Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral attended by representatives of many of the schools across Toowoomba. The bishop shared a message of 'shining the light of Christ for others' and 'seeing the face of Jesus in those around us'.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY, ST. MARY'S WARWICK

FR. BONY ABRAHAM

What has started as a Lenten young adult scripture study, has been shaping up as a young adult ministry at the Parish. Around 15 young people aged 16-30 attended ALPHA, an evangelization programme that facilitates open discussion about faith through food and fellowship. The nine weeks of alpha including the weekend retreat away was indeed an experience of faith, fellowship, and community. The young adults are currently gathering fortnightly for ALPHA Essentials which breaks open relevant topics for young people.

ALPHA MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WARWICK

ANNI MCALLISTER

I have been through some of the toughest times in my life in the last few years. After being diagnosed with a Chronic illness and losing my dad I saw little point in anything. I found myself in a battle trying to find peace and happiness. I joined a youth group with the church. I wasn't a strong believer in God and I didn't fully understand what being a Catholic really meant despite growing up in a Catholic family. The group met up weekly to watch a video from an organisation called Alpha. Alpha is a series of interactive videos that explore faith and meaning. Alpha is founded on 3 things; connection, content and conversation. Alpha provided me a safe place to ask questions and find reasons. Alpha has helped to bring a light into my life that I wasn't aware existed. I have learnt the power of friendship and community, I encountered the Holy Spirit, I found hope. I now have a deeper understanding of what it means to be Catholic.



'JOEYS EXPLORERS' ON THE HOP

NARELLE MCINTYRE

A new ministry has commenced in St Joseph's Parish, Dalby called Joey's Explorers.

With the support of parishioners, a new 12-seater bus has been purchased.

This will provide parishioners and other community members, the opportunity to experience bus trips to places of interest around Dalby and district.

These bus trips allow all of us to enjoy the opportunity to socialize and get 'out and about' with small groups of like-minded people.

Trips have been arranged on a fortnightly basis, beginning with morning tea at the Parish Centre and



returning to Dalby around 2:30 pm. Lunch is included in the outing and there is no charge to participate.

For those wishing to participate, collection from home and return to home, can be arranged. If you would like to join us, or are aware of friends or neighbours who would like to

come along, please phone the Parish office, 4662 4011 to register interest.

Fr Jim Cronin, Parish Priest, blessed the bus and offered a prayer for the safety and enjoyment of all who travelled in it. Some of the parishioners who have offered assistance with this ministry, participated in the blessing ritual.

PARISH

GOLDEN WEDDING BELLS RING OUT IN AUGATHELLA

PETRA GREENAWAY

St Patricks Church – Augathella

Maria and Andrew Cridland celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary this year and renewed their vows at Mass on the 3rd July at St Patricks Augathella, where they married on the 10th June 1972.

The Cridland's family and friends joined them for the Mass and serenaded them with "The Wedding Song" which had been the song at their wedding. Everyone went on to congratulate the happy couple at a delicious brunch afterwards.



Andrew & Maria Cridland with Fr Warren Padilla.

BUSY TIMES IN CHARLEVILLE

SR. ELIZABETH O'KEEFE

The last couple of months have been a very busy time for our community in Charleville.

Fr Luan Le was warmly welcomed by our Vietnamese community. During his visit he was able to provide them with the sacraments in their own language. He also blessed and installed their new leadership team.

The children and staff of St Mary's School also prepared and led us in one of our Sunday liturgies.

St Mary's School and our Rumble & Tumble Playgroup warmly welcomed some of the residents of Waroona, our Nursing Home, who joined us at the school for playgroup. The children from the school also took the opportunity to practise their poems and songs for the Charleville Performing Arts Festival for them.

On Social Justice Sunday many of our community took the opportunity to sign on to the Charleville pledge organised by the local Domestic Violence Action Group.

During Opera Queensland's visit to Charleville they held a workshop with some of the children from St Mary's School where they composed a song about Charleville with the help of the children. The children were then invited to perform it with the singers from Opera Queensland in a public performance in the town hall. It was a delight to see the performance as it was very obvious that the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On Grandparents Day not only did the school welcome the children's Grandparents to their liturgy, classrooms and morning tea but also a group of past pupils of St Mary's High School and Charleville State High from the 1970s who were holding a reunion in Charleville. Also on this day the school recorded their new school song which they had composed with the help of Josh Arnold.



Sr Elizabeth with some of the past pupils.

The staff and children performing their new school song.

ST. MARY'S GOONDIWINDI CELEBRATE WEEK 2, TERM 2, 2022!

INA WINTER

On Thursday 28 April, St Mary's School, Goondiwindi, celebrated Week 2, Term 2, 2022 and all our students from Prep to Year 10 were involved in very special activities.

In the morning, our Year 4LM students presented an Easter play. Father Hermi Rafada led the Mass and narrated the Easter story. All students, staff many parents and community members attended.

Our year four students brought the Easter story alive and conveyed the important message of salvation by acting out the stations of the cross and adding a prayer relating to their own lives.

A group of year five and six girls celebrated the resurrection with tambourines and flags when they presented a praise and worship dance routine to the song "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"

Later in the day, it was time for the annual Colour Warrior fundraiser event! The student council representatives, consisting of students from year levels across the school, organised the Colour Warrior under leadership of Mrs Tenille White and Mrs Tracey Leadbetter. It was the culminating event for Project Compassion and after a student proposal, the Colour Warrior proceeds of \$895 were donated to Caritas Ukraine. Additionally, the school raised over \$2500 for Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.



60 YEARS OF SERVICE CELEBRATED AT CECIL PLAINS

KESLEY KRUGER

On Sunday 4 September, Parishioners from Our Lady of Lourdes Church Cecil Plains gathered after Mass to thank Ruth McGrath for her over 60 years service to Parish life. Ruth has retired from the position of Secretary/Treasurer of Cecil Plains Catholic Community, a position she has held for twenty years.

Ruth has been involved in all aspects



of Community life including with Catholic Women's League, St Vincent de Paul, Catechist, Parish Council, various fundraising activities, church cleaning and Sacristan as well as

raising her family. Ruth is an inspiration to us all. We are most delighted that she will continue her involvement in Parish life and thank her sincerely for all her years of service.

CONFERENCE IGNITES INTEREST FOR ORLANDO

ORLANDO VELLINGTON

On Thursday 22nd September we went to Brisbane for the Ignite Youth Conference to Sunday 25th September. Our family has been going for many years, about as many as it's been on – almost 20! This was the first time it was held at St Laurence's College, South Brisbane.

Gabriella, my sister, took part in the adult part of the conference, and I was part of the children's program.

The theme of the conference was, "The Moment" and it was all about the special times when God touches our hearts and shows us the best way to live.

My favourite part was going to the Mass with Archbishop Coleridge and



Orlando & Gabriella at Ignite

seeing so many priests and nuns, dressed in their special vestments! I liked the stalls there too, with so much free stuff, like lollies and rosary beads! Gabriella's favourite part was seeing so many friends from the past and making new ones too. She really liked the adoration and the night when we had prayer in the Holy Spirit.

The rallies and singing by emmanuelworship was awesome and not

only lively but prayerful and quiet too!

This was the best way to spend the holidays, giving us many moments to remember.

Thanks for reading!
Orlando, 9 years
St Joseph's Parish, Stanthorpe

Bishop Announces Clergy Appointments

NEWS IN BRIEF

In mid-November 2022 Father Gerardo Tubis PACEM is concluding his appointment in the Diocese of Toowoomba and as Parish Priest at Chinchilla. As Father Gerardo returns to the Philippines we thank him for his priestly ministry in the Diocese, over these last four years.

The PACEM superior in the Philippines has nominated a replacement for Father Gerardo, but we will have to await the Visa approval before that appointment can be announced. Such appointment isn't expected until late 2023.

Following the recent meeting of the Personnel Board I am pleased to announce the following appointments:

Father Warren Padilla (PACEM), presently at Charleville is appointed as Administrator at Chinchilla from 7 November 2022 until the end of 2022.

As at 1 January 2023 Father Warren is appointed Parish Priest at Clifton-Allora-Greenmount - Cambooya for 6 years.

Father Peter Doohan, presently at Crows Nest is appointed Parish Priest at Charleville for 6 years

as from 7 November 2022.

Father Nandana Saparamadu, presently at St Patrick's Cathedral, is appointed Parish Priest at Crows Nest for 6 years as from 7 November 2022.

Father Rod MacGinley, presently at Clifton, Allora, Greenmount-Cambooya, is appointed Parish Priest at Chinchilla for 6 years as from 1 January 2023.

Father Tom Duncan PP at Roma is appointed Dean of the Western Deanery as from 7 November 2022.

All Saints Roma

A popular young couple recently exchanged wedding vows at their parish church in Roma, with many fellow parishioners in attendance. Friend, Father Jack Ho and Parish Priest, Father Thomas Duncan, married Georgina Rudken and John Osborne in mid-October. The couple are regular Mass goers and added a twist to their wedding day by extending an invitation to the All Saints Parish congregation at the Sunday Mass prior to the wedding. Several took up the invitation to join with the couple on their special day and wish them well.



St Anthony's Harristown

Lachlan and Tebbany Bingham were married in St. Anthony's Church by Fr. Jamie Collins on August 14 in 2021. Twelve months down the track they presented baby Ziggy George to the community for Baptism at the Sunday morning Mass.

NEWS IN BRIEF

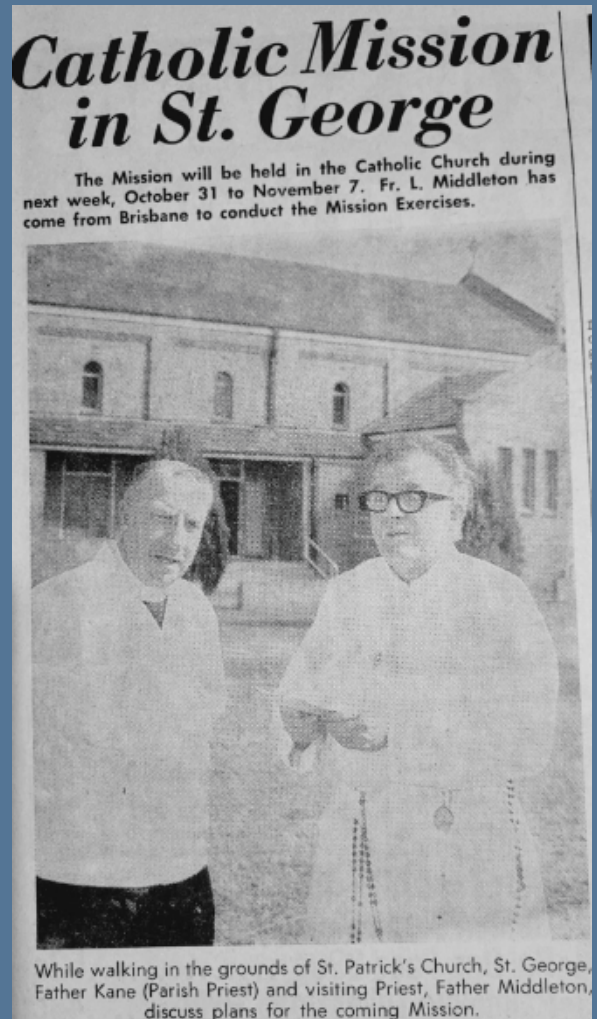
A Slice of History



St George

Congratulations to Jennie Waters, Kamilaroi Woman and Parishioner at St. George who was recently awarded the University of Southern Queensland 2022 Alumnus of the Year. Jennie said her university studies allowed her to establish a professional life focused on helping others, especially those in her home community of St. George. Jennie assists in providing better access to health and education among First Nations people in her community. Jennie and her husband Ron have, in the past, been great supporters of the Diocesan Social Justice Commission and were involved in initiating the process towards establishing a Reconciliation Action Plan for the Diocese.

A 'blast from the past' has emerged from the pages of an old edition of the Balonne Beacon at St. George, featuring much loved former Parish Priest, the late Fr. Bernie Kane. While the year is not identified, the photo shows plans being discussed for an upcoming Parish Mission.



While walking in the grounds of St. Patrick's Church, St. George, Father Kane (Parish Priest) and visiting Priest, Father Middleton, discuss plans for the coming Mission.

Melbourne Cup Celebrated with Flair

The Diocesan Social Justice Commission hosted a pre Melbourne Cup fundraiser for the Dignity Project, raising \$1460. A feature of the evening was a song about the Melbourne Cup and a Phantom Call of the race in memory of Fr. Jeff Scully



Anglican-Catholic Liturgy

St Patrick's Cathedral hosted the Annual Service of Prayer for Reconciliation on Thursday, 2nd November, led by Bishop Robert McGuckin and Anglican Bishop Cameron Venables. The Annual Day of Prayer for Reconciliation falls on the 4th November.

NEWS — IN BRIEF



NEWS IN BRIEF

Taking to the Tinsel Trail

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

With Christmas fast approaching it will soon be time to reach for the tinsel and decorations safely stored away since our last Yuletide season. Christmas lights will be soon appearing in great number throughout the towns and cities of the diocese.

Travellers on our back roads around the rural and remote regions will also be treated to displays of colourful Christmas spirit with decorated mailboxes and entrances to properties. These displays have even become somewhat of a tourist attraction that some have dubbed the 'Tinsel Trail'.

One of the original 'tinsel trails' began some years ago on the road between Surat and Roma.



GRATITUDE TO
MOST REV. BISHOP ROBERT M. MCGUCKIN
AND HIS DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA
FOR THEIR PROJECT SUPPORT TO OUR MISSIONS IN
DAMAN-SILVASA, ZAMBIA AND ECUADOR

ZAMBIA MISSION – EDUCATION

MISSION ECUADOR

DAMAN-SILVASA MISSION
(Education of the Warli Tribe Children)

Thank you

Over \$15, 000 was raised
in the Toowoomba Diocese Christmas
Collection in 2021 to support the work
of the Missionaries of St. Francis de
Sales (Fransalians). Thank You

GOOD WORKS PLANNED FOR CHRISTMAS IN ROMA

SARAH FLESSER



NEWS IN BRIEF

St John's students are continuing to develop a sense of the incredible work carried out by community groups within Roma. Specifically, St John's School has a long tradition of working with and collaborating alongside the St Vincent de Paul Society. Programs in which St John's students are involved include: the Big Brekkie Program, cooking breakfast fortnightly for members of the Vincentian Village; Christian Community Service assisting at the Vinnies store every fortnight and the Vinnies Christmas Appeal to name a few.

During Term Four, continuing a long tradition of support for the Vinnies Christmas Appeal, students in Year 11 are raising awareness and promoting the Appeal to the school community. They are leading a coordinated effort where members of our school community work collaboratively to build compassion and raise awareness of people in need in our community. The students have listened to and been provided guidance by the St Vincent de Paul Secretary for the Roma Conference, Mark Brennan.

After hearing first hand about the role that Vinnies plays within our community

and specifically the focus this time of year on supporting families experiencing disadvantage, the Year 11 Essential English class will be creating posters, writing morning notices and talking to their peers through assemblies and class visits, in order to encourage the school community to support the Vinnies Christmas Appeal. Students will also be involved in helping to collect the donated goods at school and sort and pack them ready for delivery. Hampers are distributed by All Saints Conference members prior to Christmas.

To enhance the students' understanding of the good works the organisation

has undertaken and continues to undertake, they will be investigating key elements within the history of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The work the students are undertaking in helping to raise awareness about the Vinnies Christmas Appeal by encouraging those in our school community to give generously this festive season, is a 'living' example of one of our school values, Compassion.

As a school community, we hope to generate great support for this year's Vinnies Christmas Appeal.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

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.

CHOC CARAMEL SLICE

Makes 24 slices

Ingredients

1 cup self raising flour
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup coconut
125g butter/margarine, melted
1 tin Nestle Condensed Milk
1 tbsp butter/margarine
4 tbsp golden syrup
milk chocolate, melted

1. Combine flour, sugar, coconut and 125g melted butter in a mixing bowl.
2. Mix well and press into a greased slice tray.
3. Bake in moderate oven for 10 minutes.
4. While base is cooking combine condensed milk, remaining butter and golden syrup in a saucepan over medium heat.
5. Stir continuously until boiling.
6. Remove from heat and spread over cooked base.
7. Cook for a further 10 minutes.
8. Allow slice to cool and top with melted milk chocolate

** Be sure to score the chocolate before it is properly set to prevent cracking.*

Happy eating

RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE

FR. JAMIE COLLINS

Kevin and Lynette Collins recently celebrated sixty years of Marriage with a Mass attended by family and friends at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Toowoomba.

Kevin and Lynette were married by the late Fr. Kevin Ryan at St. Patrick's Church in Allora on October 6, 1962. Kevin is the son of the late Dinny and Nell Collins of Willowvale, and Lynette the daughter of the late George and Elsie Maher of Allora. A Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by Kevin and Lynette's nephew Fr. Jamie Collins, Lynette's cousin, Fr. John Maher, and family friend, Fr. Ray Crowley.

The Mass, and the celebrations that followed, were attended by Kevin and Lynette's siblings, their twelve children and their families. In the early years of married life, Kevin and Lynette with their growing family moved from Toowoomba to live at various places around the State with Kevin having a lengthy career as a Train Driver with Queensland Rail. The family then settled back in Toowoomba at Prosser Street in 1977.

The family were active parishioners at Sacred Heart Parish for many years. Kevin attended Downlands College the same time as former Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, the late Fr. James Byrne who remained a family friend until his passing a few years ago.

A special thanksgiving reflection took place following Communion at the Mass



that involved a presentation to Kevin and Lynette by 60 of their 66 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who were present. Lynette is legendary among family members for cooking and especially for her famous slices.

In acknowledging the unconditional love that Kevin and Lynette have shown to their family over sixty years, they wish to share the recipe of a family favourite, Lynette's Choc-Caramel Slice. In doing so, it is hoped it symbolises the joy and happiness that Kevin and Lynette have brought to so many lives for sixty years.

Kevin and Lynette, as firm people of faith, have been generous contributors to the community throughout their married life. After sixty years they continue to be a positive influence on the lives of many through the achievements of their children and their families.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

WWW.TWB.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU

BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN

73 Margaret Street, PO Box 756
Toowoomba Qld 4350
Tel: (07) 4632 4277

SECRETARY TO BISHOP

Christine Hickey Tel: (07) 4632 4277
bishsec@twb.catholic.org.au

VICAR GENERAL

Fr Franco Filipetto Tel: (07) 4661 1033

ABORIGINAL APOSTOLATE

Fr Peter Dorfield
Mobile: 0408 459 045
peter@stpats.org.au

ARCHIVES

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

CARITAS

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

CATHOLIC MISSION

Diocesan Director: Martin Lewis

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

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

CATHOLICCARE Social Services

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Officer: Ingrid McTaggart
Tel: (07) 4602 7993
communications@twb.catholic.org.au

DIOCESAN FINANCE OFFICE

Inc. Diocesan Development Fund
Financial Administrator: Tom Jolley
Tel: (07) 4632 7589
admin@twb.catholic.org.au

HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN

Fr Michael Cooney
Mobile: 0427 138 547

LITURGICAL COMMISSION

Chair: Fr Jim Cronin
Tel: (07) 4662 4011

PASTORAL CARE

Catholic Coordinator: Nicole Rangiira
Tel: (07) 4616 6415
nicole.rangiira@health.qld.gov.au

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDS OFFICE

Executive Officer: Fr Peter Dorfield
Tel: (07) 4638 1379
profstandards@twb.catholic.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Executive Officer: David Tutty
Tel: (07) 4613 0895
justice@twb.catholic.org.au

SPRED - SPECIAL RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT

Coordinator: Loretta Coman
Tel: (07) 4632 8427
spred@twb.catholic.org.au

SYCHAR: HOUSE OF PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

Coordinator: Sr Elaine Morzone
Tel: (07) 4613 0933
Mobile: 0458 020 906
emorzone@twb.catholic.org.au

TRIBUNAL

Contact: Theresa Harvey
Tel: (07) 4632 7443
triboff@twb.catholic.org.au

VOCATIONS DIRECTOR

Fr Gonzalo Garcia Duran
Tel: (07) 4662 7031
vocations@twb.catholic.org.au



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Horizons

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