

Horizons

**WELCOME
BISHOP
KEN HOWELL**

#67
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FREE Publication
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Toowoomba

Horizons

FROM THE EDITOR

INGRID MCTAGGART

About 25 years ago, a plucky 17-year-old fronted up for a job interview for a position with the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. She was trying to figure out what to do after school and wasn't sure uni was for her. At the strong insistence of her parents, the only option was to get a job. This job was meant to be a stopgap, a chance to earn money and reflect further on a career path. Twenty-five years later, she's still here trying to figure out a career path and whether uni is for her.

It wasn't envisioned as a long-term job when I started working for the diocese. But I enjoyed my work and the people I worked with and continue to work with to this day. There have been some cracking times and challenges, but never a dull moment. I would not have it any other way; you can't appreciate the good times without embracing the bad. My role no longer resembles the job I applied for 25 years ago. It may be change that keeps me here, and possibly my mortgage.

I like to think working for the diocese is how I express my faith and my vocation.

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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When I think it might be time to move on, something pops up to keep me here, the Holy Spirit moving in mysterious ways.

So what will the next 25 years bring? Maybe I'll still be here; we'll see what that mortgage looks like. I do know I'll continue to be here as long as the Spirit needs me and inspires me to be here.

Oops we made a mistake!

In Issue 66, page 9, the date for Sr Fabre's death should read 3 May 1950.

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Cover Image: Bishop Ken Howell arrives at St Patrick's Cathedral for evening prayers, prior to his Installation the following day, 11 July 2023.



Bishop's Inservice Day 2023 at Cunnamulla

LOOK, LISTEN, LEARN

I have given myself these three words as I take up my role as your new Bishop. Firstly, I look to discover and understand something of your history and way of life from the city of Toowoomba right out to our most Western community. Secondly, I listen to your story and the way the faith is lived within the multiple communities that make up the diocese. Finally, I hope to learn from all of this so that I can be an effective “shepherd” of the Lord’s flock. As I said in my first homily:

For me, now is the time to learn more of your life and to grow in a deeper appreciation of this great history of times, places and people. My first task is to get to know you and to do as Pope Francis urges us to do, to listen deeply to your story and to grow in love of the people entrusted to my care. I have much to discover...

This discovery began a few days after my Liturgical Reception and Installation as your Seventh Bishop. My initial Confirmations were at Roma and Mitchell on my first weekend. Then the first of two trips to Cunnamulla in a week followed. The Council of Priests met there the next week, and I travelled there again the following week for the Bishop’s In-service Days for our school personnel. There were three of these days, Cunnamulla, Roma and Toowoomba. In all, I think I have spoken with close to 1500 school staff in those days. I have also celebrated Confirmation at Pittsworth, Goondiwindi and Charleville. The kilometres are certainly running up in my car as I discover the length and breadth of the diocese.

Thank you to all the priests and people who have been so kind in their welcome

and encouragement in these first weeks. I was deeply moved by the wonderful liturgy that celebrated my transition from my former episcopal role in Brisbane to my taking “possession” of the diocese as requested by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. I sincerely thank him for his confidence in me to be your new shepherd.

I look forward to meeting you soon as I “look, listen and learn”.

Please pray for me, and I will for you.
Every Blessing,

Bishop Ken Howell
Bishop of Toowoomba
September 2023



THE CRACK IN THE WINDOW

FR GONZALO
GARCIA DURAN

Let me tell you a story. A man on his pilgrimage to Rome stopped in a small town located in the countryside between Italy and France. As soon as he reached the town square, he directed his eyes to the small church, which occupied a prominent place on the western side. It had become a habit for him to enter each church along the journey and pray for a few minutes before moving onwards to the next one.

The area was dimly lit, and he waited until his eyes adapted to the interior. He was able to perceive how a ray of light, coming through the crack in the window above the crucifix, illuminated one of the front pews where an elderly figure was sitting, with the purpose, perhaps, of taking advantage of that lighting.

As he reached the front, he noticed that the person sitting there was an old priest, his eyes fixed on the window, like someone looking at a problem that was impossible to solve.

“Are you thinking how to fix that crack in the window?” asked the man with a sincere interest in the priest’s thoughts. “That will cost a lot of money,” the man continued, “but I think it is necessary so the window will be restored to its previous glory.”

The old priest did not make any comments straight away, but after some time, without taking away his eyes from the window, he replied to the man saying, “I have served this community for many years, and since my arrival, that crack in the window has helped me to meditate about my ministry and the church.”

The priest paused momentarily and, looking into the man’s eyes, continued the conversation. “Our mind and way of thinking kicks in straight away, and as soon as we look at the crack, we conclude that something needs to be done, something needs to happen so that everything looks as before...perfect.”



"Sure," affirmed the man. "We need to look after the buildings and keep them in good condition."

With a sympathetic voice, the priest replied, "But we forget that God has the tendency of choosing broken vessels and imperfect people, the flawed, the 'messed up'."

"But he wants us to aspire to be saints too", answered the man promptly.

"Listen, I am not saying that He takes pleasure in seeing us living in those circumstances, but perhaps we all have a crack that allows us to see our weakness, our brokenness and those mistakes allow us to reach others."

As human beings, brokenness binds us together. It's the one thing that we all have in common. That small ray of light can be a ray of hope for us and others, and that is the church's mission too.

This story reminds us of the challenges we are still facing as individuals and as communities of faith. Perhaps we see ourselves in preservation mode with the decline of vocations, obvious at events like Bishop Ken's Installation, where grey hair fills the entrance procession. At this stage I am looking to that crack in the window too, and remembering the words of Pope Francis in addressing the decreasing number of vocations to a group of Jesuit priests in Greece in 2021. "This situation is

common to many religious orders and congregations. It has a meaning, and we must ask ourselves what it is. In short, this decrease does not depend on us. The Lord sends the vocations. If they do not come, it does not depend on us."

Perhaps the answer to "What is our future?" resides with the invitation of "planting the seed"; in the simplicity of being witnesses of God's kingdom to others through the small cracks in the windows.

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WARM RECEPTION: BISHOP KEN HOWELL TAKES OFFICE AS SEVENTH BISHOP OF TOOWOOMBA

INGRID MCTAGGART

From the day of the official announcement by Pope Francis on 24 May 2023, preparations were underway to welcome a new bishop. The Holy Father appointed Bishop Ken Howell, formerly an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Brisbane, as the seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Toowoomba.

Clergy and laity worked hard to plan a joyful and prayerful welcome. On Monday 10 July, at St Patrick's Cathedral, an evening prayer reception was held to welcome Bishop Ken. Entering via the front door alone, Bishop Ken was greeted by Bishop Robert McGuckin and Fr Michael O'Brien, Dean of the Cathedral. From there, the trio processed through those assembled. At the conclusion of prayers, local clergy and visiting bishops enjoyed a meal together.

On Tuesday 11 July, once again at St Patrick's Cathedral, community leaders and representatives from across the diocese formally welcomed Bishop Ken as the Seventh Bishop of Toowoomba.

Some 800 people gathered, including 23 bishops and 140 clergy, civic and community leaders, parish delegates and inter-faith representatives in welcoming Bishop Ken to the community. Even more gathered virtually to watch live online via YouTube and Facebook.

The Installation commenced at 11 am with a procession of clergy. Bishop Ken, joined by Fr Michael O'Brien, and Deacon Andrew O'Brien, was greeted on the forecourt of the Cathedral by proud Western Wakka Wakka woman Geneene Meijer. Using gumbi gumbi and eucalyptus





Bishop Robert McGuckin (left) and Bishop Bill Morris (right) lead Bishop Ken Howell (centre) to the cathedra.

leaves, Geneene offered a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, called for the Apostolic Decree to be read. Monsignor John-Baptist Itaruma, Charge d'Affairs for the Apostolic Nunciature, held the Papal

Bull aloft as Sally and David Hood read its contents to the congregation.

Bishop Emeritus Robert McGuckin and Bishop Emeritus Bill Morris presented Bishop Ken with the crozier of Bishop James Byrne, the first Bishop of Toowoomba, and led him to the

cathedra, the chair of the bishop. As Bishop Ken took his seat to the applause of the congregation. During the service, representatives from across the diocese, its ministries, and other faiths came forward to welcome Bishop Ken.

During his homily, Bishop Ken acknowledged that the day's events heralded not only a new chapter for the diocese but a "continuation of a story that has been guided by the power and strength of the Holy Spirit."

"My first task is to get to know you and to do as Pope Francis urges us to do, to listen deeply to your story and to grow in love of the people entrusted to my care." Bishop Ken said. Although born and bred in Brisbane, Bishop Ken acknowledged familial ties to the region.

The Mass was followed by refreshments in the Cathedral Centre, offering the opportunity to socialise and get to know the new bishop.



Continued over page...



Bishop Ken Howell Biography

Kenneth Michael Howell was born on 20 February 1958, the son of Jack and Betty Howell. He is brother to Rodney, Janet and Gavin.

He was educated at St Columba's Primary School, Wilston and St James College, Fortitude Valley, and joined Queensland Rail after his school years, working as a clerk in the Chief Engineers Office.

In 1977, he entered Pius XII Regional Seminary at Banyo and was ordained a Priest on 24 June 1983. From 1983 to 1994, he worked as Assistant

Priest in the Parishes of Noosa Districts and Burleigh Heads and at St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane.

Between 1994 and 1997, Bishop Howell completed a Licentiate in Sacred Liturgy at the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy at Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

He served as Secretary to Archbishop John Bathersby of Brisbane from 1997 to 2010 during which he also served as Associate Pastor and Director of Worship at St Stephen's Cathedral between 1997 and 2005, as Dean of the Cathedral between 2006 to 2012 and as Vice Rector of the Holy Spirit Seminary between 2002 and 2008. In 2009, he undertook a concurrent appointment as Administrator of St

Mary's Parish, South Brisbane. In 2013 Bishop Howell was appointed the Parish Priest at Burleigh Heads.

The Bishop was a long-standing member of the Archdiocesan Council of Priests and was its Chairman from 2008 to 2013. He was also the founding chair of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission.

On 14 June 2017, he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane. Since then he has served as the Secretary for the Queensland Bishops, Parish Priest for Kangaroo Point East Brisbane Parish and Director of the Diaconate Program. In February 2021, he was also appointed as Vicar General of the Archdiocese. Bishop Ken is also liaison Bishop to the Holy Spirit Seminary.

Bishop's Coat of Arms



On his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane, Bishop Ken adopted as his arms elements derived from the arms of the widespread families of Howell of Northamptonshire, Suffolk and Warwickshire and which brings to the fore the theme of the light in the darkness which comes from the cross. He has personalised these arms by the addition of a scallop shell with three drops of water referencing John the Baptist and the first sacrament of Baptism. Bishop Ken's motto is *Parare Vias Eius* which translates as *To prepare his ways*.

Now as Bishop of Toowoomba, Bishop Ken will impale his personal arms with the arms of the diocese.

The Bishop's personal arms were designed by Fr Guy Selvester and Richard d'Apice AM KCSG and the arms have been illustrated by Sandy Turnbull both of The Australian Heraldry Society.





Bishop Robert McGuckin launched the Diocesan Pastoral Plan in 2018

END OF AN ERA: CELEBRATING 11 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AS BISHOP ROBERT BIDS FAREWELL

INGRID MCTAGGART

Bishop Robert McGuckin's Episcopal Ordination on 11 July 2012 was graced with typical Toowoomba weather; the mountain mist rolled in with its usual pea soup consistency. St Patrick's Cathedral was cold, yet full to the brim with people keen to be a part of the diocese's history in warmly welcoming the Sixth Bishop of Toowoomba.

And so began a new chapter for the diocese. In a press release issued at the time, then Diocesan Chancellor Fr Brian Sparksman said the ceremony marked the beginning of a new life for the Toowoomba Diocese. "Having been without a Bishop for more than twelve months, the Diocese can now embrace leadership and pastoral care again," he said. Before Bishop Robert's arrival, the diocese had been under the care of Bishop Brian V Finnigan as Apostolic Administrator. He was

appointed following the early retirement of the Fifth Bishop, Bishop Bill Morris.

So what has this "new chapter" brought to the Toowoomba Diocese? As with the whole of the Church in Australia, our diocese has significantly benefited from Bishop Robert's knowledge of Canon Law. He also provided liturgical guidance as he journeyed throughout the diocese. "He doesn't have what you might call a lazy mind," said Fr Michael O'Brien, Dean at St Patrick's Cathedral, "he's always thinking and always reading something."

Pastorally Bishop Robert visited each parish for Confirmation and any festive occasions. "On behalf of the staff, students and families of Toowoomba Catholic Schools, I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Bishop Robert for his outstanding leadership

and dedicated service to the Diocese over the past 10 plus years." said Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools. "Bishop Robert has been incredibly supportive of the work of the 33 Catholic schools and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office across the vast Diocese and advocated strongly for the unique educational needs of students in rural and remote locations."

He oversaw the production and implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. He also encouraged opportunities for furthering education by working with the Broken Bay Institute to produce a training course for the laity designed for rural settings and through In-Service Days for both clergy and laity.

Bishop Robert has always been attentive to his clergy's health and care, especially the elderly. He endeavoured



Back, L to R: Bishop Robert McGuckin and Fr Peter Doohan, with students at St Mary's School Charleville in 2014.

to welcome and support international clergy who have come to our diocese regardless of their length of stay.

The community will remember Bishop Robert's leadership during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Bishop Robert implemented safety measures per government directives, placing the health and safety of the clergy, staff and faithful above all else during this tumultuous time. During the lockdown, Bishop Robert supported St Patrick's Cathedral in setting up equipment to live stream Masses. It was essential for Bishop Robert to utilise this technology to be visible to the diocesan community, offering words of support and comfort in isolation.

"As we faced an uncertain future at the time, I appreciated Bishop Robert's clear and decisive action during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic." Said Workplace Health and Safety Coordinator Jennie Blackley. "As we emerge from the pandemic, Bishop Robert has continued supporting measures to keep our churches, offices and schools healthy places to worship, work and learn."

St Patrick's Cathedral has begun a

journey of restoration and renovation under Bishop Robert's watch. The historic building requires extensive work in order to restore and protect it. Bishop Robert gave the nod to start the years-long process, beginning in 2020 to stabilise the foundation of the building. Future custodians of the diocese will build on this fortified foundation.

During his vote of thanks to Bishop Robert at Bishop Ken Howell's Installation, Diocesan Financial Administrator Tom Jolley said, "You leave behind a diocese which is in good shape from an administrative and financial perspective. This provides a solid platform for the delivery of mission and ministry and, importantly, for the ongoing pastoral and spiritual care of the people of the diocese, which, after all, is the most important thing."

The diocesan community thanks Bishop Robert for dedicating his life to the Toowoomba Diocese for the past 11 years. It is no easy task to up-stumps and be relocated to a different state and different way of life. From the bustle of city living, familiar faces and chaotic traffic, to the vastness of our diocese, where many roads aren't sealed, the

distance is great, the cities are few and far between and everyone a stranger.

No longer a stranger, Bishop Robert returns home down south to enjoy retirement and less stressful pursuits.



With the car packed, Bishop Robert bids farewell on his return home.



Pastoral Care Team 2023: Back L to R: Veronica Kluck, Elaine Bartlett, Carmel Seng. Front L to R: Tim Smith, Merelyn Waller

PASTORAL CARE HAS A HEARTFELT HISTORY AT ST VINCENT'S

SHEILA SARQUIS

Pastoral care in healthcare is a concern for patients, their families and hospital staff holistically. This includes one's physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being. Pastoral care has been an integral part of the care given to patients at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba from when it received its first patients in 1923.

In his address at the opening of the hospital in 1922, Archbishop of Melbourne Dr Mannix said, "This hospital is going to receive the sick and afflicted, quite regardless of class and quite regardless of creed", so as well as priests and sisters administering the sacraments to Catholic patients, ministers of various other religions also visited members of their communities, offering comfort and support to people in need.



The pastoral care department room when it opened in 1987

From a record kept by S.M. Agnes Fitzgerald from 1949 to 1954, it was noted that dying patients were consistently attended by a nun who recited prayers and rosaries, and priests were nearly always present to administer blessings and absolution. Listed in Sr Agnes' duties were to "visit patients and instruct any that the Chaplain wishes" and to read to blind patients and sit with dying patients. This ministry was also extended to the Home Nursing Service, which was established in the 1960s. Sr Veronica Brady wrote in a report, "We give them sufficient time to talk to us concerning their needs; we let them understand that we are not too busy to listen".

In 1987 St Vincent's Hospital formalised pastoral care with the opening and blessing of the new Pastoral Care Department under the leadership of Sr Ellen Reid RSM. In an extract from a diary that described the event, it was noted that the gospel reading, appropriately from St Luke, was presented by the Anglican priest, prayers of the faithful were offered by the ministers from the Baptist, Lutheran, Uniting and Anglican Churches and a special prayer was read by the president of the Mothers Union, thus carrying on the ecumenical nature of pastoral care

that was promised in the beginning.

The new Pastoral Care Department signified a change of direction in the way pastoral care was administered to patients throughout the hospital. It moved away from a model that was mainly sacramental in nature, faithfully ministered by the clergy of the diocese and the religious, to a more holistic approach that included trained lay pastoral carers.

The present-day Pastoral Care Team consists mainly of lay women and men, with the spiritual support and guidance of their chaplain Fr Michael Cooney. They have a desire to be there for people of all faiths or no faith.

The pastoral carers at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba have all undertaken some form of training – whether that be within their own church or through the Clinical Pastoral Education courses. This training gives the carer skills and insight into working with those who are experiencing illness and loss or those who are standing by or walking with their loved ones in this situation. Through supervised practice, they gain insight into how they interact with others and how they can be more attentive or attuned to the person they are ministering to. The

team members value the mentoring and ongoing formation sessions available to them each year in order to keep their service accountable in all ways. They too offer a 24/7 service to the hospital.

The pastoral care workers are professionally trained, experienced and compassionate, prepared to journey with patients in their dying, as well as in their times of healing. They are at the heart of the service offered at St Vincent's. They are the ones who take the time to sit with those who are struggling when the nurses' time is absorbed in trying to offer the best in clinical care; they can pray with the dying patient or the bereaved family; they can support staff who are feeling devastated by the loss of a patient in their care. Their support can be emotional, social or spiritual – always sensitive and responding to the needs expressed by the patient or their loved ones. Their pastoral care presence throughout the hospital is truly valued. In times of sadness, they comfort and console, and in times of happiness, they celebrate with patients and staff alike. The pastoral care team has an ear to the ground and an eye to their surroundings to detect what might be needed at the hospital to "bring God's love to those in need through the healing ministry of Jesus".

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Many gathered to celebrate the life and ministry of Fr Brian Sparksman for his funeral.

FR BRIAN SPARKSMAN: REMEMBERING A LIFE EMBRACING FAITH, MINISTRY AND UNITY

INGRID MCTAGGART

Brian Joseph Sparksman was born in Warwick on 20 March 1936 to Jacob (Dick) Sparksman and Ellen Mary Eastwood. Brian had one brother Charles who predeceased him in 2003.

Brian attended school at Mt Marshall State School, Christian Brothers College Warwick and Downlands College Toowoomba. It was at Downlands College in March 1951 that Brian contracted polio. Although he recovered, Brian required assistance to walk with a calliper. It was a disability he rarely complained about or presented a barrier to him enjoying life.

In 1964, Brian commenced his study for the priesthood at Pius XII Seminary, Banyo and was ordained on 6 August 1970 in Warwick by Bishop William Brennan. By all accounts, in true “Sparky” style, it was a grand celebration.

In addition to his study at Banyo, Fr Brian attended the Queensland Conservatorium of Music from 1969 to 1970. He also studied at the Catholic University of America from 1977 to 1980, attaining his Doctorate in Canon Law.

Fr Brian served the parish communities of Holy Name and St Theresa’s during different periods in the 70s, 80s and early 90s. He served as chaplain to Lourdes Home from 1994 to 2003.

In October of 1988, Fr Brian was appointed Chancellor of the diocese, a role he held until 2014. During this time, Fr Brian was Diocesan Ecumenical Officer from 1994-2015 and Vicar for Ecumenism from 2015-2018.

In 2005, Fr Brian released his autobiography “Ballinclay Lane”. Set against the backdrop of his battle with polio, the book delved into his physical and spiritual journey. In his story, Fr Brian found light in the darkest of times and cherished moments of warmth and humour.

Fr Brian also had a keen interest in his family history. He travelled to England and Ireland with cousins to find family connections and co-authored family history books. Fr Brian’s forebears worked on Glengallon Homestead. In later years, he joined the Glengallon Historical Society and put his love of history to work by helping in their Archives.

In 2018, Fr Brian stepped away from active ministry and entered St Vincent’s Care Services (formerly Lourdes Home) to receive full-time care. The next five years saw Fr Brian’s memory and cognitive function deteriorate. Even in declining health, he was cared for and visited often by his beloved friends and family. Fr Brian died peacefully on the morning of 22 July 2023.

At his funeral on 7 August 2023, Fr Brian was remembered as a kind man of faith, a committed priest, an intrepid traveller, a classical music lover and a talented singer. Above all, he was remembered as committed to the ideals of ecumenism and respectful inter-faith dialogue.

Mark Copland, formerly from the Toowoomba Diocese and colleague of Fr Brian’s, called him a “gentle peacemaker and community builder.” In tribute, Mark said, “He built bridges between Christian denominations, across many faith traditions and between all people of goodwill. People in the Toowoomba community walk across these bridges built by Fr Brian every day. His gift of bringing people together has left us with a wonderful legacy.”

In a statement from the man himself, read by Fr Peter Doohan as part of his eulogy of Fr Brian, "I have always been grateful to the diocese of Toowoomba for accepting me to study for the priesthood at a time when people with my serious disability did not find such acceptance.

I have enjoyed being part of the Diocese of Toowoomba, where great things happen for God. I have enjoyed the opportunity for seeking a path to church unity with so many wonderful people of other faiths."

Copies of "Ballinclair Lane" are available from the Diocesan Archives. Ph: 07 4632 7484 Email: dioarch@twb.catholic.org.au



EVERY VOCATION COUNTS

FR GONZALO GARCIA DURAN

It has been a tradition in my family to play board games since we were kids, and, as you can imagine, a simple day would become a moment of real battle among us. Certainly, board games were a great way to entertain ourselves and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy each other's company, where everyone can play nicely and at the same time teach us important aspects of our life, in our vocation. One of those games was the famous Jenga.

Although Jenga is a game that requires physical skills, there is a moment when adrenaline runs through your body as the tower of blocks gets higher and progressively more unstable. As time passes by, every movement is examined and calculated, as every action could result in a collapsing tower. Well, we can see a connection between our life and this game, but how can we make a connection with our own vocation?

The Catholic Church in Australia celebrates National Vocations Awareness Week in August, coinciding with the feast of the country's first saint, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. At this time, we acknowledge the importance of every vocation recognised by the church and its contribution to its mission:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

Everyone, in their way, as single, as a married couple or consecrated vocation, contributes to building the presence of the Kingdom of God in their daily life, and although we may all experience some "wobbly" times, every vocation is important in keeping the church's mission unwavering. Throughout the history of the church, we have experienced the anxiety of holding our breath as we see the tower of blocks sway, but the sensation of hope erupts in our hearts as we remember that every vocation counts.

The way that we complement each other, in terms of our own vocation, and how we nourish each other from our journey of faith, reminds us that we can contribute not only to the church's mission, but to each other. We can help each other in our discernment, encouraging each to respond generously to God's call to any specific vocation.

Let us pray for every vocation, now and always, as every vocation counts.

Merciful God, we ask you to bless our diocese with selfless hearts that are willing to serve you.

Lord Jesus, raise up from our homes loving men and women to the sacrament of marriage, faithful people to the single and the consecrated life, and dedicated servants to the ordained ministry.

Holy Spirit, help us to live our universal vocation to holiness by listening to your voice and responding to your loving will for us.

Give us the courage to cast out into the deep, so that we will be proclaimers of your Word and people who bring your love to the world.

Amen.

Courtesy of Catholic Diocese of Wollongong



SOCIAL JUSTICE BEGINS WITH LISTENING

DR DAVID TUTTY

Social justice is about seeking right relationships amongst human beings and between humans and the rest of creation. Our Scriptures and Catholic Teaching speak of God's care for the poor, the weak, the widow and the orphan. They speak also of God's care for all of creation. We are called to listen to God in Scripture and in Church teaching and to listen also to God mediated in and through the cry of those treated unjustly.

Pope Francis talks about listening to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. In *Laudato Si'*, our pope sees that right relationships require some awareness of the interconnections within our world. The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor are not separate and disconnected from our lives and actions nor are they separate from each other. We are interconnected with each other and with all of life and with all earth processes. We learn this important insight through listening to the cries.

We all know about the importance of listening within any relationship. Yet many of us are not very good at this basic human activity. We are limited human beings who can only process things that come within our range of experiences. We may hear what another says, but we may not be able to appreciate the true experience they are trying to convey.

Listening is a skill that requires openness and practice. We make a choice to give someone our attention and then to respond in a way that takes seriously what is being said. To do this, we need to be open to them and even to ask some appropriate questions

to better understand them. Often we need to listen many times and even to physically move so that we can better listen to someone that matters to us.

Within the wider context of Catholic social justice concerns, listening is key. We begin by listening to what is happening to our earth and its ecosystems and listening to those who suffer because of injustice. This is a deliberate choice, and it provides the starting point for discerning what social justice responses are needed.

Catholic social justice listening focuses more on the bigger picture and the shared experiences of those involved. It is a listening to many so that we understand the human decisions and policies that have contributed to the reality in front of us. Catholic social justice deliberately seeks to understand what policies and practices are contributing to exploitation and injustice. Often we also need to listen to those who best analyse social structures, economics and environmental issues.

One example that Pope Francis discusses in *Laudato Si'* is climate change. In this context, we choose to listen to those who are experiencing unusual flood or bushfire events around the world. We choose to listen to those living on small islands experiencing the rising sea levels. Their experiences and their 'cries' are important. Also, we choose to deliberately listen to the scientists who have specialised in climate research. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a key source of credible analysis and information that

helps us understand what is happening and how best we can respond.

Another example from Pope Francis' ministry has been his willingness to listen to First Nations peoples. His visit to Canada in July last year highlights how important listening to them is for him. He listened, and he apologised for the way the Catholic Church has run the Indigenous residential schools. These institutions were deliberately designed to erode Indigenous Culture, and they were rife with abuse. Here in Australia, we have our own process of listening to First Nations peoples. Our Bishops and our Plenary Council have listened to the formulators of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and publicly endorsed it. These formulators now propose a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament. While our Bishops see this is not the only possible way forward, they see this moment as an important step forward towards a just reconciliation.

First Nations peoples can also teach us how to better listen. Aunty Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann talks about deep listening. This understanding of listening is based on creating an inner stillness grounded in respect so we can be fully attentive when listening. Deep listening is also helpful for prayer. Inner stillness opens us to better listening to God.

So our Catholic sense of social justice is about deep listening. We are called to open ourselves to God and to the world of suffering and struggle and listen. Listen with an attentive heart and then act out of love and care so that greater justice is achieved.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

BJ PERRETT

“Since to love God is something greater than to know Him, especially in this state of life, it follows that love of God presupposes knowledge of God. And because this knowledge does not rest in creatures, but, through them, tends to something else, love begins there, and thence goes on to other things by a circular movement so to speak; for knowledge begins from creatures, tends to God, and love begins with God as the last end, and passes on to creatures.” (St Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* II-II, Q.27, Art.4, ad.2)

Since God is One, indivisible, and wholly simple in Himself, then the statement “God loves this thing” is the same as the statement “God knows this thing.” God’s knowing is thus God’s loving (and vice versa). For us human beings, our knowledge of a particular thing or person is distinct from our loving that particular thing or person. We might know a thing or a person without loving them, though more often than not, we certainly do love those we know. I love my parents, and part of my loving them is knowing them.

Knowledge is thus an important aspect of love, and from our human experience, we know that the two cannot be separated without serious consequences. If I know who my neighbour is, I am called to love him (Lk 10:25-37) and failing to love him even if I know him means eternal punishment (Mt 25:31-46). Intellectual formation at the seminary is not an end in itself, for it aims after a deeper and more intimate love of God. Hand in hand with this comes a deeper and truer love for others and for oneself. Thus by studying and increasing our knowledge of spiritual things, we can come to fulfil Christ’s commandment to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... [and] love your neighbour as yourself” (Mk 12:30-31).



Graduation day, L to R: Peter Doherty (Rockhampton Seminarian) and BJ Perrett

The Angelic Doctor, St Thomas, presents us with an image of this “circular” relationship between knowledge and love. At the same time as we are learning about God and the things of God, that same God is bestowing His love upon us so that our knowledge is perfected in charity. At the Holy Spirit Provincial Seminary, our intellectual formation is grounded in our spiritual life and the pastoral reality of human relationship, such that what we learn and study both forms and informs how we pray and relate to others. The academic journey typically encompasses a course of study at the Australian Catholic University (ACU), with the current model awarding a double degree Bachelor of Theology/Bachelor of Philosophy after a period of four years, followed by a Master of Theological Studies degree.

Why so much study? Well, for the reason mentioned above: growth in knowledge of God leads to love of God, and love of God is His gift to perfect our knowledge. We desire to love God, and so we have to get to know Him, and we desire to know Him so as to love Him more. Another reason for theological education is that the

People of God have a right to pastors who know what they’re on about. It would be a disservice to the faithful if priests were not intellectually formed or theologically competent – it would be like allowing a doctor to practice who hasn’t studied biochemistry or anatomy.

In this regard, I am very thankful to the Bishop, my family, the seminary community, and all the people of the diocese for their support in my intellectual formation. Your spiritual and material support of us seminarians helps us to grow in our knowledge and love of God. Without your support, I would not have been able to attain an academic award at my graduation this year. Graduating with a Bachelor of Theology at a ceremony in April, ACU awarded me a University Medal for achieving the highest grade point average in the 2022 graduating cohort of the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy. Again, thank you for your support of Holy Spirit Seminary and for my own vocation journey. May we all continue to strive towards perfect knowledge and love of God, and may He abundantly bless us with an increase in vocations to the priesthood.

60 YEARS OF LOURDES HOME/ ST VINCENT'S CARE SERVICES IN TOOWOOMBA: A LEGACY OF COMPASSION AND CARE

MARK GLADMAN

The 60th-year celebrations of Lourdes Home/St Vincent's Care Services (SVCS) mark a journey of six decades of unwavering commitment to providing compassionate care and support to the elderly in the Toowoomba region.

In the 1950s, recognising the growing need for specialised care for the ageing population, Bishop William Brennan envisioned a place that would provide not just medical attention but also a nurturing environment where the elderly could find comfort, companionship, spiritual nourishment, and a sense of belonging.

In 1963, Bishop Brennan's vision took a tangible form by establishing Lourdes Home, thanks to generous donations from parishes in the Toowoomba Diocese. The new facility was named after the revered Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, symbolising a place of healing and pilgrimage for the elderly in their later years. At Bishop Brennan's request, Mother Antoinetta Monzoni, Superior of the Canossa Sisters, supplied Sisters to run the home. The Canossa Sisters arrived in Toowoomba on 24 June 1963, and on 30 June, Lourdes Home was officially opened.

Over the years, Lourdes Home expanded its services and facilities to meet the evolving needs of the community. The commitment to compassionate care remained at the core of its mission, inspiring staff and volunteers to treat each resident with the utmost dignity and respect.

In 1994 the Canossa Sisters concluded their time in Toowoomba, and a lay board was established to continue the work of the home. When this became too difficult due to the complexities of accreditation and funding, SVCS were invited to manage the facility in 2007.

The 60th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service was held at the facility on 30 June, exactly 60 years to the day after the home's opening by Bishop Brennan. At the service, Elzette Lategan, Facility Manager, shared a history of the facility. The service was led by Troy Tornabene, National Mission Leader of SVCS, and presided over by Bishop Robert McGuckin and facility Chaplain, Father Michael Clooney.

"It is such a milestone – 60 years of compassionate care", Troy said. "This is not just an achievement for St Vincent's Care as there have been

others who came before us and we also take this time to recognise and celebrate their vision and service."

The entire community can take pride in the legacy of Lourdes Home/SVCS. The institution's dedication to compassion and respect continues to enrich the lives of those it touches, affirming its position as a beacon of hope and love in Toowoomba's rich tapestry of care and support. With the values instilled by the Canossa sisters and Bishop Brennan's vision serving as guiding lights, the future promises to be as bright and compassionate as the past.



Troy Tornabene (National Mission Leader, SVCS) and Ann O'Connor (Resident of SVCS Toowoomba).



Mrs Elzette Lategan (left, Facility Manager, SVCS Toowoomba) and Mr Gary Humphrys (right, Deputy Chair of Mary Aitkenhead Ministries) thanked Bishop Robert McGuckin (centre) on his ministry in the Diocese and to SVCS as part of the celebrations.



L to R: Gary Humphrys (Deputy Chair of Mary Aitkenhead Ministries), Bishop Robert McGuckin, Mayor Paul Antonio, and Fr Michael Clooney.



EMBRACING LIFE'S CERTAINTIES AND THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

DR PATRICK COUGHLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

We used to live in a world where, according to Benjamin Franklin, the only two certainties in life were death and taxes, but we know from lived experience of other certainties which are no less impactful in life.

Some of these certainties are explored in a book by psychotherapist David Richo entitled "Five true things - a little guide to embracing life's big challenges".

The certainties, or givens, as Richo calls them, are these:

- Everything changes and ends,
- Things do not always go according to plan,
- Life is not always fair,
- Pain is a part of life, and
- People are not loving and loyal all the time.

Rather than feeling disheartened by these givens, Richo believes we must accept these as true things in life, as a fundamental part of the enduring, sometimes broken, human spirit and condition. These givens show themselves in all sorts of ways. Disappointment, failure, defeat, fear, loss and grief. All part of life's unpredictable journey.

Richo goes on to state that we find meaning and fulfilment in embracing the five givens, not trying to shield ourselves from them.

Richo's book is not a religious publication, but it could be because embracing the givens of life is what Jesus meant with his uncompromising call for us to take up our cross and follow him. This call is where the heart of the Gospel message is found. It is not to ignore the reality of tragic events for the sake of focusing on only the good and happy things of

this world, but rather to bring both the joy and the tragedies to God.

The Gospel message is counter-cultural. It's a message that opens doors, not closes them. It's a life-giving message which points to a better way, not an easier way, but a different way, to a spiritually centred life, which finds hope and joy in the triumphs and failures, the beauty and malice, the agitation and uncertainty of every day. It is grounded in the fundamental belief that each of us is born in the image and likeness of God, which grants each of us an inherent God-given dignity, unlimited potential for good and an entitlement to a full and flourishing life.

Pope Francis shares a similar message. "It is pointless," he said, "even tedious, for Christians to waste their time complaining about the world, about society, about everything that is not right. Complaints change nothing."

He went on to say "that complaining is the second door that closes us off from the Holy Spirit who brings the strength and wisdom for a Christian life. The first door, he says, is narcissism, the second discouragement and complaining, the third pessimism."

Narcissism makes you look at yourself constantly in a mirror and become attentive to only your own feelings and needs. What some commentators refer to as a 'craving recognition' epidemic. If I own more, do more or achieve more, maybe I'll be more.

The second door is discouragement, when things don't turn out as planned, leads to endless complaining, and, the third door, pessimism, when I realise I am no longer in control, to thinking everything is dark and bleak. These three attitudes close

the door to the Holy Spirit.

Today, Jesus offers an invitation with a guarantee. "Come to me, all you who labour and find life burdensome. Come to me all you who are working hard but can't seem to keep your head above water; come to me all you who are burdened with the anxieties of family life, work, or health; come to me all you who are weighed down by regrets, who are going through life with heavy hearts grieving for the living or the dead; come to me all you who are pressed down by failure and hopelessness."

After this invitation, He gives us the guarantee: "And I will refresh you." "All of you who endure the very real challenges, the givens, of life — every single one of you — come to me, and I will renew you, bring you back to life, and refresh you." That's what he said to his listeners two thousand years ago, and that's what He says to each one of us today. What a powerful message to share with the current and future generations of students.

Our TCS purpose of enabling full and flourishing lives is the very same invitation and guarantee. As alive and relevant for our students as it is in the hearts of the people who proclaim it. Our schools are beacons of hope, especially in uncertain times. As people charged with this mission, we commit to serve and empower students so they move confidently towards an ennobling, hope-filled future.

Howard Thurman, American author, philosopher and theologian, expresses this invitation in these words, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs now is people who have come alive."



Students performed in a Sacred Choral Concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, which was then followed by a Mass.

HUNDREDS OF CATHOLIC STUDENTS SHOWCASED THEIR BELIEF IN THE ARTS

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

The Toowoomba Catholic Schools Arts Fest: Belief in the Arts 2023 was held from 19-22 June 2023 across multiple venues in Toowoomba.

This inaugural Arts Fest showcased the talents of primary and secondary school students from across its 31 schools with nearly 1,000 performers.

The aim of the Arts Fest was to bring together students from across the Diocese and to provide them with the time and space they need to share their talents, learn something new and work together with students who attend schools that may be hundreds of kilometres away.

Students travelled hundreds of kilometres from Roma, Stanthorpe and even as far as Cunnamulla and Quilpie to get involved in dancing, singing, drama, verse speaking and visual arts. They have been rehearsing in their own schools for months so they could be ready to perform in front of large audiences in venues like the Empire Theatre.

There is a growing body of Australian

and international research that demonstrates the enormously positive impacts that participating in The Arts can have on students' academic and non-academic success.

Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Catholic Schools said, "The Arts Fest provided an opportunity for students to perform and enjoy the fun and excitement of learning new skills and collaborating with other students from other schools in the Diocese."

This initiative grew from a determination that the Arts do not become a casualty of the challenges currently being experienced across the education sector, a crowded curriculum where Arts subjects sometimes make way for the more 'important subjects.'

The Arts subjects nurture those sometimes overlooked experiences of the human experience, expanding the imagination, stimulating curiosity and wonder, enhancing personal and social skills, teaching collaboration and shaping positive attitudes and dispositions to learning and life."

For students from some of our smaller schools, particularly those in the far west, this was an incredible opportunity for them to participate in large scale performances."

The Arts provides a range of career opportunities and performing with others in front of an audience enhances self-confidence, creativity and self-discipline."

This was a celebration of the incredible diversity of The Arts in the Toowoomba Diocese, featuring an Art Show, a showcase of student talent at the Belief in the Arts concert, and concluding with a Sacred Choral Concert and Mass."

Across the three days of the festival, students took part in workshops, collaborated with students from other schools and performed in front of audiences - all to celebrate Toowoomba Catholic Schools' Belief in The Arts.

It was a truly magical experience where hundreds of students had the opportunity to bring to life amazing productions and to participate together.



Pittsworth Kindergarten: Faye Shayler with students

CATHOLIC KINDERGARTEN AND CARE GROWING IN POPULARITY

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Toowoomba Catholic Kindergarten and Care (TCKC) services are distinctive places of faith and learning where children play, interact, explore and experience the world in all its goodness and potential.

Since the launch of TCKC in 2020, the services have grown to include 15 Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) and three Kindergartens in the Toowoomba Diocese. Over 3,400 children have enrolled in the program since 2020, with over 2,200 students attending one TCKC service.

These services are grounded in a fundamental belief that each one of us is created in the image and likeness of God. This belief accords everyone an equal and inherent dignity, unlimited potential and an entitlement to a full and flourishing life.

The Kindergartens are in Roma and Warwick, with the newest service recently opening in Pittsworth. They feature beautiful natural environments that welcome children and their families to be part of the learning journey.

Children can begin their learning adventure in an environment nurtured by a Catholic ethos that provides endless learning possibilities. The program develops each child's interest in learning through real-life and playful investigations in indoor and outdoor settings exposing them to a whole new world of discovery.

The OSHC services provide the opportunity for children to grow and develop their social skills in a leisure-based environment nurtured by a Catholic ethos. The services offer a combination of before school, after school, pupil free days and vacation care led by a team of qualified educators. The educators work with all children to create fun and recreational experiences so that a child's wellbeing, learning and personal development are a priority. The services provide a variety of indoor and outdoor activities to support the diverse interests of all children.

Donna Stahlhut, Senior Leader: Kindergartens and Care at TCKC said, "Children learn best in a safe and vibrant environment where they

experience a strong sense of belonging and wellbeing. Our educators provide play-based learning to enable the children to learn and make sense of the world through 'hands on' and interactive experiences."

"We are grateful that parents have entrusted us with assisting with the educational responsibilities of their children. It is a privilege for staff to share this partnership with parents," said Donna.

"The growth of our services means that our educators are making a big difference in the life of so many children. Our educational programs help children learn about themselves as people by creating, experimenting, predicting, imagining, achieving and investigating. These programs seek to develop confident, accomplished and intelligent children who have a positive self-esteem, motivation to learn and a positive disposition towards others," said Donna.

Find out where all the TCKC services are here: <https://twbckc.schoolzineplus.com>



FAITH A STRENGTH FOR SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD RECIPIENT

TOOWOOMBA
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS OFFICE

The Spirit of Catholic Education Awards are presented annually in conjunction with Catholic Education Week to celebrate outstanding contributions to Catholic education in Queensland.

Each year nominations are received from Catholic school communities across the State, highlighting the important work being undertaken by staff, parents, carers and volunteers who support Catholic school students.

Nominees, including teams, are recognised across a number of categories for excellence in their work, leadership, service, initiative and creating positive change for indigenous students.

Congratulations to the Toowoomba Diocese 2023 Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipient Megan Mahoney from St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe.

Growing up in a Catholic family, attending Catholic schools and choosing to become an educator and leader of Catholic education – Megan's faith is strong, and her dedication to educating students and developing staff in the Catholic



Megan Mahoney

tradition over more than 30 years has been unwavering. Coupling the rigour of quality pedagogy and academic success with the Mercy values and charism of St Joseph's School Stanthorpe, Megan has brought to life what it means to be Catholic in a contemporary world.

The school's Religious Education program has been reimaged through the Illuminate program under Megan's leadership. Staff are now more confident and skilled to deliver, and students are more engaged in service programs, Masses, liturgies and assemblies as they share through

their voice what it means to live a life based on Catholic values and beliefs.

It is also Megan's commitment to building connections between people and place that have strengthened the links between parish and school. Megan's focus is on building a better understanding of and living Mercy values every day.

Megan is a great example of the Spirit of being Catholic and of Catholic education and we thank her for the joy she brings and the change she is making in our world.



AWARDS GIVE RECOGNITION TO A PASSIONATE AND INSPIRATIONAL COMMUNITY

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

The outstanding educators and staff at Toowoomba Catholic Schools have been celebrated at their annual Excellence Awards, held on 27 July.

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: Toowoomba 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."

Educators and staff at Toowoomba Catholic Schools celebrate their annual Excellence Awards

"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.

We thank 2023 award sponsors, including UniSuper, SPA – Salary Packaging Australia, Brammer Architects, Hayball Architects, Schoolzine and Toowoomba Toyota.



Excellence in education support

Teaching and learning support

Nicole Booth - St Saviour's College, Toowoomba

Administration, finance, and facilities support

Jodie McLachlan, Julie Robinson and Alex Sleba - St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba

Volunteer support in a school setting

Karli Ekerick - St Patrick's School, Allora

Excellence in teaching and learning

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

Tamara Creeley - Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Primary expert teacher

Georgia Ford - Mater Dei Primary School, Toowoomba

Secondary expert teacher

Mary Roberts - St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

eLearning

Hybrid learning program team, Schools across the Diocese

Excellence in leadership

Emerging leader

Mark Baker - Assumption College, Warwick

Middle leadership

Catherine Cooper - St John's School, Roma

School leadership

Sharon Collins - St Saviour's College, Toowoomba





St Joseph's School Stanthorpe students put on a great performance for parents and friends.

ST JOSEPH'S STUDENTS HIT THE STAGE TO ENTERTAIN

JULIE-ANN SPILLER

The St Joseph's School Stanthorpe community were treated to a wonderful afternoon of acting, singing, improvising and music theatre on Tuesday, 25th July. The Bathersby Centre was set up in theatre mode, and the audience loved it all. Our primary choirs sang beautifully, the students loved the drama improvisation and performances, and the concert finale of "Naughty" from the hit musical Matilda was an absolute highlight.

Parents and friends there clearly loved the event, and many have already been in touch to express their delight and pride. It was heart-warming to see our students so

engaged and achieving such a high standard in such a short time.

The Festival was planned over two days, and the visiting tutors worked hard to involve all our students and develop the material for presentation at the end of the second day. It was an astounding feat considering that the two groups were so large and all the students were involved.

Students also enjoyed a performance by composer, teacher and performer Michael Mangan on Wednesday, 27th July. A former specialist music teacher, Michael has composed over 250 pieces which are widely used in liturgy

and religious education programmes in schools and parishes throughout Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. His compositions are known for their "singability" and suitability for liturgical celebrations, especially with children. In the past, we have used many of Michael's songs in our liturgies and celebrations. These include "Hearts on Fire", "Celebrate", "Let's Celebrate", and "This is the Time".

Michael's visit to our school during the 2023 Catholic Education Week is an excellent way for our students to celebrate and promote our distinctive mission and ethos.

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L to R: Talara Madua and Madie Morley.

DOWNLANDS CELEBRATES WITH FULL HEARTS

ANDREA COLLINS

Term 2 was marked by a wonderful Sacred Heart season where Fr Bob Irwin concelebrated our Sacred Heart Day Eucharist with Fr Vince Carroll.

The Graham Centre and the faces of Downlanders – the very young and not-so-young were adorned with hearts.

The day was made extra special by the chalk-art competition and the sharing of Have-a-Heart ice creams. Our offering of lovely new blankets was presented to the St Vincent de Paul staff in Julia St, who were excited to deliver these to their families in the Darling Downs

region. We sincerely thank all members of our community for their support of the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal.

As our third term of 2023 commences, we turn our attention to our founders. Our theme for 2023, “Come, Walk With Us, Grow”, calls us to consider the journey of Fr Jules Chevalier and his faithful brethren: Fathers Jouet, Piperon, Treand and Vandel. Their pioneering spirit and extraordinary faith brought the MSCs to Sydney, then to Toowoomba; Bowral, NSW; Hamilton, Vic and Canberra in the ACT. As we celebrate Catholic Education Week this term, we remember with gratitude these pioneers and many others who believed that communities focused on Gospel values was the way forward in building a society that followed in word and deed, the example of Jesus Christ. We look forward to celebrating our founders during Chevalier Week this term as a Prep to 12 college for the first time.



L to R: Archie Bruton and Tom Salisbury.



L to R: Edward Carter, from Ascend Learning, with competition winner, Thomas Smith.

SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT CREATES KINGS AND QUEENS OF STRATEGY

EDWARD CARTER

Chess, a magnificent, ancient game, played around the world and basking in a resurgence of popularity. Thirty-two pieces strategically shuffled around a board with one singular purpose - to capture the enemy King.

How is chess, though, relevant in a modern educational context?

Without question, chess continues to find dominance in the hearts and minds of students. Amplified by online

gaming and a new generation of young, charismatic players who share their love of chess on video-sharing services, it remains a fashionable past-time that continues to emerge and evolve from times past. Critically, many schools also recognise the value of chess. They identify the numerous benefits, such as fostering cognitive development, sportsmanship, and healthy competition. Few, however, are able to find the time and resources to invest in the development of students who find their passion in the game.

Locally, chess within Catholic schools continues to grow at a steady pace and the diocese's schools are well represented at regional inter-school competitions. Many Catholic school students have opportunities to learn, play and compete. As an advocate and instructor of chess, I have had the privilege of introducing the marvellous game to hundreds of students in primary and secondary schools. I take every opportunity that I have to highlight the benefits of chess and the positive impact it has had on students' lives.



Students compete in the inaugural Toowoomba Catholic Schools Primary Inter-School Competition

The Benefits of Chess:

Chess is not simply a game of moves and captures; it is an educational tool that offers a myriad of life lessons. Some of the key benefits of chess for students are:

1. Intellectual Development: Chess stimulates critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategic planning skills. Students learn to analyse complex situations, consider multiple possibilities, and make informed decisions.

2. Concentration and Focus: Chess requires students to concentrate and focus their attention for prolonged periods. They learn to block out distractions, sharpen their mental acuity, and improve their concentration skills.

3. Memory Enhancement: The intricate moves and strategies of chess challenge students to remember and recall information accurately. Regular practice of chess improves memory retention and strengthens students' ability to recall information.

4. Decision-Making and Risk

Assessment: Chess teaches students to evaluate risks, assess potential outcomes, and make decisions based on logical reasoning. By analysing various moves and their consequences, students develop critical decision-making skills.

5. Sportsmanship and Resilience:

Chess fosters good sportsmanship, patience, and resilience. Students learn to accept defeat graciously, consider their mistakes, and develop a resilient mindset to bounce back from setbacks.

Recent Developments and Inter-School Competitions:

Over the past decade, schools within the Toowoomba Diocese have embraced chess as a valuable extracurricular activity. Most recently, it has been my privilege to implement a weekly chess program at St Ursula's College Toowoomba, to lead the Year Four cohort in a full-day chess workshop at Downlands College Toowoomba, and continue chess instruction and competition for primary and secondary students at St Mary's College

Toowoomba. Furthermore, earlier this year, in partnership with the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office, we hosted the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Primary Inter-School Competition. This inaugural event was supported by seven schools and brought together 60 participants, including students from Cunnamulla who competed online.

The relevance of chess in a modern educational context is evident. Not only do students learn critical life lessons through participation in the game, but their potential for greater academic outcomes is magnified. To support the surge in participation, plans are already underway for the second competition in 2024. As we celebrate the remarkable journey of chess in the region's Catholic schools, we look forward to a future where the magnificent game continues to enrich the lives of students and inspire a lifelong love for personal enrichment.

About the author: Edward (Ted) Carter is a teacher, coach and director of Ascend Learning. Contact: ted@ascendlearning.com.au / 0490 759 037



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EDUCATION IN BRIEF

Under 8's Day was hosted by St Mary's School Charleville this year. Biscuit decorating was one of the highlights, particularly when you got to eat your creation!



The annual Blessing of the Teachers was led by the students from St Mary's School Charleville. The children ably assisted at Mass as greeters, readers, musicians and singers and taking the Offertory. It was undeniable that they enjoyed their roles on the night.



Year 9 students continue their visits to Villa Carramar this term, building relationships with residents and forming friendships.

While Carramar was locked down recently, students wrote letters to residents when they couldn't visit. As a sign of thanks, students were presented with a certificate of appreciation from the residents who enjoyed receiving and reading the letters.

Students have loved writing to the residents and have resumed in person visits.

JOHN WALLIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

**22nd October 2023,
at 1:30pm.**

featuring

Rev Tim Costello AO

**The Big Picture: Living in Hope
and Awareness**

*St. Theresa's Parish Centre
55 Curzon Street, East Toowoomba*

Rev Tim Costello is coming to Toowoomba on Sunday 22nd October at 1:30pm. He will be speaking at St Theresa's Parish Centre, 55 Curzon St. on the topic: "The Big Picture, Living in hope & awareness". The afternoon is hosted by The Missionary Sisters of Service and their mission entity Highways and Byways.

The Sisters have been in this diocese since 1964 and established Highways and Byways in 2010. This organisation has provided small grants to community-led organisations for projects that address disadvantage and exclusion within towns and communities, especially in rural and regional Australia.

Tim Costello AO is one of Australia's most respected community leaders and is internationally known for his stance on social justice issues, leadership and ethics.



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OUR SACRAMENTAL JOURNEYS

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

One of Bishop Ken Howell's first pastoral duties as the new Bishop of the Toowoomba Diocese was to Confirm children in the Roma and Mitchell Parishes. The very first child Confirmed by Bishop Ken in the diocese was Roman from Roma.



Confirmation candidates from Roma. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Ken Howell with Fr Thomas Duncan.

Confirmation candidates from St Patrick's Cathedral Parish. The children were prepared to receive the sacrament by Ann-Maree Ward, Sarah Logan, Mikaela Kliendienst and Anna Rees. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Michael O'Brien.



First Communion candidates from Charleville. First Communion celebrated by Fr Peter Doohan.



Confirmation candidates from Highfields. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Brian Noonan.



Confirmation candidates from Oakey. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Thomas Areekuzhy and Fr Mick Carroll.

First Communion candidates from Oakey. First Communion celebrated by Fr Thomas Areekuzhy and Fr Mick Carroll.





Confirmation candidates from Warwick. The children were prepared to receive the sacrament by Fr Bony Abraham. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Franco Filippetto and Fr Bony Abraham.



Confirmation candidates from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Toowoomba. The children were prepared to receive the sacrament by the Parish Sacramental Team. Thanks also to the parents and teachers who helped with preparation. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr John Quinlan.

First Communion candidates from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Toowoomba. The children were prepared to receive the sacrament by the Parish Sacramental Team. Thanks also to the parents and teachers who helped with preparation. First Communion celebrated by Fr John Quinlan.



Confirmation candidates from St Anthony's Parish Toowoomba. The children were prepared to receive the sacrament by Fr Jamie Collins and Katie Hauser, APRE St Anthony's School. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Jamie Collins.



First Communion candidates from St Anthony's Parish Toowoomba. The children were prepared to receive the sacrament by Fr Jamie Collins and Katie Hauser, APRE St Anthony's School. First Communion celebrated by Fr Jamie Collins.



First Communion candidates from Pittsworth. First Communion celebrated by Fr Thomas Areekuzhy.



Confirmation candidates from Pittsworth. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Ken Howell with Fr Thomas Areekuzhy.



Confirmation candidates from Millmerran. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Robert McGuckin with Fr Thomas Areekuzhy.



Gloria Collins was Matron of the Gatton Agricultural College for 25 years.



Keeping in touch: Gloria Collins stays in contact with family and friends using her iPad.

A LETTER TO MY FAITHFUL FRIEND

GLORIA COLLINS WITH FR MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Dear God,

What a journey of life you have gifted me with! The roads I have travelled and the sights I have seen!

To think I have lived to see such positive and all embracing change, seen challenges fought and overcome, dreams realised and hopes unravel. When I was brought into this world at Pialba in 1921 what a world it was – between wars, drought times, Pope Pius XI had just begun, Billy Hughes was our 7th Prime Minister and George V reigned as King, the world was filled with hope, invention and dreams.

Within my loving family I first discovered you and then I saw you everywhere. The beauty caught within the fauna and flora on the farm at Clifton, then the joy of friendship of schooling at St Saviour's Primary School in Toowoomba, the oldest school in the diocese. That was a monumental time. Every day I have held my life in prayer.

About 1932 my schooling began. We were always singing and dancing – one of the nuns gave me detention because I wasn't singing loud enough! I was told to sing

100 times that lovely song, "There's No Place Like Home". The nuns were great, but strict. If anyone forgot their lunch, they would supply them with some food. Everyone walked to school. We walked from Clifford Street to school each morning and afternoon; the Gabbets, Dorothy Ryan, Erin Dunn, Francis McMahon, Peggy Troy, and many other friends.

That year I met the first Bishop of Toowoomba, Bishop James Byrne. A man I remember well. We all liked his visits to the school; he was a friendly and kind man. He used to give us a holiday every now and then. The Cathedral was central to our lives as school children – funerals, benediction, confession and Mass. I remember heading over to St Patrick's Cathedral to experience the blessing of the Cathedral bell in 1934. I don't think the Sisters of Mercy gave a choice really. I was wearing my carefully pressed uniform – navy blue with three pleats, belt, removable white starch collars, my hat with it's navy band trimmed with green, and black shoes with stockings. I felt like I belonged to this family of St Saviour's. It was so cold we all had chill blains! Learning was so important, and we simply ignored the freezing cold classrooms and ice-covered ovals and found the fun in everything.

Secretly my heart yearned to return to the farm at Clifton, and after about four years, I finished my schooling. When I was 17 years old, I was whisked away to work at McWhirters in Brisbane, then returned to continue working at Piggotts in Toowoomba. As the war started, I felt you calling me to join the WAAF for three years to direct me into a new path, for you had other designs for me. So a yearning grew within me, no a vocation grew to be a nurse. After training as a nurse, I travelled overseas to England and Canada.

Even though marriage and motherhood was not something that eventuated in my life, you gifted me with such wonderful friendships who became part of my family. I laugh about that now, telling people that I once placed an ad in the paper, "seeking husband", and received 60 replies. They were all from women saying, "you can have mine".

You have to have a sense of humour that comes from within to bring delight to each day.

My experience as Matron of the Gatton Agricultural College for 25 years forged a great sense of community and allowed me to "mother" many hundreds of students. The many deep insights I received from those students will stay with me, as some of those students have stayed connected with me. One even calls me each week to give me tips

on the horses! They told me a lot that they wouldn't even tell their mothers. What a wonderful privilege.

And so now in my twilight time, as I reach 102 years of age this year, I sit and reflect on the beauty of my journey. I wonder at the gift of life itself. If I was to say one thing that was present in my childhood that is missing today, is respect. Respect for one another and the environment seems to be absent in our world today.

My prayer is that we will rediscover the power of respectfulness to make a better future. I admire those who lead the way in loving and caring in the world today. I thank you for my nieces and nephews who care for me so kindly. I'm so glad I can use my iPad and Facebook to keep in touch regularly, some even nightly.

With a deep thankfulness in my heart, your friend,

Gloria Collins.

Don't worry about life, forget diets, just enjoy life itself.



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Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Craft Group
with their latest craft creations.

CRAFT GROUP'S HEARTWARMING CREATIONS FOR A CAUSE

OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

For many years, a group of enthusiastic and crafty ladies have met on Thursday mornings for a cuppa and craft. There is craft of all descriptions, but their most recent projects include crocheted coat hangers, hand towels, handkerchiefs and washers. The group donated these items to the Toowoomba Hospice to sell at their various fundraisers.

Another Craft Group project has been

creating cuddle hearts for the Special Care Nursery at St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba. These cuddle hearts are used to establish a connection between mother and baby through smell when they cannot be together physically. They've also made rugs, beanies and scarves for Eva's Place and services that support people experiencing homelessness. The group proudly support charities like Lifelight,

The Cancer Council and St Vincent de Paul through making donations.

The Craft Group celebrates birthdays on the third Thursday of each month and enjoys the occasional outing together. This group is known to do plenty of talking while they work on their projects. Still, they contribute to the broader community by generously sharing their gifts and talents.

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Fr Terry Hickling (front, centre) with extended family celebrating his Diamond Jubilee in Warwick.

SIX DECADES OF DEDICATION: A JOURNEY OF FAITH, COMPASSION AND SERVICE

SHARON YOUNG

For a beloved priest who is known for sharing sweets, it was a sweet weekend spent celebrating his 60 years of priesthood. Fr Terry Hickling was ordained at St Mary's Church in Warwick on 28 June 1963, along with fellow classmate Fr Michael Skehan. It was fitting then that his family gathered to celebrate with him at St Mary's Church Warwick recently for his Diamond Jubilee. This was followed by a parish celebration the following day.

Fr Terry was born to John and Catherine Hickling, and he was the youngest of seven children. Home was "Monrovia" on Hickling Lane, Bald Mountain on the Granite Belt near Wallangarra. A childhood full of climbing fruit trees on the family orchard and attending Wybera and Wallangarra State Schools for his primary school years, his teenage years growing in his Catholic faith through his schooling at St Joseph's Stanthorpe and then Nudgee College, lead to him entering the Banyo Seminary.

Fr Terry has served God's people across the Toowoomba Diocese and further afield, gaining valuable and varied experiences over the past 60 years. Fr Terry began his ministry at Warwick, 1964 -1965, then serving in eight other parishes, in the Darling Downs,

Maranoa and Port Hedland, WA, before returning back to Warwick in 2007.

Throughout his six decades as a priest, Fr Terry has left an indelible mark on the lives of those he has served. From baptisms to weddings, from confessions to last rites, his compassionate presence has been a guiding light during both joyous and challenging times. Over two celebrations, family, colleagues and parishioners, all gathered to express their deep gratitude and admiration for his unwavering commitment to the church and the wider community.

Fr Terry concelebrated a Mass for his family with Fr Franco Filipetto, Fr Bony Abraham and Fr Brian Connolly, wearing the vestments that his sister had made from her wedding dress for his ordination 60 years ago. Over 50 family members travelled from as far as Wagga Wagga to celebrate with Fr Terry for his 60 years of priesthood and 85 years of life. It was a marvellous celebration, which featured a family quiz with everyone learning new things about their much-loved family.

At the parish celebration, Justin Walsh, Chairperson of the St Mary's Parish Council, addressed the parish celebration, saying, "Fr Terry is a kind



L to R: Justin Walsh (PPC Chair), Fr Terry Hickling and Pat Sheil (PPC Secretary) at the Warwick Parish celebration.

and generous person, willing to forgo many things so others can benefit...

Fr Terry has a strong dedication to his faith; he inspires us with wonderful homilies, and our parish is blessed with fortune to have Fr Terry as a leading member of our community".

In celebrating this milestone, the community of St Mary's pays tribute to Fr Terry's remarkable life of devotion, compassion, and unwavering commitment. As we honour his extraordinary journey, we are reminded of the profound impact that one individual can make, igniting a flame of hope and love that will continue to shine brightly for years to come.

100 YEARS OF FAITH AND HOSPITALITY AT SOUTHBROOK

LISA CAVANAGH

On Sunday, 21 May 2023, the St Brigid's Catholic Community of Southbrook gathered to celebrate its centenary. Bishop Robert McGuckin was joined by parish priest Fr Thomas Areekuzhy, former parish priest Fr Rod McGinley and Fr Mick Carroll to preside over the Mass. St Stephen's altar server, Freya Sansingh, assisted on the altar.

The small church was filled to overflowing with past and current parishioners. Many families returned to Southbrook to celebrate this important milestone. Hospitality has become a hallmark of the St Brigid's Southbrook community, and a delicious morning tea, catered for by the current parishioners, was enjoyed by all.

The congregation were welcomed by parishioner Tom O'Connell, great-grandson of John Torpie, who owned the original block of land donated to the community by his son Thomas after John's death in the early 1920s. Thomas Torpie's son, John, went on to become Bishop of Cairns.

Music was provided by former Southbrook resident Leeann Murden (nee Weimers) on the organ, with soloists Lisa and Emily Cavanagh. Current St Brigid's parishioners participated in the ministries within the Mass, including; reading, Prayers of the Faithful and offertory.

A short history of the parish had been compiled by Kaye O'Connell and included within the Mass booklet, along with a photographic display. These photos shared the many social and sacramental gatherings that had been part of the St Brigid's community over the past 100 years.

After Mass, Bishop Robert blessed a special plaque to commemorate the centennial celebrations and cut the cake alongside Daphne Weimers.

St Brigid's was blessed and opened on 11 March 1923, by Archbishop Duhig (photo from the opening celebrations)



L to R: Bishop Robert McGuckin, Daphne Weimers and Fr Thomas Areekuzhy cut the celebration cake.

St Brigid's is part of the St Stephen's Parish of Pittsworth, and Mass or a Liturgy of the Word is celebrated twice monthly.



100 years later: parishioners gather to celebrate centenary.

HIGHFIELDS PARISHIONERS EMBARK ON A PROFOUND LENTEN JOURNEY

PATTI MCNAUGHT

Once again, St Mary MacKillop Parish Highfields had the privilege to attend a very special Lenten journey held at Naomi Goddard's home. Naomi welcomed us into her home to relax and get to know one another a little better before we started. This year attracted a lot of our parishioners as, once again, we chose the Lenten program which the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong published. These programs during Lent have become very popular with our parish members. In 2023, our Lenten journey entitled "Triumph" didn't disappoint. The scriptures we heard offered us an opportunity to consider them in a different light. Our daily reflections allowed us to walk alongside the



Highfields Parishioners gather to reflect during Lent.

themes of the coming Sunday Lenten Gospels, which now had a stronger meaning because of the reflection, mirroring and deepening of the Gospel by sharing our thoughts with each other in paragraphs that stood out for us. The program took us on a journey towards Easter, walking with Jesus from The Temptation through to the Crucifixion.

Beautifully illustrated, the artwork reflections provided for us by Mgr Graham Schnitzer were absolutely awesome, although they were painted many years ago. They enabled us to

reflect on the week's scriptures and renew our commitment to God at Easter.

"Triumph" helped us to reconnect and reinvigorate our "call," remembering that we had been travelling the direct road from the real love in our lives to Calvary, the well-worn path travelled first by Jesus, who made it a little easier for us. We now realize that not only did Christ die for us, but he is living in all of us, an unbelievable promise of unconditional love. Thank you Naomi, for welcoming so many of our parishioners into your home.

HONOURING DEPARTING PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION

PATTI MCNAUGHT

At our Parish Pastoral Council meeting on 26 June, a much-loved member of our council in Highfields, Catherine Sattolo, informed us that this would be her last meeting. We were all very sad to say goodbye to her. For the past six years, Catherine has been a wonderful asset to all of us as a team member, bringing her spirituality and various other gifts to our monthly meetings. For Catherine's last meeting, council chair Nikki Tonkin, baked a cake to share. The following Sunday Mass, Catherine was presented with a gift from the parish in honour of the good work she

had given to us for so many years. This was followed by acclamation from all present. When Catherine came forward to receive her gift, she talked about her time on the Parish Pastoral Council. She described how enriching it was for her and added that if anyone thinks they can bring their gifts to the council, don't hesitate as it is very rewarding.

While we say goodbye to Catherine from our Parish Pastoral Council, she remains a parishioner. Thank you, Catherine, from all at St Mary MacKillop Parish. You are a very special person



Catherine Sattolo with Fr Brian Noonan, Highfields Parish Administrator.



L to R: Fr Roque Maguinsay, Lesley and Gerald Herden, after Mass to mark the special occasion of their 70th Wedding Anniversary.

70 YEARS OF LOVE, FAITH, AND HARD WORK

ROGER HERDEN

Lesley Woodward and Gerald Herden were born in Gunnedah, NSW, one week apart in July 1930.

They first met at a small country school called Gunnenbeen near Gunnedah. Both rode horses to and from school, Gerald living on one side of the Namoi River and Lesley on another property about 7 miles away on the other side.

During the war years, Lesley boarded at St Marys College Gunnedah while Gerald travelled away and boarded at De La Salle Armidale. Both came home aged 15, that being 1946 and a drought year, so Gerald spent most of the year climbing and lopping

trees to feed hungry cattle.

While courting, the couple would meet at local dances and various tennis afternoons. They were married at St Joseph's church Gunnedah by Monsignor McDermott at 10 am on 6 April 1953, Easter Monday.

They started their married life living in a small cottage on a property called "Tathra", on the western side of Gunnedah, belonging to Gerald's father. Gerald worked for his father and share farmed wheat crops in the district.

Around this time, the Government had a "Closer settlement Scheme" whereby

undeveloped land was acquired from larger holders and offered by ballot to young farmers. The aim was to populate the western areas more quickly and turn under-utilized land into much more productive smaller blocks. The land could be kept and eventually bought as long as agreed improvements were made each year.

In late 1957 Gerald and Lesley were successful in a ballot and were offered 4500 acres near Goondiwindi, which they named "Kalandra". They packed their young family and possessions and headed north to Queensland in early 1958.



Gerald and Lesley's Wedding Day in 1953.

The only improvements on Kalandra at the time were a bore and a boundary fence on one of the four sides. After building a basic hut to live in, the first major job for Gerald was to construct a new boundary fence to keep the stock in.

Within a couple of years, the hut was replaced by a corrugated iron shelter, then a more substantial shed with a cement floor and a diesel generator. Luxuries!

Gerald and Lesley have always been committed to the Catholic Church, and they recall being visited by a priest named Fr McDonald, who drove around the district looking for Catholics to attend Mass. Fr McDonald quickly became a very good friend to them.

In those early days, Mass was often held in people's homes and was celebrated often in the old shed where Gerald and Lesley lived.

By 1960 they had purchased a second-hand tractor-driven timber mill. This was used to cut the pine boards to build their new main house. All timber used in this house was cut and milled on "Kalandra".

Around 1964 the four or five Catholic families of the Wyaga district combined to build a church. The church was built using pine timber cut and milled on "Kalandra".

The Wyaga church operated for many years and saw a number of

priests come and go. Priests lived in Goondiwindi and travelled out to various parishes in all directions around town to say Sunday Mass.

The early times were tough, living in isolation and slowly converting a scrub block into a productive farm. Clearing and stick picking paddock by paddock and fencing as they go. They built and repaired virtually everything themselves. Sunday mornings, however, were for Mass.

"Kalandra" was sold in 1999, and Lesley and Gerald moved back to Gunnedah, largely to take better care of their now ageing parents.

In 2010 they sold the Gunnedah home and moved to where they reside today, Palm Lake Resort Toowoomba. Although a big decision to make such a move at the time, leaving their many friends, their move back to Queensland was a massive blessing for all six children and their growing families.

Having them in Toowoomba, we have had the joy of sharing so many family milestones, and it's hard to recall an event that Lesley and Gerald did not attend. From grandparents' or great grandparents' day at schools to graduations, weddings and christenings, Gerald and Lesley value their families and their Christian faith.

On 6 April 2023, Gerald and Lesley celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary. The day began with a

special Mass attended by family and friends and celebrated by Fr Roque Maguinsay at Sacred Heart Church Toowoomba. Seventy years married is very rare; Fr Roque commented that he had never before had the opportunity to bless such an event. The family knows how blessed and lucky it is to be part of such a wonderful occasion.

Gerald and Lesley Herden are an inspiration and role models to their whole family. They have combined hard work and a lasting strong Catholic faith to achieve so much in their lives. May their remaining years together be as blessed as the 70 they have shared.



PARISH IN BRIEF

Fr Don Murray (seated) and Fr Thomas Areekuzhy (standing) celebrated their birthdays recently with cake at St Patrick's Cathedral Presbytery. Fr Don, the eldest priest in the diocese, turned 92, and Fr Thomas celebrated turning 69 the week before.



L to R: Fr Peter Dorfield, Bishop Robert McGuckin and Karen Moseley. Our ongoing journey in safeguarding was affirmed by Australian Catholic Safeguarding (Ltd), through a friendly visit from Karen Moseley in mid June. Karen presented the Diocese with a Certificate of Compliance in Safeguarding Practice.

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