

Horizons

ST MARY'S SOCKTOBER KICKS GOALS

Inservice a Lesson in
Ecumenical Pastoral Care

Seeds of Hope
Sprout for Carnival

#68
DEC 23

FREE Publication
of the Catholic
Diocese of
Toowoomba

Horizons

FROM THE EDITOR

INGRID MCTAGGART

As I write this, I am in Brisbane on a journey of discovery. It's not exciting; it's a dermatological journey to discover allergies.

While the nature of my trip is medical, family and friends have encouraged me to enjoy the break. This has been the longest I have been solo post kids and husband. So, it has been a real opportunity for introspection without the interruption of a request for something to eat every five seconds.

We are a "Bluey" fan family, and two of my favourite episodes are not really about the kids. It's about Mum and Dad – "Relax" and "Stickbird". Both look at the mental well-being of parents in different ways. I see myself in both these stories, a forgotten ability to relax and just be, and what it means to carry the weight of not letting go of something. I'm feeling a little lost in the silence of being solo, with no school run, no toddler wanting to be carried everywhere, and no mental checklist of stuff to do. Like Mum in the "Bluey" episode, I find myself standing at the motel door saying, "I don't know how to relax. It's harder than it looks".

On this mission to chill, I walked into the city for 10:00am Mass at St

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

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

CONTENTS

COVER STORIES:

Inservice a lesson in Ecumenical Pastoral Care 12

St Mary's Socktober Kick Goals 27

Seeds of Hope Sprout for Carnival 31

DIOCESE..... 4

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE..... 16

OUR SACRAMENTAL JOURNEYS..... 22

EDUCATION 24

PARISH 29

Stephen's Cathedral. It's a lovely building, and like most metropolitan cathedrals, it's a stately reminder of the past, tiny compared to the modern buildings surrounding it. I really enjoyed the moment of quiet reflection.

The Gospel for the day was Luke 17: 7-10, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty." In his short but insightful homily, the celebrant of the Mass, Fr John Sullivan, drew a parallel to the service of his mum and dad to the

family as "servants", as we are "servants" to the divine. His parents had done their duty to their children, feeding them, working hard for them, protecting them.

I have reread the passage many times over the intervening days. Reconciling my mission to relax for my well-being with the calling of a servant, especially to my family. Perhaps the key is interpreting servant as "in service", not servant as a slave, and finding humility in fulfilling a duty carried out in love.

Horizons is a quarterly magazine produced by the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba. The Diocese acknowledges with gratitude the contribution made by the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office to production costs, as well as the support by our advertisers. Horizons is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA). Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily held by the editor. Enquiries: Communications Office, PO Box 756, Toowoomba QLD 4350. Phone: 07 4632 4277. Email: horizons@twb.catholic.org.au
Graphic Design: Greenridge Group 07 4659 1444. Deadlines: Editions will be quarterly. Content for next Edition - to be advised.
Cover Image: Lucy Illing, Finn De Bortoli, Charlie Carrigan and Paisley Wren from St Mary's School Goondiwindi step up for Catholic Mission. Story page 27.



GOD-WITH-US

The Christmas decorations in the shops have been up for weeks!

The commercial side of Christmas is unavoidable, however it does help point us in the direction of the great feast that unites us all. While we look forward to the many associated activities of the festivities, we should never forget those who also dread something of this time of year. The realities of living can leave us with sorrow around this time as perhaps a loved one will no longer grace our table or a family member has distanced themselves from the unity we long for as families. The people of Tara and other regions have lost their homes and livelihoods through bushfires and other disasters. For all those who experience sadness this Christmas, we assure you of our prayers, but we also remind you of the essence of what we celebrate. i.e. God is with us!

Christmas, with all its ceremony and customs and family rituals, should always take us to the core of why Jesus was born into our midst. From the day of his birth, in the messiness of those circumstances, proclaim clearly that God is never distant from the bits and pieces of our everyday lives, with all their disarray. God-with-us is never just a mantra from a Christmas carol, it's the heart of our faith, our life and our hope. So, into whatever Christmas will be for us this year, we find the story of His birth touching all aspects of our lives. Thus, we are encouraged as we face the messy bits that make up our lives.

As your new bishop, I come to this my first Christmas in the Diocese of Toowoomba, adjusting to a new home and the wonderful responsibility of caring for you as

your shepherd. Thank you for your warm and gracious welcome that I have experienced thus far. It has indeed been a rich blessing for me.

May your Christmas be richly blessed this year as we live within the joy of all that our faith offers us as we celebrate God-with-us.

Bishop Ken Howell

*Bishop of Toowoomba
December 2023*

PS This year, half of our Christmas Day collection across the Diocese will be donated to the relief of the victims of the bushfires at Tara. Thank you for your generosity.

WE MUST ACT NOW: POPE FRANCIS' NEW DOCUMENT ON OUR CLIMATE

DR DAVID TUTTY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER:
CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

We have a second papal document focused on our changing climate. It is just over eight years since *Laudato Si'* was released, and Pope Francis feels the need to again call us to action. He sees that our responses so far have not been adequate and that we still need to be reminded that caring for our common home and its climate is a matter of Catholic faith.

In his new document, *Laudate Deum* – “Praise God”, Pope Francis updates *Laudato Si'*. He renews his call, especially to us in the richer nations of the world, to act quickly to bring down our greenhouse emissions. He sees that time is running out. The situation is so urgent that he actually uses the word “crisis” to describe the enormity of what we are facing.

Pope Francis draws on overwhelming scientific evidence to argue that we only have a few years left to act. We need to implement strong and decisive policies to avoid irreversible changes occurring that will primarily impact upon those who are poor and vulnerable.

Based on the scientific evidence, Pope Francis has no doubt that humans are the cause of our changing climate. It is human beings who have produced the greenhouse emissions that are causing the global average temperature to rise. It is human beings, then, who have to honestly face this reality and change our priorities and behaviours.

One critical change that needs to occur is our seeking of the greatest profit in the shortest time while not taking into account the impact on the environment. To bring about this change, we need to deepen our awareness of our human responsibility, we need to look carefully at what values we name as most important and we need to be people of good conscience.

Pope Francis reminds us that everything on earth is interconnected and that no one can be saved alone. This is

both an ecological reality as well as a theological statement. We are part of nature, we are part of God's interconnected creation. Our pope calls us to build healthy interactions between ourselves and the rest of creation. He says we can learn from indigenous peoples how to best go about this.

Laudate Deum is a faith document. Here, Pope Francis reminds us that we are called to action because we believe in a God who created everything and sees what has been created is good. We are called to action because our Bible reminds us that everything belongs to God and that we must respect the delicate interconnection of relationships that God has created. And we are called to action because Jesus experienced the flowers of the fields and the birds as filled with God's presence.

Pope Francis sees that our human lives are not comprehensible or sustainable without other creatures. We need to see ourselves in humbler ways and seek ways to reconcile ourselves with all that is part of this world that is our home.

And while it is at the international and multilateral levels where major changes need to be agreed upon, Pope Francis calls for a cultural change that is only possible alongside personal change. In particular, Pope Francis calls on those in richer countries to change their lifestyles. We are the ones who live in a way that causes the greatest per capita greenhouse emissions.

Pope Francis has been following the multilateral Conference of Parties (COP) meetings keenly. There were high hopes in Paris in 2015 at COP21, but these hopes have not yet materialized. So *Laudate Deum* looks to the upcoming COP28 in Dubai, hoping that the powerful delegates can look beyond their self-interest and see the bigger picture. The climate crisis needs a decisive and rapid energy transition away from fossil fuels, and this needs ongoing monitoring. We need to emit much less greenhouse gases.

Sadly though, global greenhouse emission levels keep increasing. Those who profit from the sale and use of fossil fuels remain powerful. Pope Francis calls for limits to be set and clear-minded self-restraint implemented.

But sadly, Australia continues to contribute to these increasing emission levels. In the last 18 months, our Federal Environment Minister has given approval for four new coal mines or expansions of existing ones. There are 29 more applications pending.

Catholic Earthcare has a range of resources to help parishes, schools and individuals take steps to respond to Pope Francis' call. Our Toowoomba Social Justice Commission office also offers resources, and I am happy to come and speak to anyone who would like to learn more about *Laudate Deum*, *Laudato Si'* and our call to care for our common home.



DIGNITY FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR MIDST

MOIRA BOYLE, THE DIGNITY PROJECT

The Dignity Project, with its band of staff and devoted volunteers, supports clients from a refugee or asylum-seeking background.

The overarching aim of The Dignity Project is to advocate for and increase our knowledge of the issues facing those who seek asylum and who regularly present to the project for support with visa form filling.

The Dignity Project has forged links with the Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Service (TRAMS), Mission Australia, Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS) and the Salvation Army. In addition to helping with applications, we strive to help in a practical way by assisting those looking for employment and with English language opportunities. Corney and Lind Lawyers have been invaluable in offering advice and help with specific cases.

The need is great and the outcome for many of these vulnerable people



The annual Melbourne Cup Fundraiser is a chance for supporters to have fun while giving to the serious work of The Dignity Project.

is not happy. Toowoomba has Australia's largest Kurdish population (predominantly followers of the Yazidi faith), comprising 3,000 refugees who settled here through the Commonwealth Government's channels, along with around 2,000 additional Kurdish people who moved here from other parts of the country. Today, Toowoomba is home to residents who hail from many parts of Africa, especially North and South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the latest arrivals from Afghanistan and Middle Eastern countries, such as Iran, Iraq, Syria and our Kurdish community.

To broaden the community's awareness of the position of people seeking asylum, The Dignity Project recently hosted the film "Behrouz",

directed and produced by Anji and Simon Kurian. Behrouz Boochani, the award-winning Iranian author, powerfully conveyed the inhumanity of detention in offshore centres.

The Dignity Project runs one fundraising event each year, and all the money raised goes to support refugees and asylum seekers in the Toowoomba area. This year's Melbourne Cup Fundraiser, held on 5 November, was very successful. As always, this was a wonderful demonstration of our local community's support for refugees and asylum seekers. As one of the people seeking asylum said, "The support of everyone may not change the ultimate outcome of my case, but it has changed things for me. For always."

Australian
HERITAGE
Funerals
Honouring and Celebrating Life

 **07 4634 9946**
www.ahfunerals.com.au

Proudly Australian Owned

TOOWOOMBA • DALBY • WARWICK • GATTON • AND SURROUNDING AREAS



Police Remembrance Day Service 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral.
Photo Credit: Toowoomba Police

WITH HONOUR THEY SERVED

FR MICHAEL O'BRIEN

*As the sun surely sets,
dawn will see it arise,
for the service above self
demands it's own prize.
You have fought the good fight,
life's race has been run,
and peace your reward
for eternity begun.
And we that are left
shall never forget,
rest in peace friend and colleague,
for the sun has now set.*

We will remember. Hasten the dawn.

These are the solemn and resounding words of the Police Ode spoken at every Police Remembrance Vigil and Morning Service.

In silence, these words cut across the lives of all present, reminding each police officer and civilian of the mystical presence of all who have given their lives in striving for peace, justice and truth. Each officer and their families know the stark reality of the risk that

their choice of career entails. The day of remembrance not only recalls the gallantry of a few but also strengthens the bonds of community and companionship within the police service.

This year, we remembered Senior Constable Dave Masters, who died in the line of duty in 2021 from the Deception Bay Station, then part of the Southern Region. His family unveiled the plaque on the memorial, amongst the 21 candles representing all those who have died in this region, as we stood, resolute, at the front of the Neil Street entrance to the station.

With continuing disbelief and sadness, we called to mind the tragic events of 12 December 2022, where Constables Matthew Arnold and Rachel McCrow lost their lives. Their plaques will be unveiled at next year's remembrance service.

As the silence remained and our reflection on the meaning of "with

honour they served" found a place within the depths of our being, the lone trumpeter sounds the Requiescant. We are given hope in the promise of the eternal rest for all those who serve.

"I bless you all tonight to go into the world in peace; to be courageous, to hold fast to what is good and to render to no one evil for evil. I bless you tonight to strengthen the faint hearted, to support the weak and help the afflicted; to honour all people and to love and serve the Lord."



Memorial to police officers who have lost their life in the line of duty on Neil Street, Toowoomba. Photo Credit: Toowoomba Police

JOHN MCAULIFFE: YOU MIGHT KNOW HIM!

DENIS MCCARTHY

John was a much-loved member of the SPRED and St Thomas More's communities, as well as many other community groups he participated in.

Many in the diocese will recognise John as the processional cross-carrier for many diocesan Masses. Sadly, John died suddenly in September. A celebration of his life was held at St Thomas More's Church, Toowoomba. A good friend, Denis McCarthy, offers this lovely reflection on his friendship with John.

I first encountered John McAuliffe at Mass at St Thomas More's Parish many years ago. John would diligently carry the Cross towards the altar, ahead of whichever priest was in attendance. He was always eager in the task of placing the Cross in position and then moving to his seat in the front row. At the conclusion of Mass, right on cue, John would lead the priest back down the aisle where the priest would usually mingle with the parishioners while John himself moved into the Sacristy and prepared for his lengthy walk home to his residence at Martin House on Stenner Street.

John's diligence in all matters that he was involved in was very evident. He always sought to do the right thing. He was respectful of others, and he listened intently to any matters being discussed. John was aware of activities around him, and he was especially alert to any action requiring his involvement.

My connection with John intensified when SPRED became a regular feature of St Thomas More's. It was a joy to participate in SPRED with each of our Friends who seemed to recognise that this engagement with prayer and this connection with the presence of Jesus was indeed a special opportunity. Each of our Friends, in their own way and at the right time, demonstrated a demeanour of silence and concentration. There were, of course, some occasions when talk and distraction intervened with the SPRED activity, but John always held his ground in terms of respectfulness in the church and his concentration on the prayers and reflections. John did have a warm sense of humour, and it was good to hear him chuckle occasionally during conversations with SPRED friends.

In about 2019, perhaps earlier, the St Thomas More's Mens' Group welcomed John into their fold. In August 2019, during an outing with the group, John endured a fall as he exited the bus. An ambulance was called, and ultimately, John was admitted to St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba.

On hearing of John's accident, I visited him at St Vincent's, and we had a long and lively conversation. John, I am sure, was pleased to see me, and I was delighted to be in his company once again.

During our conversation, I referred to the very recent passing of Fr Peter Schultz. To my surprise, John was unaware of the news and appeared stunned, then deeply saddened. I reached out to console John and witnessed a single tear emerge from his eye and roll down his face. We shared a strong and common bond in reflecting quietly on Fr Peter.

In due course, with many others, I attended Fr Peter's funeral at St Patrick's Cathedral. On my arrival, John, with his arm in a sling, headed for me and asked me to join him on the altar. John fully intended to play a role on the altar, but after a conversation, he accepted that the appropriate thing was for him to join his brother, Peter, in the front row.

In all of John's participation in SPRED and his involvement in other situations, including church-based activities, John conducted himself respectfully and focused on whatever task presented to him.

John loved his brother, Peter, and it was evident that his family upbringing had steered John in a positive and meaningful direction. John made me proud to stand beside him and to learn from his behaviour in many circumstances.

You might know him, John McAuliffe, an absolute gentleman. Rest in peace.



L to R: John McAuliffe, Patrick O'Shea and Denis McCarthy in 2015.



Diligent service: John McAuliffe with Bishop Bill Morris during a SPRED Mass in 2011.



Award winners L to R: Dr Jeremy Fernando, Kylie Radunz and Lizzie Mahon.

ST VINCENT'S ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY BEYOND HEALTHCARE

CARMEL SENG, MISSION EXECUTIVE: ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL TOOWOOMBA

Healthcare is not the only activity our caring staff at St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba are involved with. We are proud to engage with other community events that promote well-being as well as acknowledge the battles that some families have faced with the loss of loved ones.

The Walk to Remember is one such event. It is linked to Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, commemorated each year on 15 October. This annual service includes readings and reflections from local bereaved families. It is an opportunity for those present to publicly share the name of the little one/s they are remembering. This event is a beautiful opportunity to love and connect, to honour and remember the babies and children who are no longer with us.

Another event our Pastoral Care Team participates in is the Rock of Remembrance. The service, held at the Garden of Remembrance Toowoomba, is a healing time for families whose

babies have died in early pregnancy. This special time is created for grieving parents, their families and friends to gather and honour their baby's precious life. Parents are invited to participate using different symbols: candles, water and flowers, as well as the placement of the ashes at the base of the rock. This ceremony recognises that a tiny life, though not developed to maturity, will always have a place in the family's story.

Further along on life's journey are the many people who are touched by Breast Cancer – those who have battled with cancer and those who have been a tower of strength to their loved ones. The Walk of Hope honours those people by remembering their struggle, celebrating recovery where possible and joining together as a powerhouse of hope for a brighter, cancer-free future. As the band of committed community members and health professionals walked from Frogs Hollow to the Council precinct amid a sea of pink balloons, pink shirts and

pink hats, it was clear to those they encountered in the CBD just what cause was being supported. St Vincent's is proud to be a key driver of this event.

St Vincent's Health Australia has prioritised strengthened relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples for the benefit of all in Australia. In 2020 Reconciliation Action Plan goals were set to include enhanced employment opportunities for Indigenous staff, greater effort to purchase supplies via Indigenous-owned or controlled businesses and ongoing formation events. Time for review and setting new goals has arrived, and a number of our staff, including Judith Standen from our Consumer Participation committee, met with Darlene Dreise, SVHA Group Manager Reconciliation. It was a chance to listen to the wisdom from within our ranks and the ideas shared by other facilities across SVHA. What was clear was that everyone wanted

goals relevant to our setting and achievable within a realistic timeframe.

Every day, we are very proud of our staff and the excellent work they do to ensure the continuation of excellent patient care. The St Vincent's Health Awards highlighted this, where finalists from all states and facilities were recognised. Toowoomba shone with two winners and a finalist across a competitive field. Kylie Radunz, our Clinical Nurse Consultant and Diabetes Educator, won a Queensland Private Hospital Division award for strengthening the quality of inpatient diabetes care and empowering patients to achieve a high quality of life living with diabetes. Lizzie Mahon won a Deadly Award for going above and beyond at work and in our community, being a genuine leader, encouraging an inclusive workplace for her colleagues, supporting fellow staff, and working on research projects at UniSQ. Lizzie leads by example all the way. Our finalist was the Perioperative Care Service (PoCS) project, led by Dr Jeremy Fernando alongside a huge team of clinical and non-clinical staff. This project transformed our existing anaesthetic pre-assessment clinic into a multi-speciality/disciplinary clinic. Congratulations to our Toowoomba finalists and winners.



Walk of Hope, L to R: Jenny Foxton and Kathryn McKeefry

Is your child experiencing any one of the following?

- Hearing Problems?
- Ear Infections or Pain?
- A Blocked Nose?
- Tonsillitis?
- Snoring?

St Vincent's Private Hospital Toowoomba

EAR, NOSE & THROAT SERVICES

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



**ST VINCENT'S
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**
TOOWOOMBA

07 4690 4000 | www.svpht.org.au



L to R: Sr Pat Quinn, Sr Mary Cleary, Rev Tim Costello, Fr Hal Ranger, Sr Nancy Doyle and Bishop Ken Howell.

JOHN WALLIS MEMORIAL LECTURE LOOKS AT THE BIG PICTURE

SR PAT QUINN MSS

In October, Toowoomba was fortunate to have the opportunity to listen to an inspirational lecture by Rev Tim Costello AO, former CEO of World Vision Australia, Baptist minister and lawyer. He came at the invitation of the Missionary Sisters of Service and their mission entity, Highways and Byways. St Theresa's Parish kindly hosted this event with 115 people in attendance.

In addressing the topic "The Big Picture, Living in Hope and Awareness", Tim shared his energy, passion, experience, insights and faith with us. He drew richly from the Parable of the Good

Samaritan, paralleling the divisive choices made by the priest and Levite in the parable with choices facing us in current world affairs. He challenged us to be like the Samaritan, who saw the man's humanity rather than his own condition or standing in society.

He drew parallels with the work and vision of the Missionary Sisters of Service. The congregation was founded in Tasmania by Fr John Wallis in 1944, and the sisters have served in the Toowoomba Diocese since 1964, as well as in vast areas of Australia. Tim was very aware of the sisters' contribution

and the work of Highways and Byways.

David Tutty, Executive Officer for the Diocesan Catholic Social Justice Commission, conveyed words of thanks to Tim on behalf of those present.

Thanks to Michael Gatt, this outstanding lecture was recorded on video and will be available to watch on the Highways & Byways website hb.org.au

Tim's lecture was greatly appreciated by the audience and will be well worth watching.



Megan Brown, with her cousin David McCarthy and the coolamon bowl created as part of an activity with a group of children.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS HELPS PLANT SEEDS OF CONNECTION

JANE COLLOPY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER:
HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS

Highways & Byways was formed to continue the work of the Missionary Sisters of Service, who, since 1944, have reached out to support people faced with the challenges of living remotely throughout Australia.

Highways & Byways currently runs longer-term partnership projects in Tasmania and Queensland, as well as a small grants program supporting 20-40 projects each year in remote and regional communities run by locals.

“Seeds of Connection” is our longer-term project run by Mithaka woman Megan Brown, based in Roma.

Sensing the changes in her community with the passing of significant Elders, Megan was inspired to create opportunities for younger generations to come together to participate in cultural activities and practices out in the Country. She has seen a significant shift in both the adults and children

in these programs, finding more pride and confidence in their own identity as Indigenous and signs of a strong sense of belonging.

Megan has also brought together groups of Indigenous women from various mobs. She skillfully creates a safe environment where the women find themselves able to share their story, to speak their own language, share about their lives, what they know about their culture, and what’s been lost to them. To tell the stories that, in the past, Indigenous people have been discouraged from sharing. Many of the women had not been out on Country before, let alone developed meaningful relationships with other Indigenous women in the area.

All the programs bring together Elders who can pass on Indigenous knowledge through workshops involving story, language, food, art and craft skills and ceremony. As well as providing



Participants in the Women’s Indigenous Cultural Program visiting Yumba (Mitchell).

opportunities for building community, participants also find a much-needed break from the stress of our high-paced lives. The opportunity to slow down and ground themselves in a supportive environment is so cherished by them and often expressed in their gratitude for Megan’s programs.

Megan continues to reach out to provide ongoing cultural opportunities for local Indigenous people across South East Queensland. We are thankful to the supporters of Highways and Byways, Mary MacKillop Today, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and Catholic Religious of Queensland.



Lyn Cash and Bishop Bill Morris' shared the history of Ecumenical Pastoral Care.

INSERVICE A LESSON IN ECUMENICAL PASTORAL CARE

NICOLE RANGIIRA, COORDINATOR CATHOLIC HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

Our recent Diocesan Inservice was a deeply enriching opportunity for our pastoral care community to come together. The day was an opportunity to spend time in prayer, fellowship, skills training, and networking and to experience the depths of God's mercy, evident in so many stories of healing and compassion.

Our day commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country. Bishop Ken Howell then led us in prayer, with a reflection on Jesus the Good Shepherd and an invitation to bring to God our experiences and our hopes for pastoral care.

A highlight of the day was a presentation from Lyn Cash, our inaugural Coordinator of Ecumenical Pastoral Care at the Toowoomba Hospital and Bishop Bill Morris. Together, they told the story of how our Ecumenical Pastoral Care community was formed 30 years ago. They spoke of the initial inspiration and vision for pastoral care and the

deep faith, passion, and commitment of the first pastoral care community.

Carmel Seng, the Executive Director of Mission at St Vincent's Hospital, provided an inspiring account of the

legacy of the Sisters of Charity and their work in health care. Then Veronica Kluck, who is the Coordinator of Pastoral Care for St Vincent's Hospital, and Sue Thonell, the Coordinator of Pastoral Care at the Toowoomba



Rev John Rolley's practical presentation was a highlight of the day for participants.

Hospice, spoke about the work of their teams in providing pastoral care for the patients, families, and staff in each of their communities.

Another highlight of the day was the opportunity to share in small groups and reflect on pastoral care encounters. Goondiwindi Anglican Parish Priest Rev John Rolley facilitated this session and created a safe place for people to share their stories.

Fr. Ray Crowley and Sue Thonell took us deeper, exploring ways to bring hope amid people's experiences of grief and trauma.

Given the valuable insights from all our presenters and the shared wisdom we gathered from one another, there was a renewed commitment to bring God's healing compassion to all people. We are all continually called to be good

shepherds caring for those who are vulnerable with ill health, those who are dying, grieving, and feeling despair.

We are very grateful for this ministry of pastoral care in our community. We also celebrate the original vision that inspired our first Ecumenical Pastoral Care community and that continues through our ministry of pastoral care today.

Upon reading this article, please contact Pastoral Care if you are interested in understanding more about this ministry or if you find yourself or someone you know in a health care or aged care facility and would value a listening ear and a caring heart.

Toowoomba Hospital

Ph: 07 4616 6415 (9am-4pm)
or 07 4616 6000 afterhours
and ask for Pastoral Care

Toowoomba Hospice

Ph: 07 4659 8500

St. Andrew's Hospital

Ph: 07 4646 3156

St Vincent's Private Hospital

Ph: 07 4690 4207

Pastoral Care exists in various health and aged care facilities throughout the diocese.



Toowoomba's only
family owned funeral home

BURSTOWS
Funeral Care Since 1900

24hr Freecall 1800 803 196

TOOWOOMBA OAKLEY DALBY WARWICK GATTON

Saying goodbye is never easy. At McGrath
Funerals we can help you make this journey...

Beautifully Simple



201563BF

McGrath
FUNERALS

5 Mylne Street
opp. Grand Central
1800 221 022

DIOCESE IN BRIEF



“Horizons” has once again received an award at the Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) Awards. The awards form part of the annual ACPA Conference, this year hosted by the Archdiocese of Perth. “Horizons” was awarded Highly Commended in the Best Advertising Feature/Supplement for the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office (TCSO) feature “Bright Futures-Many Gifts”. Congratulations to Fr Jamie Collins (editor), TCSO and Danielle Chimes (designer) on creating an eye-catching feature. L to R: ACPA President Neil Helmore, Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe and Ingrid McTaggart. Photo Credit: Michelle Tan, Archdiocese of Perth.

The Toowoomba Diocese came together 11 October to celebrate jubilarians Bishop Emeritus Robert McGuckin and Fr Terry Hickling. Fr Terry celebrated 60 years of priesthood, ordained 28 June 1963 at St Mary’s Warwick by Bishop William Brennan. Bishop Robert celebrated 50 years of priesthood, ordained 20 October 1973 at St Mary’s Cathedral Sydney by Archbishop James Carroll. Bishop Robert and Fr Terry were joined by Frs Wally Dethlefs (60), Leo Skelly (60) and Dave O’Connor (50) from the Brisbane Archdiocese. At the conclusion of Mass for a special rendition of the “Irish Blessing”.



EDUCATION IN BRIEF



On 27 October St Mary's Schools Charleville welcomed Bishop Ken Howell, Dr Pat Coghlan, Toowoomba Catholic School's Office, and members of the Coorey family to the blessing and opening of St Mary's School renovations. The renovations were able to occur thanks to a generous donation from the Coorey family, all past pupils of St Mary's.



Children from the Alexander and Sullivan families with their grandmothers, Carmel Alexander and Kathy Goodman (sisters), light the candles at the beginning of our Grandparents Day Liturgy. The children are the fourth generation to attend St Mary's School Charleville.



Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Student Graduation.

EMPOWERING FUTURES: CELEBRATING THE 2023 YEAR 12 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER GRADUANDS

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

The Toowoomba Catholic Schools' Mass for the 2023 Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduands was celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on 4 September. Over 20 students attended the celebration along with their parents, grandparents, Elders 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 also messages shared to guide and inspire the graduands, and graduands were presented with specially designed sashes and a medallion as a memento of this milestone in their lives.

St Mary's College Year 12 graduand and a proud Kamilaroi man, Jacob Lasserre, commenced his secondary schooling journey with St Mary's in 2018. Jacob said, "I am grateful for the opportunities that I have experienced while studying at St Mary's College. I graduate with fond memories and a great sense of pride in myself and my school."

Finishing Year 12 opens 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 the college, but I know the friendships I have made will continue long after school finishes," said Jacob.

Brendan Stewart, Principal of St Mary's College said he was very proud of the graduating students. "It has been wonderful to see these boys grow into young men who are thoughtful, knowledgeable and highly capable individuals and I know they will thrive as leaders beyond the walls of St Mary's College."

Well done to all the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduands, we are most proud of you," said Mr Stewart. "We wish you great success in your future and we know that you will take what you have learnt into the world and make it a better place."

Students from St Mary's College, St Saviour's College, St Joseph's College, Good Samaritan College, St Ursula's College and Downlands College, Toowoomba, Assumption College, Warwick and Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby attended the graduation.

CREATING CONNECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE – CELEBRATING WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE



Jade Love

World Teachers' Day, celebrated this year on 21 October, is a wonderful opportunity to recognise and applaud Queensland teachers for their important role in our communities and for the positive impact they have on the lives of students. The theme "Teaching – where the future begins" applauds the inventive and inspirational practices teachers use to help create better futures for their students.

As part of the celebrations, Jade Love from St Mary's College Toowoomba shared her story.

After eight years in Mount Isa, Jade Love packed her bags and embarked on a new teaching journey at St Mary's College three years ago. With her innovative approach and dedication to student success, she is making a significant impact on the lives of countless students at St Mary's College.

"I started my teaching journey in 2014 in Mount Isa, and I was there for eight years, which was a very enjoyable experience," said Jade.

Working out west gave Jade plenty of opportunities both professionally

and socially. "I was able to move into a leadership position quickly and also create some amazing connections and special memories."

As a teenager, Jade began teaching music at a local studio, which instilled a new passion into her life and gave her insight into a career she would one day take on. "Growing up, I always had a passion for music, and I enjoyed sharing this passion with others, which led to a decision to study education as well as music at university."

Currently, Jade teaches music and business and oversees the Year 5 to 9 curriculum at the college as a middle leader. Her energy and enthusiasm in the classroom connects her with her students, which helps them to learn and progress academically.

"It is wonderful to see students grow throughout their time at the college and help them find the right career path that will change their future."

In my current role, I work with data that assists with several initiatives designed to help our students improve their literacy and numeracy skills."

Jade assists mentor teachers so they can work with each boy in their mentor group to help support them in achieving realistic goals for their future. "I support teachers so they can be at their best, and that way we can get the best outcomes for our students."

I am leading a program focused on personalised learning which helps recognise individual student growth by tracking progress over time to identify any patterns."

This program is designed to support the students' growth journey and helps in setting realistic, attainable and achievable goals. "The data takes a holistic view of our students, which helps teachers understand the students and their interests so they can create connections and an increased willingness to learn."

Once we get to know our learners, we can provide positive reinforcement and recognition based on their general interests and who they are as a person."

For Jade, teaching really is where the future begins.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: SPRED

SPRED are seeking new volunteers to join our SPRED team in 2024.

- ☐ Have you recently retired and now have spare time?
- ☐ Do you want to learn new skills or put old ones to use?
- ☐ Do you want to meet new people?
- ☐ Are you looking for something to do to give back to the community?
- ☐ Do you want to share the Gospel message with others?
- ☒ A SPRED volunteer is someone like you.

Please contact SPRED Coordinator Loretta Coman to find out more.

E: spred@twb.catholic.org.au / **M:** 0459 683 642 / **SPRED office:** 4632 8427

Volunteer Formation Sessions are held in February each year.



DIFFERENT TOGETHER, CREATING AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND WORKPLACE

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Toowoomba Catholic Schools have a strong commitment to social inclusion. The schools provide a quality, inclusive education and workplace by ensuring that everyone finds their place and is supported to live a full and flourishing life. This starts with the schools focusing on connecting and personalising learning for students.

Expert teachers begin planning with individual students to understand their learning strengths and needs so that they can determine the best ways to engage them and unleash their potential. These teachers get to know their students and understand how to encourage, connect and personalise learning so that students can experience academic success in a distinctively Catholic environment.

Around 30% of the students within Toowoomba Catholic Schools receive additional classroom support for learning, including specialised support for students with different languages or dialects, high potential, learning difficulties, vision, hearing and physical impairments.

Students identified as having a disability are provided with specialised support through Occupational Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists and Education Officers with expertise in special areas. This support assists teachers in developing their knowledge and skills to provide appropriate strategies to support students' learning. It also provides the students and their families with effective strategies for learning.

Amber, who has been diagnosed with



Anna Chandler (centre) with Mary MacKillop Catholic College Highfields students during Wellbeing Week engaging with activities using visual simulation glasses.

Autism, changed schools some time ago and now attends St Anthony's Primary School, Toowoomba. Her mother, Ali, said that changing schools mid-year is not something to take lightly for any child. "Having a child with special needs that thrives on routine and stability made this one of the most difficult decisions we have had to make for Amber," said Ali. "However, if you pick a school that is supportive, open-minded, understanding, willing to listen, look and act outside the box, then the transition is bearable; in fact, I would say it was much easier than we expected."

"When we moved to St Anthony's we knew straight away it was the right move," Ali said. "They are in constant contact with us, not just for the first few weeks but even now 2.5 years later."

They let us know of any achievements, relevant professional development completed by staff, Amber's emotions, behaviours and any issues. This is the difference a supportive school makes to a child's education."

There are also staff within the schools and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office (TSCO) who identify as having a disability. The commitment to having the right people in the right place to serve, support, lead and educate means there is also a commitment to making reasonable adjustments for staff with a disability.

In each instance, the dedicated Professional Standards team works together with staff and their managers to deliver a solution that meets both the employees' and employers' needs, ensuring staff feel valued and supported.

Anna Chandler is an Education Officer: Sensory Impairments at TCSO, and in her role, she works with students who are identified with hearing loss, vision loss and physical disabilities. Anna also has acquired hearing loss. Through her work, Anna knows that the most important part of workplace inclusion is access.

"If full access is provided, employees are able to confidently engage in their role with great success," said Anna. "TCSO has been supportive and open to providing me with what I need to be able to fulfil my role as an Education Officer."

Access looks and feels different for each individual, and it is vital that employers work with their employees and engage with agencies such as Job Access to create an equitable and accessible workplace."

Open and respectful dialogue is vital and it's everyone's best interests to ensure that workplaces are accessible. Being aware of what is happening around you and advocating for best practise will ensure that all people are valued and experiencing success."



Rhiann Mead. Photo Credit: Steven Woodburn

FROM TOOWOOMBA TO THE WORLD: A PASTRY CHEF'S SWEET JOURNEY

TOOWOOMBA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Rhiann Mead, an accomplished pastry chef, has embarked on a remarkable journey that has led her to the esteemed position of Head Pastry Chef at The Charles in Sydney. Rhiann will also be appearing on Channel 10's upcoming season of "MasterChef: Dessert Masters", where she will be battling it out for the sweet glory and title of Australia's Dessert Master.

With her diverse experiences and passion for the culinary arts, Rhiann has become a shining example of how following one's dreams can lead to extraordinary achievements. She says that her educational background played a pivotal role in shaping her career.

While attending St Saviour's College, Toowoomba, she undertook a wide range of subjects, including trades. She attributes her success to the excellent education she received, which taught her valuable life skills.

"School definitely set me up for my career in a few different ways," said Rhiann. "The range of subjects available was great – especially having the option to learn trades as well."

School taught me a lot about structure and organisation, and on a more personal level, we were always encouraged to be an individual."

After completing her schooling, Rhiann initially enrolled in a physiotherapy course at university but decided to defer for a year to travel to London. While working in a retail job at the renowned Harrods Food Hall, she was introduced to the captivating world of food and fell in love with patisserie.

Securing an apprenticeship with esteemed chocolatier William Curley in Europe, Rhiann spent two years honing her craft and expanding her knowledge.

"It was honestly an opportunity I'll never take for granted, and I consider myself so lucky to have been moulded by some of the best pastry chefs in the world," said Rhiann.

After five years in London, Rhiann returned to Australia and started working for Peter Gilmore at his esteemed restaurants Quay and Bennelong in Sydney. Now, as the Head Pastry Chef at The Charles in Sydney, Rhiann continues to push the boundaries of her creativity and expertise.

Reflecting on her career journey, Rhiann emphasises the importance of pursuing one's passion. She credits her apprenticeship as the key factor that propelled her to where she is today. She advises students to explore various options and not be afraid to

change their minds, as unexpected opportunities often arise that can shape their careers in unimaginable ways.

"I definitely wouldn't be where I am today without my apprenticeship. An apprenticeship was perfect for me because I could study and get my qualifications while still being able to work and learn hands-on in the workplace."

I've found something I truly love, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else," Rhiann said.

When asked about her schooling life at St Saviour's College, Rhiann fondly reminisces about her experiences and daily interactions with close-knit friendship groups. "I am really grateful for my time at St Saviour's and all the opportunities my schooling provided me. Would you believe that I actually miss classes?"

I also miss all the extra-curricular activities like sports carnivals, but what I miss most is being with my friendship groups every day!"

You can now watch "MasterChef: Dessert Masters" on Channel 10.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE BRINGS FAITH TO LIFE

ANGELA TRAVERS,
SENIOR LEADER
MISSION & IDENTITY:
TOOWOOMBA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Reflections on a sacred journey beyond the edge of daily life into terrains of mystery, wonder, revelation, delight, acceptance, and transformation.

On 15 September, 19 pilgrims from Toowoomba Catholic Schools (TCS) consisting of senior leaders, principals, APREs and including Bishop Emeritus Robert McGuckin and Dr Pat Coughlan, Executive Director: Toowoomba Catholic Schools, set off on a journey of a lifetime. The pilgrimage was the first undertaken by TCS and proved to be a wonderful opportunity for the leaders to take deliberate time out from their hectic schedules to experience a journey of faith and culture. Retracing the stages of the life of Jesus, from his Nativity in Bethlehem to his Passion on Cavalry were deeply moving moments for the group.

The 14-day journey saw the pilgrims fly into Amman in Jordan, then ascend Mt Nebo for Mass and travel onto the spectacular Dead Sea. While in Jordan, some of the more intrepid members of the group trekked through the ancient ruins of Petra to the outlying monastery. Celebrating Mass on the banks of the Jordan River, believed to be the Baptismal site of Jesus by John the Baptist, was a deeply moving experience.

The next part of the journey was the crossing into Israel via Jericho to the Sea of Galilee. This area became our base for the next four days as we visited sites including the Mount of Temptation, Capernaum – the centre of Jesus' teaching and healing; Tabgha, site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes; Caesarea, Haifa, Mount of Beatitudes and Mount Carmel. Having read the Gospels for many



Bishop Robert McGuckin celebrated Mass with pilgrims on Lake Galilee

years and then actually visiting the places mentioned in these Gospels truly brought the stories to life.

The next stage of the journey saw us move towards the eternal city of Jerusalem. We visited places including Cana, the Basilica of the Annunciation at Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jericho Road and Masada. These were all truly spiritual places amidst a dry and harsh environment. The old city of Jerusalem provided an opportunity to experience the Stations of the Cross, beginning from the Antonia Fortress, where Jesus was condemned to death, following the footsteps of Jesus along the actual Via Dolorosa to the site of Calvary in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Our journey ended at Emmaus, where the Disciples recognised the risen Jesus at the breaking of bread and exclaimed, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he spoke to us on the road?" (Lk 24:13-35).

There were many spiritual encounters on the pilgrimage. Having Bishop Robert celebrate Mass with the pilgrims in many of these special places and significant churches deepened the

connection to faith tradition and one another. Another highlight was early morning Mass on a traditional sailing vessel floating in the centre of Lake Galilee. The pilgrims then went ashore for a traditional "St Peter's fish" lunch.

While the team certainly connected deeply with their faith story, the awareness and understanding of the culture, people, landscape, history, and geopolitical situation of Jordan and Israel grew immensely. The people we interacted with, including the guides, bus drivers and locals, were hospitable and so proud of their country and its history. The team were privileged to visit the House of Grace at Mount





Abraham's Well on the outskirts of Beersheba's Old City.

Carmel, a Catholic ministry that works with the most marginalised members of Haifa: Christians, Jews and Muslims who are in need of counselling, guidance and material aid. A visit to Bethlehem's Holy Child Program, a school for underprivileged children of both Christian and Muslim backgrounds, brought a tear to many eyes. Listening to the stories of representatives of the Parents Circle – a joint Israeli-Palestinian organisation made up of more than 600 bereaved families who have lost loved ones in the conflict and choosing a path of reconciliation was extremely moving. A day trip to Beersheba and Abraham's Well was a chance to deepen our awareness of the Australian Light Horse regiments who captured the town from the Ottoman Empire during World War 1.

As a group, we connected deeply on many levels as friends, spiritual companions and seekers of faith. It was a truly inspirational encounter where faith traditions came to life and deepened on this journey.

We pray for peace in Israel that the Jewish and Palestinian peoples may work towards reconciliation.



Lake Galilee.

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.

Confirmation candidates from Goondiwindi. Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Ken Howell.



First Communion candidates from Goondiwindi. First Communion celebrated by Fr Hermi Rafada.

Isabelle Erbacher and her family after Reconciliation at Goodniwindi Parish. Isabelle was one of 24 candidates who celebrated their first Reconciliation.



Reconciliation candidates from St George. Reconciliation celebrated by Father Anthony Samy.



First Communion candidates from Highfields. First Communion celebrated by Fr Brian Noonan.





Luncheon a chance to thank employers and congratulate students at the end of their apprenticeship.

CELEBRATING STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS AT THANK YOU LUNCHEON

JULIE-ANN SPILLER

As Year 12 students complete their secondary education, five St Joseph's School Stanthorpe students also completed their school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

To acknowledge and thank the host employers for providing our students with the opportunity to participate in a school-based apprenticeship or

traineeship, an Employer Thank You Luncheon was held on 12 October at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism.

The host employers not only provided students with the opportunity to work as paid employees and obtain a recognised qualification but also supported the students through navigating "the world of work".

The luncheon also recognised the Year 12 students who have worked diligently to complete their work hours and units of competency in order to obtain their qualifications.

Congratulations to all our students, and thank you to the employers.

Handy Hendo



LUKE HENDERSON

Phone: 0428 330 542

Email: tennisunitedluke@yahoo.com

**REPAIRS • PAINTING
YARDWORK • DINGOWORK & MORE!**

Call me for an obligation-free quote!

Quality Metal Signs

Australia Wide Delivery



07 4633 4343

| tsigns.com.au



AN EXPLOSION OF COLOUR AND FUN

JULIE-ANN SPILLER

Friday, 20 October, saw the school Colour Run 4 Fun take place. It was a fantastic event filled with vibrant colours and lots of enjoyment that combined fitness, fun and community spirit.

Participants in the event traversed a series of colour stations, where they received a refreshing water spray generously provided by our local Fire Brigade and were subsequently showered with colourful powder, resulting in a lively and vivid experience.

It was an event that brought excitement and joy to everyone involved. Such



A dose of colour: St Joseph's Students got messy to raise funds for their school.

gatherings play a crucial role in building a sense of togetherness and fostering a positive and vibrant community spirit. It's a wonderful way to create lasting memories and strengthen the bonds

among participants and also serve as a means of raising funds for our school.

The money raised can go a long way in supporting various school initiatives.



Under the stars: St Mary's students braved chilly conditions to gain a new perspective on what it means to experience homelessness.

VINNIES SLEEPOUT A NIGHT OF LEARNING AND COMPASSION

JACK COOGAN, SECONDARY SCHOOL CAPTAIN,
ST MARY'S SCHOOL GOONDIWINDI

In an extraordinary display of solidarity and compassion, secondary students from St Mary's School, Goondiwindi, participated in a St Vincent de Paul Sleepout. The event's purpose was

to bring attention to and understanding of the critical role that collective action brings to homelessness.

When Mrs Karra Suhr, APRE, pitched the

idea to us, there was equal amounts of excitement and disbelief! I was onboard straight away because there is nothing better than learning through experience.

The night started with activities prepared by Julie Inskip, Youth Engagement and Development Officer for Toowoomba. Julie shared that "the sleepout is about more than just spending a night outdoors. It is about raising awareness of the homeless crisis in our nation and stepping outside our comfort zone to experience a fraction of the challenges many Australians face daily."

We lined up at the makeshift soup kitchen to get our dinner and ate outside. Mrs Suhr organised the event and wanted to create an authentic experience. "I wanted this event to confirm our school values, create a lifelong memory and give the students a firsthand experience of the content we learn in religion classes.

The rich discussions of privilege, marginalisation, advocacy and compassion I heard throughout the night makes all the effort worth it."



Happy to survive the night, St Mary's students enjoyed the sleepout, and even more pleased to gain insight into what it means to be some of the most vulnerable people in society

We played team-building games before we set up our “beds” for the night. With a chilly minimum of five degrees expected, we were able to sleep on the floor of a classroom or outside. Mrs Suhr preplanned a “report of disturbance” and local police officers arrived to question us at midnight. When we were woken, it was quite a shock, but it was such an eye-opener on what many people experience each night.

We woke with dew-ridden swags and

sleeping bags with minimal complaint. We made our way back to the soup kitchen to line up for breakfast before sharing a final reflection of our experience. It was a mutual consensus that school principal Miss Angela Collins summarised, “The event was a shining example of how collective compassion and commitment can work hand in hand to bring about positive change.

Our students have gained a new perspective that will undoubtedly

fuel their determination to make a difference in the lives of others.”

A special thank you to Julie Inskip, Mrs Suhr, Mr Goodes and Miss Collins for their efforts in making this happen. The sleepout made me appreciate all the comforts in my life: safety, stability, health, family and belonging. Yes, we all survived, we even enjoyed the one-night experience, but the novelty would soon wear off. I think we all walked away with newfound gratitude and understanding.



L to R: Milly Keeping, Riley Gore and Georgia Henderson.

ST MARY'S SOCKTOBER KICKS GOALS

ANDREA COLLINS

On 13 October, St Mary's School, Goondiwindi, showcased their best socks and crazy hair to raise awareness for Catholic Missions.

Each year, the students of St Mary's wear their crazy socks and hair to raise vital funds for our vulnerable global neighbours who need our help.

This year, students and their families are raising awareness and funds for families in Timor-Leste facing health and wellness challenges. Timor-Leste is one of Australia's closest neighbours, being just 700km away from Darwin.

Catholic Missions works hard with our vulnerable global citizens to help sustain and enrich their lives by providing vital medicines and health support.

We are proud to announce that St Mary's raised \$453, which will be used to provide milk and food for babies with malnutrition and life-saving medication for sick children.



Downlands College students continue the tradition of passing the flame that symbolises leadership.

ILLUMINATING LEADERSHIP

ANDREA COLLINS

With the arrival of the final term of 2023, Downlands College Toowoomba celebrated Lumiere Mass, the theme of which is the handing over of the flame of MSC leadership from our current Year 12s to the senior students of 2024. This beautiful Mass is a long-standing tradition at Downlands and is an expression of gratitude to our leaving class. As we introduced our new leaders of 2024, we remember that the mantle of Christian leadership is placed on the shoulders of all, especially our senior students. After Lumiere Mass, our Year 12s enjoyed a special ceremony with the inaugural Prep – Year 3 students in the Jules Centre, where the students exchanged badges created for 2023. Afterwards, the students cut and shared cake to celebrate being the only Prep to Year 12 MSC college in the world and also acknowledge the special bond created between them over this year.

The Downlands mission focus for Term 4 is the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal, and in keeping with Downlands tradition, each of the junior school year levels and pastoral care groups have received a profile of a family requiring



Students at Downlands College offer friendship and support as part of Rosies.

our support this Christmas. Once again, this will allow students to work together to decide suitable gifts for each of the family members, as well as party items to make Christmas a super-special event for each of the families. Downlands students are looking forward to being part of this gift-giving opportunity.

This year many students have become increasingly aware of the hardships experienced by our near neighbours. We offer our sincere thanks to all Downlands students who have assisted the Rosies organisation this year by extending a hand of friendship and support to those experiencing tough times in our

community. Our Year 12 students were invited to a special dinner to celebrate 35 years of Rosies in Queensland and ten years in the Toowoomba region. The dinner provided Rosies an opportunity to thank all Year 12s for their support of their community outreach work. The dinner allowed the students to catch up with other volunteers and students and to listen to some thought-provoking speeches of those who have worked closely with Rosies over those ten years in the Toowoomba region. Their goodwill and keenness to serve offer a clear example of how young people have the desire and the power to make extraordinary changes in our world.



Allora's Josephite Companions group with Sr Monica Cavanagh (front, 2nd from left) gather to renew their commitment to the Josephite Charism.

DOING THE ORDINARY WITH A JOSEPHITE HEART

ROBYN PHELAN

Allora's Josephite Companions recently renewed our commitment to the Josephite Charism through friendship, prayer and service in a meaningful ceremony performed by Sr Monica Cavanagh at a Sunday Liturgy.

Sr Monica, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, is well known to most of the group. Everyone was delighted to make their re-commitment in her presence.

Josephite Companions are people who share the values and spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods. Together with the Sisters of St Joseph, we embrace the Josephite Charism as

we endeavour to live the Gospel within our families, parish and community.

Our Allora group comprises nine ladies who have responded to the call and meet bi-monthly to spend time together and reflect on how the Mary MacKillop story connects us to God in our lives.

Sr Monica was in town for a family reunion, and the parish took the opportunity the following day to acknowledge her 50 years of Profession. Sr Monica delivered a thoughtful reflection on Mary MacKillop and gave a precis of her years as a Sister of St Joseph.

In October, Allora's Josephite Companions participated in a mini-retreat beautifully facilitated by Bernadette Roche, a fellow companion and member of the Queensland Leadership Team. Sessions honoured the history of the Josephite Companions movement, which began in 1979, and explored Annie MacKillop's role as sister, friend, colleague and companion to Mary MacKillop. In September, a webinar connecting Josephite Companions from Australia, New Zealand, Peru and Timor Leste launched a Josephite Companions Day with Annie MacKillop as the "Original Companion".

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FAMILY GROUP BLESSINGS

MARGUERITE WALSH

On 13 August, we celebrated 20 years of the Passionist Family Group Movement in St Mary's Parish, Warwick. With Mass at 11:00 am, four family groups assembled as we sang and prayed in thanksgiving for all the blessings this movement has brought to our church community. Afterwards, we enjoyed a BBQ lunch, sweets and some glorious touches of spring weather. We could not have asked for a more meaningful day, especially seeing a lovely mix of young and old, all shared with our supportive priests, Fr Franco Filippetto and Fr Terry Hickling.



As I write this article, I was listening to "The God Minute", which has such a great message and was very pertinent to our faith and family group. When St Paul prayed, "May the Lord increase in you and make you overflow with love for one another", it suggests we strive to make more space for God in our lives, to open up further our hearts and busy schedules, to let God

expand within us. If you are involved in a family group, you will understand what it does to us and for us, and others, in the most subtle way. Family group is one of the most powerful ways to form deeper connections with those in our church community. So, let us continue to make space for God by forever welcoming others to share in what this great movement has to offer.

LJ Hooker

Buying | Renting | Selling

MAKE
DREAMS HAPPEN

We have been helping people make their property dreams happen for generations.
Whatever your property dream, we are here to help.

📍 Level 1, 677-683 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350 ☎️ (07) 4688 2222 🌐 [toowoomba.ljhooker.com.au](https://www.toowoomba.ljhooker.com.au)



St Patrick's Cathedral sanctuary decorated for Carnival of Flowers.



The marble pulpit covered in blooms, greenery and colour for Carnival of Flowers.

SEEDS OF HOPE SPROUT FOR CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS

JESSICA TIERNEY

Every year, the picturesque city of Toowoomba comes alive with a riot of colours and the sweet fragrance of blooming flowers as it hosts the much-anticipated Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers. We feel this event embodies the spirit of growth, renewal, and hope that our faith community epitomise. In 2023, the Cathedral's theme, "We are the Seeds of Hope," takes this sentiment to a whole new level. The theme

embodies the resilience of our world in the face of adversity, much like a seed that must overcome obstacles to grow and flourish. It's a reminder that even in the darkest times, hope can spring forth like a delicate bud pushing through the soil as the light draws it forth.

This year, the theme was reflected in our fifteen displays throughout the Cathedral. Visitors were overwhelmingly

supportive and inspired by the variety of participants ranging from St Pat's various ministries to schools and community groups. These displays emphasise the importance of community involvement. I thank my fellow committee members Sue Bauer, Melissa Stevens, Fr Michael O'Brien and Tracey Jacklin for their hard work leading up to this event.



SPRED's interpretation of the theme "We are the Seeds of Hope" showcased the ministry alongside beautiful blooms.



St Saviour's Primary School decorated the Marian Altar for Carnival of Flowers.

SHARING “GOOD WORKS” OVER POTLUCK DINNER

PATTI MCNAUGHT

September is the month to reflect on those who suffer from mental health issues. On 9 September, the St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Highfields Conference decided to host a Potluck Dinner after Vigil Mass. Nadine Dolan, who is a member of SVDP herself, organised guest speakers from SVDP to talk to us about their work. Our congregation learned from the guest speakers about the history of SVDP, the struggles many in our community face, and the plans in the making to change so many lives.

Peter Cavanagh spoke at Mass, and David Harpin, Brendan Doherty and Josephine Mardini, a refugee from Syria, spoke at the dinner. Their stories were enthralling and sad at the same time.

Daily, St Vincent de Paul staff are faced with helping those in need, both physically and mentally. SVDP staff are there for those who have mental illness or suffer circumstances that have turned their lives upside down, making us realise how lucky we are to have these people who are doing such a sterling job. Also in attendance was Shane Blakeley the Diocesan President

of St Vincent de Paul.

Everyone enjoyed the night immensely. The food was delicious, and we were spoiled by the senior students from Mary MacKillop College, who waited on us all night. These students not only came to set up earlier in the afternoon but served us our meal,

cleaned, and took care of all the dishes, allowing us to enjoy ourselves.

Thank you to Nadine, our host, Shane Blakeley, the students and the insightful speakers who took the time to visit and enlighten us on the “Good Works” of St. Vincent de Paul.



L to R: Shane Blakeley, Peter Cavanagh, Josephine Mardini and David Harpin.

MORETON & COOTE PHARMACY

66 Margaret Street, East Toowoomba.

Ph: 4632 1370



Medico pack.
Come and ask for details



- Home Medication Review • Webster Pack for Weekly Medication
- Wide range of vitamins • Gift Lines • Cosmetics • Ear Piercing
- Compounding • NDSS National Diabetes Services Scheme •
- FREE Blood pressure monitoring • Mobility Equipment
- FREE home delivery • Competitive pricing

moretoncootepharmacy.com



Sam (Pharmacist)



Come in and check out a catalogue



Beryl Barnsley (centre) with her children, at the front of St Patrick's Church, Augathella, on the occasion of her 90th birthday in 2018.

FAITH AND HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS IN AUGATHELLA

CARRIE LOCK

We at St Patrick's Church in Augathella are a congregation of about seven parishioners located 620 kilometres west of Toowoomba. The population of Augathella is less than 400.

We have been fortunate to have Fr Peter Doohan as our priest for most of the last 14 years. Fr Peter travels the 170 kilometres return trip from Charleville once or twice a week to say Mass and offer other services.

The oldest member of our congregation, at 95 years, is Mrs Beryl Barnsley. Beryl is a descendant of Samuel and Mary Brassington, who, in 1864, were the first Europeans to settle in what is now known as Augathella.

Back in the 1880s, the parish priest would travel out from Roma for months at a time, with up to a dozen pack horses, to visit the remote communities. When in Augathella, the travelling priest would celebrate Mass at the Brassington's store.

The first Catholic Church was built in Augathella in 1895 and served the community through to 1954, when the current church was opened.

Augathella had its own resident priest from 1942 through to 1988. Since then, the local church has been ministered by the parish priest from Charleville.

Beryl fondly remembers the Catholic school in town. The Josephite Sisters arrived in 1928 and ran the school and a boarding house. The Sisters remained in Augathella until 1979, after five decades of valued service. Many years later, Sr Di Phillips lived in Augathella for some years.

Next year, we will celebrate 70 years of the current church. Many people have come and gone, and Beryl remarks how happy she is to receive the quarterly Horizons magazine. "Horizons is excellent," said Beryl. "You can keep in touch with the people who have been in Augathella in the past and see what's



Inside St Patrick's Church, Augathella

going on in the diocese." Beryl turns to the last page of issue 68 and points out a photo of Fr Don Murray celebrating his 92nd birthday. "Fr Don was parish priest at Augathella at one time," she notes.

We aim to keep the church doors open as much as possible at St Patrick's, so if you are passing through Augathella, please feel free to visit and join us for the weekend Mass. We'd love to see you.

A FAMILY UNITED IN FAITH: IAN'S STORY

PATTI MCNAUGHT

Ian Caldwell, an active member at St Mary MacKillop Parish, Highfields, was initiated into the Catholic faith this year. He is proud to share his journey.

Ian was christened into the Presbyterian Church at six weeks of age, but religion was never big in his childhood, no matter how much his mother tried. His family went to church every now and then, but by the time he was in his early teens, he stopped altogether.

In his mid-twenties, he met Theresa, a beautiful lady who was to become his wife. Visiting Theresa's family in Yangan was his introduction to Catholicism. He attended Mass with the family in little churches like Killarney and Yangan. Ian and Theresa were eventually married at Holy Name Church in Toowoomba by Fr Tom Keegan. Not long after, the couple moved to Townsville and Gladstone. Ian would occasionally attend Mass with Theresa and their first-born daughter, Seanna.

Eventually, the family returned to Toowoomba. With another three children arriving, Mass became more common for Ian. He first thought he only went along to keep the children occupied, and sometimes Theresa probably thought she had five children in tow. His children were baptised in

the Catholic Church and received

the sacraments. Ian was now witnessing how their lives were being influenced by their faith.

It was not until his mid-fifties, and after 30 years of thinking about becoming a Catholic, he finally took the first step. He asked his elderly mother's thoughts on his conversion from his baptised religion to Catholicism. With much happiness, she told him she was pleased that at least one of her children had finally accepted religion.

He talked to Highfields Parish Priest, Fr Brian Noonan, after Mass one Sunday, who introduced him to the RCIA coordinator, Naomi Goddard. His sponsor, Paul Brennan, joined him a couple of weeks later, and for the next 12 months, he met with

them when he could. As Ian is a shift worker, it was tough to set a weekly meeting time. He would sometimes go two, maybe three weeks between meetings. When they did meet, they had some fantastic discussions about the church, the Bible and their own personal experiences with their faith.

Along the way, he also attended the Lenten Group with other members of the parish, including seminarian BJ Perrett. This showed him a fantastic insight into how others see the "Greatness of God."

Witnessed by his proud family and church community, Ian was received into the Catholic Church on 9 September. Of the occasion, Ian quipped, "I entered St Mary MacKillop Church as a Presbyterian and exited as a Catholic". It has been a faith-filled journey with wonderful people along the way.



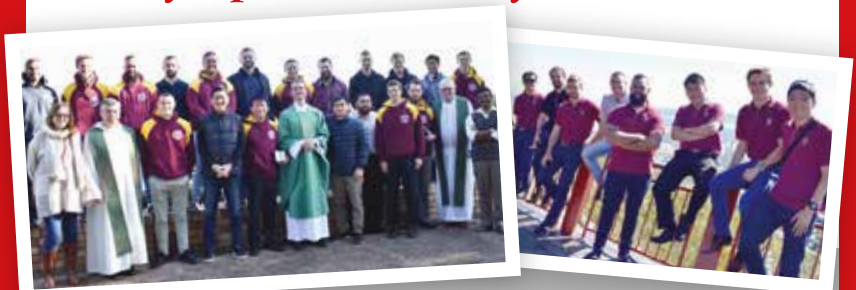
L to R: Ian Caldwell and Paul Brennan.

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



www.seminary.catholic.net.au

Holy Spirit Seminary QUEENSLAND



Very Rev Neil Muir Telephone: 07 3267 4800
Email: seminary@qld.catholic.net.au

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

WWW.TWB.CATHOLIC.ORG.AU

BISHOP KEN HOWELL

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

Tel: (07) 3324 3134
Mobile: 0428 259 439
andrew.knife@caritas.org.au

CATHOLIC MISSION

Diocesan Director: Martin Lewis
Tel: 07 3155 6982
Mobile: 0438 583 873
mlewis@catholicmission.org.au

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 Rangiera
Tel: (07) 4616 6415
nicole.rangiera@health.qld.gov.au

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING AND STANDARDS MINISTRY

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
Assistant to Coordinator: Moyaliala Tokmak
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

YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Fr Nathan Webb
Tel: 07 4637 1500
youngcatholics@twb.catholic.org.au



DEAR READER

For many years we have provided Horizons free of charge to all parishes and schools in our Diocese. We have endeavoured to cover production and distribution costs through advertising, but it is difficult to keep up with ever increasing overheads. If you would like to make a donation to assist us, please send your financial contribution, payable to "Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba", to: PO Box 1262, Toowoomba, Qld 4350.

I would like to make a financial contribution towards the production costs of Horizons.

Name:

Postal Address:

Town:

..... Post Code:

Email:

THANK YOU

STAY IN TOUCH

WITH NEWS FROM
ACROSS THE DIOCESE

SUBSCRIBE TO THE DIOCESAN UPDATE E-NEWSLETTER.

A regular e-Newsletter featuring goings on from across the Diocese keeping everyone up to date on upcoming events, follow up on events already held, topics of interest, dates to remember and more.

To sign up simply email
communications@twb.catholic.org.au
with "Subscribe" as the subject.



Like us on Facebook

"Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba"

Horizons

HELP MAKE HORIZONS BE THE BEST MAGAZINE IT CAN BE!

Let us know what is happening in your area!

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

For more information about contributing to Horizons contact us at:
horizons@twb.catholic.org.au