

# JOURNEY

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Mateship,  
courage and a  
sacred story  
of God's love

AUTUMN 2015 | NO. 58

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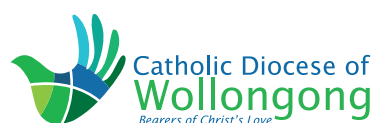
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# YOU HAVE SET US FREE!



BY RICHARD MCMAHON

"Lest we forget." The ANZAC legacy weaves a powerful current through our Australian identity, stirring us to remembrances of uncomfortable pasts where innocence and heroism washed in the same blood upon foreign lands. This hundred year anniversary is both a time to honour the sacrifices of many and to ponder the state of today's world, still gripped by bloody conflict.

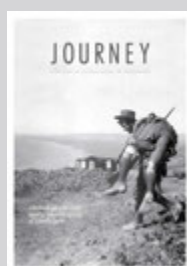
Lest we forget is also our Christian mantra. "Do this in memory of me," invites Jesus, and for over two thousand years we have participated in the real presence of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, particularly in our celebration of the Eucharist. Both the ANZAC story and our Christian story speak of mateship, sacrifice, courage and fighting for what matters.

In this time of Easter, much like with our ANZAC reflections, we can wonder where is the lasting peace and new life promised? The First World War was the "war to end all wars" and Good Friday and

Easter Sunday ushered in a new era where death was conquered by the power of the Cross. Yet even a cursory glance at the news sickens us with the horrors of a world far removed from peace and justice.

Christians, more than any, are invited to enter into both the joys and sufferings of our world. We do not shrink away from death and darkness. Why? Because Jesus Christ has triumphed! The Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus irrevocably states that our world matters to God, that each human life matters, and that our sufferings and sacrifices are never meaningless. This does not take away our present suffering, but it does assure us that whatever darkness we presently experience will never have the final say. "Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free." ■

*Richard McMahon is the Editor of The Journey magazine and Director of Parish Services for the Diocese of Wollongong.*



**FRONT COVER:** An Australian soldier carrying a wounded comrade on his shoulders on Walkers Ridge down to a medical aid post during World War One, Dardanelles Campaign 1915. In the distance can be seen North Beach, running north towards Suvla. The original Admiralty caption to the photo reads: "Notwithstanding the unhappy situation, they joked as they made their way down from the front."

PHOTO: ERNEST BROOKS



# WHY DO WE PLAN?



BY BISHOP  
PETER INGHAM DD



**As Christians,  
we resist the lure  
of despair and  
cynicism, because  
we are called to  
be people of hope,  
embracing the Good News that  
Christ is risen from the dead.**

The darkness and suffering of our world and personal lives is not the end of the story. We look forward to our final home, the fullness of life in heaven, and pray and work to make God's reign come to reality in this present life.

What is God's reign? God calls all of us, of every race and creed, into one family, united in the one Spirit. We are called to be people who respect each other's human dignity, who stand up for peace and justice, and who love one another as God loves us. We are called to be bearers of Christ's love.

Yet we have failed as a Church. I reiterate my heartfelt apology to victims of sexual abuse by Catholic Church personnel. I also apologise to their families and all who have shared their suffering. Victims and their families must receive respect, justice and compassion. I renew my invitation to all people of the Diocese to join me in prayer for the continuing work of the Royal Commission so that our combined efforts may lead to the greater protection of children and to justice and healing for victims of sexual abuse.

I am grateful for the many good people within our Diocese who serve one another, metaphorically washing one another's feet in our homes and workplaces, communities and social circles. And we recognise as our population continues to grow in this Diocese, and as many who already serve are ageing, that there is a continuing need to reach out to one another for support, to strive together in our service of God's mission. We are beginning a new chapter in this service through our *Parishes Working Together*, and through our efforts as

a Diocese which have borne fruit in the last five years as we have enacted our first Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Why do we plan? We recognise that as the Body of Christ, we can do so much more together than if we are isolated. At the heart of our desire is to share with our neighbour at the Lord's Table, to participate in the Eucharist, the summit of all the Church's activity and the source from which all the Church's power flows.

I thank God for you, who "act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8) In so many ways you are bearers of Christ's love. I encourage you not to lose heart, and to continue to work together, united in faith, hope and love, trusting in God in all things. ■

God bless you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Ingham".

**Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD**  
Bishop of Wollongong

*This article was first published as  
Bishop Peter's foreword to the Diocesan  
Pastoral Plan 2015-2017.*

# THE ANZAC EVENT THROUGH EYES OF FAITH

BY MONS PETER O'KEEFE AM VG EV

ANZAC Day is a poignant and meaningful commemoration for so many Australians, ever more so this 2015 - *the Centenary of ANZAC*. The reality of war with its loss of young lives and destruction, the pitch between life and death, good and evil, the consequences of moral injury for those caught up in it together with the resultant legacy of war on our nation provokes deep and often difficult questions about human existence and its purpose.

John Francis Collins of the Catholic Enquiry Centre in his article: "ANZAC Day: A Lost Battle, self-sacrifice and the Cross" states that the primary carriers of the meaning of ANZAC are rituals and symbols: dawn services, flames burning unceasingly, periods of silence and remembering, medals and banners, parades, flags and bugles. He states that Australians are open to realities that can only be adequately communicated through ritual and symbol. Somehow these are an outlet for deep human feelings which assist in better understanding the significance of an event such as ANZAC. People know what self-sacrifice means in their bones!

## A HAUNTING PHOTO

In the autumn edition of the magazine *Spirit* by Qantaslink there is an article entitled "100 years of Anzacs" with a most haunting photo (pictured above) from the Australian War Memorial (AO2781). It depicts soldiers from the Australian First Divisional Signal Company being towed towards their landing on Gallipoli shores at 6.00am on 25 April 1915. The faces of the soldiers reveal a mix of emotions, ranging from excitement, expectation, anxiety, apprehension to fear as they



prepared for their imminent landing. It would be the last photo of so many of these young men as within hours, the majority would be dead. For many, the harrowing experience of war would be transformational even within an adverse, horrifying and evil reality. We are told that this event was the anvil giving rise to a rich human reality expressed through mateship, duty, humour, raw courage and valour. God's grace was certainly active in this most distressing situation! Many soldiers grew in human stature, in basic human qualities through the immensity of their situation.

*The faces of the soldiers reveal a mix of emotions, ranging from excitement... to fear as they prepared for their imminent landing...*

## DRAWING MEANING FROM ANZAC

How do we interpret this reality 100 years later? What does the so-called "spirit" of ANZAC mean? Over the years we have heard many expressions of this 'spirit' summed up in sometimes extravagant statements in regards to nation building and the Australian identity. Anzac certainly exemplifies,





*ANZAC is sacred because human life is sacred.*

*Each human being is precious in God's sight.*

*The life and fate of each soldier who died at Gallipoli matters to God.*

the life-giving, loving and positive situations that constantly make up our world? Even the destructive events, like ANZAC, can be transformative and life giving! How does our Christian faith support us in our search for meaning and purpose in all the human realities we face?

In daily embracing the Easter event that we have just celebrated, we are challenged to interpret the realities of our everyday lives holistically through the prism of faith and respond to these challenges with hope in Christ. This faith and hope, coupled with the rich human experiences of our nation such as the ANZAC event, through its many forms of expression, symbol and ritual can assist us enormously in personal growth and understanding. Why is it that the suffering and death of young men in a lost battle can be seen as an event that is life-giving? Why is it that their lives and war service can be seen as examples of faithfulness and virtue? Why is it that the death of an unnamed soldier can be viewed as a valuable element in the strong foundation of a new nation? Just by asking the questions authentically, in the searching and questioning within our own personal situation, God is certainly present, his Grace abounds and new life is the result.

#### THE SACREDNESS OF ANZAC

ANZAC can be broadly described as sacred, even as a human event, since all human events are sacred. Why? Because God walks in and is present to us through every human

event within our imperfect world. The birth of Christ, His taking flesh and living amongst us is enduring and transformational. Christ lives with us and is immersed within our human condition, both good and evil.

Secondly, ANZAC is sacred because human life is sacred. Each human being is precious in God's sight. The life and fate of each soldier who died at Gallipoli matters to God. The nobility, the courage, heroism, the selfless acts and mateship of each matters to God and indeed are graced by Him. The immense grief of loved ones for the dead matters, God grieves with them. The communal mourning of a nation stripped of so many young lives, this matters to God. This ANZAC Day citizens will march with both pride and honour. This will be seen on their faces, both young and old, gathered in unity of purpose. This matters and is sacred to God. The sacredness of each human life compelled God to send his Son so that through his Death all may have life.

Each generation will find new meaning in the celebration of ANZAC day. Many in our secular world focus entirely on human values which is very good in itself. The prism of faith will hopefully allow us a far deeper and richer understanding of the human condition in the person of Jesus as we ponder the significance of this ANZAC event and deal resiliently with world events. In Christ's Death and Resurrection we have a source of hope that not only supports us in those catastrophic events but can aid us greatly in the challenges of everyday human existence. Ritual is sacred, for we Catholics, the sacraments are the ultimate sacred ritual, the salvific events in which we find Christ. The Holy Eucharist is our daily Bread, the seedbed for regular nourishment for life's journey, the source of life. ■

*Air Commodore Mons Peter O'Keefe is the Director-General of the Chaplaincy Services-Air Force, Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force.*

for many, those positive Australian traits, such as self-giving, resilience, courage, generosity, resourcefulness and determination in the face of overwhelming odds. These traits have been demonstrated time and time again since the ANZAC event through other wars, in dealing with natural disasters, and in tragedies such as the massacre of Port Arthur and Bali, among others.

As Catholics, how do we both individually and as a Church community, draw meaning and find hope in catastrophic events that seem to destroy hope? How do we situate the many tragic, destructive and evil events that plague us together with

# EMPTY NEST ... NOW WHAT?

From the day a child is born, the years fly by. One day they are crawling, and it seems the next they are learning to drive and then suddenly they aren't kids anymore. As children reach adulthood, the parent-child relationship changes and parents must learn to adapt to newly independent adult children, and perhaps an empty nest.

"Empty Nest Syndrome" refers to the sense of loss some parents feel when their children move out of home.

It's not unusual for parents to find adjusting to children transitioning out of home difficult, and it can be helpful to be aware of factors which may indicate that you might find this a difficult time, including:

- finding change stressful instead of challenging or refreshing
- feeling that you have lost contact or connection to your own interests or social networks
- feeling a strong link between your sense of identity and worth and caring for and focusing on the needs of your children
- feeling your children are not ready to take on adult responsibilities
- having a vocational focus in the home, which may have included a stay-at-home parenting role
- losing a sense of intimate connection with your partner after years of focusing on your children

Naomi Fisher, Counselling Coordinator in CatholicCare's *Families and Communities Program* says it is quite common for parents to have strong feelings of loss, reduced meaning and purpose in life, and an increased sense of isolation and loneliness accompanying this significant life change.



*"Empty Nest Syndrome" refers to the grief parents feel when their children move out of home.*

"The meaning and impact of this change can go unrecognised and at times parents can feel unsupported," she said.

"Relationship difficulties can often emerge due to the significant changes in each person's role in the home, and it is important that people are aware of the signs so they can seek support early," Ms Fisher continued.

If you feel that you and/or your partner may experience difficulty with adjusting to children moving out of

home, or are currently experiencing difficulties, the following options may be helpful:

- Talk to someone close to you who may have experienced this change
- Focus on re-establishing your social networks – are there old friends you can reconnect with or avenues you can explore for making new connections?
- Remember your interests before your children came into the picture – what passions have been neglected during the busy years of parenting?
- Remember how you and your partner used to connect. Is it time to wind back the clock and get to know each other again?





- Access supportive services which can help you work through the powerful emotions and/or relationship difficulties which often occur during this time. Often counselling can be a great resource during this period.
- Ensure you give yourself the same care and compassion you would give to others. Speak with someone who can help if you feel a loss of meaning or purpose in your life during this time including your GP or a counsellor.

Everyone's marriage, family and life experiences are different. Taking on board some of these tips may benefit you in adjusting to life's challenges, and allow you to be excited for what the future holds for you, and your relationships with your partner and your children. ■

## A STORY OF HOPE

James\*, a father of two adult children attended counselling at CatholicCare. He and his wife had been arguing a great deal over the past six months.

Throughout their 25 year marriage, his wife had managed the family's household and James had been in paid work. Both children had recently moved out of the home. James expressed feelings of frustration, anger and fear that his relationship would break down. He also described experiencing a loss of energy, a sense of hopelessness and having little to look forward to in his future.

The counsellor provided a supportive environment for James to communicate and process what was happening and organised for his wife to attend some of the sessions.

James was encouraged to attend CatholicCare's *LIFT* group, which provided him with additional strategies for coping with the symptoms of anxiety, depression and stress. After attending the counselling and the group, James reported experiencing a complete change in his outlook.

"When I came to CatholicCare and first met my counsellor three months ago I was feeling as though there would not be much good in my future, but now I've come to realise that there is always hope. I've actually rather started to enjoy my relationship more than I have in years, I didn't realise how little time we'd had for each other. Thank you, I feel as though I've rediscovered my wife."

.....  
\* Names and identifying details have been changed

## FAMILY & RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLING

CatholicCare's affordable counselling service provides support to individuals and families who want to make changes in their lives or are experiencing life difficulties, with particular expertise in:

- grief and loss
- family & relationship difficulties
- stress/anxiety/depression
- changes in personal or family situations
- post separation difficulties
- personal growth and development

With a clear emphasis on ensuring your goals are the centre of their focus, counsellors provide:

- support in difficult times
- a listening, independent ear
- help with recognising and building on strengths
- the opportunity to gain new perspectives and insight into problems
- strategies for coping with stress and major life changes
- skills for personal development and/or enhancing the quality of relationships

Our counsellors are qualified professionals experienced in providing confidential support.

.....  
*To enquire about our counselling service, or to book an appointment, contact CatholicCare on 02 4254 9316*

# CATHOLICCARE ST PATRICK'S RACE DAY

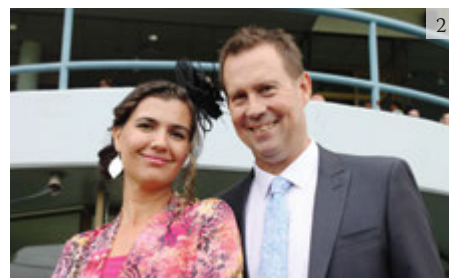


The recent CatholicCare St Patrick's Race Day was successful in raising \$20,000 for a unique service to CatholicCare.

The *Family and Sibling Support* (SIBS) program is a self-funded initiative, placing special focus on the brothers and sisters of kids with disability.

Bishop Peter Ingham along with CatholicCare Director, Michael Austin welcomed 300 people on the day who gathered in support of this worthy cause. Guests came from far and wide including flying in from interstate and overseas to support the event.

Mr Austin expressed his thanks to all involved. We are indebted to our dedicated fundraising committee, the Illawarra Turf Club and our generous



sponsors – Catholic Development Fund, Illawarra Toyota, Collegians Rugby League Football Club, Wollongong Mini Storage, Catholic Education Office, KPMG and Dapto Centretown Pharmacy – as well as our auxiliary donors for their contributions, support and presence. ■

To see more pictures from the day and to learn more about the SIBS program visit [www.catholiccare.dow.org.au](http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au)

1. Bishop Peter Ingham at CatholicCare's St Patrick's Race Day with Patrick MacRae who celebrated his 90th birthday. 2. CatholicCare Director Michael Austin and his wife Karin enjoying a day at the races. 3. Fashions in the Room Winners Wendy Rathbone and Claire Cooney.



Would you like more quality time with your parents and need some support?



"The assistance you provide my dad in his home is exactly what we need. It's a big weight off my shoulders. Now I can be a daughter again."

CatholicCare provides flexible, tailored home support services for anyone over 65. Support with housework, home maintenance, personal care, transport, pet care and social outings. Whatever is needed, we can help.

**Your Life, Your Way - Home Support Program**

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Services available to all, regardless of religious beliefs.

This program is funded by the Australian Government.



f /CatholicCareWollongong  
hope begins with us



# CAMPBELLTOWN PREPARES FOR THE CATHOLIC GUY

Almost every Catholic person in our country knows of people who are not actively engaged with the Church any longer. Many parents and grandparents are particularly saddened by the disconnection of family members from Church and from God.

Recent Popes have spoken of the need for a new evangelisation and finding a new way of sharing the message of Jesus and His Church in a world where people are finding it harder to hear.

## IMPACT CENTRES

The Catholic Guy Impact Centres, led by Bruce Downes and his team, are one response to this urging of the Popes. Born out of an initiative supported by Archbishop Barry Hickey, former Archbishop of Perth, these Centres seek to present the Gospel in new and compelling ways that lead people over time to a place of personal encounter with Christ.

Bishop Peter Ingham invited The Catholic Guy Ministry to establish the first of these Impact Centres in the Diocese of Wollongong in the south-west of Sydney where massive development and growth is occurring. The Diocese of Wollongong and Campbelltown Catholic Club have committed significant resources to this endeavour and The Catholic Guy Ministry is looking forward to working with Bishop Ingham and his team in this work.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

Later this year, people will attend specifically designed weekly Prayer and Teaching Services. These Prayer and Teaching Services do not replace the parish but are a beginning and nurturing place and link for people to priests, the parish and sacramental life of the parish.

There will be a specially designed weekly children's program conducted alongside one for parents and adults. One of the largest unchurched groups of Catholic



1. Bruce Downes "The Catholic Guy".  
2 and 3. The Catholic Guy Impact Centre in Campbelltown preparing for its fitout.

PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER

people in Australia is children under the age of 12. Many former Catholics, who make up nearly 50% of some other Christian churches in Australia, attend these churches because of the children's programs that are offered. A youth program will also be conducted each week.

The style of outreach will be modern in feel, life application in focus, prayerful in character and rooted deeply in the teaching and tradition of the Catholic Church under the direction of the local Bishop.

If in the end people do not connect with our priests and the sacramental life of the Church then this initiative will have been a failure.

This ministry for our loved ones and friends requires our prayer and support. There are many ways to be involved including through prayer, business, administration, pastoral care, production, children, youth, greeting, catering teams and in music as vocalists and instrumentalists. ■



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# NEW BEGINNINGS FOR YOUTH MINISTRY



PHOTO: DANIEL HOPPER

## NEW YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Seth Harsh has recently been appointed to the position of Youth Ministry Coordinator.

He works with the Parish Services Team in supporting and encouraging the involvement of young people in parishes. Seth supervises the work of the Youth Ministry Support Officers and works closely with parishes and Catholic education. This role has been vacant for the last twelve months while a wide-ranging consultation regarding youth ministry has taken place. Seth is building upon the learnings from this consultation.

Seth is very well qualified for this position. He has Bachelor degrees in Theology and Music-Performance as well as a Master of Arts (Theological Studies). He also has a Diploma in Education. He is currently very involved in both youth ministry and music. Seth is very keen in engaging young people more deeply in spreading the Gospel through our Catholic faith. ■



PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER

## PUB THEOLOGY

In February, the young adults group, *Ruah*, launched their newest endeavour – Pub Theology.

Pub Theology occurs monthly at Dicey Riley's Irish Hotel in Wollongong and provides an avenue for young Catholics to come and reflect on God's truth through engaging, relevant talks and discussion, spanning a range of theological concepts and current issues.

The initiative began with the controversial topic, "Why Catholics Love Sex" given by University of Notre Dame lecturer, Christian Stevens. For some patrons of the hotel it was a confronting subject to hear a group of young Catholics discussing but provided an excellent space to convey the beautiful truth that God created us human and called us good. So sex, found in its proper place of marriage, is a good life-giving thing!

The event brought together fifty young adults aged 18-30 who participated with energy and enthusiasm, creating the perfect atmosphere to be taught and to engage with other young Catholics.

The events intend to bring leading Christian speakers with passion and wisdom to the young adults of Wollongong in an effort to form them in their faith with solid Catholic theology.

Upcoming speakers include Sam Clear, who walked around the world for Christian unity, and Jude Hennessy, Diocesan Director of the CCD within the Diocese of Wollongong, among others. ■

*The next Pub Theology will be held on 22 April at Dicey Riley's Hotel in Wollongong. For further information about Pub Theology and Ruah, go to [www.pubtheo.com.au](http://www.pubtheo.com.au) or visit the Ruah Young Adults Facebook page.*



# YOUTH MISSION TEAM IN OUR SCHOOLS



**Youth Mission Team (YMT) is a Catholic organisation that operates across Australia in a number of locations.**

Each team is comprised of local management and five to six volunteer members who dedicate themselves to a specific lifestyle. They engage in mission work in high schools, running retreats and reflection days for students, and run a youth group in the city they are located in.

In 2015, YMT has resumed full-team ministry in Wollongong and greater NSW, hosting students from schools in Dubbo and Gunnedah. Local iSTAND youth group nights run every fortnight in West Wollongong with successful turnouts and participation.

Our Wollongong team is looking forward to connecting with a wide range of youth across the Diocese and hope to form stronger connections with those they are already in contact with. There is a definite excitement to have the opportunity to visit students both in the state school system as well as Christian schools. Set in the calendar are upcoming iSTAND retreats held at the end of each school term. These camps are a great way to grow in friendship and formation with other youth. ■

*Please do not hesitate to contact the Wollongong YMT for further information on 0433 636 359 or wollongong@ymt.com.au*



**Pope Francis** @Pontifex

Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone.

7:06 PM - 6 Feb 2015

**Pope Francis** @Pontifex

The Sacraments are the manifestation of the Father's tenderness and love towards each of us.

10:00 PM - 20 Feb 2015

**Pope Francis** @Pontifex

In the roughest moments, remember: God is our Father; God does not abandon his children.

8:00 PM - 10 Mar 2015

**Pope Francis** @Pontifex

Beware of getting too comfortable! When we are comfortable, it's easy to forget other people.

9:30 PM - 12 Mar 2015

**Pope Francis** @Pontifex

Suffering is a call to conversion: it reminds us of our frailty and vulnerability.

9:15 PM - 24 Mar 2015

**Pope Francis** @Pontifex

The Cross of Christ is not a defeat: the Cross is love and mercy.

9:00 PM - 3 Apr 2015



# PEOPLE FOR PEACE IN THE ILLAWARRA



PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER

The Illawarra People for Peace is a recent initiative founded by Fr Ron Peters of the Lumen Christi Catholic Parishes Wollongong and Gary Ismail of the Bilal Mosque in Cringila. It arose out of the experience of discord and violence on the international scene – especially in Iraq and Syria – that has spilled into our more local scene in Sydney and Wollongong.

A meeting of representatives from the Catholic Church, the two Wollongong Mosques and the Uniting Church was held in the Bishop's House, Wollongong. The meeting resolved to organise a barbecue in which people of all faith traditions – as well as of no faith – could come together to “break bread” and to learn about each other’s traditions.

*The Illawarra People for Peace is now a powerful voice in the Illawarra calling all people “to have a profound respect” for one another.*

The barbecue gathering was held in the grounds of the St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong on 20 November. Lumen Christi Catholic Parishes Wollongong, St Brigid’s Catholic Parish Primary School Gwynneville, Good Samaritan Primary School Fairy Meadow, St Mary Star of the Sea College Wollongong and Edmund Rice College Wollongong, together with Bilal Mosque Cringila, Omar Mosque Gwynneville, Amity Islamic College Shellharbour and the “Church on the Mall” Wollongong all played a significant role in providing a halal barbecue, entertainment and children’s games.

A particular feature of the community gathering was the opening prayer led by St Brigid’s and Amity College in which peace balloons were released into the air, gathering everyone’s hopes for peace and harmony.

Fr Aloysius Mowe SJ was the guest speaker at the barbecue. He spoke of his experience as a Catholic-Christian growing up in an Islamic environment in Malaysia. Fr Aloysius called all people to a greater respect for the various faith traditions which make up our multicultural setting in Australia.

The Illawarra People for Peace is now a powerful voice in the Illawarra calling all people “to have a profound respect” for one another (cf. Romans 12:9). We pray that this initiative will continue to grow in Wollongong and beyond. We place this intention into the heart of Almighty God “who gave life to all things and who made them holy.” ■



# JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO CASTS BROADLY

**The Journey Catholic Radio program is continuing to go from strength to strength as it approaches its second birthday.**

Initially trialled as a way for the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Wollongong to contribute to the programming of Pulse 94.1 FM Christian radio in the Illawarra, the program has very quickly spread to be broadcast in six Christian radio stations including Wagga, Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo, Illawarra, Gippsland and Port Macquarie.

“In some ways we’ve been a little overwhelmed by other regions asking to run the show. But we are not surprised that it is growing so quickly because of the quality of the people who contribute to the show so regularly,” says the program’s host and director, Jude Hennessy.

“From my perspective, the show has been blessed to have amazing presenters say “yes” to giving us weekly two to three minute segments for the show. These are busy people who are in demand right around the country but they jumped at the chance to contribute to this.

“The show has a very broad audience. While many Catholics listen in, the show is on general Christian radio, so heaps of our listeners are from other Christian traditions, or are not affiliated with any Church at all.”

The team who produce the show have been overwhelmed by the response of non-Catholics who listen in to the show.

“It’s breaking down a lot of barriers and promoting Christian unity and the number of radio stations who initially trialled the show warily because of its Catholic nature, now love the show and are promoting it amongst their peers in Christian radio across the nation,” says sound editor Nicholas Weir.

“The fact is, around 60% of people who listen to Christian Radio do so



because they feel comfortable with the family-friendly content, but they don’t actually attend Church themselves. From that perspective, it is good to know that we are making a contribution to the New Evangelisation via a bright, positive program that presents our Church joyfully,” says Daniel Hopper who oversees Communications in the Diocese.

Each week the show features vibrant Christian music, the Sunday Gospel reading and a reflection from various diocesan clergy including Fr Graham Schmitzer, Fr Richard Healey, Fr Ken Cafe, Fr Michael Fallon and soon to be ordained Fr Steve Varney.

There are short segments also from;

- Sr Hilda Scott OSB giving her *Wisdom from the Abbey*
- Bruce Downes, The Catholic Guy, *Inspiring you to Dream*

- Dr Byron and Francine Pirola from *SmartLoving* about marriage
- Sam Clear from *Walk4one* carving out a path for Christian unity
- Marilyn Rodriguez talking about *Peaceful Parenting*
- Trish McCarthy talking about healthy Christian living in her *Milk and Honey* segment
- Peter Gilmore encouraging young people to *Live the Gospel*
- Fr Dave Callaghan encouraging us in our Christian walk in *The Call*

Jude Hennessy said: “The latest milestone for the show is that it can now be subscribed to. In other words, you can have the podcast of the show sent to you via email each week so you don’t have to be in the broadcast area and you can listen in at anytime. The podcast has been available for a while but since we have been emailing it out we’ve had thousands of people listening via podcast as well as those in the broadcast areas.” ■

You can to subscribe to the show at [www.radio.dow.org.au](http://www.radio.dow.org.au). Sharing this link by email is also a really easy way to share your faith, by encouraging family and friends to subscribe and listen in too.

# DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY PLANS FOR FUTURE



PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER AND JEREMY YUEN

**On Saturday 7 March, over 150 clergy, parishioners and diocesan agency staff gathered at St Mary's College Wollongong for a Diocesan Assembly.**

It was an opportunity to offer feedback to our Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2015 to 2017 as well as to learn a little more about our Diocesan Parish Services Team and Diocesan Communications Team.

The day started at 8.00am with a breakfast with Bishop Peter, and a large number of people, including

many youth, enjoyed a chat over a pancake or bacon and egg roll.

Our Chancellor, William Walker, opened the day and Bishop Peter and Lauren Hall, one of our youth support team members, led the gathering in prayer. Sue Meehan, Acting Chair of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, welcomed participants, and Richard McMahon, Director of Parish Services provided a short input into the draft Diocesan Pastoral Plan for 2015 to 2017, which focuses on family, healing and outreach. In table groups, people then discussed the plan, and offered feedback on table sheets.

After morning tea, Leonie Pearce, another member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, guided the gathering in an exercise to develop practical actions based on the draft plan. The young people present participated in a parallel exercise, creating a number of youth-based actions.

Richard McMahon also offered a briefing on the Parish Services Team and Communications Team (see over).

Bishop Peter thanked the participants for their engagement, and the day concluded with lunch. ■



# HOW WE CAN HELP

Where can parishes go to find support? The following offers a summary of a presentation offered at our recent Diocesan Assembly regarding the support offered by Parish Services and Communication Services.

## Who we are:

Parish Services and Communications Services are two groups within the Office of the Bishop.

## Parish Services members:

- **Richard McMahon**, Director of Parish Services
- **Netty Broekman**, Project Officer - Pastoral Planning (part-time)
- **Seth Harsh**, Youth Ministry Coordinator

- **Paul Mason**, Liturgy Coordinator
- **Darren McDowell**, Coordinator of Faith Education
- **Rebecca Miller**, Project Officer for Welcome, Inclusion and Outreach and Chaplain to the Deaf Community (part-time)
- **Andrew Stow**, Pastoral Planning Support Officer (volunteer)

## The Communications Services members:

- **Daniel Hopper**, Communications Coordinator
- **Jeremy Yuen**, Communications Officer - Graphic Design

## Executive Assistance to our teams is offered by:

- **Helen Bennett** and **Jenny Raposio**

## How do we help?

Our primary role is to support parish life. Our teams are involved in a range of services at local, diocesan and national levels

## When are we available? Ongoing Support?

Our support is available weekdays, evenings and weekends and is fully funded by the Office of the Bishop. While we offer support for one-off initiatives, we recognise that communities require both ongoing support and empowerment. Where possible, we journey with a community in their initiatives and “train the trainer.”

## SUMMARY OF SERVICES

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Faith &amp; Spiritual Formation</li> <li>• Advent Program</li> <li>• Alpha</li> <li>• Catholic Faith and Life</li> <li>• Catholics Returning Home</li> <li>• Certificate in Pastoral Liturgy</li> <li>• Communicating Easter and Christmas Services</li> <li>• Communications Support</li> <li>• Conversations about Catholics</li> <li>• Deaf Community Support</li> <li>• Diocesan Website</li> <li>• Faith &amp; Life eNewsletter</li> <li>• Family Ministry Support</li> <li>• GodStart</li> <li>• Graphic Design Support</li> <li>• High School Youth Engagement</li> <li>• Journey Catholic Radio Support</li> <li>• Journey Magazine</li> <li>• Lay Pastoral Ministry Support</li> <li>• Lenten Program</li> <li>• Liturgical Ministry Formation</li> <li>• Liturgy Handbook (on-line)</li> <li>• Liturgy Ministry Training and Formation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liturgy Notes eNewsletter</li> <li>• Major Liturgies support</li> <li>• Marriage and Family Life Faith Resources</li> <li>• Messy Church</li> <li>• Ministry Support – recruitment, formation</li> <li>• Parish Bulletin Support</li> <li>• Parish Expo/Ministry Fair/ Sign-up Support</li> <li>• Parish Family Camps</li> <li>• Parish Pastoral Council Support</li> <li>• Parish Pastoral Planning Support</li> <li>• Parish Playgroups</li> <li>• Parish Secretaries Formation Support</li> <li>• Parish Website Template Support</li> <li>• Parishes Working Together</li> <li>• Photography Support</li> <li>• Pregnancy Support</li> <li>• Public Relations Support</li> <li>• Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Support</li> <li>• Sacramental Preparation – Adults and Children</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Parish Groups</li> <li>• Social Justice Formation</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• Stewardship Committee Support</li> <li>• Videography Support</li> <li>• Vocations Support</li> <li>• Welcome &amp; Hospitality Teams and Resources</li> <li>• Working with Volunteers Support</li> <li>• Youth Events</li> <li>• Youth Group Building</li> <li>• Youth Ministry Networking</li> <li>• Youth Ministry Resources</li> <li>• Youth Ministry Training</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|

## Parish Services

*Richard McMahon*

T 02 4222 2464

E richard.mcmahon@dow.org.au

## Communications

*Daniel Hopper*

T 02 4222 2461

E daniel.hopper@dow.org.au

# PLAN FOCUSES ON FAMILY AND OUTREACH

The launch of our 2015 to 2017 Diocesan Pastoral Plan focuses on Family, Healing and Outreach. The following pages offer a summary of the Plan.

## WHAT ARE OUR CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES?

We recognise that both our priests and our fully active laity are declining in numbers. Our Diocese is diverse and encompasses one of the fastest growing population areas in the country: south-western Sydney. Additionally there will be significant growth in other areas of the Diocese as part of the Greater Sydney population strategy. We are called to be Good News to all people in our Diocese.

## HOW DO WE WORK TOGETHER FOR THIS GOAL?

In 2009-2010 the Diocese embarked on an extensive consultation process to develop a pastoral plan which would attempt to capture the pastoral needs of the Diocese into the future. The Diocesan Pastoral Plan *Bearers of Christ's Love 2011 – 2015* offers a way of working together, cooperating with the Spirit in God's mission.

## WHAT ARE OUR LEARNINGS FROM OUR PLANNING 2011 – 2015?

As we journeyed together in bringing our plan to life, we recognised the need for strategic directions (2013). These led to the employment of a Diocesan Executive Officer to support our planning, and the creation of a support manual for our Parishes Working Together process. These strategic directions or Practical Support Principles are: Co-responsibility, Communications, Business Plan and Sharing Resources.



## WHAT CHANGES AS WE LOOK AHEAD FROM 2015 – 2017?

Our initial plan invited our agencies to work together on broad initiatives to serve the needs of the Diocese. We have undertaken a three-year plan rather than a five-year plan to allow for more flexibility. In shaping our plan for the next three years, we are engaging more closely with local communities, focusing efforts on supporting grass-roots initiatives. The goals in the original plan (2011-2015) have been reworked. Our renewed goals are:

- Uplifting Prayer and Worship
- Enriching Faith and Spirituality
- Strengthening Community Life and Outreach
- Empowering Leadership for Mission

Each year a focus is offered: Family (2015); Healing (2016); Outreach (2017). Each focus is not set in stone but is offered to help align our efforts across the Diocese within a common theme. Our efforts continue across the entire scope of God's mission, always seeking to respond to the cry of the poor, and to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. As such, we plan the best we can, and remain open to changing our plans.

## GIVING THANKS

We give thanks particularly for the enduring faith, hope and love expressed through good works of individuals and local communities.

In our personal lives and in our local communities, it is good to pause and rejoice in the times we have served God's mission. We give thanks particularly for the enduring faith, hope and love expressed through good works of individuals and local communities.

## DID WE ACHIEVE ALL WE SET OUT TO DO?

Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2011–2015 identified many significant actions. In any planning our priorities change and some actions of our original plan have not been realised. Other actions, not listed in the plan, have come to life. Our new three year planning cycle enables us better opportunities to review our efforts moving forward.

Our Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2011–2015 identified six goals and offered a yearly focus. What follows are some ways God's mission has been served in recent years (see next page):



# WHERE HAVE OUR EFFORTS BORNE FRUIT?

## 2011 FOCUS ON MASS, MISSION, WORLD

### GOAL B: Prayer and worship

- Professional development for Teachers and Religious Education Coordinators in liturgy and provision of *Become One Body One Spirit in Christ* resource
- Appointment of a *Diocesan Liturgy Coordinator* with a focus on Liturgical Music
- Catholic Education Office Religious Education Coordinator / Liturgy Coordinator conference with focus on Eucharist

### GOAL C: Welcome, inclusion and outreach

- Launch of Sacramental Policy for People with Disabilities
- CatholicCare opens the Gwynneville Children's Cottage
- CatholicCare begins *Keeping Kids in Mind* program
- Student catechists trained and sent into state high schools

### GOAL D: Ministry recognition and development

- Diocesan Pastoral Council re-established

### GOAL E: Faith and spiritual formation

- Guest speakers on Lay Ecclesial Ministry and Second Vatican Council
- Changes planned and implemented to the Religious Education curriculum in schools

## 2012 NEW AND RENEWED MODELS OF MINISTRY

### GOAL A: Young people and families

- Spirit Alive Festival and National Youth Ministry Convention
- Implemented the Youth Ministry Essentials training
- Catholic Education Office Evangelisation Grants to Secondary Schools

### GOAL B: Prayer and worship

- PSALMIST liturgical music support training program commences

### GOAL C: Welcome, inclusion and outreach

- CatholicCare begins *Embracing Transition to High School* and *Never Too Old* programs assisting students and seniors
- Support services established for Deaf Community

### GOAL D: Ministry recognition and development

- Clergy Care Coordinator appointed
- Workshops in a variety of areas, sponsored by CatholicCare, Catholic Education Office and Office of the Bishop on hospitality, liturgy, ministry, pastoral council leadership, addressing atheism, disability support and mental health for young people
- Liturgical ministries training for high school students

## 2013 FOCUS ON FAITH AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

### GOAL A: Young people and families

- Youth Consultation Commences engaging over 1000 young people

### GOAL C: Welcome, inclusion and outreach

- *The Journey* radio program launched on Pulse 94.1
- CatholicCare introduced, in collaboration with Catholic Education Office, *Pastoral Support Workers in Schools* program
- Growth in CatholicCare Foster Care programs and support
- Retreat with the Deaf Community

### GOAL D: Ministry recognition and development

- Gift & Ministry support booklets published

### GOAL E: Faith and spiritual formation

- *Catholic Faith & Life* commences
- Catholic Education Office gives 50 scholarships for teachers to study theology

### GOAL F: Community models and structures

- *Parishes Working Together* education process across local communities, engaging over 1200 people
- *Parishes Working Together* Regional Consultations

## 2014 FOCUS ON YOUNG CATHOLICS AND NEW MEDIA

### GOAL A: Young people and families

- *Youth Support Team*: six young people joining Diocesan team to support parishes and schools
- *Youth Support Team* engages with students in most high schools
- Spirit Alive Youth Festival attendance doubles

- Catholic Education Office holds Diocesan Parent Forum Conference

### GOAL B: Prayer and worship

- Hosted *Lift Up Your Hearts National Liturgy Conference*

### GOAL D: Ministry recognition and development

- Lay pastoral ministry formation with Dr Aoife McGrath
- Parish Secretaries supported in diocesan gathering

### GOAL E: Faith and spiritual formation

- 20,000 Advent Programs, 14,000 Lenten programs and 1,300 CD's circulated to homes, schools and to those in prisons

### GOAL F: Community models and structures

- *Parishes Working Together* Pilot Program in Northern Illawarra

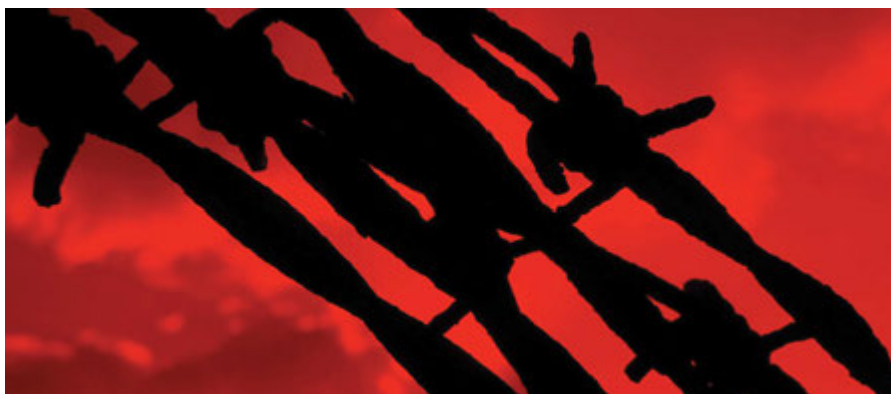
GOALS	OBJECTIVES
	2015
<p><b>Uplifting our prayer and worship</b></p> <p>Our celebration of the Mass will be an uplifting experience of the community at prayer and worship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop Liturgical Ministry Formation and Support initiatives and resources</li> <li>• Provide opportunities in formation and support for Children's Liturgy of the Word and Sacramental Initiation Processes</li> <li>• Develop a shared understanding and practice for the creation and ongoing development of liturgical spaces</li> <li>• Provide resources and support to increase engagement of families in Liturgical Ministries for the Mass</li> <li>• Continue to develop resources and support for Music Ministry in parishes and schools</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enriching faith and spirituality</b></p> <p>Our communities will grow in faith and spirituality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate, renew and revitalise existing opportunities for faith and spiritual development</li> <li>• Explore further opportunities to enrich Catholic faith and spirituality within the Diocese with a special focus on family faith life</li> <li>• Develop ways to support and nourish a culture of vocations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strengthening community life and outreach</b></p> <p>Our communities will welcome, include and reach out to others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop parish-school-agency approach to the pastoral care and support of families</li> <li>• Develop faith communities of outreach, welcome and inclusion, recognising the specific needs of different groups</li> <li>• Renew and energise our commitment and action to engage with those in need</li> <li>• Build relationships and partnerships between the church and the wider society in family support</li> </ul>
<p><b>Empowering leadership for mission</b></p> <p>Our communities will engage and develop the gifts and skills for leadership in mission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen protection of children, ensure justice and support healing for victims of sexual abuse. Continue to cooperate with Royal Commission</li> <li>• Develop a shared vision for Catholic Leadership and Mission within the Diocese</li> <li>• Identify and acknowledge the gifts for ministry and mission across the Diocese with special emphasis on support for families</li> <li>• Develop leadership formation and training processes across the Diocese</li> <li>• Develop guidelines, policies and procedures to engage, train, resource, support and provide succession planning for leadership in all aspects of diocesan life</li> </ul>



ES FOR FAMILY, HEALING & OUTREACH	
2016	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities, resources and support for healing/reconciliation liturgies</li> <li>• Continue with objectives identified and undertaken in 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance our understanding and experience of the Mass as the source and summit of our mission and outreach</li> <li>• Continue with objectives identified and undertaken in 2015 and 2016</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and develop objectives to assist communities in nourishing a spirituality of healing</li> <li>• Continue with objectives identified and undertaken in 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote faith formation in mission and outreach</li> <li>• Continue with objectives identified and undertaken in 2015 and 2016</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop welcoming and inclusive practices, with a focus on healing, both within and beyond our church communities</li> <li>• Provide formation and support for the development of the diaconate</li> <li>• Enhance relationships built between Church agencies and broader community with a focus on healing</li> <li>• Continue with objectives identified and undertaken in 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore and develop an understanding within communities of the need and practice of mission and outreach</li> <li>• Build relationships between Church and Community organisations working for justice and peace</li> <li>• Continue with objectives identified and undertaken in 2015 and 2016</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate the shared vision and understanding of Catholic leadership and mission into training and formation processes, recognising the varied ministries within the Diocese</li> <li>• Continue the development of leadership training, formation, resourcing and support</li> <li>• Focus on capacity building for leaders in providing objectives for healing within communities and engagement with those who have been marginalised</li> <li>• Continue with objectives identified and undertaken in 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and encourage the gifts for ministry and mission across the Diocese with special emphasis on mission and outreach</li> <li>• Provide support and resources for leaders to renew and revitalise community engagement with the work of mission and outreach organisations within and beyond the Church</li> <li>• Continue with objectives identified and undertaken in 2015 and 2016</li> </ul>

# NO LONGER SLAVES, BUT BROTHERS AND SISTERS

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) supported His Holiness Pope Francis in declaring Sunday 8 February 2015, the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as World Day of prayer, reflection and action against human trafficking.



The Vatican Secretary of State invited each Episcopal Conference to join the observance on 8 February and contribute to the sensitising of public opinion to this tragic phenomenon, which represents one of the saddest wounds of our time.

The Australian Bishops and ACRATH acknowledge Pope Francis' counter trafficking message for the World Day of Peace on 1 January 2015, "No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters."

In his message Pope Francis invites us "to practice acts of fraternity towards those kept in a state of enslavement. Let us ask ourselves, as individuals and as communities, whether we feel challenged when, in our daily lives, we meet or deal with persons who could be victims of human trafficking, or when we are tempted to select items, which may well have been produced by exploiting others."

Bishop Eugene Hurley, Chairman of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life said: "It is imperative that we begin a journey of personal change ... Human trafficking exists in Australia and on this planet because we allow it to exist. Let us together, commit to eradicate this affront to our humanity."

Sr Anne Tormey rsm, President, ACRATH said: "Following the call from Pope Francis and leaders of the Anglican, Orthodox, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu faiths, 'to eradicate the terrible scourge of modern slavery in all its forms,' today we join this global initiative. The life of St Josephine

*It is our moral imperative to make ours the last generation that has to fight the trade in human lives.'*

Bakhita reminds us of the assault to the dignity, and of the suffering endured by every trafficked person."

St Josephine Bakhita, who died on 8 February 1947, was born in Southern Sudan in 1869, and during her life experienced kidnapping and slavery. Following her delivery to freedom Josephine dedicated her life to sharing her story and to supporting the poor and suffering. She eventually became a Canossian Sister, living a life of prayer and service for fifty years. She was canonised in 2000.

Despite many efforts to end human trafficking internationally, an estimated 27 million women, men and children today are deprived of their freedom and forced to suffer in conditions of exploitation and slavery. There is now a compelling need to put an end to trafficking in human beings.

Pope Francis asks us to think of persons trafficked into prostitution, as well as women forced into marriage, without any right to give or withhold their consent.

We remember also people trafficked into Australia to work in the agriculture, construction and hospitality sectors.

And we remember people whose labour is exploited to produce cheap goods for Australians. We remember young boys in West Africa who are trafficked into the cocoa production for Australian chocolate. We remember refugees in Thailand who are trafficked onto fishing vessels to produce cheap fish for Australians to eat. We remember the women in Bangladesh whose exploited labour and unsafe working conditions result in cheap clothing for Australians to wear.

We also remember the 200 female students kidnapped in Nigeria in April 2014 by Boko Haram; reports suggest that many of these girls have been sold or forced into marriages.

The ACBC and ACRATH call for a fourfold commitment to prevention, victim protection, the legal prosecution of perpetrators, and partnerships for change; these require a global effort on the part of various sectors of society.

The ACBC and ACRATH support the statement published by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Social Sciences in November 2013, declaring that "it is our moral imperative to make ours the last generation that has to fight the trade in human lives" ■

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*This article is a reprint of a joint statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH).*



# PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCH: FOOD FOR LIFE



BY TOM VAN KINTS

On Shrove Tuesday, 17 February 2015 the launch of Project Compassion for 2015 took place. Hosted by St Paul's Primary School and the Albion Park Parish community, Bishop Peter Ingham led the Liturgy to pray for our sisters and brothers who live in poverty.

The ceremony was attended by Director of Schools Peter Turner, Members of the CEO executive, Parish Priest Fr David Catterall, parish and agency representatives and students and teachers from many of our Primary and Secondary schools.

Guest speaker, Jenny Miller spoke about the theme for Project Compassion 2015 - "Food for Life". Project Compassion 2015 explores how Caritas Australia is helping the world's poorest people establish sustainable food, walking with them as they free themselves from the burden of food insecurity and develop new, improved income streams for a better future.

The ceremony also reflected upon and engaged with significant issues of peace, justice and development. It was also a time to recognise our interconnectedness with our global brothers and sisters and our environment. The Gospel about alms giving was brought to life by a dramatization performed by two very talented students – Ruby Oliver and Noah Lepre.

Representatives on our behalf made the Project Compassion promise and signed the covenant of compassion which challenges us all to mindfulness and action in remembering those less fortunate in our world.

Thanks go to the St Paul's School and Parish community, especially Parish Priest, Fr David Catterall, Principal Mrs Colleen Easton, REC Mr Simon



PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER

*Project Compassion 2015 ... is helping the world's poorest people ... free themselves from the burden of food insecurity and develop new, improved income streams for a better future.*

Farrugia and all the talented students and musicians. Also a big thank you to the CEO Life, Education and Mission Team, especially Beth Riolo and

Jo Kenny for their continued support of Caritas and liaison with the school community to ensure a successful day and inspiring Liturgy.

After the ceremony we were all invited to enjoy the school's hospitality – a barbecue sausage sizzle and lunch. The lunch, warm welcome and the beautiful liturgy certainly were all highlights of the day. ■

.....  
Tom van Kints is the Director of Caritas for the Diocese of Wollongong.

**Planning for the future**

**Have you thought of the needs of the Diocese of Wollongong in making your will?**

The work of the Church in our Diocese touches on almost every aspect of your life as a Catholic. In return, you may wish to consider making a bequest to the Diocese of Wollongong by including the following statement in your will:

*"To the Roman Catholic Bishop of Wollongong for the time being to be applied by him for such religious or charitable purposes as he in his discretion may determine."*

**For further information, you may contact the Diocesan Financial Administrator on 02 4222 2400.**

# MISSION ENRICHES MADAGASCAR



To those who have seen the animated films, it is a jungle island inhabited by a vast array of exotic plants and animals.

To others, it is a mysterious tropical paradise, or the fourth largest island in the world. The reality of Madagascar beyond these ideals is far more sombre, as Catholic Mission highlights in its upcoming Church Appeal.

The official mission agency of the Catholic Church will launch the annual appeal in May, with the theme 'I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink'. The appeal focuses on Madagascar, where 50% of children do not have access to clean drinking water and over 4,000 children die each year from treatable diseases. These harrowing statistics stem from the fact that, despite being surrounded by water, the people of Madagascar struggle to access clean water for drinking, cooking, cleaning and washing. They are instead forced to use dirty water for these essential tasks, which increases the risk of disease or death.

Thankfully, Catholic Mission is helping to provide the Living Water that the children of Madagascar urgently need to stay healthy and survive. With the help of loyal donors, Catholic Mission is partnering with local community leaders, like Sister Rose Rasoavololona, to make a positive difference in Madagascar. Sr Rose has worked for 12 years at the Catholic school in the city of Vatamandry on the country's east coast, where until only recently there was no running water. "The children, their clothes and their workbooks were dirty, because they could not wash their hands after using the bathroom or playing outside," says Sr Rose. "Many children were falling very ill all the time. I've even had children die from this."

Last year, Catholic Mission worked with Sr Rose and the local community to install four water pumps and eight toilets at the school, meaning the children can enjoy clean water to drink and clean



*Being able to wash themselves and keep clean has increased their self-confidence and eagerness to learn.*

with. While the project significantly improved the health of children at the school, sadly, there are still countless children across Madagascar that are without clean, running water and proper sanitation at school. Sr Rose knows that not only do these children

need physical water, but also the Living Water gained through the many spiritual activities funded by Catholic Mission.

Sr Rose is extremely grateful for the help of Catholic Mission's donors; however greater support is needed. Keep an eye out for Catholic Mission's Church Appeal in May, and please keep the children of Madagascar in your prayers. ■

For more information, please visit [catholicmission.org.au](http://catholicmission.org.au) or call toll free 1800 257 296.



# POPE'S CALL TO RID CHURCH OF ABUSE



## Pope Francis writes to Church leaders calling for full cooperation with Vatican's child protection Commission.

Pope Francis has written to the Catholic world's religious leaders asking for their complete cooperation with the Vatican's *Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors*, set up to protect children from sexual abuse within the Catholic Church.

The Pope's letter has been sent to the Presidents of Episcopal Conferences and Superiors of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

CEO of the Catholic Church's *Truth Justice and Healing Council*, Francis Sullivan, said the letter has called on all Church leaders to cooperate with the Commission and ensure all possible

steps are taken to protect children and rid the Church of the scourge of sexual abuse of children.

"The message to the leaders of the Catholic Church around the world is that there is now no basis for maintaining the status quo, no turning back," Mr Sullivan said.

"The Pope has set a course to rid the Church of child sexual abuse regardless of the cost and the impact on reputations. It is now time for all Church leaders to get on board."

In the letter, the Pope says everything possible must be done to rid the Church of the scourge of sexual abuse. "Families need to know that the Church

is making every effort to protect their children ... priority must not be given to any other kind of concern, whatever its nature, such as the desire to avoid scandal, since there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who abuse minors."

Part of the task of the Commission, which is made up of 17 clerics and lay people from around the world, including Australia, is to help church leaders put in place "best practices" to prevent abuse and work with victims in a process of healing. Eight members are women and two were sexually abused by clergy.

Pope Francis has appointed Kathleen McCormack, the founding director of CatholicCare in the Diocese of Wollongong to the Vatican's child protection body.

"This Commission is about best practice in the future, not just for the children in our Church, but for the

children of our world. It's about the Church wanting to lead in the safety of children," Ms McCormack said.

"I give this commitment to abuse survivors in Australia: when I take my seat on this Commission the only interests I serve will be theirs and the only outcomes I will endorse will deliver abuse survivors justice and compassion." ■

Read the Pope's full letter here:  
<http://dow.sh/1xXwNEw>

This article in part includes a reprint of a Media release by the Truth Justice Healing Council (6 February 2015).  
For more information visit  
[www.tjhcouncil.org.au](http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au)



**Royal Commission**  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is cooperating fully with the Royal Commission and seeks to be truly open to the wisdom that it will offer to ensure greater protection for children, now and into the future.

If someone has been sexually abused as a child by a priest, religious or employee of the Catholic Church, it is important that they are given an opportunity for their experience to be heard.

### **The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse:**

1800 099 340  
[childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](http://childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)  
GPO Box 5283, Sydney NSW 2001

**Police Assistance Line: 131 444**

# EXPERIENCING EASTER BEHIND BARS

BY JULIE KELLY

*An open letter to Bishop Peter and the people of the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong.*

**The men with whom I minister want to thank you for the opportunity to engage with you in the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong Advent Program *Redeem* and Lenten Program *Arise*.**

I am one of the chaplains at a men's Correctional Centre in New South Wales and while I regularly facilitate scripture groups, Liturgies of the Word and one-to-one sessions breaking open the Word of God, the seasons of Advent and Lent call us to a deeper and more reflective preparation for Christmas and Easter.

For many of the men, this is the first opportunity they have had to prepare in this way. For most, the concept that God loves them and came as a baby, lived a human life and died on the cross for them is a nearly impossible concept to grasp but with the help of your excellent programs, we are ready to celebrate Easter. Alleluia!

As one of the men wanted to tell you, "At a time of little light, you have given much hope for us all. Thank you." These men know what it is to own their brokenness. They have experienced the brokenness of the cross and know that Christmas to Easter is not a story to keep at arm's length. They look to the light knowing that the hope of Easter is not that there is no cross, but that the cross is not the end. There is new life in Christ. Through their brokenness they can surrender to Christ and be restored and transformed.

We worked through the *Redeem* and the *Arise* programs in a variety of ways. Just as in parishes and other communities, I have had to adapt the program to our own circumstances.



I am used to working with a variety of Advent/Lenten Programs with a variety of groups. We live in our family units, parish communities and with friends who are all like-minded. In a correctional facility you will be billeted with "the other:" educated with less educated; those with Christian religious experiences alongside those of other faiths or none; petty crime with more violent crime. Most of these men have "looked God in the eye" and felt themselves wanting or unlovable. As we move closer to Easter, the hardest thing can sometimes be truly believing that God really, really loves us.

Never have I had the sort of experiences I have had with Advent/Lenten Programs in the context of

*At a time of little light, you have given much hope for us all. Thank you.*

a correctional centre. Bishop Peter Ingham asked us all in the Foreword "... to not embrace the resurrection as a fact 'out there' but as a reality that gives meaning to our life." These men, as they challenge themselves, challenge me to be a true witness, to lay myself bare and be empty so that this Easter I can be filled with the fire of God's love.

We all need to know that *God does not love us because we are good; God loves us because God is good.* Nothing we can do will ever decrease or increase God's eternal eagerness to love us.





Where I can facilitate groups, we use the program in a *Lectio Divina* style – praying the scriptures. We regularly use this method to break open the Word of God and found this program easy to adapt. In groups, we first centre ourselves, before we reflectively read the Gospel for the first time. After a time of soaking up the Word, we gently drop a word or phrase that we find new or memorable before someone else reflectively reads the same Gospel. After listening to the sharing of others and hearing the scripture again we are often amazed by the new understandings that rise from the passage. Only then do I give some background to the scripture and together we open up God's Word and what it means for us to live that Word in our daily lives. Sr Moya's reflections

*It is obvious that the men have read the material before I bring them together so their sharing is deep and thought provoking. In solidarity with those less fortunate, the men forgo their usual biscuit with a cuppa after the groups.*

and Fr Michael's Spiritual Direction rounds out the short time we are able to spend together once a week.

For other men, they work with the programs themselves and I discuss their reflections with them or I work through the program with men individually.

This is a rare time of quiet and peaceful reflection for men who live in close proximity to over a hundred other men in a unit, all contributing to a noisy background; a cacophony of sound, sights and smells.

It is obvious that the men have read the material before I bring them together so their sharing is deep and thought provoking.

In solidarity with those less fortunate, the men forgo their usual biscuit with a cuppa after the groups. This act of kindness puts shame to my not eating chocolate before Easter as, for most of these men, the only sweet they get might be the biscuit I provide after scripture groups and Liturgies of the Word.

I will be forever grateful to the many men who have witnessed to me as we have laughed and cried together. Together, as we peel away the layers of apathy, sense of hopelessness and lack of forgiveness of ourselves and others, we have all entered into the emptying and dying to ourselves this Lent so that we can truly experience God's love for us this Easter. Your Programs have enabled this to happen and these men have allowed me to see the love of God through them. What a privilege. What trust.

This Easter I look forward with anticipation and trepidation because, yes, these men have challenged me to truly witness the resurrection, but also to be a witness to his resurrection. These men have challenged me to be filled with the fire which Jesus kindled in the world and to bring that fire to all.

Thank you for the use of your Programs and we hope that you will continue to remember us. We pray for you all every week and ask that you keep us in your prayers, so that we too can continue to be true followers of God's Word. ■

.....  
*Julie Kelly is a Prison Chaplain in a New South Wales correctional centre.*

# *Lighting the Way*

through faith and learning



## **Vision & Strategic Direction**

for Catholic Education  
in the systemic schools of the  
Diocese of Wollongong

2015 - 2017

Serving Catholic systemic school communities in the  
**Illawarra, Macarthur, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands**



# A NEW VISION AND DIRECTION FOR OUR SCHOOLS

At this year's Annual Diocesan Education Mass, Director of Schools Mr Peter Turner, formally launched a new Vision and Strategic Direction, presenting the document to Bishop Peter Ingham. Entitled *Lighting the Way through faith and learning*, the Bishop then in turn, commissioned the document and called on parents, principals and school staff and clergy to be united in the important educational mission of the Church using *Lighting the Way* as the directional map over the next three years.

*Lighting the Way* finds its inspiration in the message from John's Gospel that 'Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, came so that all may have life and have it to the full' (Jn 8:12)

Aligned with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and informed by the teachings of Pope Francis and our Bishop Peter, *Lighting the Way* articulates the shared mission of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Wollongong as a collective work to:

**Create vibrant Catholic school communities where every student finds meaning and purpose in their life, through experiencing continual growth in faith and improvement in learning.**



*Lighting the Way* states five targeted areas for improvement that will be the focus of this vision. They are:

- MISSION
- LEADERSHIP
- NUMERACY AND LITERACY
- EARLY LEARNING
- DIVERSE STUDENT LEARNING NEEDS



## A NEW IMAGE FOR A NEW DIRECTION

The new logo for our Catholic Schools incorporates a number of powerful elements.

### THE CROSS

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World and by his life, death and resurrection gives ultimate meaning and purpose to our existence. The four points of the cross also represent the four regions of the Diocese.

### THE STAR

Just as the star of Bethlehem pointed the way towards the infant Jesus, we



are also called to Light the Way for others towards fullness of life in Jesus. Catholic Schools contribute to lighting the way through creating vibrant communities of faith and learning.

## THE ABORIGINAL ART

The Diocese of Wollongong is enriched by the significant presence and influence of Indigenous life and culture. The circle dots represent the meeting places where people gather to grow in faith and learning as they share wisdom stories with elders.

## THE COLOUR GOLD AND 3D PROFILE

Gold represents light and hope, and the radiance that comes from truth and wisdom – the fruits of growth in faith and learning. The 3D image is dynamic and robust suggesting the vibrant communities of faith and learning we are called to create. ■

# AROUND OUR SCHOOLS



## CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE STAFF CELEBRATE ST PATRICK'S DAY AT THE 'TOP OF THE MORNING'

Staff at the CEO got into the St Patrick's Day spirit early with a green theme breakfast gathering in the CEO car park.

Well fed on bacon and egg rolls and fruit salad (with lots of green melon and apples) the staff raised over \$330 for Project Compassion while enjoying the early morning repast and good company. ■

## SOUTHERN ILLAWARRA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS YOUNG LEADERS DAY

South Illawarra Schools held their Young Leaders Day, which was attended by over two hundred pupils. There were two keynote speakers Dr Patti Rose and CEO Youth Leadership and Development officer, Josh Cotter, who spoke on the topic of leadership.

There were also several workshops by the host schools, Dragons footballers and the New South Wales Police on such topics as cyberbullying, movie creation, poster making and rap composition.

Also in attendance were Stephen Jones Federal MP and Gareth Ward, MP for Kiama. Both MPs spoke of their call to leadership in the community. Carolyn Hadley represented the Director of Schools. ■

## ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, NOWRA

### Duke of Edinburgh

For several years **St John the Evangelist Catholic High School Nowra** has been running the Duke of Edinburgh program, based mainly around the Year 9 and 10 Bushcraft program. In the past 12 months several students have completed awards with the notable attainment of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh by Natasha Gelle and the Bronze Award to Nicholas Eastmont of Year 11. To complete the Award, motivated students need to undertake a physical recreation activity, a skill activity, a volunteer activity and an adventure journey. The higher the award, the higher the level of complexity and expectation for each qualifying activity. ■

### St John's cause a racket at Diocesan Tennis Carnival



Students from **St John the Evangelist Catholic High School Nowra** recently competed in the diocesan Tennis Championships at Beaton Park.

George Payne, Max Jones-Gardiner, Thomas Roach and Ryan Borland played an exciting brand of tennis in the boys' singles and doubles event.

Jessica Bagnall, Sophie Phillips, Emma Roach and Bonnie Butler played in the girls' matches and showed great spirit and tenacity in their games and ended up being Consolation Final Champions.

Congratulations to all students on producing the best tennis result at St John's for a number of years.

### St John's performs at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival

**St John the Evangelist Catholic High School Nowra** sent a group of enthusiastic top swimmers to Corrimal to compete against several other schools from around the Diocese. The school performed with great success finishing in overall second place.

All competitors did St John's proud with their determination, school spirit and behaviour. Many students achieved personal bests and were happy and proud with their achievements. Great courage and team spirit was shown by swimmers:

Amelia Galletly, Annalise McDonald, Kieren Harrison, Aidan Moroney, Tara Bellwood, Michael Walsh, Benjamin Hussein, Bailey Brown, Jessica Kelly, Trent Walsh, Haylee Hain, Kate Phillips, Jordan Collins, Taylor Matheson-Gee, Lachlan Crowe, Brittane Schinella, Lauren Moore.

Our stars on the day were:

Casey Johnson  
12 years Age Champion

Freya Robinson-Mills  
Runner-up 12 years

Dylan Anderson  
Runner-up 16 years

Cameron Galletly  
3rd place 17 years

These four swimmers, together with Anthony De Bruyn, Sam Stubbs, Rachael De Bruyn and William Maher will be representing St John's and the Wollongong Diocese at the CCC Carnival.

Thanks to staff for their encouragement and supervision and to the wonderful band of parent supporters. ■





## STUDENTS FROM THE SENIOR CLASS OF 2027 BEGIN THEIR CATHOLIC SCHOOLING JOURNEY

In February, the day that many little people from around our Diocese had long been anticipating, finally arrived.

Around 1650 fresh-faced five-year olds donned their spotlessly ironed uniforms and shiny new shoes, and streamed through the gates of their local Catholic 'Big' School!

Twins Emma and Ashley Whiddon, 5, were very excited to be joining

big sister Jasmine, 6, who is in Year One at **St Columbkille's Catholic Parish Primary School Corrimal**. It was an emotional day for Mum, Sarah, with all three of her girls at school together for the first time, and for many other parents as their little ones embark on this exciting journey of discovery, faith and learning.

Although the twins are not identical, and they have different hairstyles, Mum says many people are still finding it tricky telling them apart! ■

## THE BIG MOVE



Students from **St Michael's Catholic Parish Primary School Nowra** travelled to Stockland Nowra to participate in The Big Move; an annual event held to raise awareness for dementia. One of the best ways to prevent dementia is to be active, so it was arranged for students to perform a fifties dance and two traditional Aboriginal dances. What a great scene it was when the audience was encouraged to join in and dance. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to engage and be a part of their local community. The students represented their school with pride and should be very proud of themselves. ■



## ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD NEWS STORY

**John Therry Catholic High School Rosemeadow** was recently granted a \$2,500 Enviro Grant for 2015 for their chooks. Congratulations to the students and staff for their work in this area. The Minister for the Environment recently visited the school to congratulate and encourage the students and teachers in their environmental endeavours. ■

*If your school has a story that you would like to include in Journey, please email text and photos to Tim Gilmour at [tim.gilmour@dow.catholic.edu.au](mailto:tim.gilmour@dow.catholic.edu.au)*



## ST THERESE STUDENTS GET ARTISTIC TO RAISE FUNDS

Students at **St Therese Catholic Parish Primary School West Wollongong** used their artistic talents to design Christmas cards which were then sold as a unique school fundraiser. All of the art works had been entries into the Christmas Art Competition and were reflective of the students' understanding of the events of Christmas. The cards have been very popular with parents and teachers alike. ■

# AROUND OUR SCHOOLS



## TAHLIA'S ARTWORK IS TOO GOOD TO MISS!

Late last year we reported on the 2014 Christmas Art Competition (Journey, Summer 2014).

**Tahlia Porco**, a student of **St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish Primary School Bowral** was one of 13 finalists representing the Diocese of Wollongong who had their artwork chosen to be exhibited in St Mary's Cathedral crypt in Sydney.

Regrettably, in the article we produced last year, we inadvertently omitted Tahlia's artwork. We reproduce it here in this issue as we're sure you'll agree, Tahlia's talented work is too good to miss. Sincere apologies Tahlia for our oversight. ■



## LIVING LIFE WELL AT MOSS VALE

**St Paul's Catholic Parish Primary Moss Vale** recently won a few prizes in the Moss Vale Show for their eggs and garden produce which they have grown and nurtured from their own school garden. Year 5 buddy-up Year 2 to maintain the "girls" (chooks) and work together in the vegetable garden.

The school has also been awarded a \$2,000 grant by *Live Life Well at School* DEC program. This money will be used to build a creative play area in the playground using natural materials for creative play and exercise.

Congratulations to all the staff and students for their environmental endeavours! ■

## STARTING SCHOOL, A MILESTONE

Starting a school year is nothing new to Helen James (pictured right). As the Senior School Support Officer at **St Benedict's Catholic College Oran Park**, Helen has seen many new students begin. Helen noticed: "In the first couple of days the kids work on adrenaline. Some come from small schools and may not know many other students. They enter a totally new environment that is so different from primary school and this can sometimes be overwhelming". The Principal and staff help students transition into the College. Principal Michael Hanratty welcomes and starts Years 7 and 11 together first, to help ease the pressure before the whole school starts. The Year 7 students attend a day at the College the year before to become familiar with the layout of the school. Staff use a number of strategies that reduce first day anxiety.

As a founding secretary for two high schools in her career, Helen has also experienced the excitement of starting a school with a new team of teachers and Principal. This year, St Benedict's Catholic College, which opened in 2011, welcomes the first cohort of senior year students.

Helen also has the first three of her grandchildren starting in Catholic primary schools in 2015. It is an emotional and exciting time for all the family. The boys have all attended



daycare or preschool but still "big school" is a milestone, although parents and students may have different expectations. This is obvious to Helen as she relates some comments from the boys. Mitchell James, at St Mary's Star of the Sea, Hurstville, said on his first day: "Dad they have a shop, with lollies and chips, but you have to have cash. Dad, let's go get some cash." Later Mitchell's dad asked: "Did you talk about Jesus and God today?" Mitchell replied: "How do you know about him?"

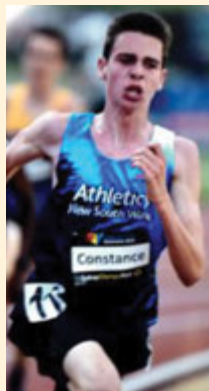
What about the other grandchildren? Corey James is at **St Clare's Catholic Parish Primary School Narellan Vale** and Noah James (pictured above) is at **St Justin's Catholic Parish Primary School Oran Park**, just next door to St Benedict's. They are both loving their start to school. Helen reflects that, "this is a very special year for our school and for my family." ■





## SPORTS STARS

James Constance from **Mount Carmel Catholic College Varroville** recently competed at the Australian Junior Athletics Championship. James competed in the U17 Men's 3000m event and took out the gold medal in a time of 8:51.35 which is a 10 second personal best. James is a humble athlete, who works hard towards his goals. This is an outstanding achievement and on behalf of the College we congratulate James on this success in his chosen field of Athletics.



James Constance



Jordan Doris

Jordan Doris also competed at the Australian Junior Championships. He won a silver medal in the 400m in a time of 51.1 secs. He ran in the 800m heat and won his heat in a time of 1:59.55

making him the fastest qualifier for the final. In very windy conditions Jordan won gold in the U16's 800m National event in a time of 1:58.16,

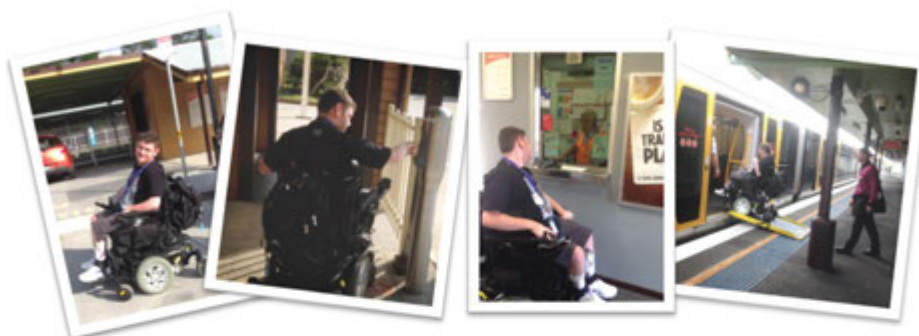
a new personal best time for him. This makes Jordan national champion three years in a row for this event. On behalf of the College we congratulate Jordan on this achievement and recognise his hard work and commitment to his passion.

It is an amazing accomplishment by both the boys and it is a claim to fame that Mount Carmel College has two Australian Champions in athletics. It is looking good for diocesan athletics and cross country. Congratulations to our national champions – James Constance and Jordan Doris both of Year 10. Perhaps Mount Carmel has two more olympians in the wings. ■

## BLAKE TAKES ON THE WORLD

It is 9.05am on a warm March morning when Blake arrives at Dapto station to catch the 9.15 to North Wollongong bound for TAFE. Blake's Mum has given him a lift to the station but has been quickly dispatched with a cursory kiss. No 18 year old wants his Mum hanging around as he starts his day. With a characteristic broad smile Blake makes his way to the station entrance and "taps on" at the Opal card post. Great innovation!

A typical morning routine? For many, yes but for Blake, this is a new "typical." In the past, Blake's mobility difficulties caused him to discount public transport as a viable option. Blake, a former **St Joseph's Catholic High School Albion Park** student, is participating in a travel training program supervised by Rod Clark, Coordinator of Northcott Oak Flats' Transition to Work Program. The Transition to Work Program is a two-year program funded by the Department of Family and



Community Services that assists young people with disabilities in finding employment. Blake and several other ex-students from **St Joseph's, Holy Spirit College Bellambi** and **Corpus Christi Catholic High School Oak Flats** are currently participating in transition to work programs run by disability service providers like Northcott.

Blake chats to the ticket officer, letting him know that he will need a ramp for carriage one. He waits for Rod to meet him for the trip. This will be the last time Rod catches the train with Blake. From next week, Blake will travel by himself. Blake says that negotiating

his way onto and off the train is nothing compared to navigating the uneven pavement between North Wollongong station and the TAFE campus.

A self-confessed IT fanatic, Blake is studying for his Certificate II in Information Technology. He is also participating in a public speaking course. Soon he will be addressing officers at police stations throughout the Illawarra about access issues and other barriers facing young people with disability in the Illawarra. Having found his freedom, Blake is now finding his voice ... watch out world! ■

# PATHWAYS FOR GROWTH IN FAITH & MINISTRY

If we want to be part of a vibrant, welcoming, inclusive and faith filled community; if we want to be part of a Church where our gifts and talents are recognised and drawn upon to build up the Body of Christ and continue Christ's mission of evangelisation, then of necessity are we called to engage in faith and ministry formation and training.

All of us baptised are called to develop and use our gifts to participate in the life of the Church through active involvement in ministry and mission. Centred on Jesus Christ, this task and calling requires adequate training and formation. To meet the changing needs of those within and beyond our communities we are called to become lifelong learners, engaging regularly in developing and enhancing our skills and knowledge so as all the better to serve Christ's mission.

Our newly launched *Pathways for Growth in Faith and Ministry* program has been established to meet this need. This program provides you with a variety of Pathways to support you in growing and deepening your understanding of our Catholic faith and enhancing your gifts and skills for undertaking the task of being a bearer of Christ's love in the world.

There are four *Pathways* within the program comprising a wide variety of workshops, retreats, training sessions, online and face to face courses. The four *Pathways* are:

- Growing in Ministry for Mission
- Growing in Faith
- Growing in Spirituality
- Growing in Leadership for Mission

Each *Pathway* offers a holistic process of formation encompassing intellectual, pastoral, spiritual and personal formation and training. The workshops and courses offered within each



*Pathway* are divided into three stages to accommodate the amount of time and the learning goals participants may have. Participants can begin within any stage and recognition of prior learning and experience is offered to all participants.

Many people will have received the *Pathways for Growth in Faith and Ministry 2015 Handbook* in the mail. Copies of this handbook, along with the *Feb – June Calendar* can be obtained from your parish office. The booklet outlines each *Pathway* and the various workshops and courses that are currently on offer. Over the coming years we hope to add more courses and opportunities for ongoing training and formation.

The vision and development of these *Pathways* and the holistic formation they offer owes much to the successful programs already being implemented in the Archdioceses of Brisbane and Adelaide along with the Diocese of Parramatta. ■

For further information about this new initiative and the opportunities for faith and ministry on offer please contact Darren McDowell, on 02 4222 2463 or [cfl@dow.org.au](mailto:cfl@dow.org.au)

## SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

Have you ever been tired out in ministry? Have you ever wondered "how can I get more people involved?" Have you ever thought "how can I support others involved in ministry?"

*Serving God's People* is a ministry formation course, especially for those involved in ministry, which will assist you in answering and finding practical solutions to these questions. Built around five modules of work, this course explores ways to:

- deepen our relationship with God and each other
- explore ways of reviewing and renewing our ministries
- create methods for growing the ministries in which we take part
- use our gifts more creatively in ministry

This course is an excellent opportunity for parish pastoral council members as well as others such as ministry contact points, coordinators and leaders.

Courses will be coming soon to a location near you. Darren McDowell is available to speak at parish Masses and has spoken at parish Masses and held information sessions at Dapto and Macquarie Fields and will soon be speaking at Camden parish. ■

For more information contact Darren McDowell on 02 4222 2463 or [cfl@dow.org.au](mailto:cfl@dow.org.au)



# CATHOLIC FAITH & LIFE CALENDAR

## APRIL – JUNE

### APRIL

**SATURDAY APR 18:**

Certificate in Pastoral Liturgy –  
Building the Liturgical Assembly Pt 3a

**XAVIER CENTRE** 10am-4pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ● ●

**SUNDAY APR 19:**

Certificate in Pastoral Liturgy –  
Building the Liturgical Assembly Pt 3b

**XAVIER CENTRE** 10am-4pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ● ●

**THURS APR 23:**

Family Ministry – Workshop on  
Family Faith Resources (The  
Atrium & Parish Playgroups)

**XAVIER CENTRE** 9:30am-11:30am  
Registration: **C** Pathways: ● ● ●

**WED APR 29:**

Liturgy Training: Introduction to  
Liturgical Ministry

**XAVIER CENTRE** 7:30pm-9pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ●

**THURSDAY APR 30:**

Practice & Ethics of Ministry:  
Working with Children for Parish  
Ministers

**XAVIER CENTRE** 9:30am-11am  
OR 7pm-8:30pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ●

### MAY

**WED MAY 6:**

Liturgy Training: Introduction to  
Liturgical Ministry

**XAVIER CENTRE** 7:30pm-9pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ●

**SATURDAY MAY 9:**

Liturgy Training: Introduction to  
Liturgical Ministry

**XAVIER CENTRE** 10am-1pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ●

**MONDAY MAY 11:**

Understanding and Supporting  
the Ageing Process

**VARROVILLE** 9am-3:30pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ● ●

### MAY

**TUESDAY MAY 12:**

Faith in Everyday Life: Dialogue  
between Religions

**CAMPBELLTOWN** 7:30pm-9:30pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ● ● ●

**WED MAY 13:**

Faith in Everyday Life: Dialogue  
between Religions

**XAVIER CENTRE** 7:30pm-9:30pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ● ● ●

**SATURDAY MAY 16**

Liturgy Training: Ministries of  
Cantor of the Psalm, Music  
and Accompanist

**XAVIER CENTRE** 10am-4pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ●

Reflections and Talks on Pope  
Francis' "The Joy of the Gospel"

**VENUE & TIME TBA**  
- Hosted & Facilitated by the  
Cursillo Movement  
Registration: **D** Pathways: ● ● ● ●

**SUNDAY MAY 17:**

Reflections and Talks on Pope  
Francis' "The Joy of the Gospel"

**VENUE & TIME TBA**  
- Hosted & Facilitated by the  
Cursillo Movement  
Registration: **D** Pathways: ● ● ● ●

**WED MAY 27:**

Understanding and Supporting  
the Ageing Process

**XAVIER CENTRE** 9am-3:30pm  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ● ●

### JUNE

**SATURDAY JUNE 13:**

Liturgy Training: Ministry to the  
Sick and Dying

**XAVIER CENTRE** 10am-1pm  
(Pre-requisite: You must already  
be an Extraordinary Minister of  
Holy Communion)  
Registration: **A** Pathways: ● ●

**WED JUNE 17:**

Embracing Ability – Workshop  
on Inclusion & Hospitality

**DAPTO** 7pm-9pm  
Registration: **E** Pathways: ● ●

## KEY

### FULL ADDRESSES

#### CAMPBELLTOWN

Parish Hall  
St John the Evangelist Parish  
36 Cordeaux St Campbelltown

#### CORRIMAL

Parish Meeting Room  
St Columbkille's Parish  
99 Princes Hwy Corrimal

#### DAPTO

Parish Hall  
St John the Evangelist Parish  
24 Jerematta St Dapto

#### MICAH HOUSE

35a Cordeaux St  
Campbelltown

#### TAHMOOR

Parish Centre  
St Anthony's Parish Picton Tahmoor  
20 Stratford Rd Tahmoor

#### VARROVILLE

Parish Hall  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish  
St Andrews Road Varroville

#### XAVIER CENTRE

38 Harbour St Wollongong

### REGISTRATION DETAILS:

- A** Darren McDowell  
P 4222 2463  
E cfl@dow.org.au
- B** Cindy Oliver  
P 4640 8550  
E cindy.oliver@dow.org.au
- C** Rebecca Miller  
P 4222 2465  
E rebecca.miller@dow.org.au
- D** Dianne Garland  
P 0418 640 373  
E dianne.garland@gmail.com
- E** Sr Ruth Davis  
P 4254 9351  
E ruth.davis@catholiccare.dow.org.au

GROWING IN  
MINISTRY  
FOR MISSION

GROWING  
IN FAITH

GROWING IN  
SPIRITUALITY

GROWING IN  
LEADERSHIP  
FOR MISSION

PATHWAYS

This workshop is part of the  
Coursework components of  
the following Pathway areas:

Discover more information in the  
**Pathways Handbook 2015** available in  
your Parish or School or contact us at:

www.dow.org.au  
cfl@dow.org.au  
facebook.com/CFLDOW

Catholic Diocese of  
**Wollongong**  
Bearers of Christ's Love

ATHOLIC  
Faith and Life

PRINTED CALENDARS CAN BE FOUND IN CHURCH FOYERS

# SPILLING THE BEANS ON MESSY CHURCH

**How can parishes connect with families and those who are close to our communities but perhaps do not feel a part of them?**

We know that life is messy for many families who may be time poor, under pressure, with competing commitments, and so finding time for spiritual reflection is generally not high or maybe even absent from most families "To Do" lists.

Imagine inviting these people in your school and parish community to a two hour afternoon session to learn a little about Easter. You send out friendly invitations, offer good food to ensure at least a few turn up and hope for the best. Recently, St Paul's Parish Albion Park did exactly this and were overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response of over 300 people: children, parents and grandparents all crowded into the parish hall and the church. People of all ages were smiling and welcoming friends, whilst waiting patiently to register, surrounded by children barely containing their excitement, keen to end the formalities and race in to find a place to sit. They want to participate, they want to listen and they want to be a part of Messy Church.

*...overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response of over 300 people: children, parents and grandparents crowded into the hall and the church*

One year ago – when St Paul's began Messy Church – they started with about 200 attending. Having just celebrated their Messy Church first birthday, this number has swelled significantly. It includes families who haven't missed a Messy Church since it commenced in 2014, along with new families who have heard the good news and want to experience it for themselves – each saying they would definitely be coming back.



St Paul's is the first Catholic Church to host Messy Church in Australia. However, following an invitation to other parishes in the Diocese to attend an information session and invitation to observe the "Easter" themed Messy Church in action, Fr David Catterall hopes that by the end of 2015 more parishes will offer Messy Church.

Tanya DiPietro, St Paul's Messy Church Coordinator, and Fr David have learned a lot over the past year but identify the key to a successful Messy Church is to "have a team and a pastor who share a passion for this ministry, and the project must have the support of the parish school, catechists, the Parish Pastoral Council and the wider parish."

A local Catholic priest who along with parishioners visited Messy Church said: "I guess I was sceptical heading into today. At one level [I thought it would be] just a large play group. Yet it was so much more. It was authentically Church. And probably the only Church experience that so many of the parents will have during the year. And for them it said that Church was fun, enjoyable, life giving, connected, real and clearly loved by the children. All of this makes Messy Church something that should be tried and celebrated."

As it grows from strength to strength Messy Church is now firmly planted in the life of St Paul's Parish Albion Park. ■

*If you would like to learn more about Messy Church in the Catholic context please contact Fr David Catterall at [albionpark@dow.org.au](mailto:albionpark@dow.org.au). Rebecca Miller, Project Officer - Welcome, Inclusion and Outreach, from the Office of the Bishop, can provide further information, resources and support. Please contact: [rebecca.miller@dow.org.au](mailto:rebecca.miller@dow.org.au) or phone 02 4222 2479.*



# THE “YES” OF CATECHISTS CHANGES LIVES

BY JUDE HENNESSY

**At our Annual Catechist Mass each year I have the privilege of announcing to Bishop Peter the names of catechists who have reached significant milestones of service.**

We recognise members of parishes throughout our Diocese who have served the cause of the Gospel and the great commission to make disciples. They are members of our diocesan army of over 500 catechists who go into over 140 state schools seeing around 10,000 students each week. They are members of parishes who work in the formation of young people via sacramental programs and children's liturgy. They are people who share their faith both in word and deed, in what they teach and in how they live.

As we move headlong into 2015, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) team have been working alongside a large group of new catechists who have responded to Pope Francis' call to joyfully share their faith in the world. We have been so encouraged by the solid group of new trainees who have attended the Level I courses at Wollongong, Nowra and Campbelltown in preparation for participation in the work our catechists do in State schools in Special Religious Education. They can't wait to get involved in this ministry working alongside the experienced volunteers in their own parishes. Accompanying them will be the 70 student catechists from our Catholic Secondary schools who have been equipped to support the work of catechists as helpers in the classroom. They bring a vibrancy and skill set especially in the use of technology that further enhances the impact of this work and its capacity to form the young people in the faith of their family.

A huge thank you to all of our clergy and catechist coordinators who always



*We have been so encouraged by the solid group of new trainees*

have much to do as we kick off another year. The organisation and administration, especially at the start of the year ensures that the massive contribution our Church makes to Special Religious Education is highly valued in State schools with their rich multicultural multifaith flavour.

I urge all of our parish communities to pray for your catechists and the work that they do. Prayer is powerful, it makes a difference, it opens hearts and allows God's grace to act. Please add the work of catechists regularly to your list of prayer intentions because their “Yes” to sharing faith is a powerful witness that brings Jesus into the lives of young people. ■

*Jude Hennessy is the Diocesan Director for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.*

# ANNUAL DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE



PHOTOS: JEREMY YUEN

## MASS FOR RELIGIOUS

*Excerpt from Bishop Peter Ingham's homily given at the Mass for Religious Annual Day of Consecrated Life held at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Wollongong on 5 February 2015.*

We gather today to celebrate, for our Diocese, the Annual Day of Consecrated Life. This time we do it within the *Year of Consecrated Life* that Pope Francis has called from last Advent till 2 February 2016. Our Diocese is rich in having 28 Religious Orders, Congregations and Societies of Apostolic life, three

*You, Religious, are an eloquent sign for today's world of the presence of God's Kingdom*

of which are contemplative – a true blessing for us.

Today gives me the opportunity to acknowledge you, to thank you for who you are, which enables you to do what you do according to the charism of your Consecrated Life. I am grateful to God for you, for what you do, for your spirit of faith and your pursuit of service, your stewardship

and for your witness to the Gospel. You are signs of a wisdom and a love beyond the more tangible love we know in our life on earth.

So I thank you, our Religious, for your very many apostolates, past and present, seen and unseen, great and small in the Church and the wider society. Thank you, our people in Consecrated Life, for your witness of prayer, communion and mission. Pope Benedict said in one of his homilies that, just as Jesus is the living parable of Emmanuel (God with us), you, Religious, are an eloquent sign for today's world of the presence of God's Kingdom. ■



# YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

**The Year of Consecrated Life, inaugurated by Pope Francis, began on 30 November 2014.**

It is a year of celebration, renewal and refreshment of the great benefits that this style of Christian life brings to the world. Pope Francis identified three aims for this year:

- To look to the past with gratitude
- To live the present with passion
- To embrace the future with hope

Everyone is invited to celebrate this year with our religious sisters and brothers. Suggestions include:

## MAKE A PILGRIMAGE

- Take time, in a prayerful manner, to visit one of the many parish churches or retreat centres connected with communities of religious life within the Diocese.

**Parishes include:** Macquarie Fields, Varroville, Eagle Vale, Thirroul, Helensburgh, Sacred Heart (Italian Centre), Warrawong, Berkeley, Kangaroo Valley.

## Chapels of the Contemplative Communities:

St Mary's Towers Douglas Park, Penrose Park, Jamberoo Abbey, The Hermitage Mittagong, Hartzer Park Bowral

## RESOURCES

- Utilise the resources found for the year from the following website: <http://dow.sh/1EuugGV>
- Utilise the hymn written for this year within your parish or school celebrations.

## COMMUNITY

- Spend time with your community reflecting on the charism and gifts that Religious have brought to the ongoing life of the school or parish. Maybe schools and parishes could invite Religious who served for a special day in 2015.

*Join with us in the following events and spiritual renewal opportunities:*

## SUNDAY VESPERS AT JAMBEROO ABBEY

**5.00pm – 6.30pm on the following Sundays: April 12, May 24, June 14, July 12, August 16, September 13, October 18 and November 22. 695 Jamberoo Mountain Road, Jamberoo**

Gather in the church at 5.00pm for Vespers. After Vespers there will be a brief sharing by one of the sisters and time for private prayer concluding with Compline at 6.30pm.

*Ring 02 4236 0533 during office hours or [jamberooabbey.org.au](http://jamberooabbey.org.au)*

## AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION CELEBRATING THE EREMITIC/HERMIT VOCATION

**Friday 19 June, 6.00pm – 7.30pm. St Paul's Church Albion Park 247-253 Tongarra Road, Albion Park**

This will include Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6pm, Evening Prayer, a reflection about the Hermit Rule and will end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Supper will be offered afterwards.

*For more information Contact Sr Carmel Dresser, Diocesan Hermit, through St Paul's Parish Office, 02 4256 2038*

## SHARING OF LIFE WITH THE CARMELITE MISSIONARY SISTERS – AN AFTERNOON FOR YOUNG ADULTS (16-30YRS)

**Saturday 20 June, 3pm–7pm. Carmelite Missionaries Convent, 12 Montrose Place, St Andrews**

An afternoon of sharing, prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.

*To RSVP please contact Sr Ines or Sr Nory on 02 8795-0816 or email: [noryordiz@yahoo.com](mailto:noryordiz@yahoo.com) or [idcomiling@yahoo.com](mailto:idcomiling@yahoo.com)*

## COME AND MEET THE SISTERS OF ST CLARE

**Sunday 9 August, 2.30 – 5.30pm Bethlehem Monastery, 170 Narellan Road, Campbelltown**

Share their story and share their prayer.

*To indicate attendance please call: 02 4625 1591*

## A MONASTIC EXPERIENCE WEEKEND AT JAMBEROO ABBEY

**4 – 6 September, 695 Jamberoo Mountain Road, Jamberoo**

This retreat hopes to engage participants in the rhythm of the monastic day, sharing in our liturgical life, prayer and work.

*For costs, details, booking ring 02 4236 0533 during office hours or visit [jamberooabbey.org.au](http://jamberooabbey.org.au)*

## PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY OF ST TERESA OF ÁVILA

**Tuesday 15 September, 7:30pm – 9pm. Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong**

An evening of prayer, discussion and reflection exploring how we can make our relationship with God a real, down to earth experience through the wisdom and life of St Teresa of Avila. Facilitated by Fr Paul Maunder cm.

*To RSVP, please contact Helen Bennett on 02 4222 2403 or [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)*

## SHARING OF LIFE WITH THE CARMELITE MISSIONARY SISTERS

**Saturday 31 October, 3pm – 7pm. Carmelite Missionaries Convent 12 Montrose Place, St Andrews**

An afternoon of sharing, prayer and Eucharistic Adoration for everyone.

*To RSVP contact Sr Ines or Sr Nory on 02 8795 0816 or [noryordiz@yahoo.com](mailto:noryordiz@yahoo.com) or [idcomiling@yahoo.com](mailto:idcomiling@yahoo.com)*

# FIFTH CENTENARY OF ST TERESA OF ÁVILA

BY FR GREG BURKE OCD

**On Saturday 28 March 2015, the fifth centenary of the birth of St Teresa of Ávila was celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Varroville.**

Why are we celebrating Teresa's life five hundred years after her birth? Well, she has important things to say to us today. She knew that at the heart of being a Christian is experiencing God's love for us and finding our identity and mission in him. She wanted a Church that did not look solely to the past or seek to control its members, but looked forward to the reign of God. She mourned that the Church of her day was in crisis, yet would not fully receive the gifts of women.

St Teresa was not born in medieval times but in the early modern period when the world was changing rapidly. The invention of the moveable type in the mid 15th century meant that books were relatively affordable and available. Teresa and her mother were great readers of novels. She was open to new means of communication. With individuals quietly reading books there came a change in the way people understood themselves. The individual subject was now central. Martin Luther's "Christ is for me" is an example of the way this affected spirituality.

Revolutionary concepts were spread through books and ideas like those of Martin Luther (1517) divided the Church and lead to the redrawing of the map of Europe through the rise of the nation state. When Teresa was a young woman, the publication of a book by Copernicus changed the way people understood the universe. The Scientific Revolution had begun. Modern capitalism in Spain began with a first industrial revolution which forced peasants from the land they worked so that landowners could run merino sheep. Many worked in mills



for a pittance while others could not find work at all. Great numbers of the poor and hungry went from town to town looking for work and shelter.

In 1492, Columbus discovered the New World, while the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, recovered the city of Granada from the



*Christ has no body  
now but yours.*

*No hands, no feet  
on earth but yours.*

*Yours are the eyes  
through which he looks  
compassion on this world.*

*Yours are the feet with  
which he walks to do good.*

*Yours are the hands  
through which he blesses  
all the world.*

*Yours are the hands,  
yours are the feet, yours are  
the eyes, you are his body.*

*Christ has no body now  
on earth but yours.*

ST TERESA OF ÁVILA

Moors. To celebrate this great victory over Islam, the Jews were expelled from Spain. As a consequence, Catholics of Jewish descent were looked down on as unclean and were made scapegoats for anything that went wrong. This was unfortunate for Teresa, for while her family claimed to be aristocrats of pure blood, her father's family were in fact of Jewish origins. In a racist society, Teresa was an outsider who for many years felt she needed to please people.

In 1554, when Teresa was 39 years old, she had a life changing experience. Looking back over the previous twenty years, she felt that her religious life had been a waste of time. Kneeling before an image of the much suffering Christ, Teresa gave up. However, the Lord came down to her to lift her up. To her surprise, Teresa found that the Lord, who alone knew

her, truly accepted her – unlike the people of her time. She knew his love and responded in love. This graced experience changed her whole way of prayer. It was not a matter of spiritual tricks and techniques contrived to help one ascend spiritually to God, but God's gracious and merciful descent to the poor and humble. Teresa had experienced the creative power of divine love.

In mid-life, Teresa became confident, dynamic and creative. She mentored young women and listened to their spiritual aspirations. From this came a project to found a new community in which all were equal and free to grow spiritually in a life committed to prayer and discipleship, and renewal of the Church. Teresa did not found a community of set observances so much as a community of friends regardless of their social status or racial origins. Relationships were vital to her and was her vision of the Church and its mission. Her one community became many as she trudged the roads of Spain dealing capably with the world of secular realities, with bishops, superiors, landowners, benefactors and lawyers. At the same time, she cared for the religious needs of her nuns and friars through a vast number of letters.

The Church of her day was so fearful of the spread of Protestantism that people were burnt at the stake and books burned or forbidden to be read. Teresa opposed the use of force (the "secular arm") by the Church. Spiritual problems, Teresa believed, were to be solved by spiritual means not secular ones. Like Pope Francis, she wanted to reform the Church from within. Teresa loved the Church and valued the Church's sacraments, doctrine, and other means of grace. She insisted on both honest dialogue and obedience to bishops and superiors. As she was dying, she repeated: "I die a daughter of the Church".

Challenged by her superiors to explain her spirit, Teresa wrote the book of her Life. It is not really an autobiography

*She wanted a church that  
did not look solely to the  
past or seek to control  
its members, but looked  
forward to the reign of God.*

but an explanation of interior prayer and its effects, so that her confessors themselves would be converted as she had been. To replace the books that had been lost, Teresa wrote a number of works that are now spiritual classics. Her mysticism was very grounded. After the process of growth and transformation that she outlines in the Interior Castle, the highest prayer consists in openness to doing God's will. Prayer reaches its fullness as love in action. In 1970, Teresa was declared a Doctor of the Church.

Teresa is a helpful friend to Christians today. Her last words were, "Even now is the time to get moving". For us today facing the challenges of our time in the spirit of St Teresa it is time to get moving. ■

.....  
*Fr Greg Burke is a discalced Carmelite  
friar at Mount Carmel Priory,  
Varroville. Among other roles he is  
the Diocesan Chaplain to People with  
Disabilities and their Families.*

*Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you,  
All things are passing  
away:*

*God never changes.  
Patience obtains all things.  
Whoever has God  
lacks nothing;  
God alone suffices.*

ST TERESA OF ÁVILA

# WE WILL SET THE WORLD ABLAZE!

**When we are whom we are called to be, we will set the world ablaze!**

Vocation (from the Latin word *vocare* – to call) is understood to be the call to holiness for all Christians by virtue of our baptismal call to live in the spirit of Jesus Christ. There are many things people “do” as part of a vocation. But the tasks or jobs do not define the vocation. A Christian understanding of vocation – as a married, single, consecrated religious or ordained person – refers to “who” we are in relation to others. Therefore more than being simply a career, our vocation is a life commitment (publicly expressed or privately made) for the sake of the Church’s mission to proclaim the Gospel. Choosing to follow Jesus Christ in our vocation is the most important choice we can make in life.

Two pathways are celebrated as sacraments: marriage and holy orders (ordination of deacons, priests and bishops).

## MARRIED LIFE

Our Church upholds the dignity of Christian marriage and the beauty of living together in a Christian family. The couple makes a public commitment before God and the world that they will love one another all their days. This is a marvellous witness of God’s enduring love and a sacrament of hope for humanity.

“The intimate community of life and love which constitutes the married state has been established by the Creator... God himself is the author of marriage.” *Gaudium et Spes* 48



God who created us out of love also calls us to love – this is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For we are created in the image and likeness of God who is love. The mutual love of man and woman becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves humanity. It is good, very good, in the Creator’s eyes. And this love which God blesses is intended to be fruitful and to be realised in the common work of watching over creation: “And God blessed them, and God said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.’” Gen 1:28; cf. 1:31. *See Catechism of Catholic Church, 1604*

## HOLY ORDERS

Deacons, priests and bishops all offer a vital way of living out our call to follow Jesus Christ as they minister to God’s people.

Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time; thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. It includes three degrees – episcopate (bishops), presbyterate (priests), and diaconate (deacons). *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1536*

This priesthood is ministerial. “That office ... which the Lord committed to the pastors of his people, is in the strict sense of the term a service.” *Lumen Gentium* 24.

## SINGLE LIFE AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

Single life has its special place and circumstances and is also an avenue of grace, and opportunity for service. And of course, we should take seriously the call of God to religious life.

## CONCLUSION

The important thing for all of us is a commitment to serve, to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

At World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne, Pope Benedict XVI said that: “Anyone who has discovered Christ must lead others to him. A great joy cannot be kept to oneself. It has to be passed on.”

How seriously do we respond to the call to be a disciple of Jesus that was given by God to each of us at our Baptism? How do we discern ways that we can encourage each other in the living of our particular vocations? For “when we are whom we are called to be, we will set the world ablaze.” *St Catherine of Siena* ■



# VALE FR MAURIE ROSA



BY BISHOP PETER INGHAM DD

*This article is an excerpt from Bishop Peter Ingham's homily at the Funeral Mass for Fr Rosa on 24 March 2015 at St Columbkille's Church, Corrimal.*

**By our presence here today, by our prayers, and by our expressions of sympathy, we comfort Fr Maurie's family and all who were close to him. We demonstrate to them the widespread honour, affection and respect with which he was held in the parish communities where he was known.**

We also note the often unseen contribution to goodness that Fr Maurie has made to these communities and to wherever he served. At last night's Vigil ceremony here, some parishioners gave edifying witness to Fr Maurie's positive priestly work and influence. Maurie related well to people. He had the common touch and was very hospitable...

Even though Maurie was a seminarian for the Diocese of Wollongong, he came from Granville in Sydney. The Archdiocese did not take late vocations or people who had been in Religious

*Maurie related well to people. He had the common touch and was very hospitable*

Congregations. With Bishop McCabe's approval he was ordained for Wollongong by Cardinal Gilroy in St Mary's Cathedral along with 21 others in the same ceremony at 8:30am on a cold Saturday morning on 18 July 1964. Fr Carmelo Scriberras, Fr John Sullivan, Bishop Michael Malone, Fr Eugene Szondi [present here today] and I too were also part of that huge ordination ceremony with Maurie.

Maurie was our class mate for our seminary years, along with Wollongong students Bryan Jones, the late Leo Stevens and students from other dioceses in New South Wales. Strong bonds are forged over these years when we were all young. Every year our class has met to celebrate our anniversary of ordination. I well recall Maurie hosting the annual gathering at Corrimal and on another occasion when he was at Bowral.

Only last year, when our class celebrated our 50th anniversary of ordination, Maurie, despite his illness, got a lot of impetus in being part of the organising committee and celebrating with us last October. Maurie had great resilience despite poor health in recent years. His fidelity to Monday golf was one of his special enjoyments... ■

*Maurie ministered in the following parishes: Port Kembla, Thirroul, Moss Vale, Wollongong, Helensburgh, Campbelltown, Bulli, Corrimal, Bowral and Gwynneville. He was also the Director of Catholic Mission in this Diocese for 17 years. He re-established the Mission Shop and he personally directed, or even personally delivered, the proceeds to missionary works in Asia.*



## FR RON PETERS RECEIVED INTO THE DOMINICAN FRATERNITY

On 17 March 2015, the feast of St Patrick, Fr Ron Peters (Dean

and Administrator of St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong) became the first diocesan priest in Australia to be received into the Priestly Fraternities of St Dominic. He was presented with the Dominican Cross by the Prior Provincial, Fr Kevin Saunders, who presided over the rite during Morning Prayer. Fr Ron said: "I believe that I have had a call to the Dominican way of life for many years. As a priest I have come to appreciate the charism of preaching, and seek nurturance for this ministry by membership in the Dominican Priestly Fraternity. I continue to seek the presence of Jesus in the various responsibilities of my priesthood and desire to proclaim the Good News in the spirit of Dominic. I seek the life of prayer, study and contemplation in my journey of loving, serving and giving." ■



## MONS PAUL RYAN CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Congratulations to Mons Paul Ryan who celebrated the milestone of 60 years as a priest on 16 April 2015. Mons

Ryan's dedication to the priesthood was honoured on the day by Bishop Peter Ingham during a heartfelt Mass at St Paul's Catholic Church Albion Park. Mons Ryan was ordained on 16 April 1955 as a member of the Congregation of the Mission and was incardinated into the Diocese of Wollongong on 28 February 1964. During his priesthood Mons Ryan was appointed to the Cathedral in Wollongong as well as serving in the Berkeley, Campbelltown, Rosemeadow and Port Kembla parishes. After the resignation of Bishop William Murray, Mons Ryan was elected Diocesan Administrator. Bishop Philip Wilson appointed Mons Ryan as Vicar General for the Diocese. On 11 July 1998 the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, honoured Mons Ryan by appointing him an Apostolic Protonotary with the title of Monsignor. He retired in 2003 and has since been supplying in various parishes in the Diocese as well as helping out at St Paul's Parish Albion Park. ■

# CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CATHOLICS

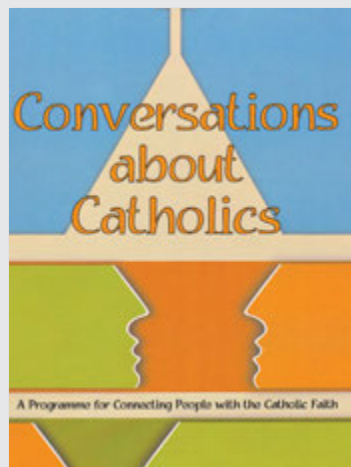
BY REBECCA MILLER

A strong connection between parish and school is a vital ingredient to creating vibrant faith communities. St Mary of the Presentation Parish in Mudgee NSW was particularly blessed with the chance meeting of Anne McLean, a parent with strong connections to the school, and Sr Alice Sullivan RSJ who had arrived to take up a pastoral role in the parish.

Being approached regularly by baffled parents, often in the school car park, each recognised the need for an informal get together that would allow parents to ask questions and de-mystify the language, traditions and rituals of our Catholic faith.

In 2012, their program *Conversations about Catholics* was formally launched with the Bishop of Bathurst, Michael McKenna, recognising the value of the program and granting an Imprimatur to ensure its easy implementation in parish and school communities. The value of this program is evidenced by the rate at which *Conversations about Catholics* is being taken up by parishes across NSW, including St Paul's Parish Albion Park who are keen to share the learning of this experience with others.

*Conversations about Catholics* is about the “domestic church,” the family. It acknowledges and values how parents nurture their family. It is about welcoming and connecting families to each other, to the wider community and to the Church. The aim is to help people to be part of the community and part of the Church and so gain a sense of belonging. It offers parents or carers of children who are not familiar with Catholic teaching and traditions an opportunity to grow in understanding and feel comfortable within our churches. By introducing Church language, information and



*Why are ashes used in a Mass early in the year ?*

*Why do you “bob down” before you sit in the seat?*

*It has been a long time since I have been to Church. Have things changed?*

concepts used in Religious Education curriculum, parents gain confidence and are encouraged to seek answers to their questions and share their “inquisitiveness.”

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ideally facilitated by two people who are guided through the invitation process and each session of between 60 and 90 minutes duration, over a four week period. It is usually offered at the beginning of the school year and/or prior to sacramental preparation. It can be offered during the evening or in the morning after school drop off – both have been successful. The group should be small, informal and open to all. Small children are warmly welcomed and a parish volunteer should be recruited to assist if necessary. Hospitality is a key factor, with a home-made cake and fresh coffee a pre-requisite.

## OUTCOMES

- Parents gain a greater understanding of what is taught in the Religious Education curriculum at the Catholic school
- Parents participate more comfortably with the rituals of the Church gaining a deeper awareness and appreciation of the Mass

- Parents are affirmed in their role as faith builders in their families and are offered strategies to strengthen their Catholic family life
- Some people have found their way back to a greater connection with the Church and have become involved with the parish adult initiation program (RCIA)
- As parents feel a greater sense of belonging and a responsibility to be more engaged, some parishes have found a distinct increase in participation in parish ministries
- The role of grandparents is valued for their invitation and encouragement of family members

The *Conversations about Catholics* Resource book costs \$30 (incl. postage) and can be photocopied. Please contact Sr Alice Sullivan [sralice@bigpond.com](mailto:sralice@bigpond.com) or 0428 741 342 to purchase or to discuss the program further. ■

## REFERENCES

McLean, A and Sullivan, A.  
*Conversations about Catholics*, paradisidesign, Australia, 2012.  
.....  
*Rebecca Miller, Project Officer – Welcome, Inclusion and Outreach is also available to assist parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong who would like support to trial this program. Please contact: rebecca.miller@dow.org.au or 02 4222 2479.*



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Image: Australian  
Catholic Youth  
Festival, Melbourne,  
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# AROUND THE DIOCESE



## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

BY SUE FREESTONE

May will be promotions month, when we encourage membership of our League and the advantages of belonging to an organisation that spans our parish, the local community, State, National, the international stage through WUCWO and our participation at the United Nations as a non-government organisation.

The annual Mass for the Unborn, on Friday 20 March was a diocesan Mass conducted at the Cathedral in memory of babies who did come to full term, those who died at birth or soon after and their families.

Our members are very supportive of the endeavours of Fr Ron Peters and the Illawarra People for Peace (IP4P) association through attendance at meetings, the Peace Rally, Prayer Mass and other activities.

A Retreat Day will be held on Wednesday 20 May at St Mary Star of the Sea, Gerringong, gathering at 9.30am, led by our diocesan chaplain Fr Patrick Vaughan. The annual World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) Mass will be held at St Patrick's Church, Port Kembla on Friday 8 May. This Mass is based on a liturgy prepared by different regions within WUCWO. ■

*Sue Freestone is the President of the Catholic Women's League in the Diocese of Wollongong.  
Contact her on 0410 459 732*

## FR ELIO CAPRA RETURNS TO PICTON/TAHMOOR PARISH

Fr Elio Capra returns by popular demand to Picton/Tahmoor Parish in May this year for a second weekend leading three days of talks and discussions. This year Fr Elio will be sharing with us the idea that life is a sacred journey, and along that journey we each have holy moments of existence we call The Sacraments. Each of the seven Sacraments are not simply separate "Rites of Passage" that happen in a moment of time and we then move on, they are given to us to keep warm in our hearts, to strengthen us as people of Christ. This follows on so well the idea of being "Joyful Gospel People" from our time with Fr Elio last year.

Fr Elio wishes to dedicate one session to the Sacrament of Marriage; where two individuals start a journey together of self discovery that leads to a desire to share a life of sexual and spiritual love as a holy couple in the Sacrament of Marriage. This complements Pope Francis' wish for 2015 to be *The Year of the Family*.



We welcome everyone to come to share with us and Fr Elio for part of, or the whole three days. There is parking available for motor homes or tents in our church grounds. The weekend is FREE, with a donation box available. Fr Elio joins us on Friday 1 May and stays with us until Sunday 3 May. A detailed program will be available later, and sent to parishes. ■

*If you would like to know more, please contact Lesley (02 46818 944), Margaret (02 4681 8321) or Cathy at the Parish Office on (02 4683 2230) or [picton@parish.woll.catholic.org.au](mailto:picton@parish.woll.catholic.org.au)*

## WELCOME, INCLUSION AND OUTREACH



In recent months Rebecca Miller, Project Officer – Welcome, Inclusion and Outreach has been available to share resources on Marriage and Family

Faith, and support parishes interested in trying new ministry programs or developing a Family Ministry Action Plan. Grandparents are also playing an important role in many families and parishes need to consider how to support them in passing on the faith to their grandchildren. Rebecca regularly travels to each region of the Diocese and is available to support Parish Pastoral

Councils and Family Ministry groups in establishing programs that will connect with families. She has offered information sessions on Conversations about Catholics, Messy Church and Deafness Awareness, with future sessions on Volunteers and Parish Playgroups planned for the coming weeks. Each of these sessions can be delivered in a parish setting and will be repeated later in the year. As Chaplain to the Deaf community she is also available for interpreting and pastoral care to any Deaf people in the Diocese. ■

*Please contact Rebecca at [rebecca.miller@dow.org.au](mailto:rebecca.miller@dow.org.au) for further information.*





## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS TO ASSIST OUR BISHOP?

A number of Advisory Councils and Committees exist in our Diocese to assist the Bishop in achieving his governance and pastoral objectives in areas such as finance, banking, property, education, aged care, pastoral services, justice, ecology and peace, adult and child welfare and liturgy.

If you possess professional skills and interest in any of these areas and are prepared to give freely of your time, please send your contact details with a brief résumé of your areas of expertise to:

**The Chancellor**  
Diocese of Wollongong  
Locked Bag 1789  
Wollongong NSW 2500



## RUBY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT ST PAUL'S ALBION PARK

In January, St Paul's Albion Park commemorated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the blessing and opening of their current parish church building. This milestone was marked by a number of events, including an Anniversary Mass and the opening of an exhibition of the work of Czechoslovakian born ceramicist Vladimir Tichy, who migrated to Australia as a political refugee in the late 1960s.

While Mr Tichy was commissioned for hundreds of murals and tiling projects around the country, many of these works have been destroyed as the buildings they were designed for have been demolished or renovated. St Paul's Catholic Church is one of the few public buildings where the work of Vladmir Tichy is still on display. Mr Tichy, now over 80 years of age and residing in Sydney, made the journey to Albion Park for the launch of an exhibition of his work and to attend the Anniversary Mass.

The launch of a commemorative book, by local historian and St Paul's parishioner Wendy Nunan, also coincided with the opening of the Tichy exhibition. Fr David Catterall says: "This book is '40 years in the making' as it captures the history of our church building from its opening in 1975 to the present day. The book also makes reference to the original St Paul's Church that stood on this site from 1874 – 1973." ■

*Copies of the Commemorative Book can be purchased by contacting St Paul's Parish Office 02 4256 2038 or [albionpark@dow.org.au](mailto:albionpark@dow.org.au)*



## PARISH WALKS FOR A GOOD CAUSE

On the weekend of 21 and 22 March over 60 parishioners from St Paul's Parish Albion Park along with Fr David Catterall participated in the 2015 Shellharbour *Relay For Life*, that took place at the Albion Park Showground. This was the second time the parish had entered a team. With the support of many parishioners and friends of the parish, who "sponsored" the team

in this "overnight 24 hour community event", the parish raised money for the work of the Cancer Council. "Relay for Life brings the whole community together for a weekend of fun, entertainment, celebration and remembrance", Fr David said. "Our parish was pleased to be once again a part of such a special community event". To acknowledge the participation of parishioners in this event, some of those who were members of the 2015 parish Relay for Life team wore their official t-shirts on Good Friday and carried the cross into the church for the Veneration of the Cross. St Paul's Parish, Albion Park looks forward in registering their team for next year's *Relay for Life* that will be held in early 2016. ■

# WHAT CHOICE?

**Aboriginal peoples have the right to decent services where they live.**

Chairman of the Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Bishop Christopher Saunders, has posed the question “what choice?” to Prime Minister Tony Abbott after his comment that Aboriginal peoples are living in remote communities as a “lifestyle choice.”

“Where is the lifestyle choice?” Bishop Saunders asked. “Communities are under-served and patently there is insufficient listening to the voices of people in Aboriginal communities. We are forcing Aboriginal people out of their ancestral lands to live in regional towns. The reality is that when a community is closed down people and their families have nowhere to go, so they end up on the streets, separated from their land, heritage, family, culture and spirituality.

“It is a basic human right to choose where you live but it seems that our government is giving people in



ARTWORK BY SALLY HARRISON

Aboriginal communities the “choice” to live in a community with only limited resources and services.

“After 200 years of colonisation and dispossession, surely out of fairness we owe something to Australia’s

First Nations in the way of respect and recompense. Recent research has found that where Aboriginal communities are supported to serve as models of landscape management or as the source of new community initiatives, they have far better outcomes in health and education. Like other Australians, they have the right to access basic municipal services.”

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) said, “The Prime Minister’s use of the term ‘lifestyle choices’ is an insult to Aboriginal people. To dispossess another generation of our people will deal a further blow to health, education and living standard disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Additionally, the burden on other communities will increase as people are forced to move.” ■

*This article is a reprint of a Media Statement released by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (11 March 2015)*

## PETER’S PENCE

16 February 2015

Dear Bishop Ingham,

At the request of the Holy Father, I am writing to acknowledge the offerings totalling A\$30,000 which you sent to the Apostolic Nunciature from the Diocese of Wollongong as the 2014 *Peter’s Pence* and as a contribution for the support of the Holy See in accordance with Canon 1271.

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
+ Angelo Becciu  
Substitute



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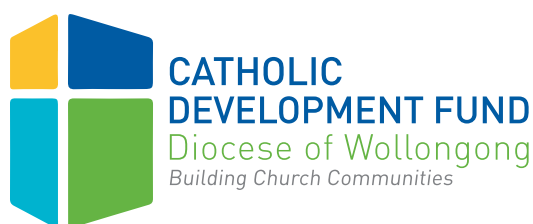
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or phone 02 4222 2400

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02 4222 2484

38 Harbour St Wollongong  
(entry via Crown St)

#### Cathedral Ministry Resource Centre

02 4222 2481

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38 Harbour St Wollongong  
(entry via Crown St)

#### CCD Resource Centre

02 4640 8550

Micah House  
35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown

### VOCATIONS SUPPORT

General Information can be found at:  
[catholiczvocations.org.au](http://catholiczvocations.org.au)

For enquiries contact: 02 4222 2400

### MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

Support for those divorced, remarried  
or seeking to remarry: 02 4222 2409

### NEEDING HELP?

CatholicCare provides  
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### PARISH SERVICES TEAM

Offering support to parishes  
[pst@dow.org.au](mailto:pst@dow.org.au) or 02 4222 2400

### MASS TIMES, CHURCHES & UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.dow.org.au](http://www.dow.org.au)  
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*Catholic Mission Shop* has moved from Kembla Street, Wollongong and is now located at the Xavier Centre under the name of *Cathedral Books & Gifts*, entry off Crown Street, Wollongong.

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