

JOURNEY

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations.

POPE FRANCIS
Laudato si'

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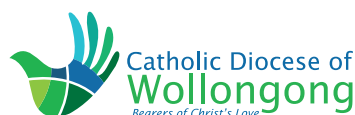
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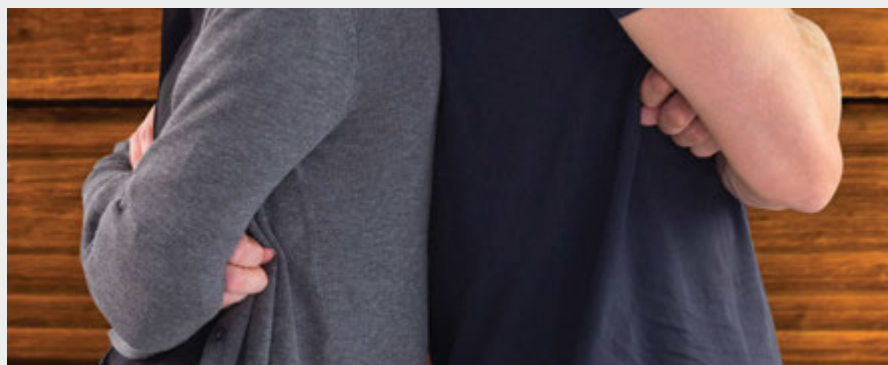
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WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?



BY RICHARD MCMAHON

“Whose side are you on?” is the query levelled by Prime Minister Tony Abbott at the ABC over their controversial instalment of the Q&A program on 22 June 2015, featuring Zaky Mallak, a man charged but found not guilty under Australia’s anti-terrorism laws.

Regardless of what one may believe about the appropriateness of Q&A’s actions, once the debate is about taking sides, it becomes very difficult to calmly consider the many issues wrapped up in this one event. If one raises the question of the right of free speech by the independent broadcaster, they can be labelled a terrorist sympathiser, and anti-democratic. If one condemns the show for supporting a terrorist agenda, they can be accused of stripping Australia of democratic freedoms.

For the Catholic Church, we are often involved in very difficult debates, concerning matters such as IVE, euthanasia, abortion, divorce and remarriage, birth control and same-sex marriage, to name a few. It is tempting, both from the point of view of the Church, and those who debate the Church, to take sides. Once we have taken a side in the issue, we can become deaf to the other, or label the other as “un-Christian” or “medieval” or “conservative” or “liberal” depending

on our position. For instance, in the debate over marriage laws, terms such as “anti-marriage” and “anti-gay” make any reasonable exchange difficult.

Jesus was also questioned about whose side he was on, particularly when he was observed eating with sinners and tax collectors, condemned both by the religious establishment and broader society. It seems Jesus was very open to respectfully engaging with those viewed to be “on the other side”.

David Hicks, a terrorist sympathiser and convicted criminal, appeared on Q&A five years ago and questioned then Prime Minister John Howard on whether he was given a fair go. Here is John Howard’s response:

“Well, I’d make a couple of responses to David Hicks. The first is that isn’t it a great country that allows this kind of exchange to occur and this is not the sort of exchange that would occur in other countries and in dictatorships and it ought to make all of us – whatever our views are about my Government’s policies concerning Mr Hicks – it ought to make all of us very proud that we live in a country that allows that sort of exchange...”

May we be willing to enter a respectful exchange with those of different views, recognising that the Church is always at the service of the truth, wherever that is to be found. ■

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

INVITING PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE CHURCH IN FRESH WAYS

BY BISHOP PETER INGHAM DD

I am here tonight to endorse Mr Bruce Downes known as *The Catholic Guy*, along with his wife Rosemary, and his ministry team. They have conducted a number of parish/mission events in our Diocese as well as all over Australia. They use various forms of media, and other activities to evangelise ...

The Catholic Guy Ministries, which originated in Perth, is made up of a growing group of people who together are combining their own personal sense of call to achieve [their] mission, by serving the Church, bishops, priests and parishes as part of the New Evangelisation. This growing group of people experience and live their lives as Catholics and are followers of Jesus Christ in their daily life.

The Mission of *The Catholic Guy Ministries*, of making Jesus Christ better known and loved, of helping us all to be Bearers of Christ's Love to others, is really another string in the bow of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. As you know, our Diocesan Pastoral Plan aims to revitalise our faith and sacramental life especially in the Mass; our Pastoral Plan wants to make our communities places of prayer, welcome and outreach; our Plan aims to spread the Good News of Jesus in new ways through our living, working and teaching so that we all act with greater love and care in all our communities, including our work for social justice and for the dignity of humanity and the dignity of the whole of creation. As faithful stewards of God's gifts, we want to serve this calling in the love of the Father, by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ and guided by his Holy Spirit.

Our Pastoral Plan exists because we recognise that, as the Body of Christ, we can do so much more together than if we were isolated.



PHOTO: DANIEL HOPPER

If we are to reach people who are alienated from the Church, firstly we have to listen to them

The Catholic Guy Ministries specifically exists to reach those who do not connect with the Church, so that these people may come into an ever deepening relationship with Jesus Christ through the building up of parish and church communities to which people will be attracted.

If we are to reach people who are alienated from the Church, firstly we have to listen to them. They have to know that we understand where they are at, and why they are where they are at: we have to know how

they think, how they feel, that we understand, because we want to hold on to the disconnected person who feels they've tried church and rejected it. The challenge is to be able to attract them sufficiently, and long enough, for an opportunity to be given to share faith with them. We want to give them cause and reason to listen again, or possibly to listen for the first time to the claims of Jesus Christ... ■

Most Rev Peter W Ingham DD
Bishop of Wollongong

Speech given at launch of *The Catholic Guy Impact Centre*, Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville, 2 July 2015. Full speech may be found at www.dow.org.au

See page 8 for full story of the launch.

YOUNGEST PRIEST ORDAINED FOR DIOCESE



PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER

We congratulate and pray for Fr Stephen Varney who was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Peter at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on 2 May 2015. He is currently appointed to the Lumen Christi Pastoral Region, Wollongong, and also serves on the Diocesan Liturgical Architecture Committee. Here is an excerpt from Fr Stephen's thank you speech at his ordination:

The priest offers the sacrifice of himself. He also offers the sacrifice of others on their behalf. And all these he unites in the

one perfect sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ ...

... My own experience is [that] the further I go, the less significant to me the sacrifices I have made seem to be, only then to have new sacrifices, previously un-endured, become more apparent.

And so I wonder. Is this experience of the ever-deepening mystery and sacrifice part of what Our Lord meant, when he spoke to Peter in that Gospel we read:

"I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt, and walked where you liked but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a

belt round you and take you where you would rather not go."

Perhaps the real sacrifice of the Christian, and most certainly that of the priest, may be letting go of our own pre-conceived ideas of who we are, what we are meant to be, till eventually we stretch out our hands and are led to a place that on the first step of the journey we never intended to go.

One of the most profound affects of love is trust. Maybe through this gospel, Jesus is asking me:

'Stephen, Son of Varney, do you trust me?'

'Yes Lord, you know that I trust you.'

'Then feed my sheep, and follow me.' ■

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IS OUR CHRISTIAN DUTY

Pope Francis released his highly anticipated encyclical letter *Laudato si'* – *On care for our common home* on 18 June 2015, in Rome. This encyclical calls on every person living on this planet to care for creation, our common home, and take collective action as we face global environmental degradation. It offers a unique opportunity for the Catholic community to enter into dialogue on important social and environmental issues, such as fossil fuel consumption and climate change.

Jacqui Remond, Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, joyfully received the Pope's encyclical. She said, "*Laudato si'* is an inspiration and a game-changer. It offers us in Australia a powerful moral and spiritual imperative for environmental and social action. This encyclical calls on us all to embrace a new lifestyle that respects all of creation, and asks our leaders to commit to effective global agreements."

WHAT ARE THE KEY MESSAGES IN LAUDATO SI'?

The question at the heart of *Laudato si'* is "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" (paragraph 160). This question is explored in numerous ways through the key themes in Pope Francis' encyclical.

These themes include:

- The intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet
- The conviction that everything in the world is connected
- The critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology



- The call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress
- The value proper to each creature
- The human meaning of ecology
- The need for forthright and honest debate
- The serious responsibility of international and local policy
- The throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle (paragraph 16)

HOW YOU CAN RESPOND TO LAUDATO SI'

We want to support the Australian community in responding to Pope Francis' call to protect "Our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us..." (paragraph 2)

The Pope reminds us that we have mistreated creation for far too long, and now is a critical time for dialogue and action.

Are you ready to answer the call of *Laudato si'*? Take action today and care for our common home.

SOME KEY ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TODAY

- Read *Laudato si'*, reflect deeply on the key messages and share them with others
- Fast for the Climate and celebrate

Meatless Friday to reduce your carbon footprint

- Join our National Energy Efficiency Network and cut your energy consumption
- Start a garden, in your home, school, parish or office and connect with our common home
- Sign the global Catholic Climate Petition, which is endorsed by Pope Francis
- Move to renewable sources of energy where practicable
- Consider where your investments are placed
- Watch Catholic Earthcare's *Laudato si'* video, and reflect on the discussion points
- Read the new book *The Francis Effect II* and attend a follow up symposium in your Diocese
- Write to your local Member of Parliament demanding Australian action on climate change

SCHOOL OR PARISH?

Catholic Earthcare offers a list of resources and actions is available specifically for schools and parishes. ■

For further information on the above actions and resources, visit catholicearthcare.org.au

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING THE POPE'S LETTER ON THE ENVIRONMENT

What's new in the Pope's encyclical *Laudato si'* (LS)? What's in this document that we have not seen from the Church before?

The document is a call to conversion and action. While *Laudatosi'* fits perfectly within Catholic tradition, it is saying with new force that concern for the environment is no longer “optional” for a believer. Caring for the environment is now even more clearly and surely part of Church teaching.

Why does the Pope pay little attention to the population problem?

LS acknowledges that population density can be a complicating factor in some areas. But people are not the problem. Waste is a much bigger problem: our throwaway culture and our tendency to consume without reflecting on our real needs, both material and spiritual.

The Encyclical seems to make technology and finance enemies. Isn't that a bit simplistic, even retrograde?

Technology and the financial markets can be wonderful instruments, as long as they are serving human beings, enhancing human dignity, as opposed to making relatively few very rich and a lot of people slaves. This calls for honest debate. What constitutes real technological progress? Where does it help human dignity, but where does it degrade it? Or financial markets: are they helping to spread the wealth? Are they helping to bring people out of poverty?

LS argues against fossil fuels. And yet cheap energy has done a lot to lift the poor out of poverty. Does the Pope want to deny them that possibility?

No. The Pope wants the wealthy nations, and those that have polluted more, to cut back on fossil fuels. He argues that alternative energy is available for all. But that requires solidarity: wealthy nations sharing their profits, helping the poorer nations to develop alternative energy sources.



It appears that the Pope is backing global agricultural planning on a massive scale (paragraph 129, 164). That's not really his job, is it?

Neither the Pope, nor the bishops around the world, are going to provide technical solutions. But they will speak on behalf of those with no voice. That's all the Pope is doing: saying that we either change the way we are producing crops, or we're headed for trouble. It will be for others – conscientious lay people – to work out the solutions.

This document has a fair amount of economics in it, for example, claiming in paragraph 109 that finance overwhelms the real economy. Is that the kind of opinion a Pope should be expressing?

The Pope is not lecturing on economic theory. He has very clear ideas on human dignity, and what it means for someone to be excluded or without work. They're missing that sense of self-worth that comes from work hard and putting food on the table for their family.

Why is the Pope so anti-market? (for example: paragraph 189, 190) Isn't this just a Latin American prejudice?

Look at the unemployment rates among young people in Europe, and the number of people risking their lives to leave Africa. There's nothing Latin American about this at all. The global economy right now is simply not serving the great majority of people. That's all he's saying. Yes, plenty of wealth has been created by the market economy; but there's also too much absolute misery, and plenty of indifference to go with it.

The Pope claims that global warming is one of the principal challenges for humanity right now (paragraph 22). Leaving all debate aside, that seems to be a very earthly concern for a man with a spiritual mission.

Everything is connected, and nothing truly human is outside of the Church's concern. A person of faith should show even more responsibility regarding creation, which is a gift from God. Climate change isn't a theoretical matter, it is already doing a lot of damage, especially to those least able to adapt.

With all due respect, is the Pope living on another planet? Does he really believe what he writes in paragraph 52, that wealthier should help contribute to solve the energy problems of poorer countries?

Pope Francis is the first to admit that solidarity is not a popular word. But without solidarity, while some places may get richer, we won't be going anywhere as a global community. The poorer nations will develop when wealthier nations give them a hand, and energy is a part of that.

Paragraph 55 is a kind of condemnation of air conditioning. We know a lot of Europeans don't like it, but is it really that bad?

Just as many of us waste water, consuming a lot more of it than we

really need, many countries waste energy with excessive air-conditioning. When the Pope talks about a more sober lifestyle, it's an invitation to see what each one can learn to live without.

Does LS promote wealth re-distribution? Paragraph 193 seems to suggest that.

LS promotes solidarity among people and nations. Pope Francis has no magic formula for how the wealth should be shared, but he certainly is calling on those who have more than they can eat to open their minds and their hearts, and to share with those who don't have enough.

Buying and selling and trading have been going on forever. It also keeps people working. Is consumerism really as bad as LS depicts it (paragraph 124, for example)?

We all have to consume, to eat healthy foods, and to drink clean water. What we don't need is to foment an insatiable desire for more; creating needs that aren't really necessary at all. Think about someone who has lost all control with drink or with drugs; it becomes very violent, destructive behavior. There is a similar kind of addiction with consumption. A constant desire for more things, more possessions, becomes an obsession. Thinking about the poor, or about future generations, can actually set one free. ■

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Source: Catholic Earthcare

For a full list of Questions and Answers, visit catholicearthcare.org.au



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THRIVING TOGETHER IN A CHANGING WORLD



PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER

1. From left: William Walker (Diocesan Executive Officer and Chancellor), Sharon Bird MP (Member for Cunningham), Bishop Peter Ingham, Peter Turner (Director of Catholic Schools), Stephen Jones MP (Member for Throsby), Michael Austin (Director of CatholicCare). **2.** From left: Franca Facci (Chair of CatholicCare Advisory Council), Sharon Bird, Michael Austin, Stephen Jones. **3.** Bishop Peter Ingham and Michael Austin. **4.** Gail Maurice (Executive Manager Quality Systems) and Dr Michael Gross (Executive Manager Research & Development) who announced his retirement from CatholicCare after 20 years.

Bishop Peter Ingham recently launched CatholicCare's Strategic Plan, *Thriving Together in a Changing World*. The launch took place on 15 July at the Xavier Conference Centre. This plan sets CatholicCare's agenda over the next three years and includes strategic priorities in the following areas:

Client Service and Innovation

Mission and Leadership

Sustainability and Growth

Systems and Processes

Speaking to staff and guests, Michael Austin, Director of CatholicCare, reflected on the work of CatholicCare and how it frequently involves a journey along the path where human vulnerability and human strength find a meeting place. He encouraged staff to always have the question in their minds, "What is possible here?"

He also spoke of the current social services environment, as one characterised by significant and far reaching change and volatility.

"Many of these changes represent significant advancements in our understanding of social services, and include a welcome focus on achieving outcomes and impact, emphasising increasing consumer choice and control. As a Catholic

social services organisation committed to innovation and the highest quality services for the people we serve, CatholicCare welcomes and embraces these changes," Mr Austin said.

"Our aspiration and commitment is not merely to survive in these changing times, but to thrive," he continued.

Bishop Peter celebrated Mass for staff and Advisory Council members before the official launch. When launching the plan, Bishop Peter spoke about the positive impact of CatholicCare's work on those who are most vulnerable in our community and the importance of co-responsibility where all the members of the people of God strive together to be Bearers of Christ's Love. ■

To view the plan, please go to dow.sh/ccstrategicplan

FOSTERING IS A TEAM EFFORT FOR THIS FAMILY

BY TONI LEA-HOWIE

At a time in life when Illawarra couple Sandra and Michael were on the verge of becoming empty-nesters, fostering with CatholicCare Wollongong has proven so rewarding they can't imagine life without the children.

Their passion for helping youngsters in need has rubbed off on their three young adult children who wholeheartedly support their parents and readily pitch in to look after the boys in their care.

Sandra and Michael provide long-term care to two brothers Oliver and Flynn*, aged seven and eight, and immediate and short-term care for babies. They are currently caring for one baby while his future home is decided.

"We work together as a team. When we started, they were all living at home. I wouldn't have done it if they weren't supportive," Sandra said of her adult children.

She is passionate about fostering and making a positive impact on children's lives. "I feel like I'm at my best and at my happiest when I'm caring for kids," she said.

Sandra said it was important to keep siblings together where possible and give children "a sense of normality" so they can enjoy their childhoods. "The love they have for one another is extraordinary. I cannot imagine Oliver and Flynn's lives if they were separated."

The rewards for Michael are giving children a happy childhood and pathways for the future. "They're part of our family. I'd hate to think where our two boys would be if they weren't getting help," he said.

Daughter Brooke, 24, said her parents were selfless people who put



in 100 per cent effort to improve children's lives.

"I feel like fostering has definitely brought us closer as a family because obviously mum and dad need a bit of help now and again," she said.

Sandra finds that children need time, love, predictable routines and "the most simple thing of being there and helping someone feel safe."

She spoke highly of her relationship with CatholicCare. "We're always made to feel very supported and very special and that's really important. It helps us do the best job we can with the boys," she said.

CatholicCare's Executive Manager of Children & Youth Services, Michelle Ferrara said the valuable work of carers like Sandra and Michael brings great hope to children's lives.

There is a constant need for more foster carers who can provide loving, nurturing and stable homes for children needing short-term, long-term and respite care. Carers are urgently needed for children

aged five and above, particularly sibling groups and those entering care for the first time in a crisis situation. ■

Toni Lea-Howie is the Carer Recruitment Coordinator for CatholicCare Wollongong's Foster Care Program.

For information on fostering, visit www.catholiccare.dow.org.au or phone CatholicCare on 4227 1122

**Names have been changed.*

Are you interested in becoming a foster carer who can provide long-term, short-term or respite care?

Are you:

- compassionate, flexible and understanding?
- able to provide a loving and stable home for a child?
- a team player who can work collaboratively with agencies and other significant people in a child's life?

Call CatholicCare today on 4227 1122 or visit www.catholiccare.dow.org.au for more information.

BISHOP LAUNCHES CATHOLIC GUY IMPACT CENTRE

Bishop Peter launched The Catholic Guy Impact Centre at Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville, on 2 July 2015. Over 300 people attended an evening of music, testimonies and a stirring input from Bruce Downes, *The Catholic Guy*.

THE CATHOLIC GUY?

Bruce Downes became known as *The Catholic Guy* after doing a number of widely successful presentations and events around Australia. His presentations, whether on television or in writing, will uplift, inform and challenge you to move to a higher level of faith and life. With his wife Rosemary, their five children, and *The Catholic Guy Impact Centres*, Bruce seeks to present the Church and the Gospel in ways that are relatable to today's world.

WHO IS THE CATHOLIC GUY MINISTRIES?

The Catholic Guy Ministries is a group of people who are passionate about finding ways to reach people and proclaim God to them so that their lives would be changed by God's personal love for them. People who serve in *The Catholic Guy Ministries* live in parishes, serve in other Catholic ministries and belong to various Catholic communities.

WHAT IS AN IMPACT CENTRE OR IMPACT COMMUNITY?

Impact is the community of *The Catholic Guy*. This is a community that exists to reach those who do not connect with the Church, so that they come into an ever deepening relationship with Jesus Christ, through the building of Parish and Church communities that people love to attend.



PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER

HOW DOES IMPACT FIT INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

The Catholic Guy Impact Community is an ecclesial community that is under the authority of the local Bishop in each area. All the core members of *Impact* belong and contribute to their local Catholic parishes. There are always a number of service and event attendees who are still on their individual faith journeys back to regular church attendance. *The Catholic Guy Impact Community* is one Church family in multiple locations. We are currently located in Perth, Western Australia and Sydney, New South Wales, with more sites planned in the near future.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Impact conducts Sunday services and events designed to be a first step for people that are disconnected from traditional Church and for Catholics who are looking to take their faith to a deeper level. ■

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Sunday Services take place at Mount Carmel Catholic College, Varroville every Sunday at 11.00am.

For more information call 1300 734 880 or visit TheCatholicGuy.tv

See Bishop Peter's speech on page 3.

MICHAEL DYER ORDAINED A DEACON



PHOTOS: DANIEL HOPPER

We congratulate and pray for Michael Dyer who was ordained as a deacon at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on 13 June 2015 by Bishop Peter. Deacon Michael returned to minister at St Michael's Parish Nowra and transferred to the Lumen Christi Pastoral Region Wollongong on 1 August 2015. At the conclusion of his vote of thanks, Michael shared the following:

I draw to a close this *Litany of Praise and Thanksgiving* by expressing publicly my love for and my gratitude to the God of Jesus in whose Spirit 'I live and move

and have my being'. My friends, it is 'God Alone' whom I seek forevermore, a God who for Christians is the Word made Flesh in Jesus and the One who dwells amongst us. To continue seeking out and selflessly serving Jesus within our Church and throughout the wider world is my primary reason for desiring the Sacrament of Holy Orders. That such a grace was conferred upon me today is breathtaking. Permit me, by way of conclusion, to recite a psalm which I have long loved and which for me remains a guiding star.

Throughout the verses the psalmist expresses poetically my yearning for God and my aspiration to be a man

of God for others. I pray this psalm for you especially today and for those whom you love.

*O God, you are my God, for you I long.
For you my soul is thirsting,
My body pines for you
Like a dry weary land without water.
So I gaze in you in the sanctuary to see
your strength and your glory
For your love is better than life
My lips will speak your praise so I will
bless you all my life
In your name I will lift up my hands
My soul shall be filled as with a
banquet,
My mouth shall praise you with joy.* ■

MEET YOUTH MINISTRY'S NEW DYNAMIC DUO

In this edition, we interview dynamic youth ministry duo, Josh Cotter and Seth Harsh.

Meet Josh:

Despite his considerable list of accolades (including 2012 Campbelltown Youth Ambassador Award, 2012 Young Citizen of the Year, Pride of Australia Medal nominee in the Young Leader Category), Josh Cotter considers himself not so extraordinary, but rather, an ordinary guy that made the most of opportunities afforded him by his Catholic schooling and broader life experience. His inspiring message is that everyone can reach their full potential if they can identify their inherent value and abilities and make the most of every opportunity. He backs this up by his own experience of beating the odds with hard work and determination throughout school and university. His greatest opportunity was an offer from Director of Schools, Peter Turner. Peter's vision was to have a young person working with students, parents and teachers in our Catholic schools to develop general student wellbeing and early intervention programmes. Four years on - with much positive feedback and increasing demand - this has led to his current full-time role as Youth Leadership & Development Officer.

Meet Seth:

A man of extremes and diverse tastes and talents, Seth Harsh is as comfortable jamming on stage in front of thousands as he is with his nose in a book of theology sitting alone in the quiet of a library. He brings a contagious enthusiasm and vision to all that he does, and his work in youth ministry is no exception.

New to the youth ministry scene in Wollongong, Seth intends to use his skills and passion to create new and exciting opportunities for young people to engage with their Catholic faith. He believes that Catholicism is relevant for young people today and seeks to present it in ways that are accessible, practical and enjoyable.



What led you to youth ministry?

Seth: I decided to take my faith more seriously around the age of 22. I realised I had a real passion for my faith and I wanted to learn more about it so that I could share it more articulately with others. It wasn't so much about preaching, but more about being able to share something I was excited about. I had studied music performance, and I went on to study theology. I loved it. I found though, that I wasn't content with just knowing stuff. I wanted to share my knowledge and skills with others. After pursuing a few different things, I discovered that my deepest desire was to serve others using my gifts and experience with a Catholic focus and within a Catholic context.

Josh: Throughout my years as a student at John Therry [Catholic High School, Rosemeadow], I developed a passion for working with young people and volunteering my time to the community. I wanted to explore this further when I finished school which led me to undertake a degree in psychology and theology. I have always been connected with my Catholic faith. After visiting India (a place of significance for me given my Anglo-Indian background), I realised how privileged we are in Australia and I wanted to make a difference by combining my passion for community work with the values and practices of my Catholic faith.

What would you say to those who claim that being Catholic is uncool?

S: I think the Catholic faith is often misrepresented, and as a result,



PHOTO: DANIEL HOPPER

So what can we look forward to this year and into 2016?

J: We are looking to really change the dynamics of Youth Ministry in the Diocese. Our vision is to create Youth Ministry formation and pathway programs to lead up to major events and provide resources and strong support networks for youth.

S: We're looking to use music in a big way. Other Christian churches are doing some really cool things with music, and we feel that despite so much talent in the Catholic Church, there's not much happening in this area. We're working on generating more opportunities for Catholic musicians and giving them contexts for using their talents for God and others. Music is going to be a big part of upcoming events and we are working on creating opportunities for young people to not only enjoy great music, but also to have lessons with some of the amazing musicians we'll be featuring.

J: We believe that what we're doing is relevant and practical for everyone, whether you're already engaged or searching for something more. People may have had a bad experience in the Church or some may not have experienced it at all. We're working to provide experiences of the Catholic faith that are safe, enjoyable, relevant, practical and life-changing.

How do we find out more about what's coming up?

We'll be promoting events and initiatives through schools, parishes and social media, so we're confident you'll hear about what's coming up. Make sure you check us out on our social media pages. ■

Find out more about what Josh and Seth are doing at:

Facebook: facebook.com/cymdow

Twitter: twitter.com/cymdow

Instagram: [@cymwollongong](https://instagram.com/cymwollongong)

Seth: seth.harsh@dow.org.au

Josh: joshua.cotter@dow.catholic.edu.au

I think people find it uninteresting or irrelevant - this shouldn't be the case. I want to present the Catholic faith as it is and let people make up their minds based on that. It shouldn't be all about my own personal take or interpretation. I talk to a lot of people, and they ask me questions about what Catholics believe. When I answer them they're often shocked that that's the Catholic position. They'll often say to me things like: "Oh, I had no idea that's what Catholics believed", or "I've never had it explained to me that way". Personally, my faith gives so much depth to my experience of life, relationships and God.

J: It's quite the opposite for me actually, I am very proud to have been the school captain at John Therry, then to attend Australian Catholic University

and work for Catholic Education in the Diocese. I always bring up the questions of who I am and what I represent. My family and my Catholic faith provide me with those answers and I always encourage others to also explore their purpose. I don't think it's uncool having a purpose and being able to express your personal identity. I always tell students that being different is cool. Being a replica of someone else is not what God created you to be. Being Catholic provides a foundation to be part of something that is shared with millions of others around the world. In today's world, with media and technology becoming so prevalent, it's easy to get a distorted view of the Catholic faith. There is nothing better than personal experience to help judge for yourself.

JUSTICE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS & REFUGEES



The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2015–16 challenges Australians to think again about our national response to asylum seekers, especially those who come to Australia by sea. It invites us to recognise the desperation that has driven these people to seek refuge far from their homes.

The Statement's title is *For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers*. The title, taken from the words of our National Anthem, is intended to remind all Australians of how this nation has aspired to be a place of welcome and inclusion.

In this Statement, the Bishops address the divisive national debate over asylum seekers, especially those who arrive by boat. They confront Australia's current deterrence-based response and remind us of the needs

It asks why both sides of Australian politics have felt the need to introduce such cruel and self-defeating policies as offshore processing and indefinite detention.

of the nearly 60 million people who are displaced around the world.

The Statement takes its inspiration from the actions and words of Pope Francis on his 2013 visit to the Italian island of Lampedusa, where he met the survivors of a refugee tragedy and mourned for those who had died. It begins and ends with the Pope's own words and is strongly based on the Scriptures and Catholic teaching.

The Bishops' document traces the experiences of asylum seekers from their flight from persecution and danger, through their perilous journeys, to their experience in Australia of indefinite detention,

deprivation and insecurity. It asks why both sides of Australian politics have felt the need to introduce such cruel and self-defeating policies as offshore processing and indefinite detention.

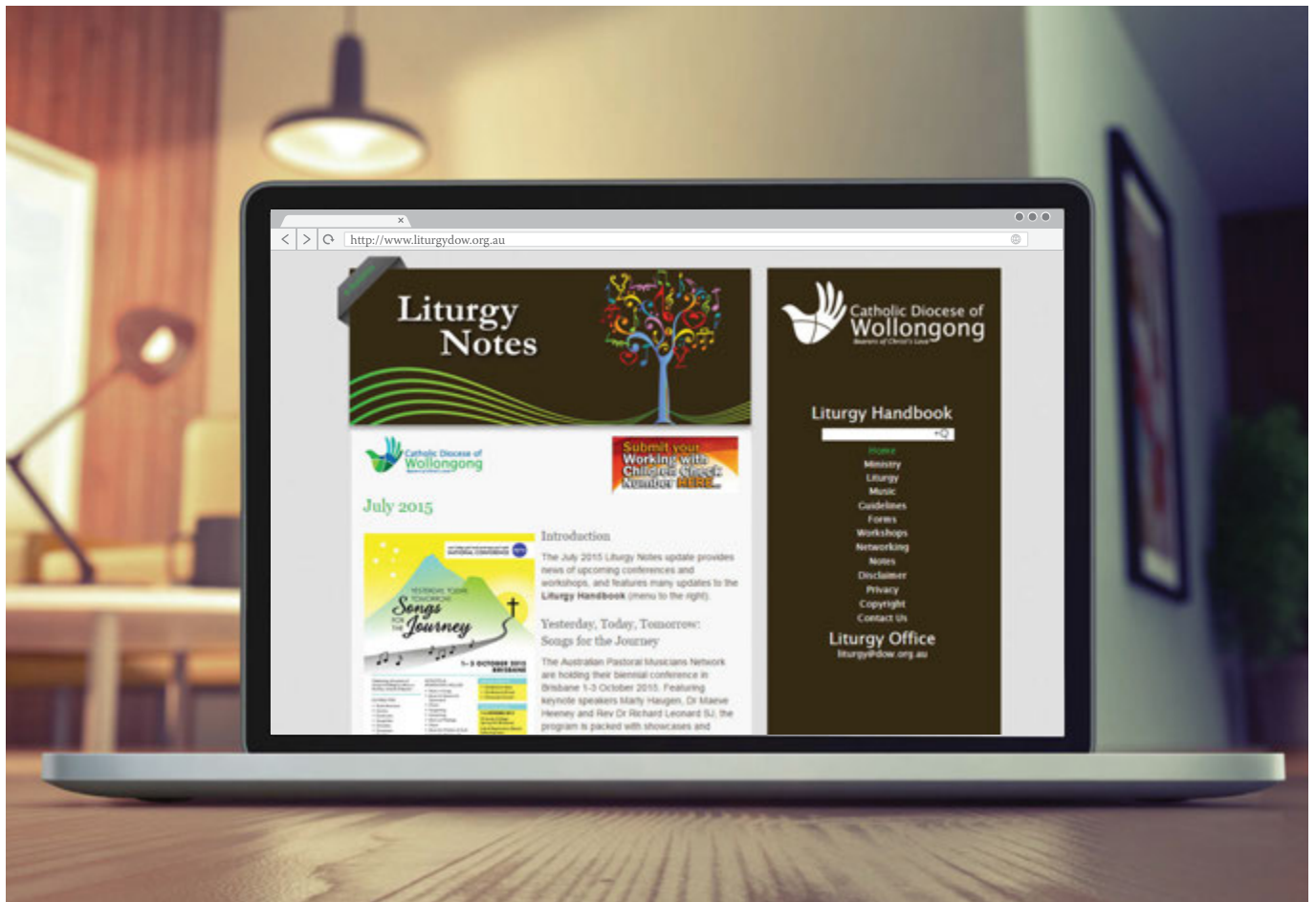
This Social Justice Sunday we are invited to reflect on the call of Jesus to welcome those in most need and to give comfort to those who come to us in flight from fear and suffering. ■

For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or call (02) 8306 3499.

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) website (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements) will have resources available for download free of charge before Social Justice Sunday.

Resources for schools and social justice groups, Prayer Cards and Ten Steps leaflets can be ordered from the ACSJC on (02) 8306 3499 or by email: admin@acsjc.org.au.

WEBSITE FOCUSES ON WORSHIP AND MINISTRY



www.liturgydow.org.au

The resources provided on the Diocese's Liturgy Handbook website have grown considerably since the website launched in 2013.

The idea for a web-based Liturgy Handbook available for parishes and schools was conceived in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2011-2015. The initial focus was as a repository for the resources contained in the Liturgy Notes e-Newsletters, especially the week-by-week practical help for music ministers preparing Mass.

Today there are 51 webpages and more than 200 reference documents on the website, as well as a range of liturgy

outline templates and interactive forms to help prepare for Mass and celebrations of the Sacraments. There are also links to other Internet resources covering a range of topics including welcoming and hospitality, ministry to the sick and homebound, Children's Liturgy resources, prayer preparation resources, church suppliers, and important Church documents related to parish and school ministry.

Major sections in the website include:

- Ministry, including the diocesan *Guide for Parish Ministry Volume One and Two*
- Liturgy, including the liturgical calendar, and resources for preparing prayer

- Music, including diocesan scholarships, music resources, repertoire, and music suggestions for every Sunday in the three year cycle
- Guidelines for liturgy and the sacraments, music, copyright and ministry within the Diocese
- Forms to help prepare Mass, the Sacrament of Confirmation, Blessings, as well as forms to submit Working With Children Check Clearances, express interest in parish ministry and express interest in the diocesan choir
- Workshops, including introduction to liturgical spirituality, ministry training, and the Certificate Course in Pastoral Liturgy ■

AUSTRALIA'S NEWEST CATHOLIC PARISH THE HEARTBEAT OF ORAN PARK



St Mary MacKillop
Catholic Parish
ORAN PARK



BY DANIEL HOPPER

On 22 June 2015, Bishop Peter Ingham established Australia's newest Catholic parish in Oran Park, appointing Fr David Catterall as the founding priest of the new parish. Fr David is 42 years old and has been a pastor for over fifteen years ministering in Wollongong, Nowra, Camden, Campbelltown, Rosemeadow and most recently in his home parish of Albion Park.

Fr David said: "It is an exciting prospect starting a new parish as we 'launch into the deep' and discover fresh ways of being the hands and feet of Jesus in our local area. I believe it is fitting that our new parish is named after Australia's first canonised Saint, St Mary MacKillop. Mary famously said: 'Never see a need without doing something about it.' I am excited that we can now take up Mary MacKillop's challenge together in Oran Park! I also look forward to working alongside the



PHOTO: DANIEL HOPPER

other Christian churches and civic leaders in the area."

St Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish Oran Park will include the suburbs of Oran Park, Catherine Field, Harrington Park, Harrington Grove, Gregory Hills, Leppington, Marylands, Lowes Creek and parts of Bringelly, Rossmore and Leppington North. Fr David will be living as part of the community in a residential street in Oran Park Town rather than in a traditional priest's house next door to a church.

Work will soon commence on a new parish centre and worship space (next to the site of St Justin's Catholic Primary School) which, amongst other things, will be used for the celebration of Mass. The building is planned to open in late 2015 and is best described as a purpose-built structure that will operate as the church and parish centre until a permanent structure is required as the community grows. There is also the likelihood that further parishes will need to be established in the area over the coming years. For now, Fr David will set up a parish administration centre on the site next to St Justin's Catholic Primary School.

Although acknowledging the daunting task of being entrusted with the pastoral responsibility and care of the Diocese's first new parish in over two decades, Fr David said: "I am reminded of the old saying that we can see further if we stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before us. I am grateful to Fr Michael Williams and the local clergy, as well as the parishioners of



PHOTOS: JEREMY YUEN

St Paul's Catholic Parish Camden, for the pastoral care and support they have given to the people and school communities in the region. They have provided a solid platform that will enable the successful launch of our new parish."

The image on this page shows an artistic impression of the new parish centre and worship space.

JOYOUS SCENES AS OVER 600 CELEBRATE FIRST MASS

It was a great testimony to the faith and community spirit of the Macarthur as over 600 people, predominately young families, gathered to sing, pray and celebrate their Christian faith at St Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish's first Sunday Mass at Oran Park at 10am on Sunday 19 July. The celebrations continued after Mass with a massive sausage sizzle and meet-and-greet with the new parish priest, Fr David Catterall.

St Justin's Catholic Primary School Oran Park opened up the doors of

... how wonderful it is for you and for me to be invited by the Lord to be a part of this new beginning ...

their library and surrounding outside areas as the Mass venue. The school community also provided a wonderful service with their enthusiastic welcome, generous hospitality and beautiful music during the Mass. St Benedict's Catholic College Oran Park also announced that they will soon commence work on carving a new wood altar for the parish.

Fr David summed up the spirit of the celebration in his homily saying: "Today, we make the words of St Peter to Jesus at the Transfiguration our own as we recognise how 'wonderful it is for us to be here' – how wonderful it is for you and for me to be invited by the Lord to be a part of this new beginning, not only for our faith community but also our Diocese and our Universal Church."

Fr David continued: "As you would expect, some people have already asked me what my priorities will be as the founding parish priest of St Mary MacKillop Parish. I must say that my first priority is to get to know you, the people of this parish. To listen to your needs and hopes and dreams for this faith community and to work with you in making this vision a reality."

Parishioners at St Mary Mother of God, Leppington, the northern church in Oran Park Parish, also celebrated good news with the addition of new doors. At Fr David's first Mass with the Leppington community, white pigeons were released as part of the celebrations. In addition to the Sunday 8am Mass at the parish's Leppington church and the 10am Oran Park Mass, Fr David announced that a Saturday Vigil Mass at Oran Park will soon commence to cater for the demand. ■

Daniel Hopper is the Director of Communications for the Diocese of Wollongong

SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS COMMIT TO NO ELLIS DEFENCE



The Archbishop of Sydney and one of Australia's most senior Church Leaders, Anthony Fisher, has said the Ellis defence is no longer a legal tactic used within his Archdiocese.

[Editor's note: The Ellis defence broadly speaking refers to the proposition that in cases of historical sexual abuse, it is difficult to identify a legal entity that can be successfully sued.]

Speaking on ABC's Radio National on 22 May 2015 Archbishop Fisher said both within the Archdiocese of Sydney and more broadly across the Church, the position is that in cases of child sex abuse survivors there will always be someone or something to sue which will be backed by assets and/or insurance. Archbishop Fisher said he is unaware of any case of child sexual abuse against a church body in which the Ellis defence is being used. He said: "We have been very clear that what we do for victims is, as far as possible, don't put them through a legal process at all and help them settle outside of Court. If they want their day in Court then we

will help them identify who is the person to sue and make sure that is backed by insurance or assets."

Francis Sullivan, CEO of the Truth Justice and Healing Council, said the comments by Archbishop Fisher are the strongest yet coming from a Church leader about the controversial legal defence. "This very public endorsement of the new position, developed by the Council and endorsed by Church leaders last year, sends a clear message that it is not business as usual," Mr Sullivan said.

"If a survivor wants to take a claim to Court then at the very least they must have an entity to sue. This position has now been fully endorsed by the

three major Archdioceses in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane) and by the Christian Brothers, the Marist Brothers and De La Salle Brothers. I would now be very surprised if any diocese or religious order approached to comment on this position now had a different view," Mr Sullivan said.

The Church position in relation to the identification of a proper defendant in civil claims calls for:

- The enactment of legislation in the states and territories imposing a requirement on an unincorporated association which appoints or supervises people working with children to establish or to nominate a body corporate to be the proper defendant to any claims of child sexual abuse brought against the association.
- The identity and corporate structure of the body corporate should be left to the institutions to determine in accordance with their internal structures, provided that the body corporate has sufficient assets or is appropriately insured or indemnified.

- The legislation should apply equally to all institutions and not interfere with the right of religious institutions to arrange their affairs according to their norms or beliefs but instead should simply provide that there be an identifiable body corporate that is appropriately insured or indemnified.

This position can be found in two submissions to the Royal Commission, the first on Civil Litigation and the second on Redress and Law reform.

These submissions can be read on the TJHC website www.tjhcouncil.org.au. ■

The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.



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
GPO Box 5283, Sydney NSW 2001

Police Assistance Line: 131 444

ENHANCING SKILLS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY & OUTREACH



SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE AT DAPTO,
MACQUARIE FIELDS & CAMDEN

BY DARREN MCDOWELL

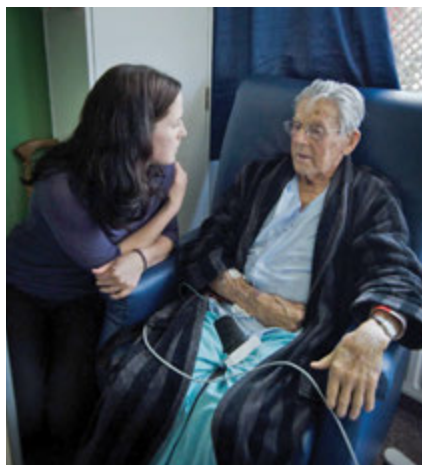
Have you ever felt your involvement in Church to be overwhelming? Would you like to learn how to be more effective in attracting and keeping people involved in ministry? Have you wanted to set up a new ministry within the parish and not known how to go about doing so?

Over the past six months in Dapto, Macquarie Fields and Camden some 35 people have been participating in the *Serving God's People* course. This course provides an overview of Christian ministry, equipping those involved or seeking to be involved in ministry with essential practical skills and knowledge for actively contributing to the life of the parish or Diocese.

Participants said of this course: "This course has helped me in my ministry by providing tools for identifying the needs of ministries and evaluating effectiveness of ministries" and "This course has helped me understand and deepen my faith in an ongoing manner, as well as giving me the skills to help in the service of others, in my personal life and in the life of the parish."

The course involves six modules:

- **Module 1: God Revealed.** How do our Images of God and Church affect our ministry? This module focuses on our images of God, the nature of God we believe in and our relationship with God.
- **Module 2: Experiencing God.** How do we bring our experience of God into ministry? Participants develop skills for reflective learning and are encouraged to identify the personal skills



they bring to ministry. Time is spent reflecting upon participants' parishes and the ministries that are offered there before considering the importance of prayer for those in ministry.

- **Module 3: The Challenge of Ministry.** Topics explore the difference between mission and ministry. In ministry we bring to every situation the presence of Christ. The challenge is always to be able to communicate effectively. Simple communication strategies are introduced.
- **Module 4: Ministry and the Word.** What is Jesus' model of ministry and leadership for us to follow? How can we improve communication and participation? The Scriptures, the basis for ministry, are explored. The model for ministry is centred in the actions of Jesus. Further exploration and practice of communication strategies are continued.
- **Module 5: Making Connections.** In this module participants explore the requirements for maintaining safe, respectful and hospitable practices within their roles as ministers. Participants report on various ministries they have explored as part of their research from Module 2. Strategies will be explored that will assist ministers keep true to their core business. As in all effective ministries the one ministering needs to remain focused

and enthusiastic. Thus participants will be introduced to a variety of ways to care for themselves.

- **Module 6: Working with Children & Volunteers; Work Health and Safety and Inclusive Practices.** This is an additional module offered through Catholic Faith & Life.

During third term we will be running the course for the Eastern Macarthur on Wednesdays in two formats.

Option one: Wednesdays

22 July – 16 Sept, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Option two: Wednesdays

19 Aug – 16 Sept, 10.00am to 2.00pm. ■

Please contact Darren McDowell, Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation, for more information. More courses will be run in each region over the coming year. Darren can be contacted on 4222 2463 or cfl@dow.org.au

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
PO Box 1239
Wollongong NSW 2500

CATECHESIS IS A PILLAR FOR EDUCATION IN FAITH



PRAYING FOR CATECHISTS

BY JUDE HENNESSY

Currently, in most parishes around our Diocese, our catechists and those who organise the work of catechists in local regions are approaching people at Mass to become a prayer partner. We at CCD know that not everyone has the time to be a catechist. Nevertheless, I have never met anyone who is not willing to pray for catechists and the work they do as religious educators in state schools.

CCD Wollongong has developed prayer cards that are being used around NSW. Quite simply, our catechists are asking people from their parish to pray for them so as to bring about an outpouring of God's grace on their work with young people each week. So if you have agreed already to stand alongside one of our catechists as a CCD prayer warrior, a huge thank you. If not, pray anyway, and pick up one of the spare prayer cards at the back of your parish and put it on your fridge as a reminder. ■



*Catechesis is a vocation:
'being' a catechist,
this is the vocation,
not 'working' as a catechist.*

POPE FRANCIS

POPE FRANCIS SAYS BE A CATECHIST!

The Pope shares with catechists: do not be afraid of going beyond your boundaries – God is already there!

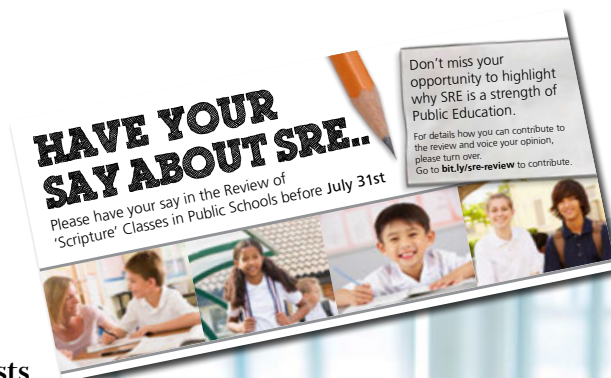
Pope Francis said: "Catechesis is a pillar for education in faith. ... Even though at times it may be difficult, it is necessary to work hard and make efforts for which you don't always see the results you hoped for, educating in faith is good! It is perhaps the best legacy we can give: faith! ... Catechesis is a vocation: 'being' a catechist, this is the vocation, not 'working' as a catechist. Be careful: I have not said to do the work of a catechist,

but rather to be one, because it involves all your life. It means guiding towards the encounter with Jesus with words and with life, with your witness ... I like to recall the words of St. Francis of Assisi to his friars: 'Always preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words', so that people may see the Gospel in your lives ... we must begin with Christ and this love He gives us."

With these words Pope Francis greeted the participants in the International Congress on Catechesis promoted on the occasion of the Year of Faith by the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation, whom he received in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall. Vatican City, 28 September 2013 (VIS). ■



Catholic SRE
Diocese of Wollongong



HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE REVIEW OF SRE

As most people in our local parishes know, Catholic catechists around NSW do an amazing job delivering weekly lessons to around 100,000 Catholic students in government schools.

In our own Diocese, nearly 10,000 Catholic students in over 140 Government schools are taught by over 550 catechists. Currently, the Department of Education is conducting a review to ensure the ongoing improvement of Special Religious Education (SRE) and it is now time for you to have your say.

I would urge anyone in our local parishes who values the contribution that the Church makes to public education through SRE, to ensure that their voice is heard as part of the review process. It is vital that we do not miss the opportunity to highlight why we think SRE is a strength of public schooling and to give insights as to how it might be made even better.



Please take 10 to 15 minutes to answer the survey by going directly to bit.ly/sre-review

Catechists, teachers, grandparents, or other interested citizens now have the opportunity to have their say about why SRE is a strength of state schools via an online survey. Please take 10 to

15 minutes to answer the survey by going directly to bit.ly/sre-review

Go on, have your say! It is one practical way you can support Catholic families in state schools and the catechists who do such incredible work. ■

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

PETER'S PENCE

16 June 2015

Dear Bishop Ingham,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12 June 2015, with which you sent a cheque for the sum of \$30,000 thus distributed: Peter's Pence Collection for the Year 2015 (\$10,000) and the contribution of the Diocese according to Canon 1271 for the same period (\$20,000). I wish to assure you that the amount will be forwarded to the Holy See.

+ **Adolfo Tito Yllana**

Tit. Archbishop of Montecorvino
Apostolic Nuncio



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AROUND THE SCHOOLS

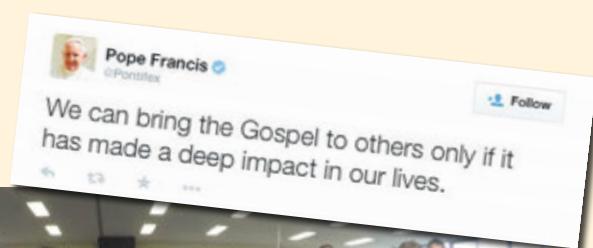
CONVERSATION WITH THE BISHOP

On 22 May, colleges and high schools from across the Diocese, together with congregational schools, attended the *Conversation with the Bishop* at **Holy Spirit College Bellambi**. Holy Spirit students **Christina Curcio** and **Monica Morlando** wrote this account of the day:

On Friday 22 May, the Year 11 SRC and the 9.1 Religion Enrichment class had the privilege to participate in a *Conversation with the Bishop*. The experience was shared with representative students from other colleges in the Diocese, where our school had the pleasure of hosting the event. The day was full of singing and dancing, and hearing many inspiring stories, from Bishop Peter Ingham and Steve Angrisano (A veteran musician, composer and youth minister from the United States). Steve travelled long distances from America to be with us, and

provided a new aspect to acknowledge the wonders of our faith, through inspiring, humorous tales of past experience, but also spiritual moments from his life, touching every heart. As the day progressed, we found that boys sang better as girls, and vice versa, participating in live songs, even those written by Steve himself.

Students were divided into many groups, brought together by one of the main themes of the day, the inspiration from Pope Francis for the youth of the world. The amazement on all our faces was priceless when we were handed some of the Pope's



tweets! With the assistance of leaders from the Youth Mission Team, we were able to discuss many of Pope Francis' quotes and together compose many challenging and meaningful questions for Bishop Peter. From this, we have been given many new perspectives on our faith and how to live as a proud Catholic, no matter what other people think.

Collectively, with the Bishop's wise words, each person in the room left with something to think about. The Bishop openly discussed and answered questions the students had, which was an amazing opportunity in itself. ■

NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE VOICE CARE PROGRAM FOR STAFF IN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

On 18 May 2015, Carolyn Hadley, Head of Human Resource Services, and Christine McCormack, Senior Professional Officer (previously Work Health and Safety), were invited to attend a ceremony at the National Convention Centre in Canberra, where the Diocese of Wollongong Catholic Education Office (CEO) was presented with a National Award for the Inaugural Community-Based Innovation in Speech Pathology, by Speech Pathology Australia.

This notable award was given in recognition of the CEO's *Voice Care Program*. The *Voice Care Program* is unique to CEO Wollongong and was introduced by the Diocese in 2008.



The comprehensive judging of the award was inclusive of the following criteria and considerations:

- Strategies developed by the organisation were explicitly practical and evidence-based
- The level of impact imposed by such strategies on its workforce were deemed to be at a high level
- Effective prevention and early intervention strategies were utilised, where and when appropriate

The developed strategies have been implemented over an extended period of time and, with effective monitoring and review processes, have been proven to be sustainable and effective.

All CEO Wollongong teaching staff are inducted into the basics of the care of their voices when they begin working in a systemic school. From thereon, online information and professional voice health assessment and treatment services are confidentially available to all staff.

Through this nationally recognised award, CEO Wollongong has received acknowledgement of the significant support the *Voice Care Program* offers to all teachers and staff within the Diocese. This program is a part of our ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of all who work in our schools and offices. ■



WE ALL STAND ON SACRED GROUND: LEARN, RESPECT AND CELEBRATE

NAIDOC Week, which runs from 5 to 12 July, celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements.

This year, the theme highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea. The theme is an opportunity to pay respects to country, honour those who work tirelessly on preserving land, sea and culture and to share the stories of many sites of significance or sacred places within the nation.

Schools across the Diocese have been celebrating NAIDOC Week, sharing many cultural learning experiences with community and families and acknowledging local histories and significant Aboriginal sites within their local regions.

Learning about the literature, artwork and history of Indigenous cultures has been at the forefront of studies at **St Columbkille's Catholic Primary School Corrimal** in recent weeks.

This work culminated with a special school assembly on the last day of Term 2. School Middle Leader Michelle Lace said the assembly showcased this year's NAIDOC theme: *We all stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect & Celebrate* through the use of song, symbol and prayer.

Holy Spirit College Bellambi's Indigenous Coordinator, Kim Hobbs, also attended the assembly.

Aboriginal artist and community elder, Uncle Kevin Butler, created a mural for St Columbkille's with the help of their students.

"This mural, with a painting of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop also created by Uncle Kevin, was blessed by our parish priest Fr Richard Healey," Mrs Lace said.



On 22 June 2015, **Holy Family Catholic Parish Primary School Ingleburn** was involved in a wonderful celebration for NAIDOC Day. The day consisted of Aboriginal dancing, cultural awareness activities, the singing of the Aboriginal Lord's Prayer, and a rendition of the Australian National Anthem in Dharawal language.

Students Justin Prasad and Aidan Kreltszheim wrote the following account of the day:

"NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. We first started the celebration with a prayer and brought up three symbols to our sacred space. The symbols were water, fire and earth. During the prayer,

students from Year 5 and Year 6 sang the Australian National Anthem in Dharawal language, as the Aboriginal people are the true custodians of this land. The whole school also sang the Aboriginal Lord's Prayer. After that we had a group of Aboriginal boys called the Yamma Boys perform fantastic dances, which were from their ancestors. Each dance represented a particular story of the Dreamtime. The Yamma Boys called up all girls and boys to join in the dance, which everyone enjoyed. Lastly, the group showed the students some things their ancestors used like boomerangs, animal fur and a didgeridoo. It was a fantastic day and everyone learnt something new." ■

AROUND THE SCHOOLS



CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHOIRS SHINE AT WOLLONGONG EISTEDDFOD

It was an all-Catholic schools affair in the Junior Vocal Choirs section at the Wollongong Eisteddfod in June, to the delight of a major sponsor of the event, the Catholic Education Office.

St Pius X Catholic Parish Primary School Unanderra, Vocal Ensemble took out first place. **St Michael's Catholic Parish Primary School Thirroul** School Choir was awarded second place, and both **St John's Catholic Parish Primary School Dapto** Junior Vocal Group and **Nazareth Catholic Parish Primary School Shellharbour City** Choir, received a Highly Commended.

Congratulations to all involved on representing our Diocese so beautifully. ■



OLHC FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Parish Primary School Rosemeadow celebrated the feast day of their patroness recently, with a beautiful Mass at John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow. Despite poor weather, a new statue and stunning mural were blessed and the new school prayer was also launched. ■

AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST FOR ST BRIGID'S GWYNNEVILLE

The inaugural *The Leader In Me* (TLIM) Australasian Symposium was held in Melbourne in June 2015. This international gathering hosted visitors from Asia, New Zealand and the USA as well as educators from around Australia, including from **St Michael's Catholic Parish Primary School Thirroul**.

Staff and students from **St Brigid's Catholic Parish Primary School Gwynneville** presented workshops, spoke on panels and led the assembled masses in the school's original leadership song, *Strength to Lead*.

St Brigid's had the incredible honour of being inducted as a Lighthouse School for extraordinary leadership achievement through TLIM initiative, the first ever in Australia. There are over 2,200 schools worldwide implementing TLIM and only 152 of those schools have been awarded the elite status of Lighthouse School. One other school in Victoria, Parktone Primary, was also awarded this privilege.

TLIM is a whole school empowerment approach using the *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* created by



the late Stephen Covey. It helps align systems and is integrated throughout the daily life of the school and home. It is part of the environment and culture at St Brigid's and provides a highly effective framework for improvement and empowerment of students, staff and parents. There is a clear vision, shared understanding, a common language, and explicit and high expectations, all underpinned by strong Gospel values.

TLIM empowers students and staff to take control of their decisions, make good choices, set short-term and effective learning and behaviour goals, put action plans in place to achieve goals, think about others carefully, listen carefully to each other, collaborate effectively and efficiently as well as taking care of themselves in head, heart, body and soul.

Over the last six years St Brigid's have seen significant growth in the confidence of students in accepting responsibility for their learning, and our external assessment data shows steady and pleasing growth and gains in student achievement. Their data for

behaviour shows a significant decrease in challenging behaviours and an increase in students accepting responsibility for their behaviour. Surveys collected from the wider school community indicate that the culture of St Brigid's empowers everyone to be the best they can be and that TLIM has promoted a culture in which everyone is a leader who can make a positive difference for themselves, others and the world around them. ■



CAMDEN TEACHER SAVES THE DAY WITH SHERPA KIDS

For Michael Rasmussen, a teacher at **St Paul's Catholic Parish Primary School Camden**, bus duty afternoons turned into a life-changing decision that has created a new culture of school-aged care for one of the oldest schools in the Diocese.

"I'd be supervising at the gate and seeing the children off to their various destinations and I just couldn't believe how many of them were climbing into buses that were headed for day-care centres," Mick said. "I kept thinking, there's got to be a better solution for families than that!"

Mick now manages *Sherpa Kids* before and after school care and vacation care service at St Paul's, and at the



REACH ENGAGE
CHALLENGE

beginning of the 2015 school year, the service also extended to **St John the Evangelist Catholic Parish Primary School Campbelltown**.

Aware of the regulations surrounding outside school hours care under the National Quality Framework, as well as the local school and parish requirements, Mick looked for a way

to open the service with professional support and found the Sherpa Kids Australia franchise network.

Managing Director Vicki Prout and the Sherpa Kids team provided training in compliance, quality standards and business systems that let Mick and his team clearly plan and report to parents and the school executive. ■



CENTENARY OF ANZAC

St Paul's Catholic Parish Primary School Albion Park and parish community gathered together to celebrate Mass on the first Friday of Term 2, to remember those brave men and women who served our country 100 years ago.

Each student made a poppy out of cardboard, which were placed around the ANZAC themed sacred space. Fr David Catterall added his ceramic poppy, one of 888,246 that had formed a touching, visual commemoration of the First World War at the Tower of London. The school purchased poppies for each student, which were worn with pride during the special Mass.

There was a beautiful sense of silence and respect as people honoured and prayed for all those brave men who went to war. John Foran, a senior RSL parishioner, shared his own reflection on war, and laid a poppy at the sacred space. ■

MAXI EFFORT FROM MINI GROUPS

Schools around the Diocese have been very busy leading up to the cold winter months, giving of their time and efforts to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

Each time the Mini Vinnies Group at **St Clare's Catholic Parish Primary School Narellan Vale** meets, the members pray, "our gifts may be small but we pray they make a big difference".

Last year, the group's efforts certainly made a big difference in the local area and beyond, when the volunteers from Years 1 to 6 raised almost \$2,500. The group decided to extend their generosity beyond the immediate area and gave money to the Order of Malta to assist with their *Coats for the Homeless* project.

In June, **Holy Family Catholic Parish Primary School Ingleburn** held a mufti day where all the students were asked to bring an item for the Vinnies Van food drive. They were inundated with donations which were presented to the Vinnies Van.

And at **St Patrick's Catholic Parish Primary School Port Kembla**, 21 students from Years 4 and 5 who form the Mini Vinnies team, walked to the local Food Barn in Kemblawarra. They were taken on a tour and learnt about the services the Food Barn provides for local residents. The children took \$100 with them (raised by the school community in a student artwork fundraiser) to spend at the Food Barn. With these purchases, they were able to donate a variety of non-perishable goods to the Vinnies Van. ■

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?



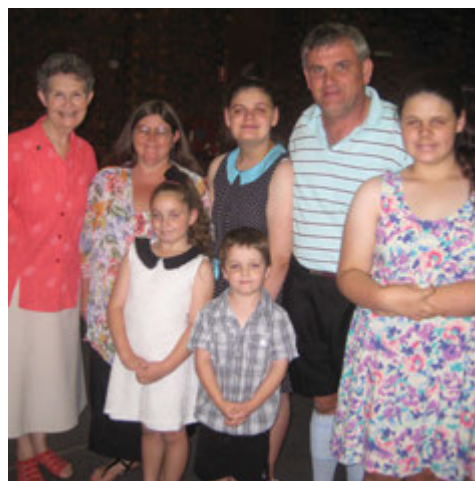
BY SR JEANIE HEININGER SGS

Pope Francis begins his message for the Year of Consecrated Life, referring to himself “as a brother who, like yourselves, is consecrated to God.” So it is with joy as a Sister of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict that I write about my ministry in the Wollongong Diocese.

I was born and grew up in Wollongong close by the Cathedral. My role in the Diocese is to offer a Conversations for Nurturing Independence Program for parents in the Macarthur and in Nowra and I visit families in both regions at home or in hospitals. I also coordinate the Good News Program for trained parish volunteers and adults with a disability in the Macarthur region. I join Fr Greg Burke OCD and Sr Ruth Davis SM in organising Inclusion Masses at regular Mass times where local parishioners can witness the pride and joy of people with disabilities as readers and in other roles of service in the liturgy.

As I live the Benedictine values of Hospitality, Community, Love of Christ and Neighbour, I try to walk in solidarity with these families as the Good Samaritan did on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho. I love meeting up with the Good News Community each first Saturday of the month in Campbelltown Parish Hall, to pray, share their good news and enjoy being in community with them. Sometimes they are Good Samaritans to the volunteers and me!

St Benedict writes about conversion which is living in a way that turns us from being self-centred to helping others. I practise this conversion better some days than others. However, I believe parents of children with a disability are practising this conversion every day, over a lifetime. I feel privileged to share so many sacred



moments with them as I've listened to their stories, struggles and hopes.

I'm proud to say as we celebrate this Year of Consecrated Life that the Good Samaritan Sisters were the first women religious founded in Australia in 1857 by Archbishop John Bede Polding. The first five sisters served in refuges and on the streets of Sydney, in prisons and poor homes, with the sick and orphans. Since then, Good Samaritan Sisters moved into other states of Australia and went on mission to Japan, The Philippines, Kiribati and East Timor. Now we have Japanese, Filipino and Ikiribati Good Samaritan Sisters in those countries. We now share the Parable with our Associates, Oblates, principals and staff in our 10 colleges and schools in different forms in all of the

I try to walk in solidarity with these families as the Good Samaritan did on the road between Jerusalem and Jericho

countries where we serve. My office is at Mater Dei School and with the Early Intervention Program in Camden and I witness the parable there every day. Today our world is suffering from new wounds and Good Samaritan Sisters are involved with people from other lands in detention centres and we ask ourselves afresh: “Who is my neighbour?” And I ask you: “Who is your neighbour?” ■

Sr Jeanie Heininger is a Good Samaritan Sister who ministers in the Diocese of Wollongong

ONLINE SHORT COURSES



Whilst a range of topics is available, the Diocese will sponsor half the course cost, valued at \$50, for each of the following courses:

SEPT 6 - OCT 10

- Conscience
- Ecclesiology: Beginnings of the Church
- Introduction to Christian Morality
- Introduction to Practical Morality
- Parish as a Learning Community
- Study of *The Joy of the Gospel* (*Evangelii Gaudium*)
- Survey of Catholic Social Teaching

OCT 25 - NOV 28

- Communication and Community
- Designing a Parish Catechetical Plan
- Ecumenism and Parish Life
- Evangelisation and Discipleship
- Introduction to Practical Morality
- Leadership in Ministry
- Parish and Social Action
- The Second Vatican Council: An Overview

For more information please contact Darren McDowell, Coordinator Adult Faith Formation, on 4222 2463 or cfl@dow.org.au. Information can also be found at the Virtual Learning Community at vlcff.udayton.edu

Are you interested in learning about an aspect of Church teaching or ministry but don't have time to attend workshops or face-to-face courses? Are you ready to undertake a short, introductory course as a way of nurturing your interest in faith and ministry?

Online learning is a great way of acquiring new knowledge in the midst of our busy lives. It enables us to study at a time of our own convenience from the comfort of our own homes.

These short courses are offered through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation of the University of Dayton, Ohio. They cover a broad range of topics across Catholic Theology, Ministry & Mission. They are well suited to those

who would like to study from home in an online environment.

Each course lasts five to six weeks and requires personal reading and offering feedback and reflections to other course participants and your tutor in an online forum. Approximately two to three hours per week of work is required.

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.

Catholic Diocese of Wollongong



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

BY SUE FREESTONE

Development of new Branches of Catholic Women's League (CWL) has been a focus since May. Many women at Shellharbour City Parish expressed an interest in forming a Branch and an informal meeting will be held in August. Another weekend of promotion has been held at St Francis of Assisi Warrawong and St Mary's Berkeley, with a view to re-forming a Branch in this parish. Any women interested in membership of either of these Branches, or the formation of a branch within their parish, are welcome to contact Sue Freestone, Diocesan President (email: sfreestone@hotmail.com / phone: 0410 459 732).

CWL congratulates Fr David Catterall on his appointment as the Parish Priest of St Mary MacKillop Parish at Oran Park. Fr David can be assured of the support of the CWL and in due course will assist Father in the formation of a Branch in the parish.

Special upcoming Masses and celebrations include:

- Wednesday 9 September: Moss Vale Branch will celebrate their 25th Anniversary of formation.
- Friday 11 September: Consoling Mass at Mater

Dolorosa Catholic Church, Balgownie commencing at 12 noon. Mass will be celebrated for people who have had a family member or friend pass away through tragic circumstances, illness or accident.

- Wednesday 21 October: Milton/Ulladulla Branch will be hosting a Coffee, Cake and Conversation Morning.

The National Biennial Conference of Catholic Women's League Australia will be held at Parramatta commencing on 22 September at 6pm, and going through to 3.30pm on 24 September. Many members of the Diocese will be attending this conference to be hosted by CWLA NSW. The theme is *Listen with the Heart*. The following are keynote speakers: The Hon Pru Goward MP (Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault), Sr Hilda Scott OSB, Pat McDermott, Chris Field Broken Bay CDF, Jennifer Burn Associate Professor Faculty of Law on Human Trafficking and Ken Smith, Parramatta Historian. For further information and registration please contact the CWLA National Treasurer Pauline O'Malley (treasurer@cwla.org.au). ■

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

WEEKEND WITH FR ELIO CAPRA AT PICTON/TAHMOOR

The second weekend with Fr Elio Capra at St Anthony's Parish Picton/Tahmoor in May 2015, started with a full school assembly in the school hall, where Fr Elio amused the children with his humour and taught the children and parents how to pray using the fingers of the left hand.

Parish sessions centred on our sacramental journey being full of love, life and sacred moments, with a very inspiring session on marriage and family, offering much food for thought. The weekend included daily Mass, including a special Healing Mass.

Children were organised into groups. The youngest children went off to play with activities organised by the wonderful *Parents & Friends* group. The junior youth went into a SPAR (Stop, Pray and Recollect) with Stef Brown and the older young people (Year 6 to Year 12) went with Seth Harsh, Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, to reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The weekend was filled with inspiration and Fr Elio's special sense of humour. Fr Elio repeatedly said that St Anthony's is a very alive parish and should continue to hold these special events.

St Anthony's parish hopes to follow up with a huge family picnic day later in the year. ■

INCREASING RESILIENCE TO DISASTER IN THE PACIFIC



"I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet."

Pope Francis (*Laudato si'*)

The Pope's encyclical letter, *Praised be – On care for our common home* marked a key moment in Church history, as now more than ever we are called to care for creation responsibly. The encyclical calls for a new global solidarity, where all individuals, communities and governments have an essential part to play.

Caritas Australia, the Catholic Church's international aid and development agency, works with communities in more than 32 countries globally and within Australia. As the Pope notes in his encyclical, as global temperatures rise, we will experience increasingly severe impacts on a global scale.

The impacts of climate change are the most debilitating for the children, women and men vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice – often those who have contributed the least to global warming.

Many communities Caritas is partnering with are working to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. Martina lives in the Solomon Islands, where she is a teacher at Bishop Epalle Catholic School in Nggosi, West Honiara. Martina visited Wollongong Diocese last year and spoke to about 5,000 students. She loves to teach, and her small classroom rings daily with the sounds of her students' eager voices often raised in song.

But while the classroom is a place of learning and laughter, the world outside can be far less stable. In the Solomon Islands, the changing climate means that sea levels are rising, increasing the impact of storm surges and coastal flooding. Tropical cyclones are projected to become more intense and the weather will become more extreme, with more heavy rainfall days and more very hot days expected.



"Our homes are under threat from landslides and cyclones," says Martina. Every year Solomon Islanders' safety is under threat during the six-month cyclone season and the islands are also vulnerable to geological hazards such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

For the children, these extreme weather events and other natural hazards can be overwhelming. The community began developing strategies to help its children, working with Caritas Australia's Solomon Islands staff. From this collaboration, a program emerged that created safe behaviours for children by using popular nursery rhymes to break down the fear associated with natural disasters.

The songs enable teachers to help their students to identify the types of risks present in their community, and the warning signs for tsunamis, cyclones and landslides.

In 2014 the education program received the inaugural Pacific

The impacts of climate change are the most debilitating for the children, women and men vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice – often those who have contributed the least to global warming.

Innovation and Leadership Award for Resilience from the United Nations. With support from the Australian government, Caritas Australia has expanded the program's reach to other parts of the Pacific including; Vanuatu and Tonga. ■

Spurred on by the Pope's lead, Caritas has launched a new climate justice campaign, called our Common Home. Find out more at www.caritas.org.au/climate.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN?

BY RICHARD MCMAHON

In the last edition of Journey we featured our renewed Diocesan Pastoral Plan for 2015 to 2017, focusing on Family, Healing and Outreach. Here are answers to some questions we have received.

Where can we get more copies of the plan?

The plan is available online at dow.sh/dpp2015 and hard copies are available upon request from the Office of the Bishop.

We are too busy to use the plan. Can we get help with our existing parish needs?

The plan seeks to support your existing parish needs in terms of forward planning. If you require immediate assistance, please contact the Office of the Bishop. The Diocese offers a range of supports.

This Plan is for 2015 to 2017. But we are more than halfway through the year! Isn't it a little late?

It follows on from our 2011 to 2015 Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The final year of the old plan corresponds with the first year of the new plan (ie Family)

What happened to the old plan? What happened to Parishes Working Together?

Many actions from the old plan have been achieved and these achievements are listed in the new plan. Other actions are still unfolding, such as Parishes Working Together.

What if our parish or school does not wish to engage with the Diocesan Pastoral Plan?

The plan does not seek to force us to do something. Rather, it offers us a useful way in achieving our goals, and a great variety of suggestions from our parishes and agencies. As long as we are planning in this Diocese, it makes

sense to draw upon the supports offered in this resource.

What if our parish or school wants to do something unconnected with the plan?

The plan itself encourages a response to local needs, and leaves room to create your own approaches. However, you are encouraged to use the framework of the plan as a way to support you in achieving your goal.

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan has so many ideas. How much are we expected to achieve?

Parishes are not expected to do everything. Good planning involves working within our means. If that means choosing just one action in a year to achieve, then that is a great start. Equally, build on what is already working, and fit existing initiatives into the framework of the plan. ■

Please contact Richard McMahon, Director of Parish Services on richard.mcmahon@dow.org.au or 4222 2464 for more information.



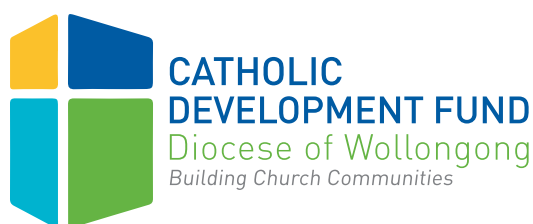
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 (entry via Crown St)

CCD Resource Centre

02 4640 8550
 Micah House
 35a Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown

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