

M E M O R A N D U M

To:	Parish Priests and Administrators		
From:	Jude Hennessy	Ref:	JH/hb:2019/44
Date:	19 November 2019	For weekend:	23–24 November 2019
Subject:	Weekly communications update		

Dear Father,

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women* is on Monday 25 November 2019. As per Fr Bernard Gordon's email to parishes a few weeks ago, the diocese has produced a [prayer card](#) to assist parishes in marking the day during Masses this weekend. If you would still like prayer cards sent to you, email Daniel Hopper at daniel.hopper@dow.org.au and let him know how many copies you would like and we will mail them to you.

For those parishes utilising the prayer cards, a couple of suggestions for Masses are:

1. Enlist the support of your local Catholic Women's League (if possible) to help distribute the cards before Mass (or at the appropriate time) and say the prayer together as a community at the end of Mass; or
2. Mention in your parish bulletin (possibly include [JPEG version](#) of prayer card if not handing out) in your parish bulletin and have CWL members hand out the prayer card to parishioners after Mass.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference through *The Council for Australian Catholic Women* are [urging all people of good will to support 16 days of prayer and action](#), from November 25 to December 10, and to work towards lasting cultural change to address injustice, inequality, sexism and exploitation of women. They have released a [prayer resource](#) to assist parishes and communities in this regard. There are some general intercessions included in the prayer resource which you may like to utilise at Masses this weekend as well.

Bishops announce National Prayer Campaign for rain

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have announced that there will be a National Prayer Campaign for rain during the month of November.

We have included a suggested bulletin notice and the prayer (for those parishes that would like to print the prayer in the parish bulletin.) As the campaign technically starts next Friday, you may wish to include it in this weekend's bulletin, or you may like to wait until next weekend. The resources can be found on the ACBC website www.catholic.org.au/drought.

BULLETIN NOTICES

From:	Helen Bennett	Ref:	JH/hb:2019/44
Phone:	4222 2403	Email:	helen.bennett@dow.org.au
Date:	19 November 2019	For weekend:	23–24 November 2019

RSVP details are essential for adequate catering, seating, handouts etc. We ask that details are kept in notices where included.

Status	Bulletin notice	Attachment(s)
Continuing	<p>From Gangland to Promised Land The John Pridmore 2019 Parousia Tour</p> <p>Catholic Speaker, Author and Ex-Gangster, John Pridmore speaks on the Gift of our Lady on Sunday 24 November 2019</p> <p>5:00p.m. Mass at St Francis Xavier Cathedral 36 Harbour Street Wollongong.</p> <p>6:00p.m. Light Supper and Mingle</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Talk: "Gift of Our Lady"</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Q & A</p> <p>For more information https://www.parousiamedia.com/ RSVP: All welcome – for catering purposes – please RSVP to Helen Bennett helen.bennett@dow.org.au</p>	Click to download flyer
NEW	<p>“Songs of Joy” 15 December 15 at SS Peter and Paul Church Kiama 2:30 p.m.</p> <p>A combined chorus of over 180 singers from Sydney and the South Coast are joining together for a sensational afternoon of song.</p> <p>Entry to the concert is by donation with all proceeds going to Charity “The Homestead of Hope”. A proud collaborative endeavour by Kiama Churches to support those in need within our community.</p>	Click to download flyer

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NEW	<p>A vocation view</p> <p>Recently, eight young men gathered with the Vocations Team and our two seminarians for an evening of fellowship, questions and sharing of faith. There will be a number of such gatherings in 2020 for young men seeking to grow in their faith, discern their vocation, and encourage each other along the way. If anyone would like to know more, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez, at vocations@dow.org.au</p>	
Continuing	<p>Divine Retreat Centre Praise & Worship, Holy Mass & Eucharistic Adoration – St Francis Xavier Cathedral Wollongong, Saturday 30 November 2019 from 6:30p.m.-9p.m.</p> <p>Come and experience the Lord’s healing power and his infinite mercy at the spiritually enriching prayer service. For more information please contact Josobel on 0425 220 398 (preferably after 5pm)</p>	
Continuing	<p>LIFE HAS CHANGED NOT ENDED: Preparing Joyfully for My Funeral.</p> <p>Friday 29 November 2019 beginning with a Memorial Mass for the Faithful Departed at Milton 9.30a.m. and concluding with a BYO lunch at 1p.m.</p> <p>An invitation is extended from the Parish Liturgy Team to participate in an interactive workshop in order to prepare your funeral liturgy according to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Participants will be guided to make initial choices about their preferred scripture readings, music and other options. For example, they'll decide if they want their coffin to be dressed with religious and other symbols plus a eulogy and/or a slide show. Additionally, a local funeral director will present some practicalities associated with preparing one's funeral.</p> <p>This workshop aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) ease the stress for grieving loved ones when preparing a Catholic Requiem Mass or Funeral Service: (ii) ensure your faith-filled funeral wishes are honoured; (iii) enable the priest to fulfil his sacred duty as your church minister. At the workshop you'll develop a templated Order of Service (draft) to share with 	

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	<p>family members reflecting your 'Spiritual Last Will and Testament'.</p> <p>To register for the workshop please email Therese Lahiff milton@dow.org.au or phone the Parish Office 4455 1313.</p>	
Continuing	<p>2020 Sisterhood National Catholic Women’s Conference: Anointed. 20–22 March 2020, Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops</p> <p>Early Bird Tickets Available Now! Only \$239 includes food and accommodation. Limited tickets available. The special price is available only until 30 November 2019. Book your spot - https://www.trybooking.com/BFQZP</p>	Click to download flyer
Continuing	<p>Made for Each Other Summer School 20–24 Jan 2020 St Mary’s Cathedral, Hobart Tasmania</p> <p>A unique event for young Catholics aged 18-35 to explore the depth of the Church’s teaching on relationships, sexuality and marriage. Last year’s participants found that the Summer School was an immersive formation experience that was delivered in a faith-filled and friendly environment. Key features include: Excellent speakers (Katrina Zeno, Archbishop Julian Porteous, Christine Wood and more), lively group discussions, Mass & prayer time, social occasions and an alpine bushwalk. For more information: https://hobart.catholic.org.au/content/matrimonium-summer-school-2020 or call Ben Smith 03 6208 6036 or ben.smith@aohtas.org.au</p>	<p>Click to download brochure</p> <p>Click to download Program Summary</p>
Continuing	<p>The Catholic bishops of Australia have announced a National Prayer Campaign for the gift of rain during November.</p> <p>The faithful across the country are encouraged to pray for the gift of rain, for people affected by the drought and to provide practical support, where possible. The bishops note that large parts of the country are directly affected by the drought, but the impact is national—and so should the response be national. For access to prayer resources and links to donate to the Diocese of Bathurst Drought Appeal and the Vinnies NSW Drought Appeal, visit: www.catholic.org.au/drought</p>	

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Continuing	<p>Prayer for rain and those affected</p> <p>Eternal God,</p> <p>In wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life.</p> <p>We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our drought-stricken land, on our starving animals, on our failing crops.</p> <p>Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them.</p> <p>In your loving providence, send abundant rain and restore our parched earth. Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life: Renew your faithful people; Renew the face of the earth.</p> <p>Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, help of Christians – Pray for us.</p> <p>St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Pray for us.</p>	
Continuing	<p>Missionary Leadership Formation Opportunity – Exciting New Course</p> <p><i>Foundation for Missionary Leadership</i> is designed to empower and equip participants to develop the skills necessary to be a missionary leader in the Church today. The</p>	<p>Click to download course brochure</p>

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	<p>year long course, run by the Missionaries of God's Love <i>Arete' Centre</i> provides a highly practical and encounter based formation process with special focus areas of Youth Ministry, Adult Evangelisation and Music Ministry. The Diocese plans to host a group of interested participants in either the Macarthur or Wollongong area. Applications close on 30 November 2019. For more information please contact Darren at darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or 4222 2463. Information can also be found at www.aretecentre.org</p>	
NEW	<p>Social Justice Statement</p> <p>The contention, then, that the civil government should at its option intrude into and exercise intimate control over the family and the household is a great and pernicious error. True, if a family finds itself in exceeding distress, utterly deprived of the counsel of friends, and without any prospect of extricating itself, it is right that extreme necessity be met by public aid, since each family is a part of the commonwealth. In like manner, if within the precincts of the household there occur grave disturbance of mutual rights, public authority should intervene to force each party to yield to the other its proper due; for this is not to deprive citizens of their rights, but justly and properly to safeguard and strengthen them. But the rulers of the commonwealth must go no further; here, nature bids them stop. Paternal authority can be neither abolished nor absorbed by the State; for it has the same source as human life itself. "The child belongs to the father," and is, as it were, the continuation of the father's personality; and speaking strictly, the child takes its place in civil society, not of its own right, but in its quality as member of the family in which it is born. And for the very reason that "the child belongs to the father" it is, as St. Thomas Aquinas says, "before it attains the use of free will, under the power and the charge of its parents." The socialists, therefore, in setting aside the parent and setting up a State supervision, act against natural justice, and destroy the structure of the home. —POPE LEO XIII, 15th May 1891</p>	<p>Click to download logo</p>
Continuing	<p>The Journey Catholic Radio Show—airs 24 November 2019</p> <p>Looking for a reflection on this week's Gospel? Here on The Journey Catholic Radio Show we have Fr Graham with an incredible reflection on this week's Gospel from Luke. As well as that, we have God spots from Pete Gilmore, Marilyn</p>	<p>Click to download logo</p>

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	Rodrigues and Mother Hilda Scott to inspire you through the coming week. Go to WWW.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free	
Continuing	<p>The Epiphany Pilgrimage 2 – 8 January 2020</p> <p>The Epiphany Pilgrimage, through the Blue Mountains, is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk 110km through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland, celebrating the Christmas season with each parish along the way.</p> <p>Registration and details at epiphanypilgrimage.org and facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage</p>	
Continuing	<p>Join the adventure</p> <p>It is with great excitement we announce CatholicCare will be holding a fundraising trek to the iconic Larapinta Trail (near Alice Springs) on 28 September – 4 October 2020.</p> <p>We are seeking participants to undertake the trek and help raise \$100,000 to help children in need throughout the Illawarra, Shoalhaven, Macarthur and Southern Highlands areas.</p> <p>To find out more visit http://tiny.cc/CatholicCareLarapinta</p>	
Continuing	<p>There will be no Masses at Wollongong Private Hospital and Wollongong Public Hospital between August and December 2019. It will resume in January 2020. Kindly contact 0475 815 506 for your hospital spiritual needs.</p>	
Continuing	<p>LIVE Local—Macarthur Youth Group</p> <p>Join us for a gathering of teenagers and young adults every Friday night of the term! <i>LIVE Local</i> is a place for like-minded young people from ages 12–18 to grow in faith, community and fun. <i>LIVE Local</i> runs from 7 p.m.–9 p.m. at St John’s Hall in Campbelltown and is put on by passionate young adults from the local area and leaders from the Diocese of Wollongong. We can’t wait to see you there at <i>LIVE Local</i>. For more information contact robyn.bailey@dow.org.au</p>	

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Continuing	<p>Faith Circles—free small group resource</p> <p>Want to help transform your parish into a place where people are known, loved, challenged and supported? Small groups or “communities of communities” hold the key. The weekly <i>Faith Circles</i> resource and small-group leaders guide is available for free to download. It features all the “how-to” information you need as well as reflection questions for the Sunday Gospel and accompanying prayer points. It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.</p>	
Continuing	<p>CAtHFAMILY</p> <p>CAtHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes for free from their website. Don't miss CathKids: A weekly interactive experience with a two-minute animated reflection on the Sunday reading, questions to stimulate discussion, a simple activity and prayer. Families in the diocese are encouraged to utilise these resources at home to share faith with kids. Visit www.cathfamily.org</p>	<p>Click to download logo</p>
Continuing	<p>Cathedral Books and Gifts</p> <p>A great range of excellent quality religious gifts are available from <i>Cathedral Books and Gifts</i>. A beautiful selection of bibles, books, missals, rosaries, plaques, crucifixes, medals, statues and greeting cards, candle—perfect to commemorate Confirmation, first holy Communion and Baptism.</p> <p>Enter the store via Crown St, Xavier Centre, Wollongong. For enquiries, phone 4222 2484.</p>	
Continuing	<p>Take a risk and give the gift of faith</p> <p>In our parish, there is a team of volunteers that take a risk and step out in faith. NSW Government schools do not provide lessons that teach the basic message about Jesus, our faith, and the great adventure that life can be with God. We were all given our gift of faith by someone—someone who stepped-up for us so that we would know Jesus. Each week of the school year, catechists present 30-minute lessons using a step-by-step lesson plan that helps Catholic children understand their faith, grow in love and maturity, and learn what it means to be Catholic. Take a risk and give the gift of faith. Become a catechist teacher or helper today!</p> <p>For more information, ask your parish priest or please call 4640 8550.</p>	