



EDITION 7 APRIL 2015

CAIRNS DIOCESAN NEWS EASTER 2015

From the outback, through the rainforest to the sea



Western view from St Michael's Church Gordonvale looking towards the Atherton Tablelands with the Pyramid in background, The Good Friday Tomb in the foreground and statue of St Michael the Archangel overlooking The Tomb which will be a strong feature of the Gordonvale Parish Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies.

Photo taken by Hugh O'Brien (Gordonvale parishioner)

***“Do not abandon yourselves to despair.
We are the Easter People and hallelujah is our song.”
St John Paul II***

BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE

Written by Bishop James Foley



I write this as the two Australians await execution in Indonesia.

The death penalty – execution – is brutal, barbaric – no matter how it is done. Death by firing squad is particularly invasive – the chest and heart ripped apart by bullets.

The Lord's own death by crucifixion was the most sadistic form of execution ever devised, reserved for traitors and slaves. The condemned could hang for days struggling for every breath. Death could come finally through exhaustion and suffocation or through hunger, thirst and exposure to the extremes of heat or cold for days and nights.

... he emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, ... (Philippians 2/7)

For Jesus death came relatively quickly – after several intense hours. (John 19/31) His death was caused by anaemia – blood loss. (John 19/33)

He who was sinless took upon himself the sins of us all (2 Corinthians 5/21)

... all things reconciled through him and for him ... when he made peace by his death on the Cross. (Colossus 1/20)

He is the sacrifice to expiate our sins, and not only ours, but also those of the whole world. (1 John 2/2)

We in this country can be rather self-righteous against the death penalty.

It is sobering to recall that the last person hanged was Ronald Ryan in Melbourne on the 3rd of February 1967 – forty-eight years ago – in the life-time and memory of many of us.

Earlier enlightened was Queensland – one of the first jurisdictions to legislate against the death penalty in 1922 – with the last hanging in September 1913 – one hundred and two years ago.

Relevant to this diocese, the only woman ever executed in Queensland was Ellen Thomson who lived at Port Douglas. She died for her part in the suspicious shooting of her difficult husband. Her hanging in Brisbane on the 13th June 1887 was a botched and bloody affair: *The two Sisters of Mercy stood to one side with Father Fouhy* (adm St. Stephens) Vashti Farrer, [Ellen Thomson – Beyond a Reasonable Doubt?](#) Canberra, Halstead Press, 2014 (p112).

In a radio interview, Rob Buckingham, a pastor and friend of Andrew Chan, one of the Australians awaiting execution in Indonesia, recalled him trustingly making his own St. Paul's words.

Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more. (Philippians 1/21)

In all this mess of human life and death the Lord's own words echo:

I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live. (John 11/25)

WESTERN DEANERY IN FOCUS

MY STORY: DEACON RALPH MADIGAN

Celebrating my Faith and Aboriginal Heritage

My catholic background comes from my grandmother on my father's side, Annie Green, who had a very strong catholic faith. The catholic faith has been in our family for over one hundred years and our families are still baptising their children today. My brothers and sisters and I were educated by the Sisters of Mercy at the local parish school in Mareeba and we also spent some time in the State School system.

My mother, Elsie Madigan, was a big influence in my attendance at Mass in St Thomas's, Mareeba. In his early years, my father Jack

Madigan, was also a regular Mass goer. When I went to Mass I always sat in the back row and felt very comfortable there. One Sunday, my mother and I were invited to take up the gifts, which we did. Then I was asked to be a reader, then a communion minister and playing the organ later I was invited on to the R.C.I.A. team. Those were things that I had never imagined that I would be able to do. Sometimes our background holds us back so that we don't go forward. We need to look at the future and what it holds for us. Each one of us has been given gifts from God and we are meant to use those gifts by sharing them with others.

EASTER MASS TIMES: Page 16-17

Mass information is also at

Phone (07) 4051 1990 or www.cairns.catholic.org.au



Deacon Ralph presiding at a Baptism in Our Lady of the Way Church, Coen.

Even though I was active in my parish, for many years I had a longing for something more. I wanted to be a deacon. So, after some encouragement and much study, I was eventually ordained by Bishop James Foley on 7 June 2009 in St Thomas of Villanova Church in my home town of Mareeba. It was a day for me, my family and parishioners to remember – a wonderful ceremony with a Bishop, fourteen priests and a deacon and over 500 parishioners to help celebrate this special occasion.

In all this my catholic faith is supported by what I know of my traditional Muluridgi belief and culture. Another big part of our

Aboriginal culture that supports my catholic faith is the importance we place on family. Not just our immediate family but also our extended family and even beyond that to the connectedness there is between all people.

Since my ordination I have been working full time for the Church and have presided at many baptisms, weddings and funerals. I regularly serve as the deacon during the celebration of Mass and frequently give the Homily. But my main purpose is working, in partnership with Fr Rob Greenup and Gertrude Davis with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in the Diocese of Cairns – calling ourselves ‘Indigenous Connections’. This has taken me all over the diocese, but most of our work is done in the small Aboriginal community of Coen, Mareeba and Cairns. In these places we celebrate Mass on a regular basis. We have also

re-established the AICC in Mareeba and Cairns, worked with two Catholic Secondary Colleges and have become involved with Wontulp-Bi-Buya, an ecumenical theological college in Cairns.

All the way along the journey of life I have tried to hold fast to my catholic faith and to my Aboriginal heritage. For me, there has never been a conflict between the two. My catholic faith and my Aboriginality walk side by side, like close friends. They work together as one, they strengthen each other and they have made me who I am today. I thank God for both of them.

THE DROUGHT ENTERS ITS THIRD YEAR!

Written by Deacon Peter de Haas (Parish Pastoral Leader, Gulf Savannah Parish)



As 2015 unfolds, many people in the Gulf Savannah parish are facing a third year of drought from what appears to be another failed wet season. A recent Bureau of Meteorology report indicated that large parts of this parish had received rainfalls that were well under the lowest 10% of records for similar periods.

In a recent conversation, Mr Barry Hughes, President of the Gulf Cattlemen’s Association, stressed that the situation is unprecedented for many on the stations. While there has been some patchy rain, many stations in Etheridge and Croydon Shires haven’t had enough run off to fill dams or ensure adequate grass growth. They are thus again facing months without adequate feed or water or both for their cattle.

Our diocese, as well as individual parishes and groups such as the Society of St Vincent de Paul, have been very generous over the past two years in providing prayer support, funds, Christmas and other hampers, and heaps of baked goodies. In the context of the massive financial and other problems facing our drought stricken graziers, these are small, but practical ways of expressing our care and concern. However they are nevertheless very, very important in showing solidarity...*they lift spirits*. When ‘doing something nice for yourself’ – a treat, a pamper pack and the like - is repeatedly placed on the back burner, because there is no money or no time, we can make a difference and provide such opportunities.

So, can everyone, every parish, every school, please prayerfully reflect on the ongoing drought happening right in our diocese and consider what response God may be asking of us this year.

DEACON IN PROFILE: Peter de Haas

I was born in Helmond, Holland, in June 1952 as the eldest of six, children. With the view to giving us better opportunities, Mum and Dad migrated our family to Australia in 1960 eventually settling in Darra, a working class suburb of Brisbane.

Marist Brothers, Rosalie, was where I went to school, completing my Senior year in 1969. Like many young people, then and now, I then entered quite a confusing and troubling period in trying to choose a career: joining the Army or becoming a Marist Brother or something else?

With the encouragement of my parents, the Army option won through and I entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in January 1970 to train as an Army Officer. My subsequent professional life included: 15 years in the Army, a five year stint in the Public Service as a Director of Engineering in Defence, and 11 years in a private information technology consulting company including time as a Company Director.

In 1976, Angela and I were set up for a blind date and, as they say, the rest is history! After marrying in May 1977, we eventually discovered we couldn't have children of our own, and were earnestly praying about this in 1983 when we learnt that Alicia had been born to my youngest sister. She and her husband felt that they couldn't look after her due to Alicia's special needs. So, by mutual agreement, we adopted her. Alicia is an incredible gift from God, an answer to prayer, blessing Angela and I and so many others, right through to the present day!

Having lived and worked all over Australia, we moved to Ravenshoe in 2004 for what we thought would be a 'tree-change' – a quieter life. However, God had another plan altogether and I was ordained as a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Cairns on 4 July 2010. Angela and I believe that my vocation to the Diaconate is founded deep within the shared life of our family, being made present and active in me.

As a family, we are currently involved in a number of different ministries and support each other in these. Angela is a Pastoral Care Associate with Pastoral Support Services of the Diocese of



Cairns. Apart from my responsibilities as Parish Pastoral Leader of the Ravenshoe/Mt Garnet Parish (including St Teresa's school) and the Gulf Savannah Parish, I am a part-time Police Chaplain and also have an ongoing pastoral involvement with Ravenshoe State School P-12. Given the serious drought in the Gulf-Savannah over the past 2 years, we have given a priority to visiting people on their stations. Wherever possible, we undertake these visits as a family several times a year with each trip being for 1-2 weeks. Recognising the key role that Alicia plays in these pastoral visits, Bishop James has appointed her as a Special Pastoral Assistant and she very, very proudly wears her badge!

So, a boy born in faraway Holland, now finds himself working in two Parishes into which that country could fit several times over! Looking back, I am very, very thankful for all the many graces and blessings of my life's journey so far, especially those which I continue to receive through, and share with, Angela and Alicia. Looking forward, I wonder what Our Lord still has in store for me, for all of us? May the adventure continue!

FATHER JOHN L. SULLIVAN O.S.A.

Born a baby-boomer in Childers, I grew up in Brisbane, joined the Augustinians in 1965 and was ordained in 1973. After spending time teaching in our two Augustinian colleges and working in our parish in Kyabram, northern Victoria, I went as part of our mission to establish our Order in South Korea in 1988. So for the past 26 years I have lived in South Korea and was called home just this last January.

On the 29th January I arrived in the parish of Mareeba and Dimbulah which had been without a parish priest for 12 months though being supplied in rotation by a number of Augustinians. While the parishioners enjoyed the variety of priests, they seem happy to have just one parish priest once again with whom to identify. So they have been very welcoming to both myself and my associate pastor, Fr Dipi Kattathara osa.

While it has been a hectic reintroduction into the Australian church, what with the care of 3 churches, 3 schools and supplies in the surrounding tableland churches, I'm looking forward to getting to know the people of the area in their great cultural diversity and also to discover this part of Australia for myself.



FATHER DIPI KATTATHARA O.S.A.



My name is Dipi Kattathara Peter, an Augustinian priest; I come from India in Kerala state. My family back in my country and my parents live with my only brother. I have completed 10 years in priestly life. I joined the Augustinian Minor Seminary in Edacochoy after completing my high school studies. There I had 12 years of formation in both minor and major seminaries. I did all my priestly studies in India at the seminary run by the OCD Fathers, affiliated to Teresianum,

Rome. I became a priest in the year 2004.

After my ordination I served in India for 8 years in our Priory at Aluva, and came to Australia in the year 2012 as part of the project between the Augustinian provinces of Australia and India. For the last two and half years I was in the Augustinian Priory in Sydney at Manly Vale. Both my Augustinian brothers and parishioners welcomed me and very soon I became part of the FAMILY. People in Manly Vale parish were friendly and very sweet.

Now I have been in Mareeba priory since December 2014 as an assistant priest for the Parishes of Mareeba and Dimbulah. Parishioners welcomed me nicely. People are very hospitable and I am enjoying lots of coffee, cake and fruits. I feel at home here because the climate is almost similar to Kerala. Our parishioners are religious minded and strong in faith. As a missionary to this country I understand that they need more priests and we are praying to the Lord our God to call more priests and religious from this country.

ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE



Fr Dipi Kattathara and Fr John Sullivan celebrating Ash Wednesday Mass



Students attending Opening School Mass



Student Kristy-Leigh Jerome and Natuna Mackay receiving the Ashes from Fr Dipi Kattathara



Fr Robert Greenup and Fr John Sullivan presiding at the College's Opening School Mass

OPENING SCHOOL MASSES FOR COLLEGES



St Andrew's Catholic College Redlynch – Opening School Mass



Good Counsel College's opening Mass with Year 7 student Monique Gilbert reading from the Bible and Mother of Good Counsel Church, Innisfail, against a bright blue sky on the day of the Mass on Wednesday, 4th February, 2015.

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT MASS

Written by Czek Kersevani (College Development and Promotions)

The 2015 Commencement Mass was celebrated in Lennon Hall on Thursday February 20th. Celebrating the Mass with Fr Laurie Timms, our College Chaplain, were six priests from the Diocese. Their presence along with representatives of other Colleges and schools, members of Catholic Education Services and more than 100 parents enriched our celebration and gave witness to the relationship that the Saints' family has with the broader Cairns community.

In his homily, Fr Laurie who used a short clip from the first Harry Potter movie drew an analogy to Dudley Dursley a spoilt brat who expected presents without actually earning them. And a nightmare of any parent. His opening question: *"how much of Dudley Dursley exists in all of us?"* gave a lot of food for thought. He went on to say that in schools *"collaborative partnership is the essential ingredient that will get your son through successfully and hence earn his presents, that being academic, spiritual, social, psychological, developmental and moral."*

A high point of any Saints' Mass is the strong and reverent singing, lead by the musicians and cantors under the direction of Dr Cole and assisted by Ms Maureen Waldby, the College community was in fine voice. If at the final day of the College year for 2015 we can say, like the final Hymn, that we acted with justice, loved tenderly, served one another and walked humbly with God then we will have had a very wonderful year indeed.

An important part was also the commissioning of the College Prefects and SRC members who, in turn, took up pledges to the College promising to fulfil what is required in their respective

positions. George Druery, this year's College Captain, led the student pledge; the teacher's pledge was spoken by on behalf of Mrs Kastelle Gane, Mrs Tracee Mendiola led the parents pledge and Brother Tony Glassick led the Marist Brother's pledge. All involved were determined to live up to the school theme of 2015 Just Love-Hearts without borders. As Father Laurie pointed out *"the invitation behind the theme is to be givers as well as receivers every day in every relationship we encounter. Then we will be more of a well rounded individual and less of a Dudley Dursley."*

Br Neville Solomon (QLD Director of Marist Schools Australia) presented awards to boys who had attended the Marist Leadership camp earlier in the year. His concluding comment, *"A great community celebration that magnifies the Saints' spirit."*



CATHOLIC EARLY LEARNING AND CARE WELCOMES NEW MANAGER

Written by Vicki Crockett (Catholic Early Learning & Care Support)



CCELC began 2015 with the appointment of a new manager, Janelle Moro.

Janelle is responsible for the staff and operational management of 10 Outside School Hours Care services, the long day care and kindergartens spread throughout the Diocese, from Silkwood, through Cairns and up to Mossman.

Janelle has 14 years of experience in Early Childhood. For the last 6 years Janelle has worked as a manager in the private sector and she is looking forward to the challenges and achievements of working within the Catholic Diocese. Janelle brings passion, dedication and experience with an extensive knowledge and understanding of the National Quality Framework, National Regulations, Early Years Learning Framework and the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guide.

Janelle likes the following quote, in which she believes is the direction of her path in life. *"Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, you can achieve."* - Mary Kay Ash.

CCELC farewelled Janelle's predecessor, Irene Goodrich, with a lovely morning tea held at the Bishop's House. Speeches were given by Bishop Foley, Kevin Malone and Bill Dixon thanking Irene for her passionate advocacy of quality childcare and early childhood education which she demonstrated in her 10 years of service with both Catholic Education Services and Catholic Early Learning and Care.



Irene Goodrich and Bill Dixon

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L - R Sr Pat O'Shea, Sr Christina Randle, Sr Rovena Duffy and Sr Bev Strong



GOLDEN JUBILEE OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION AS SISTERS OF MERCY

Written by Sister Rovena Duffy RSM and Sister Brigid Foley RSM

On January 3rd 2015, Sisters Rovena Duffy, Patricia O'Shea and Christina Randle celebrated fifty years of Religious Profession as Sisters of Mercy.

The celebration began with Mass, at 10.00 a.m. in Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Church Balaclava Road Earlville. Fr Martin Kenny the main celebrant, concelebrated with the priests of the Diocese of Cairns. The Mass was followed by lunch at the Seville Mercy Conference Centre, Bauhinia Avenue Earlville.

The Mass of Thanksgiving commenced with a welcome from Sister Bev Strong RSM, Community Leader of the Northern Community of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. Sister Bev welcomed the three sisters celebrating their Jubilees, visiting Sisters, Father Martin Kenny, the priests of the Diocese, and the family and friends of the Sisters. She emphasized the contribution of the Sisters, who have given 150 years of service to the Diocese of Cairns in the field of Education and associated ministries. Sisters Pat O'Shea and Christina Randle also spent time in Papua New Guinea and Sister Rovena Duffy in the Torres Strait. Sister Bev highlighted the announcement of Pope Francis, that 2015 was the Year dedicated to Consecrated Life. During this year we will hear more about The Consecrated Life of Religious and the Joy associated with following Christ, as a Religious.

Following the celebration of Mass those present moved to the Seville Mercy Conference Centre to enjoy a meal. During the meal the Jubilee Cake, made and iced by Vicky Taylor of Herberton, was cut and distributed. On behalf of the other Sisters celebrating their Jubilees with her, Sister Rovena Duffy thanked the various people who had enabled them to reach this stage of their life's journey.

"Our gift as Sisters of Mercy is to know God's loving kindness and to share it with others." (Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Constitutions 1.03)

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2015 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

With thanks and acknowledgment to the Tablelands Advertiser, and adapted by Cairns Diocesan News editorial staff

TWO shining citizens were given the ultimate recognition for their hard work and dedication to the community at Mareeba Shire Council's Australia Day awards ceremony, on Monday 26th of January. With several nominations for the prestigious annual title, Chillagoe resident Sylvia Cockburn was named the 2015 Citizen of the Year.

Sylvia has contributed to the community in many ways over the years, including fund-raisers, organising the annual Chillagoe Anzac Day event, the quarterly church markets and arranging an exhibition of local art talent in the town hall, complete with wine and cheese. Sylvia helps everyone in her community who has found themselves in need of assistance, whether it be practical, emotional or spiritual.

A humbled Sylvia said she was extremely proud to be named Mareeba Shire Citizen of the Year. *"I never expected something like this when I got a letter saying I got a community award,"* she said. *"I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the kind people who thought I was worthy enough to nominate me,"* Sylvia said. *"I'd like to thank the council panel who also thought the same thing."* And *"I'd like to thank my family and my husband of 54 years who has been my support person and has gone by every scheme I have come up with."*

Sylvia's love for her community is evident in her energetic involvement in events and activities connected with the hospital, school, church, children and elderly. *"The local church of Chillagoe is delighted that Sylvia has been publicly acknowledged for her dedication to the community. Over the years Sylvia has enriched the local church with her devotion, her generous service and her words of wisdom arising out of her years of experience"* said Sr Irene Harrison rsj.



Mayor Tom Gilmore and Sylvia Cockburn

"Australia Day is a day to reflect," Sylvia said. *"We live in one of the most wonderful countries in the world, we live in the most wonderful state in the world and it's my humble opinion we live in the most wonderful shire in the world."* and Sylvia acknowledged *"The three most important things in everyone's life should be this country, their family and their community."*

JOHN WALLIS FOUNDATION GRANTS

Journeying with people in hope, love and support

OPEN: 1ST MARCH 2015 AND CLOSSES 15TH APRIL 2015

The John Wallis Foundation invites applications from individuals or organisations for grants to develop projects supporting socially or geographically isolated individuals and groups. The John Wallis Foundation was established in 2010 to continue the outreach work of the Missionary Sisters of Service. Grants given are generally in the region of \$500 to \$3000.

Preference is given to projects that are small, local, and completed within twelve months. Projects should reflect the spirit of the work of the Missionary Sisters of Service, that is, seeking out people on the margins, building relationships, offering practical support and developing leadership. Individuals working within voluntary or church outreach services may see these grants as a way to initiate a particular project within the overall work of the service.

Application form available from: <http://www.johnwallisfoundation.org.au/the-foundations-works/>.

For further information please contact the Executive Officer of the John Wallis Foundation, Liz McAloon at johnwallisfoundation@gmail.com or on 03 98735520.

Applications for this round of grants will close on April 15th 2015. There will be another John Wallis Foundation Granting Round opening on the 1st November 2015.

EVERYTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Written by Dr Alison Clifton (Good Counsel College Innisfail)

Innisfail enjoyed unseasonably fine weather for the first weeks of the new school year, providing an uplifting, sunshine-filled start for the Year 7 and 8 students of Good Counsel College. New buildings and uniforms, fresh coats of paint and a buzz of excitement enlivened the campus. With work already underway on the new, expanded oval and handball courts and the auditorium set for a makeover, Good Counsel College unites cutting-edge technology with a warm and nurturing pastoral environment.

The newly-revamped E Block houses state-of-the-art classrooms that combine an inviting atmosphere with the latest in teaching technology. Interactive whiteboards make the Media room and Science laboratories perfect for student-focused learning initiatives such as slide presentations, mapping, graphing, and plotting, visual manipulatives, digital microscopes, and simulated flights.

The iconic Mary's Place has been repainted to proudly display the colours of the College's four houses on a dramatic scale: purple for MacKillop, red for Marcellin, green for Clancy, and blue for Polding.



The vibrant colours are a feature throughout the school. Michael Petersen [pictured] Year 12 student and promising athlete, who recently represented Far North Queensland at the Raise the Bar Academy for young indigenous athletes in Melbourne, was proud to pose in front of one of the brightly-painted walls, even if it was against a backdrop of a rival house's colours. "I'm in MacKillop so I should be in front of the purple wall!" Michael joked.

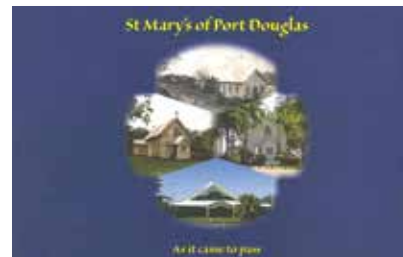
Year 7 students wore the new-look Good Counsel College junior uniform with pride, saying it was cool and comfortable. The uniform was selected after extensive consultation with students, parents, teachers and other staff. Principal Mr. Paul Keenan said that the uniform was a symbol of both tradition and innovation, incorporating the traditional school colours and crest as well as making use of the latest trends in textile design.



Year 8 student Lilly Hunter and Year 7 students Hannah Sultana and Caitlin Spinella wear their new-look uniforms with pride.

Meanwhile, on the oval, the demountable buildings have disappeared to be replaced by new sporting facilities: an expanded oval and handball courts. The auditorium is primed for a makeover, with air-conditioning and excellent acoustics for Arts performances by students the top priorities.

Like the sun, Good Counsel College is set to shine in 2015.



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ST RITA'S WELCOMES A NEW APRE

Written by Judy Billiau (Principal St Rita's Primary School Babinda)



St Rita's School in Babinda welcomed a new Assistant Principal (Religious Education) for the start of the new school year. Mrs Rebecca Burns joined our school staff from Our Lady Help of Christians School at Earlville,

where she was classroom teaching and assisting teachers with eLearning. Bec is also very actively involved in the Earlville Parish, and she thoroughly enjoys assisting with the Children's Liturgy program on Sundays.

Bec has had a busy start to the year! She has organised whole school Masses and liturgies, participated with the student leaders in organising fundraising for Caritas and is learning how our school operates. Bec has met Father Crowley, our parish priest, and is looking forward to working with him when he returns from leave. She has been assisting with the introduction of Chromebooks in the senior years and Bec is kept busy working on new SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) initiatives at St Rita's.

Our APRE enjoys being able to combine the many interesting roles she undertakes at school; teaching her class of Prep/Year 1s, assisting the principal with school administration, and facilitating the Religious Education and SEL programs. We are so pleased to have Bec join our happy and thriving school community as she shares her skills and experience in her new role. Although it is a small school, St Rita's Babinda has welcomed the newest member to our school community in a big way!

NEW REPORT CONFIRMS STRENGTH OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

[Media Release February 6, 2015]



More parents than ever are choosing to send their children to Catholic and independent schools, a new report from the Productivity Commission has found.

The Report on Government Services 2015 for child care, education and training released today reveals that almost 35 per cent of the country's 3.6 million students were in non-government schools, including more than 40 per cent of students in secondary schools. "Parents choose to send their children to a Catholic school for a whole number of reasons, but more parents are making that choice than ever before," said National Catholic Education Commission executive director Ross Fox.

"In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of Indigenous students in Catholic schools, as well as the number of students with disability, which demonstrates the welcoming and inclusive nature of Catholic education," Mr Fox said.

"Catholic schools were established to educate those in most need and that commitment remains strong to this day."

Catholic schools are also adapting to the changing face of Australia, with large numbers of refugee and asylum seeker children being educated in Catholic schools.

"We are also proud of the work of Catholic education systems in Western Australia and Queensland that have been engaged to run and support schools on Christmas Island and on Nauru in recent times," Mr Fox said.

The Productivity Commission report also again underlines the efficiency of non-government schools and their important contribution to Australia's school system.

"Students in non-government schools receive about 60 per cent of the government funding of students in

public schools, with parents paying fees to support their children's education," Mr Fox said.

The cost of school education to governments in Australia is \$8.75 billion less per year than it would be without any non-government schools.

"Catholic schools are educating one in five students across Australia and the total cost to government and to parents remains lower, on average, than what the government spends on each student in a public school," Mr Fox said.

"Parents are choosing to subsidise the cost of their child's education because they see value in what a Catholic education can provide," Mr Fox said.

"Catholic schools seek to educate the whole child – intellectually, spiritually, physically, morally and emotionally – and empower them to enter the next stage of their life ready to contribute positively to society.

"Catholic schools have contributed to Australian society for almost 200 years. This report confirms they will continue to play an important role in educating Australian children for many years to come alongside strong and effective government and independent schools.

"Governments must continue to support Catholic schools, allowing parents to choose the education that best meets the needs of their child," Mr Fox concluded.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL, INGHAM
CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS
6 - 7 JUNE 2015

Saturday 6th June 2015
1pm - Classroom Walk Through
2pm - Official Welcoming Menegon Centre
4pm until late - "Once in 100 Year Fete"

Sunday 7th June 2015
5pm - Centenary Celebration Mass
6pm - Pre-Dinner Drinks, Menegon Centre
7pm - Centenary Dinner, Menegon Centre

Visit www.oltsv.catholic.edu.au for further info or to download a registration form or for further information contact the school on Ph: 07 4776 2719 Email: lourdes100years@outlook.com

DATE CLAIMER AND INVITATION: SATURDAY 18TH OF APRIL

SHRINE OF DIVINE MERCY
and
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Blessing of the Grotto and Our Lady of Fatima Statue
Mercy Valley Spina Rd Mareeba.

Official celebrations begin at 11.00am with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop James Foley followed by the Blessing Ceremony. A catered lunch will be provided.

RSVP's for catering purposes by the 15th of April to Fr Andrew Dembicki 07 40 937 898

A VOLUNTEER'S STORY

Written by Edith Wlodarczak

One Sunday in early 2014, I read in the church bulletin "Volunteers needed in the Kimberley". So the very next day I filled out an application form for my husband Christian and myself. After several letters, emails and telephone calls, we had the green light. So on Easter Saturday last year we were off to Broome. We were told not to bring our car. The co-ordinator for the volunteers picked us up from the airport, and after a lovely dinner and night's sleep in Broome, our priest and boss for the next six months Fr Hilary Rotich who is the parish priest of the Dampier Peninsula Parish, took us to Beagle Bay and Lombadina Mission, which is on the Dampier Peninsula 220km north of Broome. The first part of the road is red sand as far as Beagle Bay; from there to Lombadina Mission the road is sealed.

We lived in a tiny little house, but we loved it. The work was challenging. Fr Hilary was a very nice happy man. He told us what he wanted, and the rest was up to us. Christian transformed the thick veil of greenery, overgrown trees vines and bushes which had taken over the church, presbytery and six houses, into beautiful clean buildings and lovely gardens. The six houses were occupied by teachers, and medical staff etc. and they were very appreciative of the transformation.

Apart from helping Christian, I cleaned the presbytery, made curtains, upholstered armchairs; baked cakes, washed and tidied all the linen cupboards. Twice a week we dashed to Beagle Bay and made afternoon tea for the tourists who had come by plane to see the famous Mother of Pearl Church. Twice a month we went to Broome (a 440km roundtrip) for shopping for Fr Hilary and



Christian, Bishop Christopher Saunders (Bishop of Broome) and Edith

ourselves. Also spare parts and equipment had to be bought and fitted to the mission utility. Usually we had to be back on the road by 4pm so that we could get through the dirt road before dark.

But it was not all work; the teachers in the catholic schools in Lombadina included us in their evenings on the beach and other festivals. We had some lovely inspiring Sunday evening services in the church, which we will never forget. We met some lovely indigenous women and elders from One Arm Point and Sunday Island. We were lucky to participate in tours to Hunters Creek and Sunday Island. On Sundays we walked the beach for hours and watched amazing sunsets. One Sunday 200mm of rain fell. The landscape is mainly forest over the whole peninsula.

During our time we experienced drought, fire, and rain. It was good when the six months was over and we were able to return to our home again. We would definitely love to go again, as it was a wonderful experience.

Kimberley Catholic Volunteer Service WANTED: VOLUNTEER WORKERS

The Diocese of Broome, WA, requires volunteers to assist with the work of the local Church on Aboriginal Missions. There are various important voluntary tasks: administration, building maintenance, gardening, shop staffing, cooking, cleaning etc. Placements are preferred for a period of 6 months plus.

For further details, and an application form, please contact: Volunteer Coordinator Anneliese Rohr: 08 9192 1060

Email: volunteers@broomediocese.org | Web: www.broomediocese.org | Mail: PO Box 76, BROOME WA 6725

Jesus@theJack dates for 2015:
(6:30 – 8 pm, first Monday of these months)

Mon 2 March	Mon 3 Aug
Mon 4 May	Mon 7 Sep
Mon 1 June	Mon 2 Nov

at the Union Jack Hotel, Cairns.

Contact: Anne Chellingworth
Ph: 0407 716 430, or email
achellingw@cns.catholic.edu.au,
[facebook.com/cairnscym](https://www.facebook.com/cairnscym)

TRUTH JUSTICE HEALING COUNCIL ACTIVITY REPORT DECEMBER 2014

(USED WITH PERMISSION)

THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL

The most important work of the Council has been to provide leadership to the Church in responding to the Royal Commission and articulating a pathway to truth, justice and healing for the survivors of child sexual abuse perpetrated within Church institutions.

This leadership has been demonstrated through the Council appearing as a party in all the Royal Commission's public hearings involving Church institutions, through the commentary it provides in the national media and through its attendance at hundreds of meetings with Catholic communities across Australia.

The Council has also provided leadership through its public policy and communication activities. It has developed a raft of public policy positions and an internal Church reform agenda that has been endorsed by the Church leadership.

The Council has made a significant contribution to the public debate through responding to the Royal Commission's issues papers and participating in its round table processes.

In its communications and media activities the Council has demonstrated the Church is willing to accept criticism, is not defensive about its past and will engage in the public discussion with honesty, humility and transparency.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Up to the end of 2014 the Council has:

- represented the Church and Church organisations at eight Royal Commission public case study hearings
- produced more than 160,000 documents from Church leaders and organisations sought by the Royal Commission
- assisted more than 50 witnesses to prepare statements requested by the Royal Commission for the purpose of the public hearings
- made extensive written submissions in response to those of Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission on available findings following the case studies
- prepared submissions on behalf of the Church to the seven issues papers released by the Royal Commission, consulting with Church and stakeholder groups, on:
 - Working with Children Checks
 - Towards Healing
 - Child Safe Institutions
 - Preventing Sexual Abuse of Children in Out of Home Care
 - Redress Schemes, and
 - Statutory Victims of Crime Compensation Schemes

attended several Royal Commission round tables held on working with children checks, preventing sexual abuse of children in out of home care, civil litigation and redress.

LEADING THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE

The Council has made recommendations to the Church leadership on a range of matters related to systemic issues under consideration by the Royal Commission including:

- the introduction of an independent national redress scheme

- a new overarching Church body to set child protection standards for Church organisations and to audit and publicly report on the standards, and
- significant changes to the way in which Church organisations approach civil claims related to child sexual abuse.

In its research role, the Council has:

- initiated research into best practice procedures, policies and structures to protect children
- assisted in identifying systemic institutional failures that have impeded the protection of children, and
- provided information to the Royal Commission concerning the various procedures, policies and structures that have been put in place by Church organisations over the past 25 years to deal with complaints and instances of child sexual abuse and improvements which might be made to them to provide greater protection for children.

In engaging with the community, the Council has:

- initiated or attended meetings with individual survivor and advocacy groups, including Bravehearts, CLAN, ASCA, In Good Faith Foundation, Micah, Childwise and knowmore
- made presentations at meetings of peak Catholic education, professional standards and social services bodies
- attended meetings and made presentations at individual schools, parishes, education offices and commissions and social services agencies
- made presentations to national meetings of clergy, bishops and leaders of religious orders, and undertaken research and surveys into the Catholic and broader communities responses to the abuse crisis in the Church, and other issues.

Representing the Church in the public arena

In representing the Church in the public arena the Council has:

- given more than 150 media interviews
- distributed a weekly newsletter to more than 4,000 subscribers
- issued regular media releases and other statements to both Catholic and secular media
- developed and maintained the Council website which has attracted more than 125,000 page views, and attended and spoken at more than 60 stakeholder and parish meetings.



NEW PRINCIPAL ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL DIMBULAH - *Welcome to Brad Williams*

Written by Rena Ceola, (Secretary of St. Anthony's Catholic School)

Brad grew up on a farm in Loxton, South Australia, where his parents grew cereal crops and ran a lot of sheep. He completed all his schooling in Loxton and attended university in Adelaide and graduated with a Bachelor of Education in Junior Primary/Primary Teaching.

Since graduating he has taught a variety of year levels and subject areas in a number of locations. He has held roles as a PE teacher, Numeracy Coach, ICT Peer Coach and Curriculum Coordinator. Last year he was the Deputy Principal at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School, a remote indigenous community school, in the Northern Territory. Brad is very confident that his experience holding these positions has prepared him well for the position of Principal at St Anthony's.

Brad moved to Dimbulah with his wife Jodie and 3 children, Georgia, Sam and Ellie. Georgia and Sam attend school at St Anthony's. Outside of school he is a passionate sports fan and has played AFL, basketball, tennis, tag rugby and volleyball. He also loves fishing, reading and riding.

As a family, they are looking forward to involving themselves in the community of St Anthony's and Dimbulah and participating in the many activities and sporting clubs within the town. They are excited about being able to visit the many attractions in the



Tablelands and wider regions and also very much looking forward to being a part of the parish of St Anthony's.

Starting out as a first-time Principal in a new community will be challenging, there will be much to learn and occasional support needed. However, Brad feels very lucky to be supported by a committed and dedicated staff who will work hard to provide our students with the very best education possible.

I encourage existing and prospective parents to stop by St Anthony's and welcome Brad and his family to St Anthony's and Dimbulah. We wish him well.

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* Plus airfares

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* Costs have been based on prices as at 31 October 2014 and must remain subject to change without notice based on currency exchange rates, departure city and minimum group size contingency. Prices are based on twin share or double rooming.

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If you are over 50 and have not yet started to plan your retirement... do it now. Almost every client says the same thing to me, "if only I had come to see you sooner".

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Shane Tibbs* is a Suncorp Certified Financial Planner at 206 Buchan Street, Cairns. He has 27 years experience, helping people achieve their goals and retiring with a brighter future.

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www.stafinancial.com.au

CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL TO FOCUS ON MADAGASCAR

(Adapted by editorial staff)

To those who have seen the animated films, it is a jungle island inhabited by a vast array of exotic plants and animals. To others, it is a mysterious tropical paradise, or the fourth largest island in the world. The reality of Madagascar beyond these ideals is far more sombre, as Catholic Mission highlights in its upcoming Church Appeal.

The official mission agency of the Catholic Church will launch the annual appeal in May, with the theme 'I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.' The appeal focuses on Madagascar, where 50% of children do not have access to clean drinking water and over 4,000 children die each year from treatable diseases.

These harrowing statistics stem from the fact that, despite being surrounded by water, the people of Madagascar struggle to access clean water for drinking, cooking, cleaning and washing. They are instead forced to use dirty water for these essential tasks, which increases the risk of disease or death.

Thankfully, Catholic Mission is helping to provide the Living Water that the children of Madagascar urgently need to stay healthy and survive. With the help of loyal donors, Catholic Mission is partnering with local community leaders, like Sister Rose Rasoavololona, to make a positive difference in Madagascar. Sr Rose is extremely grateful for the help of Catholic Mission's donors; however greater support is needed. Keep an eye out for Catholic Mission's Church Appeal in May, and please keep the children of Madagascar in your prayers.

For more information on the work of Catholic Mission, please visit catholicmission.org.au or call toll free 1800 257 296



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2015 EASTER MASS TIMES

Information is also available at (07) 4051 1990 or www.cairns.catholic.org.au

PARISH	HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
CATHEDRAL	Reconciliation 12pm-1pm Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.00pm	Morning Prayer in the Chapel Bishop's House 9am Stations of the Cross 11.00am followed by Reconciliations Lord's Passion 3pm followed by Reconciliations	Morning Prayer in the Chapel Bishop's House 9am Reconciliation 11.30am to 12.30pm Vigil Mass 7.00pm	Masses 6.30am 10.00am 5.00pm
ATHERTON	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross 10.30am Lord's Passion 3pm then Reconciliation	Vigil Mass 7.15pm	Mass 9am NO EVENING MASS
BABINDA	Mass of The Lord's Supper 6pm	Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 6pm	Mass 8am
BAMAGA	Wednesday 1 April Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm			
CARDWELL		Lord's Passion Liturgy of the Word Lord's Passion 3pm		Mass 9.30am
CHILLAGOE		Stations of the Cross 3pm		Liturgy of the Word 9.00am
COOKTOWN	The Lord's Supper 6pm	Stations of the Cross 3pm	Vigil 6pm	
CROYDON				Mass 12noon
DIMBULAH	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations 9am Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil 7pm	Mass 8am
EARLVILLE	Mass of The Lord's Supper 6pm	Stations of the Cross 10am, Reconciliation 10.30-11.30am and 4-5pm, Mass Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 6pm	Mass 8am
EDMONTON	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross 11am Lord's Passion 3pm Reconciliation 4-5pm	Vigil Mass 6pm	Mass 8.30am NO EVENING MASS
FORSAYTH				Mass 6.30pm
FRESHWATER		Stations of the Cross 10am		Mass 7am
GEORGETOWN	Mass of the Lord's Supper 6pm			Mass 5pm
GORDONVALE	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross 9am Lord's Passion 3pm	Reconciliation 4.30 – 5pm Vigil Mass 7pm	Mass 8am & 10am Papua & New Guinea Mass
GULF SAVANNAH	Georgetown 6pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper	Normanton 3pm – The Lord's Passion	Normanton 7pm, Easter Vigil Mass	Masses at Karumba 8.30am; Croydon 12noon; Georgetown 5pm; Forsayth 6.30pm
HAMMOND ISLAND		Stations of the Cross 10am		Mass 8am
HERBERTON		Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at MSB 10.00am Lord's Passion 4.30pm		Mass with the Easter Vigil trimmings 11.15am
HOLY SPIRIT				Mass 10am
HORN ISLAND		Stations of the Cross 10am		Mass 10am

PARISH	HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
INNISFAIL	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross 10.30am Reconciliation 11.30am Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 8pm	Mass 9am
KARUMBA				Mass 8.30am
KURANDA		Stations of the Cross 3pm.		Mass 6pm
MALANDA	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.00pm	Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 7pm	Mass 8.30am (without trimmings)
MAREEBA	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross 9am Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 7.30pm	Mass 10am
MERCY VALLEY Divine Mercy Shrine 27 Spena Rd, Mareeba	No Holy Week services at Mercy Valley. Fr. Andrew will be at Ravenshoe and Mt. Garnet.	No Holy Week services at Mercy Valley. Fr. Andrew will be at Ravenshoe and Mt. Garnet.	No Holy Week Services at Mercy Valley as Fr. Andrew will be at Ravenshoe and Mt. Garnet for Holy Week ceremonies.	Mass 11am
MILLAA MILLAA		Lord's Passion 10.30am	Vigil Mass 8.30pm	Mass 10.30am
MISSION BEACH		Lord's Passion Liturgy of the Word 3pm		Mass 7.00am
MOSSMAN	Mass of The Lord's Supper 6.30pm		Vigil Mass 7pm	Mass 7am
MOURILYAN		See Innisfail, South Johnstone		
MT GARNET		Lord's Passion 9am		Mass 7am
NORMANTON		Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 7pm	
NORTH CAIRNS	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.00pm	Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 5:30pm	
PARRAMATTA	Mass of The Lord's Supper 6.30pm	Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 7pm	Mass 8.30am
PORT DOUGLAS		Lord's Passion 3pm		Mass 9am
RAVENSHOE	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.00pm	Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 7pm	
REDLYNCH				Mass 10:00am All Sts Chapel, St Andrews College, Intake Road
SILKWOOD	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.00pm	Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 6pm	NO SUNDAY MASS
SOUTH JOHNSTONE				Mass 7.00am
STRATFORD		Stations of the Cross 9am		Mass 10.30am
THURSDAY ISLAND	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross, Hammond Is 10am Stations of the Cross, Horn Is 10am Lord's Passion Thursday Is 3pm	Vigil Mass 7pm	Mass Hammond 8am Mass Horn 10am
TRINITY PARK	Morning Prayer 7am; Mass of The Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross 11.30am (ecumenical) Lord's Passion 3pm	Morning Prayer of the Church 9am Vigil Mass 7pm	Mass 8.30am
TULLY	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross 10am Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 7pm	
WEIPA	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross 8.30am Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 6pm	Mass 8.30am
WEST CAIRNS	Mass of The Lord's Supper 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross 11am Lord's Passion 3pm	Vigil Mass 7pm	Mass 8.am NO EVENING MASS
YUNGABURRA		Stations of the Cross 11am	Vigil Mass 5pm	

BAMAGA 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



St Stephen's Church Community at Bamaga gathered together for the 10th Anniversary Mass and celebrations with Fr Hilary Flynn Photo taken and donated by Blondie Mills.

CARITAS 50TH JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Paul O'Connor [Caritas] and Bishop Foley cutting the 50th Jubilee cake



The Caritas Australia 50th Jubilee Mass was celebrated at the 10am Mass in St Monica's Cathedral, Cairns on Sunday 28th September followed by morning tea and sharing of the celebration cake. For half a century, Caritas Australia's volunteers, supporters, partners and staff have walked hand-in-hand with the world's poorest communities, acknowledging that the poor are rich in Jesus' eyes.

CES NEW STAFF ORIENTATION TO CATHEDRAL



On the 19th of January, Catholic Education Services and diocesan staff came together to provide an 'Orientation for Teachers new to the Diocese.' The orientation session included over 70 staff teaching for the first time in primary and secondary catholic schools including first time graduates to the teaching profession.

Theresa Wallwork [Bishop's House Administration Officer and Cathedral parish parishioner] provided a well-researched and interesting commentary on the history of the diocese and the stunning installation of the Cathedral Windows which tells the story of Creation and Salvation.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS IN CHILLAGOE



The first Christmas Day Mass in Chillagoe in possibly 70, 80, 90 years???? Present 10 adults, 6 children and Fr John Newman.

LITURGICAL RENEWAL WORKSHOP



Liturgical Renewal Workshop participants at Seville Conference Centre October 2014

NATURAL FERTILITY SERVICES OFFICE OPENING & BLESSING



Attendees at recent NFS Opening and Blessing

Written by John Shay

Natural Fertility Services opened their doors on Friday afternoon 20th February to celebrate a year of new beginnings as well as our new office space! Located at 195 Abbott Street, our team at NFS is delighted with our new place to call home and were thrilled so many from the diocese came to support us. This office space has been an answer to prayer and has already resulted in an increase in bookings due to its quiet location and our new confidential client rooms. Our opening on Friday was a huge success we were so grateful to Bishop Foley for blessing our new home and keeping us very well entertained! We would also like to make a special thank you to Bill Dixon [Executive Director Catholic Education Services] and Kevin Malone [Chief Executive Officer] who supported our much anticipated move. Also to Shane Watson and Theresa Donnelly from Project Services who helped with the design and supervision of our building as well as Osborne Constructions. Finally, we are eternally grateful to Colin Harvey [Assistant Executive Director Identity & Mission] for always supporting our service and our staff.

ROSIES BBQ

Rosies volunteers with donated BBQ



In October members of the Queensland Fire & Rescue Service social club donated a new BBQ to Rosies Outreach.

ROSIES OUTREACH



Rosies Outreach meal on New Year's Day

New Year's Day [1st of January 2015] Rosies Outreach was run with the Islamic Community. A large number of the Muslim Community combined to cook a fabulous meal for 90 folk in Munro Martin Park. The same community cooks 50 hot meals once a month for the city's Homeless.

THE TWO FRANKS ATTEND THE CAIRNS MOSQUE'S OPEN DAY



Written by Scott Forbes (from the Cairns Post Thursday 30th October 2014; adapted by Cairns Diocesan News editorial staff)

I WANT to tell the tale of two Franks. The true story of two men who unknowingly lived parallel lives until they met in Cairns last weekend.

Frank Bedford was born in Ireland. One of eight children, he immigrated to Australia with his family as a 10-pound Pom, joined the navy and became an engineer.

Frank Wilson was born in Scotland. One of nine children, he immigrated to Australia with his family as a 10-pound Pom, later joined the navy and became an engineer.

Incredibly they both served on the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne in 1968, but never met until last weekend. Faith brought them together.

Chaplain Francis Bedford attended the Cairns Mosque's Open day as a representative of the Catholic Diocese. Francis Wilson is now a practising Muslim.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN TULLY



Fr John O'Connor celebrating his 90th Birthday feasting on a piece of fresh nannygai he caught when fishing near Bedarra Island with Mal Mallyon and Bob McIlroy. When he caught the fish he asked Bob "when we get home can you cook a piece of this fish for me and bring it up to my unit at the Home?" Mal said "better still I can fillet the fish and cook it now." Mal brought out a small gas burner and frypan and proceeded to prepare and cook the fish.

Fr. John was ecstatic as this was the first time he had eaten fish whilst fishing.



Sunday 8th of March at Tully parish, Fr John O'Connor [celebrating 90 years] and Fr Hilary Flynn [celebrating 75 years] cutting their combined birthday cake.

BRISBANE SHEP – MY EXPERIENCE



Written by Dayna Johnston (Year 11 student St Andrew's Catholic College)

Bringing together a vast range of talented young musicians from across the state, the State Honours Ensemble Programme held at the Queensland Conservatorium in Brisbane during October 2014 is one event I'll never forget. The programme, held from the 2nd - 5th of October, offered selected Voice, Wind, String, Brass and Percussion students from all over Queensland to participate in a gruelling four day programme from Thursday to Saturday with a magnificent gala concert held in the Conservatorium Theatre.

Out of the four various wind orchestras, I found myself placed as principal clarinetist in the Graham Lloyd Wind Orchestra which was being led with passion, enthusiasm and the high expertise of American conductor, Scott McKee. We performed a total of five pieces. I had the privilege of performing various solos on the clarinet. I also found myself with the amazing honour of directing the band towards the beginning of the concert in tuning (as pictured) before the commencement of the pieces - an incredible experience! It was an enjoyable, eye-opening experience and definitely something to keep in mind for future studies at the conclusion of my schooling life.

BATS OUT FOR HUGHES... IN MEMORIAM



Written by Christopher Doherty-Fisher Year 10 (Student St Andrew's Catholic College at the time of Phillip Hughes death)

The passing of a titan, the death of Phillip Hughes hit the world hard when they found out the news that he would never take the cricketing field again. The event has had a heartache effect on the worldwide cricketing community, but as one, we have banded together through social media to pay our respects to the Australian legend. Bats out for Hughes has become the cry of the worldwide community, not a street driven past can be seen without a bat out the front and a cap hanging on top of it. This symbol has become the way of honouring the cricketing hero.

Such a tragic event has been tough to take for cricketers in Australia; little ones paid their respects before playing with a minutes silence before the start of play. Other nations have also paid their respects as well, with test matches between various countries being suspended for a day's play, and the start date of Australia's next test with India being suspended as well. All out of respect for cricket's great loss. This shows how much one man can mean, for a global community to rally together and pay their respects.

So often social media is claimed to be bad, dangerous and even deadly, but it is through events like these where it shows its worth. Images of people's bats leaning up against the walls in their homes have spread like wildfire through social media, as the world cottoned on to the phrase: #Batsoutforhughes.

Though a tragic event, the resulting support has spoken volumes for worldwide companionship with everyone pooling together to pledge their support to his family and cricket within Australia.

Phillip Hughes: the cricketer, the batsmen, the legend; we'll miss you Phillip.

100 YEARS OF PIONEERING HISTORY

Written by Robyn Byrnes Ravenshoe

The Stancombe Family of Tumoulin have celebrated 100 years of living at Stancombe Farm, a property of 40 acres on the banks of The Millstream, about 7km north of Ravenshoe on the southern Atherton Tablelands. Charles & Annie Stancombe together with their daughters Edith & Ethel emigrated from Southampton on the 22nd May 1886 arriving in Townsville on the 17th July 1886. After living in Charters Towers, Normanton, Croydon and Cairns they settled in Tumoulin in 1914 with ten children in tow and built their home, which is still standing with original timbers and iron roofing.



On the weekend of 27th & 28th September 2014 Lin & Arthur Stancombe, the 3rd generation to live at the farm, opened their home to celebrate this milestone with their extensive family members as well as their parish family.

The family, which included the 5th generation of Stancombes, gathered to celebrate on Saturday the 27th, returning to where their ancestors had worked, played, swum in the stream and grew up, some travelling from as far afield as Brisbane and New Zealand.

On Sunday the 28th September Father Hilary Flynn celebrated an outdoor Mass [pictured] on the farm with Ravenshoe parishioners and family members. Being a family farm, the Mass was accompanied by the



crowding of the rooster, the lowing of the house cow and an occasional bird in a nearby tree. After Mass, a delicious morning tea, and later lunch, was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone under a massive marquee where tables and chairs had been set up all weekend to cater for the large crowd attending the celebration.

CAIRNS GONDWANA INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Written by Zane Court (year 8 student of St Andrews Catholic College)

The Cairns Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir (CGICC) has given me the opportunity to join with my chorister peers from across Australia to take part in musical, social and cultural education and performance opportunities allowing the voice of our generation to be heard.

In 2014 I have participated in the Gondwana National Indigenous Choir (GNIC) for performances:

- Annual Business Council of Australia dinner at the Westin Hotel in Sydney. This event will be seen by the Prime Minister and other important dignitaries on 24-27 October;
- Defence NAIDOC Ceremony in Canberra. Australian Defence Force (ADF) which acknowledged all our past and serving ADF members and Australian Public Service employees; and
- Jandamarra performance at the Sydney Opera House.

When I reflect back on the Jandamarra Season including the NAIDOC opening for the Australian Defence Force in Canberra I cannot believe it! The opportunity to participate in the Jandamarra performance at the Sydney Opera House not once but three times was incredible. Also the rehearsals were an experience in itself as it opened my eyes to see how a production as large as this comes together. The opportunity also allowed us to rehearse at the ABC Studio, meet other choirs, and meet Jandamarra's family.

DEDICATION OF ICON OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA



Written by Garry O'Brien

The General of the Pauline Order, Father Arnold Chrapkowski, has provided a copy of the painting of Our Lady of Jasna Gora for the Shrine of Divine Mercy and Immaculate Heart of Mary in Mercy Valley Mareeba.

On Saturday 25th of October over 150 people gathered for a very special day: in addition to the usual devotions there was a procession and enthronement and installation of the copy of the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa in the Mercy Valley Chapel.

A good number of pilgrims came from Cairns by bus ably organised by Mrs Joyce Lis as well as many families with children from the Filipino community under the leadership of Mrs Mila Gapas. Others came from the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Cairns and country of Northern Queensland. The Polish community was well represented.

The Holy Mass started at 11am. In the homily Father Andrew, the rector of Mercy Valley, told us the story of the Icon. Tradition holds that St Luke the Evangelist did the original painting. Venerated for nearly 300 years, while hidden in Jerusalem, the painting was discovered by St Helen who brought it back to Constantinople and had a chapel built for it where it remained for five centuries. "Black Madonna" is a nickname. The painting is nearly 2,000 years old and the original crude oil paints naturally dull and darken with age. Also, millions of wax candles have been placed before it as people make their prayerful offerings. About 3 million people from all over the world come every year to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Poland.

Once the Icon was installed by Father Andrew all prayed a prayer to Our Lady and sang the hymn in honour of the Black Madonna, then Father Andrew blessed a painting of St Paul the First Hermit and a picture of Saint Mary of The Cross, the first Australian saint.

For further information contact Garry O'Brien: Ph – (07) 4036 1022
Email – gj.obrien@bigpond.com

"May the newly established Shrine in Mareeba become a place of particular devotion to Our Lady, where the faithful receive help of the Blessed Mother of God. My wishes are that the Pauline's ministry in this place be fruitful and bring many blessings to the Church of Cairns Diocese and help to increase the faith of the people." "Fr Arnold Chrapkowski General Superior of the Pauline Order"

TREVISANI nel MONDO ASSOCIATION INNISFAIL CELEBRATION



Written by Tina Bortolanza

Late last year [17 August 2014], in the Mother of Good Counsel Church in Innisfail, the 'Trevisani nel Mondo' Association came together to celebrate the centenary of the death of St Pius X, Patron Saint of the 'Trevisani nel Mondo' and of migrants at the regularly held Italian Mass on every third Sunday of the month. Members of the Association and friends from Mutchilba, Mareeba, Cairns, El Arish, Tully and Ingham joined with the Innisfail members for this special occasion. Mass was celebrated by Father Kerry Crowley with Father John O'Connor also in attendance. The Innisfail Italian Choir led by Marianne Trueman provided a highly spiritual and uplifting tone for the Mass.

St Pius was born at Riese, Treviso on 2 June 1835, died 20 August 1914 and was canonised in 1954. His feast day is 21 August. St Pius X, from very humble beginnings, became Pope in 1903. He was very devoted to Our Lady. He encouraged receiving the Eucharist on a daily basis, and was responsible for lowering the age of children receiving communion from twelve to seven years. His miracles for canonisation included the healing of two nuns suffering from cancer. A notable quote from St Pius is 'Communion is the shortest way to heaven'.

Many migrants from the region of Treviso have settled in North Queensland and they and their descendents come together to celebrate their heritage. What better way to keep their faith and culture alive than by coming together for Mass. This was followed by sharing a luncheon that was held in the undercover area of the Good Counsel Primary School. Here memories were rekindled and comradeship was enjoyed as one large happy family.



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CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TRISH NASH (*Rest in Peace*)

Written by Gerard Kearney (Director School Development, Primary)

Mrs Trish Nash, the much loved Principal of St Joseph's School Atherton and Parish Community, passed away quietly on 20 September, 2014 after her battle with cancer. The wonderful contribution Trish brought to St Joseph's School and the Diocese of Cairns is one that will be well remembered. Trish had a true love of the teaching profession and more so that of a Catholic school teacher.

Trish served the Cairns Diocese for over 27 years in a number of roles ranging from Learning Support Teacher, classroom teacher, Assistant Principal Religious Education, Principal and not to mention her long involvement in the Diocesan Parents and Friends Association. That long involvement culminated in being honoured with Life Membership in recognition of her tireless dedication to the Association over many years.

It was in these early years that Trish began a very genuine commitment in special needs education, not only because her daughter Cassie had a disability that required constant care from Trish, her husband Arthur, her son, Joshua, and the extended family, but also because she believed all children in 'our' care have their own special needs.

After many years in the Assistant Principal – Religious Education role at St Andrew's Catholic College, Trish was then appointed

Principal of St Joseph's School in 2011, where she brought a richness to the local community and the many with whom she came in contact. In her many roles as Mother, Teacher, School leader, Trish always had an immense capacity to support and encourage her colleagues and all those within her care.

In 2012, Trish was diagnosed with cancer. Trish approached this challenge with the same determination and courage that she always displayed throughout her life. She was a deeply spiritual person and had prayer at the centre of her life especially during her battle with cancer.



During Trish's treatment, her concern for the St. Joseph's school community was always evident and she endeavoured to continue to work tirelessly whenever it was possible. Trish always remained positive and was always concerned about how others were coping and what was happening in their lives.

Trish loved being with the kids. Teaching was her life. She touched the lives of so many students, parents and teachers and will always be fondly remembered.



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Three members from the Thomas More Centre for Preaching and Prayer, Dominican Priests, Fr. Nick Punch and Fr. Mike Champion along with Franciscan Nun, Sr. Joan Burkey will be conducting a renewal Mission in:

Tully Parish 9 - 13 May
 (contact Bob McIlroy 0439 828 528)

Mossman-Pt Douglas 16 - 19 May
 (contact Fr Duivenvoorden 0428 130 518)

The Renewal program will provide Masses, including Reconciliation, Healing Masses, together with talks based on Scriptural themes. The presenters will also target special groups such as RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), Lay Ministries, Schools and young families.

Parishioners from across the diocese are invited to attend.

HOPE FOR HEALING

Written by Fr Robert Greenup OSA (Indigenous Connections Ministry)

Cairns diocese's Augustinian Father Robert Greenup and Deacon Ralph Madigan attended the funeral of the eight children killed in Cairns recently. Fr Greenup wrote the following reflection.

THE murder of eight children in Cairns, just before the celebration of Christmas, shocked the whole country and deeply affected Indigenous communities throughout the diocese. Unlike other recent tragedies, there could be no suggestion of a religious or political motivation. It was simply a domestic tragedy of unimaginable, incomprehensible proportions.

The funeral of the children was held at the Convention Centre in Cairns on Saturday, January 10, with several Christian ministers jointly conducting the service. An estimated 5000 people filled the centre, but the huge space was dominated by the eight white-painted coffins, of different sizes, all neatly lined up in a row.

At the beginning of the service the Prime Minister (Tony Abbott), the then Premier (Campbell Newman) and the Mayor of Cairns (Bob Manning) each laid a wreath in front of the coffins. Then songs were sung, and many, many bewildered and heartfelt words and prayers were said.

One of the speakers remarked that the children's deaths were shrouded in silence. No one heard a cry for help, either before or during their deaths. No one knew of their desperate situation. No one knew of the danger they were in. "Nobody heard their cries," he said.



Since the day of that dreadful tragedy there has been much crying and heartache, and the grief at their loss still weighs heavily upon the community.

*"A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamenting and weeping bitterly:
it is Rachel weeping for her children,
refusing to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more." (Jeremiah 31:15)*

After the silence and the weeping there is consolation to be found in the faith and the hope that, even in the face of such tragedy, our God will wipe away the tears from every cheek and make all things whole, all things new again.

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PARENTS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Written by Christopher Doherty-Fisher (Year 11 St Andrew's Catholic College, Redlynch)



Ding dong!!! The sound of school bells greeted the several hundred parents of St Andrew's Catholic College Senior Year students as they came back to school on the evening of 16 February, for a glimpse into the day to day life of their child.

The evening was structured to enable parents to visit all subject areas of their respective children; to gather information from their teachers on what the courses are all about, and what they should come to expect throughout the year.

As parents started arriving, they exclaimed how the concept of an evening like this was, "Simply brilliant" and, "A great way to start the new college year." Along with these comments came the expectations of gaining an insight into what their children are doing during the 6 ½ hours they spend at the great and prestigious complex that is the college campus.

Teachers were also getting excited for the event. "It will be great to give parents an insight into the schooling life of their children, some of the detail they may not hear at home" commented Mr Luke Walker, teacher of Economics. Mrs Helen Symes, teacher of Business Management said, "I hope the outcome of the evening strengthens the relationships between parent and teacher and give parents a better appreciation of teacher expectations."

A greeting from College Principal, Mr Lee MacMaster kicked off the night. He provided an overview of the evening and a snapshot of the College's recent performances. With St Andrew's being one of the highest performing schools in Cairns in 2014, Mr MacMaster hoped that the evening would help parents acknowledge that their children were being sent to a quality college, in an exceptional environment with highly qualified teachers to give their children the best education possible. From the lips of Mr MacMaster, "You don't need to send your children to other schools, as we have the best opportunities right here at St Andrew's."

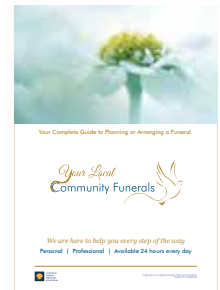
Parents were extremely impressed with the professionalism of the courses being offered and that there was a strong work ethic expected within the classroom, allowing students excellent opportunities for the completion of their set tasks. When asked how St Andrew's shaped up to their old schools, parents had no shortage of things to compare. Parents were unanimous in their verdict that the students of the 21st Century have harder assignments, more dynamic testing and less exam-based assessment. The parents much preferred their own schooling!!

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When students were asked their thoughts on the evening, it was a resounding positive reaction. Their relief was evident in that their parents will now have a better understanding of student life at the College. Year 11 student Lisa Thorpe commented *"I am just thankful that my parents can now understand the amount of work and effort that goes into today's assessments."*

The College would like to thank the parents that took the time out of their busy schedules to participate in such a vital part of their child's life. The evening concluded with many parents remarking that, *"There should be more opportunities like this to walk in the footsteps of our children."*

NEW DIOCESAN COORDINATOR – *Sacramental Program*

Written by Fr Karel Duivenvoorden (on behalf of the Council of Priests)



In response to some work by the Council of Priests in early 2014, the Bishop has approved the appointment of Anne Chellingworth as Diocesan Sacramental Program Coordinator. Anne will undertake the task part time, in addition to her existing role as Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator.

The Council of Priests wanted to look at ways to improve coordination of diocesan efforts in preparing children of catechetical age specifically for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. Parishes were asked to send a representative of their Sacramental Team to a special get-together in October to discuss how the parishes could better enhance their sacramental program activities. Participants overwhelmingly endorsed the idea of a part-time coordinator with whom they could work to bounce off ideas, share experiences and communicate better with one another. The idea of an annual get-together was also strongly supported. Participants wanted to know their contribution was valued and could be more innovative over time.

While parishes deliver programs to suit their local circumstance, the diocese supports a family-centred, parish-based and school-supported approach. Therefore, Anne will work closely with parish coordinators to support Sacramental Program development across the parishes. She will also look for opportunities to improve the professional development of parish coordinators and Sacramental Teams.

Because a key piece of work will be the development of a Diocesan Sacramental Program Policy, Anne will also need to collaborate closely with the Council of Priests to assess pastoral implications.

Anne's natural style in working collaboratively with people will help develop good working relationships. These will be of great benefit in determining how the diocese prepares young people in the future for a sacramental life in the church community. At a time when parish workers, who are almost exclusively voluntary, carry larger work expectations, Anne's appointment is a much welcome addition for those in the front line. We wish her well and assure her of our support.

Anne can be contacted at Catholic Education Services Phone 40 509 755 mobile 0407 716 430 and email achellingworth@cns.catholic.edu.au

THOUGHTS ON THE MASONIC CARE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Written by Linda Scanlan Pastoral Care Associate

As a Pastoral Care Associate with the Cairns Diocese, I visit Masonic Care Queensland Home for the Aged at Whitfield each week to walk with the residents in their spiritual journey.

I feel very privileged to visit both the residents and staff at Masonic. Mrs. Sylvia Carswell is the Lifestyle co-ordinator and she has developed a very moving Memorial Service held approximately every 3 to 4 months to remember the residents who have died at Morinda. Invitations are sent to the family members, staff who knew and cared for the residents, and all residents are also welcome at the service.

I am honoured to conduct the service which concludes with a shared afternoon tea and a release of eco-friendly balloons with messages from family; staff and friends. This allows families and staff to share their memories and aids the grieving process.

The photo shows the Chapel altar with a photo and candle for each resident who has died in the last few months. The backdrop was created by the original residents of the Home and was hung in the first chapel. The photos are then given to the families at the end of ceremony. Also on display is a Memory Book with a photograph and short history of each resident.

Several of the families have commented on how comforted they feel, having this thoughtful caring service provided to their loved ones at the end of their lives.

Being an active member of our Church community, gives much joy to myself and those I visit and reminds them they are still remembered.



NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S WEST CAIRNS

Written by Peter Buckley



Fr Frank Gordon oversees the construction of the new parish centre

After months of planning, fund-raising, commencement delays and much anticipation, the new Xavier Parish Centre is now well under construction. A completion date in late March or early April is expected when this wonderful addition to our Parish will become a reality. It should serve many purposes for years to come and enhance our Parish's mission by providing a home for the variety of ministries, meetings and social activities that are at the core of the Parish's spirituality and community-building endeavours.

The ravages of the long drought in recent times have brought much hardship to the property owners in the western regions of our Diocese. While assuring these farmers and graziers of our prayerful support, an appeal was conducted in the Parish to provide some material goods as well to those facing tough times. Hampers were packed by Dorothea Silverman, Melissa Andrejic,

Narelle Dunn, Linda Wex and Wanda Musumeci, and dispatched to families in the region. Messages of gratitude and appreciation for this gesture were received. Hopefully the current wet season will help restore prosperous times to this area of the Diocese.

In keeping with summer traditions in our country, Australia recently played India in a keenly-contested cricket match. No, not the stars we see on television and in the newspapers, but our own local Parish stars who came together to do battle for a revered trophy. The match was played, not at the MCG, but at Redlynch, where the Indian team was victorious and are the current champion. As happens with sport, the follow-up match at Endeavour Park was postponed due to the weather (and also due to a timetabling clash with the World Cup match on television between India and Pakistan!)

The return match is eagerly awaited, where community and friendship will be the winners along with the team with most runs on the board.



menALIVE IN EDMONTON PARISH

Written by John O'Brien

As the world was moving into the 21st Century two ordinary Catholic men in the Brisbane area were becoming aware of the face of the Church in their local parish. What hit them hard was the lack of young men.

These ordinary men had experienced something powerful through the Church — that there is something greater than themselves to live for and they wanted other men to encounter what they had experienced. Together, they and three others, have developed a program called menALIVE, aimed at rousing male Catholics into living their faith in a way that makes a difference.

menALIVE is a National Catholic Ministry to Men with a vision of allowing men to discover that God is at work in their lives. The vision of menALIVE is to create an opportunity for that to happen and then try not to get in God's way. Each man's experience of a menALIVE event is unique because God meets each of us individually, where we are at.

The flagship event for the menALIVE ministry is the menALIVE

Weekend. menALIVE teams work in partnership with parishes throughout Australia and New Zealand to run these weekends. The program delivers relevant talks and personal testimonies, opportunity for discussion in small groups and, most importantly, it provides the space and environment for men to reflect.

Date Claimer Men Alive Weekend

St Therese Parish, Edmonton
August 22/23, 2015

"By far the most relevant, meaningful, informative and achievably challenging church event I have ever had" – feedback comment

The experience of men gathering together at a menALIVE Weekend or event is dynamic and powerful. The result is that for many men, they are inspired, encouraged and feel that they have a new sense of purpose and mission. The following feedback from past menALIVE Weekends speaks loud and clear!

- Powerful and genuine delivery with a lack of pretence.
- I was actually planning to cancel at the last minute, but going to menALIVE really opened my eyes and my heart.
- By far the most relevant, meaningful, informative and achievable challenging church event I have ever had in 53 years of Catholicism
- I came with no expectations and was powerfully impacted. A wake up call!!!
- What an amazing experience!!! Fun, inspiring and well organized

St Therese's Parish will be hosting a menALIVE Weekend in August 2015 at the parish primary school in Bentley Park. This exciting event is open to all men in the Diocese. For more information watch your parish bulletins or contact John O'Brien on 0434903284(mob) or 40554331(H).

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10.00 a.m. Italian Mass concelebrated by Bishop James Foley, His Excellency the Bishop of Acireale Monsigno Antonio Raspanti and Parish Priest Fr Kumaradhas. Unveiling of the Three Saints. Eulogy of the Three Saints. Hymns by St. Alfio Choir.

12.00 noon Entertainment - Barbecue - Italian sausages, ravioli, arancini, chestnuts, granita, gelati, Italian biscuits, sweets.

2.00 p.m. Saints positioned on Vara followed by solemn procession. Rosary and hymns. Procession accompanied by Cairns Municipal Band.

3.00 p.m. Mass concelebrated by Monsigno Antonio Raspanti and Parish Priest Fr Kumaradhas, followed by Blessing and Veneration of the Relics of the Three Saints.

4.30 p.m. till late Entertainment - Rides and amusement by Wonder Fair

7.00 p.m. Dynamic fireworks display by Ian Riedel, Fireworx Australia.

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COLLEGE THEME FOR 2015: JUST LOVE: HEARTS WITHOUT BORDERS

Written by Czek Kersevani (College Development and Promotions)



At the welcoming assembly, Principal Br Darren Burge quoted St Paul's words to the community at Philippi (Phil 2:3-4)

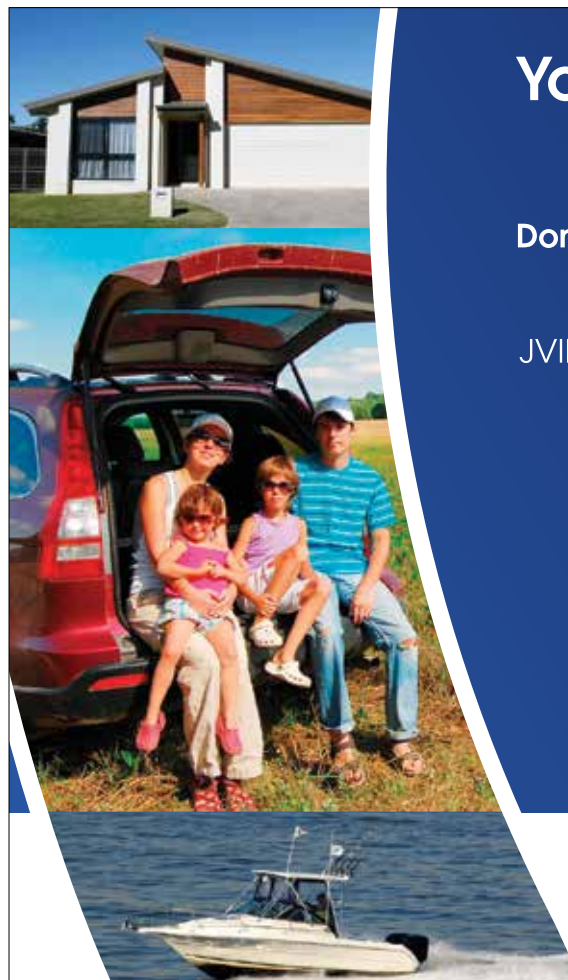
"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another more important than yourselves: do not merely look out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others"

Brother went on to say, "This is a good reminder to us of the attitude that we should aspire to in life as these words and ideas are at the heart of our theme. We want to engender in our College community a love that is just and we want you all to have hearts like Jesus that brim with compassion for those in need. We want young people who can identify a need, don't count the cost to themselves and then act accordingly. I think by doing this we are encouraging ourselves to think and act differently from what our society promotes."

We don't have to look far to see reams of examples where people have been grabbing something for themselves to the exclusion of others. The challenge is for our College community to grow as people who know what is important in life and have values that reflect inclusion, compassion, community mindedness, service and so forth.

Essentially, people are what really matters, the value we place on them and the love we share. It is hoped that this year's theme can help us to see the world through different eyes and engender in them hearts without borders, especially for those most in need.

At the core of our being we desire to love and be loved. We long for belonging, solidarity, the chance to share our lives and the opportunity to change our circumstances. Jesus' message is simple but challenging: *Love one another as I have loved you*" Our challenge as educators, parents, coaches and carers is to give our young people experiences that will lead deeper than the false world of appearance and sham, that will lead them to be able to say, with St Paul, that "these three things remain: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love." (1Corinthians 13:13) – Hearts without Borders



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CURSILLO “A Short Course in Christian Living”

Written by Maria Mezes Cursillo Coordinator 2015

The Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement focuses on helping individuals to discover themselves, their relationship with Christ and with others.

Coordinators, Maria Mezes and Denis Provera, and the Team invite you to take part in the 2015 Cursillo Three Days to be held on June long-weekend. The weekend is comprised of a series of carefully structured talks, meditations, discussions, prayer and Masses. It is an enjoyable and enriching experience that will deepen your personal relationship with Christ and give you effective tools to live out your adult Catholic faith.

“In my twenties I left the Church. I lived an unrestrained life filled with wild and sometimes dangerous adventures. In 2008 participation in a three day Cursillo Weekend opened a door streaming with the light and joy of God’s love for me. Cursillo was the wonderful instrument of personal conversation that restored my Catholic faith. It continues to provide me with positive ways to nurture my faith in a community of support that helps me live my witness to Christ.”

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning short course. The Cursillo Movement began in the early 1940’s on the island of Majorca, Spain. Eduardo Bonnín led a group of young men who were dissatisfied with spiritual indifference in the church. They began to pray, talk and work together to find a way to bring people to Christ. They ran short courses to revitalize Christians. This was the beginnings of a movement that today has spread through 60 countries and numerous Christian denominations. It is estimated that some 5,000,000 Christians have experienced Cursillo in one of

its various forms. The first Cairns Cursillo was held in 1975.

Cursillo has a Papal Mandate with participation encouraged by Pope Francis. It is endorsed by Diocesan Bishops. It acts wholly within the Church and states only the Church’s teaching. The Cursillo movement is Christ centred and is based on Gospel values.

How do you discover if Cursillo is for you? Accept the invitation that Christ offered His Apostles to “Come and See”. Is this the invitation you have been waiting for?

DATE CLAIMER

**June Long Weekend: 5th 6th 7th & 8th of June
Starts Friday evening 5 June and finishes
Monday afternoon 8 June 2015**



Location: Genazzano Lake Tinaroo Conference Centre,
Powley Road, Lake Tinaroo
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Denis Provera 0448 118 313 or visit the website cairnscursillo.org

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL CONTEMPLATES THE FUTURE

Written by Lee MacMaster (on behalf of the Northern Beach Parish Pastoral Council)



The Northern Beaches Parish Pastoral Council met on Saturday 7 March to begin the process of formulating a strategic plan for the parish. To help facilitate this process, Father John Chalmers from Brisbane was asked to address the group using his expertise, knowledge and skills in this area.

Father John challenged the Parish Council members to consider the importance of the significance of our parish church, Holy Cross in our reflections and discernment process. Father John reminded us all of the beauty of the Cross as a means to assist us in drawing together all the various elements of our dynamic parish - to consider how our parish reflects the Church 'gathered'



and the Church 'scattered'.

Pope Francis' words and influences over the past few years of his leadership of the Catholic Church were shared by Father John as triggers for our thoughts. As members of the Northern Beaches Parish Pastoral Council we feel empowered by the process undertaken on Saturday. We will continue to discern 'the way forward' for the parish and continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit in our work.

Our task is now to look at our parish with a 'contemplative gaze'.

STATE SCHOOL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION - FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Colin Harvey – Assistant Executive Director Identity and Mission

Religious Instruction is currently delivered to nearly 1200 students in many State Schools in our Diocese. Almost 100 volunteer catechists from parishes across the three deaneries deliver lessons on a weekly basis. Recently, we surveyed our State School Religious Instruction (R.I.) students and parents. Overwhelming evidence has become available that State school children and parents value Religious Instruction highly and appreciate the work of our catechists.

Our findings from the survey are summarised as follows...

- Majority of parents reported their children enjoyed R.I. class and shared their experiences.
- In R.I. classes parents would like to see Catholic/Christian values/morals; sacraments and church seasons; prayer/Rosary; respect and life skills taught.
- Parents said R.I classes support spiritual, moral and religious values; has helped with challenging family situation/issues; builds respect and forgiveness towards others and in making choices in their lives.
- Parents were thankful for Catholic R.I. being offered in State Schools and wished it to continue; were thankful for R.I. Instructors;
- Students said gathering together, learning about God/ Holy Spirit/Holy Family/ Saints/ Guardian Angel/ Catholic ways/ prayers/praying, the R.I. teacher/learning about social skills, social justice, drawing/word searches/crosswords/games/plays/ singing/bible stories and dvd's as the best things about going to R.I. classes.
- Students would like more singing/dancing/dvd's/games/ activities/technology/longer time/better location of classes/ better behaviour from some students and more respect for R.I. teacher with more intervention from classroom teacher in the room to fix these issues.
- Students liked Christ Our Light and Life Student Books but found some activities challenging/hard like learning the prayers at back of book/praying the Rosary and learning new information.

- Students listed that they had learnt many things including God/ Jesus/Holy Spirit, Mary, Saints, The bible - Old and New Testaments, Lent/Easter/Pentecost/Ascension, Holy Week/Ten Commandments, prayers, Jesus loves us no matter what and is forgiving, to rely on God, respect God's name, Jesus' story and life, to love/respect/forgive, social justice, good/bad things, being a good person, God loves our people/ land/country, Gospel values, life skills and new songs.
- Majority of students said they do talk about God in other places like home/church/with family/ parents/grandparents/in bed/anywhere/other groups/ when upset/feeling unsafe/sad and in stressful situations.
- Students said they liked praying to God, that R.I. was cool/awesome and made them a better person/thanked their R.I. teachers, found stories interesting, loved being together and talking about life/beliefs.

Congratulations and thank you to all our catechists who work tirelessly to instruct children in our State Schools. We also acknowledge the support of our Bishop, priests, principals and staff of State

schools and CES personnel who manage this important apostolate. Thank you also to Thresea Jankowski, Michelle Pike and Janice Hunt – our deanery coordinators who give so much above and beyond expectation in their roles.

May God continue to bless this important work.



L-R Thresea Jankowski, Colin Harvey, Janice Hunt and Michelle Pike

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: TIME FOR AUSTRALIA TO TAKE STOCK

9 December 2014 • Email: admin@acsjc.org.au • Website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au

AUSTRALIAN • CATHOLIC • SOCIAL • JUSTICE • COUNCIL

On Human Rights Day, the Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has called on Government to take stock of its human rights performance. “Recent developments in Indigenous affairs and immigration policy give cause for anyone concerned about human rights to ask, “What’s happening to our nation?”” Bishop Christopher Saunders said.

“What’s happening in a nation willing to outlay billions of dollars in on- and off-shore immigration detention that undermines human dignity and causes irreparable harm? The cost of running the Manus Island and Nauru facilities alone is over \$1 billion annually.

“At the same time, Commonwealth and State governments seem unwilling to scrape together a small fraction of that amount to provide basic services to remote Indigenous communities. Anywhere up to 150 remote towns in Western Australia face closure because the State Government says it can’t find a meagre \$90 million to fund municipal and essential services that were recently offloaded to the states by the Commonwealth Government. Aboriginal communities in South Australia are also at risk,” Bishop Saunders said.

“It seems that Australia’s human rights record is being undermined by policies aimed at denying people sanctuary. “People in the cities and regional centres of Australia see it as their right to have basic municipal services. How can we possibly say that Australian citizens in remote communities do not have the same right?”

“Last week’s changes in Australia’s asylum legislation strike out most references to the Refugee Convention – the international human rights standard for the treatment of asylum seekers, including our basic obligation to ensure no one is deported to danger.

“As always, the benchmark of a country’s human rights performance is seen in how it treats the most vulnerable. Australia is failing the test for First Australians seeking to maintain connection with their traditional, ancestral homelands and for refugees and asylum seekers fleeing violence and persecution in their homelands,” Bishop Saunders concluded.

For further information: Bishop Christopher Saunders 0418 260 155 or Mr John Ferguson (02) 8306 3499

AUSSIE BISHOPS VISIT LEBANON ON MIDDLE EAST SOLIDARITY TOUR IN DECEMBER 2014

BEIRUT: A delegation of Australian bishops arrived in Beirut to show solidarity with displaced Iraqi Christians and offer them moral and financial support - A version of this article appeared in the print edition of The Daily Star on December 16, 2014, on page 4.

See more at: www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Dec-16/281180-aussie-bishops-visit-lebanon-on-middle-east-solidarity-tour.ashx#sthash.UsoHmvy.dpuf

We remember those who have died from our parishes

Rae Robinson	5th September	Tully
Ante (Andy) Stankovich	16th September	Tully
Patricia Nash	20th September	Atherton
Joseph Bergman	1st October	North Cairns
Colleen Brown (Meeks)	5th October	El Arish
Sir John Ralston Wild	14th October	Cathedral
Kevin Lock	16th October	Cathedral
Suzanne Grimsey	19th October	Mareeba
Ina Titasey	24th October	Cathedral
John (Hans) Tscheppera	26th October	North Cairns
Lorraine Pedersen	27th October	Mareeba
William (Bill) Beard	2nd November	Cathedral
Patrick Miller	2nd November	Mareeba
Marjorie Clarke	10th November	Atherton
Frederick Wade	16th November	Cathedral
Shirley Stewart	16th November	Atherton
Eric Goulding	18th November	Mareeba
Brian Mahoney	23rd November	Mareeba
Lina Dovesi	30th November	Mareeba
Alwien (Winnie) Van Pamelan	30th November	Cathedral
Norman Bobbermen	3rd December	Tully
Anthony (Tony) Ratcliffe	8th December	Cathedral
Wayne Madden	10th December	Mareeba
Angiola Siciliano	11th December	Mareeba
Desmond Cahill	11th December	Yungaburra
Brian Davis	13th December	Cathedral
Maria Travia	14th December	Tully
Michelina Falvo	25th December	Mareeba
Charles (Charlie) Evans	26th December	Cathedral
Maria Downing	31st December	Tully
Raymond Hine	31st December	Mareeba
Vincenza Torchio	4th January, 2015	Mareeba
Patricia Crema	7th January	Tully
Liliana Vit	10th January	Atherton
Eileen Solien	14th January	Tully
Angela Nardone	19th January	Cardwell
James (Tip) Byrne	7th February	Tully
Guido Piccio	7th February	Tully
Jamie Newport	7th February	Atherton
Dulcie Smithwick	8th February	Tully
Jascenta Sabatino	13th February	Cathedral
Negimias Lumukso	20th February	Fr Tony Lumukso's Father

May they rest in peace

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