

From the Outback, through the Rainforest to the Sea



CAIRNS DIOCESAN NEWS

EDITION 26

CHRISTMAS 2020 - COVID 19 E-Newsletter

TAKE HOME COPY



Cathedral Christmas Crib 2019

(Photo courtesy of Theresa Wallwork)

BISHOP'S MESSAGE



You may need to be of my vintage or older to remember back to the days, or rather the nights, of Black and White Television, and that English satire *'Till Death Us Do Part* with Warren Mitchell (more usually a fine Shakespearian actor) playing that cranky little man Alf Garnett.

Well, in a Christmas episode Alf is telling his grand-daughter the Nativity Story, when she asked: *Grandad, why was there no room in the Inn?* (Lk 2/7)

To which Alf's long-suffering wife, ironing away in the corner, pipes up: *Well, dear, we all know how busy it is at Christmas time!*

At which Alf gives her one of his withering glares and utters: *Ah, cor blimey Else you silly old moo.*

Well what has that irreverent and tasteless piece of nostalgia to say to us for Christmas 2020?

Its Luke's Gospel which explains why there was no room in the inn on that first Christmas.

It was Census night: *the first*

Now it happened that at this time Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be made of the whole world. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line,

(Scripture scholars however do struggle to reconcile what is known of the dates of these population counts and their required places of recording. (See John McKenzie: Dictionary of the Bible, *Census* p125/6)

So that *First Christmas* year may have been every bit as disruptive for *the whole world* as *this Covid year* has been for everyone of us – but in the opposite way.

While we have all spent this year in varying degrees of *Covid Lockdown*, so, according to Luke, the whole Roman Empire was then *on the move* – each back to their own ancestral roots.

That Census upheaval, in the opposite degree, may have been even more chaotic than this *Covid Lockdown* year has been for all of us.

During this year I have made myself available for an hour each afternoon for conversation and/or Reconciliation – in the safe social-distancing setting of the spacious Bishop's House in Cairns.

This has been a *graced experience* as we have reflected, in perhaps a more relaxed place and with a freer time-frame than usual, on just what these past strange months have meant for us all in various degrees of *Lockdown*.

It has been a time of imposed *soul-searching*.

These unusual, unprecedented months have put us in touch with what may be the best and the worst in our own lives and in our world.

This has been strangely a *God Given Time*, an extension of the very *Christ Event* which remarkably parallels, yet also contrasts with, the *Nativity Story* in all its own stressed aspects.

Yours truly in Christ,

+ James Foley

BISHOP OF CAIRNS

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT MARY MACKILLOP'S CANONISATION

Adapted by Editorial Staff from Sisters of Saint Joseph Media Release



Saturday 17 October 2020 marked the 10th anniversary of Saint Mary MacKillop's canonisation at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, declaring her Australia's first canonised saint. Pope Benedict XVI addressed tens of thousands gathered in St Peter's Square. About 9000 Australians travelled to celebrate this occasion.

For Catholic, Christian and secular Australians, it was a meaningful moment, celebrating the values at the heart of what it means to be Australian, as well as her witness to the sacred in everyday life.

The 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop was celebrated remembering the extraordinary life and legacy she left behind. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart are pleased to recognise her with commemorative prayers, videos, and a global vigil in her honour.

Inspiring all Australians to take courage and maintain hope as Mary did throughout her life, the theme chosen for this celebration is *'Take Fresh Courage'*. This theme is taken from a letter written by Mary MacKillop in 1877. It is befitting of the many challenges Australians have faced in 2020.

Sister Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, said, *"The 10th anniversary of Saint Mary MacKillop's canonisation is a chance for us to reflect on Mary's legacy and the valuable lessons her life experiences have taught us."*

"She faced hard times and adversity over the years, from her family's poverty to the loss of many loved ones throughout her life. She carried on, strengthened by her faith and her determination to serve others. She worked

hard, travelled widely, and spoke courageously in love. She was a woman of strong convictions and great energy who treasured friendship and family. Mary always had a place in her heart for those most challenged by life's circumstances." I am proud that the Sisters of Saint Joseph continue to follow in her footsteps today, and people from around the world find inspiration in her example."

Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer

A commemorative prayer booklet featuring significant moments in Mary's life, highlighting her values and spirit, is also available to download for all. The prayer book is available on the website in Spanish, Italian and Vietnamese.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have produced a series of inspiring videos that feature people from diverse backgrounds in reflection on how Saint Mary helps them in their lives today.

Video 1 - Primary School Students

Video 2 - Sue and Leo Kane

Video 3 - Fr Michael Fallon

Video 4 - High School Students

Video 5 - Sr Rita Malavisi

Website for additional Resources

For more information, please contact: Kathleen Norman Communications Manager

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ST. MONICA'S COLLEGE SHINES IN AUSTRALIAN SINGING EVENT

Written by Ms Edna Galvin (Principal)



On Thursday, November 7, St. Monica's College was involved with several schools across Australia in a musical project called *Count Us In*. This is a project run by **Music Australia**, which is an organisation devoted to music in its entirety. It is a national umbrella body with activities spanning education, community and the professional industry.

This group deliver campaigns, information, resources, sector networking, community engagement, a national school music participation program and demonstrations. This particular project, *Count Us In*, is built around a particular song every year. The writing of the program song begins with a National Song Writing Competition open to all students across Australia.

The finalists of this competition are then gathered together to write the program song. This is completed with the assistance of the Program Ambassador John Foreman plus a guest celebrity and program mentor. The song is then recorded by students and released to all the schools.

Normally, many schools can be involved but due to the COVID-19 virus the schools this year were invited. Mr Chris Burcin (Co-curricular Arts Leader), due to his conducting credits with Gondwana, was invited to be involved in the Cairns Region. A local primary school was also involved and this year it was Edge Hill State School.

As the project each year always plans to feature the local area, and show it off to its best advantage, the proposal was to sing the song down on the Cairns Esplanade near the lagoon. The choir were placed on the line of the lagoon near the famous fish sculptures, that fly out of the water, with the sea and islands in the distance.

It made for a spectacular event with all the students singing with these wonderful images in the background. The choral conductor was standing above the water, dressed in formal attire, leading all the students as they joined in song and the spirit of *Count Us In*.

Many schools around the country were still involved and it turned out to be a most impressive musical performance. It was a fantastic enterprise for the students to experience and a wonderful opportunity for the college to be part of such an exciting project in this rather challenging year.

FR PETER MILLER RETIRES TO CAIRNS

Adapted by Editorial staff from an interview by the Catholic Voice



We Welcome Fr Peter Miller to the Diocese of Cairns.

Fr Peter hails from the small community of Ungarie where his grandparents took up land in 1914. He retired in June after twenty-two years as parish priest of Jindabyne. Some time ago, Fr Peter decided to give up snowshoes for sandals, and he has recently moved into a retirement unit a stone's throw from Trinity Beach.

Fr Peter attended a small convent school run by the Sisters of St Joseph. With a population of around 400, it was a close-knit community with a rich sporting pedigree. On leaving school, Fr Peter helped in his father's store doing the accounts for a couple of years before working on the family property. He spent the next twenty years on the farm.

When asked about his resolution to become a priest, Fr Peter explained that the thoughts of the priesthood were with him all through his school days. "On the farm, I had time to reflect while on the tractor, moving sheep or fixing fences or whatever. When I concluded that I was too old to keep playing footy, my favourite passion

at the time, I gave it some serious consideration. After all, what else was I going to do?"

He moved to St Paul's Seminary in 1982 and attended Sydney Randwick Tech completing Years 11 and 12 before starting formal training in 1983. Fr Peter's pastoral year was spent at Cooma, and in 1986 he was ordained a Deacon, completing his studies in 1987.

"It was during this time that I was informed that the prison chaplain needed assistance, and that is how I began my chaplaincy work in gaols. I continued working at Long Bay Prison until I was appointed to Queanbeyan Parish after which I spent one day a week at the Goulburn Prison," he said.

"I was ordained a priest at St Mary's Church, West Wyalong, on May 8, 1987. The church where my parents were married on April 4, 1940. I celebrated my first Mass the next day at St Joseph's, Ungarie."

Fr Peter was ultimately appointed as the Parish Priest of Jindabyne in 1998. At the same time, he took on the role of prison chaplain at the Cooma Correctional Centre and has been a regular weekly visitor ever since. "The prisoners like to be able to talk with someone from outside," Fr Peter explained. "Someone who is not an officer I didn't always say Mass then again on occasion I did say Mass a couple of times per visit". Prison chaplaincy is a ministry that I look forward to continuing here in the Diocese of Cairns.

Fr Peter concluded by saying "I thank Bishop James Foley and Archbishop Chris Prowse from the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn for allowing me the opportunity to move here to Cairns and I look forward to meeting everyone soon".

BE AN ADVOCATE AND BE AMAZED BY NEWNESS...

Written by Sharon O'Keeffe (Director, Identity & Outreach)

During this extraordinary year, I write this final reflection for the Identity and Outreach Bulletin with deep gratitude, joy and hope. In a turbulent and trying year, we have had to navigate great celebrations and success, like TREWTH and the launch of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). While also managing and trying to understand the unpredictability of Coronavirus and the continued systemic racism that results in international movements like 'Black Lives Matter' and Deaths in Custody.

I have drawn strength from our vision and purpose as Catholic educators in our local context where we have committed to: honouring our past; acknowledging those who came before us; and dreaming of a future founded on reconciliation and a genuine encounter with the First Nations peoples of the lands, seas and waterways of the Cairns Catholic Education Community.

Over the past fortnight all Principals, Assistant Principals of Religious Education and Indigenous Education Officers gathered for a day of Encounter. Listening to our guest speaker, Henrietta Marrie AM (pictured) an Elder of the Gimuy Walubara clan of the Yindinji people and Traditional Owner of the land on which the City of Cairns and southern suburbs are located.

All present were invited to dream new ways of being. To pray powerfully. To connect profoundly. Input from our Vicar for Education, Fr Neil Muir called on each of us to be an 'advocate' for change. Reminding us why the Cairns Diocese was created, Fr Neil also referred to the recent encyclical by Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti* (Oct 3, 2020) which invites each of us to be people of hope and reconciliation, and people who are open to dialogue and truth-telling.

As we conclude this extraordinary year, I extend our gratitude and best wishes to our departing Principals: Catherine McKechnie, Luke Reed, Judy Billiau and Donna Maxsted. Similarly, I give thanks and blessings to our APRE's who are also moving onto new adventures in 2021: Kath Kennedy, Kathy Fleming, Michael Aitkin, Meg Newell, Bec Burns, Brendan Napier and Angela Collins; may God continue to bless each of you with good health, faith, hope and joy.

Finally, I congratulate Toni Foley and Robyn Chambers on their appointment to APRE positions at OLHOC and St Joseph's respectively; women of faith who will bring much to these vibrant and faith-filled communities. Both Toni and Robyn have supported our primary schools in their respective roles over several years at CES, and we offer our blessings and best wishes as they go to continue the work of both Kathy and Bec.

Finally, as we approach Advent, I pray in gratitude for each of you. To that end, I leave you with Pope Francis' invitation to be 'amazed by newness' and hope that it brings you deep peace, hope and joy:

"In this season of Advent, we are called to expand the horizons of our hearts, to be amazed by the life which presents itself each day with newness. In order to do this, we must learn to not depend on our own certainties, on our own established strategies, because the Lord comes at a time that we do not imagine. He comes to bring us into a more beautiful and grander dimension." (Pope Francis, Angelus, 27th November 2016)



Bukal by Claire Foxton, used with permission



Palms Australia

Reaching Beyond 2020

People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment.

See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

Bishop James Foley has encouraged the people of Cairns to support this request.



SAINTS R U OK DAY?

Written by Harrison Oats (Student Year 11)

R U OK? Day was held nationally on 10 September. At Saints, this day couldn't be marked on the day with other activities on. However, the Men of Saints were determined not to let it go.

As such, on Thursday 5 November R U OK? Day was held, in a distinctly Saints style. This day encourages people to have conversations with others, and in doing so to address the problem of social isolation within our community.

A committee of Year 11 students organised a plethora of activities that everyone enjoyed. The committee included Flynn Kear, Flynn Lane, Jed Hera-Singh, Macartney Nealon, Richard Huelin, Tom Lawrence and Harrison Oats.

The college is filled with diverse individuals and stands as a family. To reflect this, the students and teachers wore colorful and extravagant neckwear, replacing the cerise and blue ties. Silly ties, scarves, cravats and neckerchiefs became a sign of the diverse individuality, complementing the day and uniforms beautifully.

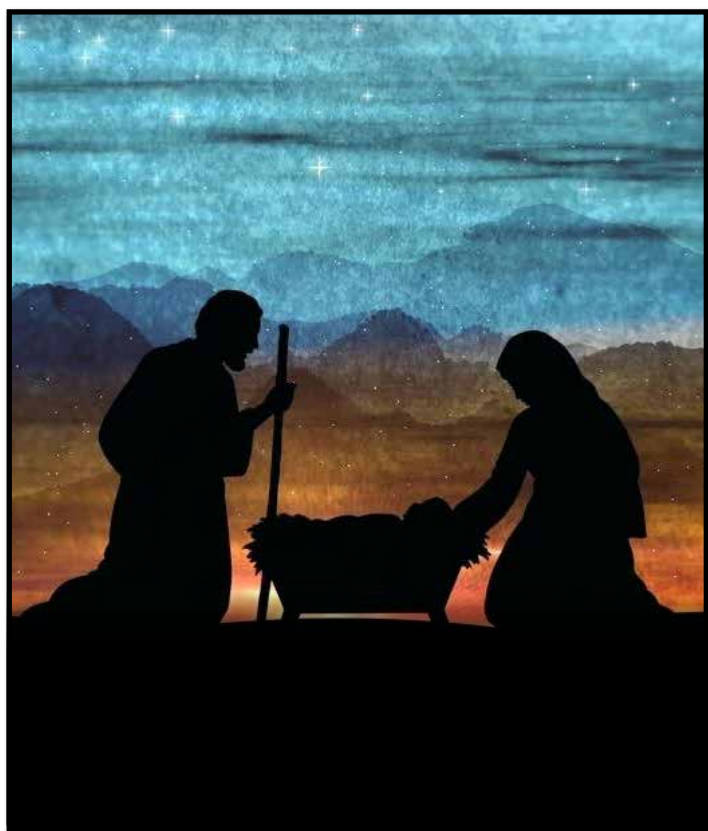


Hundreds of students descended upon the pavement near the oval before school to decorate it with positive messages and images, creating a "chalk walk". Wrist bands of R U OK? were distributed to boys while the artwork was being made. During pastoral care, students listened to several presentations. The first came from *Movember's* Global Director of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Brendan Maher. Then, Dr Jo Lukins, a sports psychologist with the North Queensland Cowboys, presented a video to our senior boys on "*Dealing with stress in difficult times*" offering new strategies.

During recess, the college supplied a sausage sizzle, following all Covid-safe protocols. These were cooked and served by the incoming 2021 prefects and members of the student representative council.

Each student was also given a card to be kept in his wallet, which contains contact details if he ever feels at-risk or just needs to talk. The day was topped off with a staff v students basketball match, with the teachers winning 9-7.

The day was full of awareness, support, acceptance and empowerment of the Men of Saints and helped to break down the stigma around mental health and ask the question R U OK? on any day.



Bishop Foley, together with the clergy of the Diocese of Cairns, would like to remind all parishioners of the Annual Christmas Charities Appeal.

Please place your donation in the collection point at your church on Christmas Day.

Alternatively, you may choose to transfer your donation electronically to our bank account, as follows:

NAB

BSB 084 352

A/C 000014275

Parish Name Christmas Appeal

Thank you in advance for your continued support of charitable endeavours across the diocese.



REMEMBERING DOROTHY LANGTREE

Adapted by Editorial Staff from Eulogy



Dorothy Mary Langtree was born in Cairns on May 5th, 1935. She commenced school at the tender age of 4 at St Joseph's primary. She continued her high school education at St Monica's College, where she conducted the school choir from the age of 13. There is now a window mural in the St Monica's school library, featuring her conducting the choir.

She met Kevin Langtree at the "Aquatic Hall". They married September 24th in 1955 at St Joseph's Catholic Church, and in no time were delighted to have seven beautiful children: Rick, Darryl, Marie, Mary Paul (Dec), Linda, Jo and Paul. All of the Langtree children had music education. They were all involved in the Cairns Youth Orchestra and for more than 20 years, Dorothy and her six children performed in a family band called "Breeze" regularly playing for local weddings and functions. She custom made matching "beach scene" shirts to reflect the band name.

Dorothy commenced part-time work at Mother of Good Counsel and St Joseph's Primary schools as a piano tutor in 1975, in addition to her private piano students.

Eventually, Dorothy made a name for herself as an excellent and meticulous piano teacher.

In 2008, Dorothy was awarded an Honorary Licentiate in Music by the Australian College of Music for her service to holistic music education. Dorothy continued teaching piano until 81 years of age.

Dot's motto was "Be grateful with what God has given you". Her deep faith and unconditional love from her family supported her with the final three challenging years of her life.

Her legacy is unfathomable and will be evident long into the future with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends. Her gifts were her incredible faith, unconditional love and the importance of education for a fulfilling life. She was an inspiration and role model to us all.

Dorothy (Dot) Langtree, as she was affectionately known, was involved in the music ministry throughout the diocese for many years. During her time, she was involved in the music for several large celebrations in St Monica's Cathedral. She was an honorary Church organist for approximately 60 years.

Rest in Peace Dot



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Cathedral Book & Gift Shop



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LOOKING FOR A GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS?



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Please visit us and perhaps you will find the perfect Xmas gift.

WELCOME, FAREWELL AND BEST OF LUCK TO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Written by Caitlin Francis (Catholic Education Services Digital Media Officer)

The coming year will bring change and fresh faces to schools across the Cairns Diocese as several principals take on other opportunities, and newcomers are welcomed.



Recruitment has been underway at both MacKillop Catholic College, Mount Peter and St Joseph's School, Atherton following the resignations of Luke Reed (pictured) and Donna Maxsted.

Mr Reed has been appointed Principal of Mount Maria College, Mitchelton, in Brisbane's north-west.

"Luke has led MacKillop Catholic College in an exemplary way and through significant stages of growth," Cairns Catholic Education Services Executive Director Bill Dixon said.

Mrs Maxsted (pictured) resigned for family reasons after holding her position for three years. *"Donna has led some important initiatives including a significant capital project that will leave a legacy and benefit to both current and future students of St Joseph's,"* Mr Dixon said.



Closer to Cairns, Lauretta Graham has accepted the position of foundation Principal at Newman Catholic College. This innovative secondary facility will be co-located with James Cook University at Smithfield.



Mrs Graham (pictured) was previously foundation Principal at St Andrew's Catholic College in Redlynch and for the last nine years has been foundation Principal at MacKillop Catholic College in Palmerston in the Northern Territory. *"Lauretta is well known throughout Australia for leading the development and establishment of new schools, and her wisdom and outstanding leadership skills will once again enrich education within the Diocese of Cairns,"* Mr Dixon said.

Further south, Michael Rowe (pictured) will take the reins as Principal at St Rita's School in Babinda following the resignation of Judy Billiau.



Mr Rowe was previously Deputy Principal at St Michael and John's Primary School in Horsham, Victoria. *"He is a man of deep faith and his strengths lie in staff development, curriculum planning and enhancing the Catholic identity of schools,"* Mr Dixon said. *"Michael*

believes in providing and fostering warm and collaborative learning environments," he said.



"I would also like to acknowledge the work of Judy Billiau (pictured left), who has led the St Rita's School community so well over the past eight years. Her dedication to leading quality Catholic education to the families of Babinda is appreciated."

Michael Aitken (pictured right), who is currently Assistant Principal Religious Education Middle Years at St Andrew's Catholic College in Redlynch, will become principal at St Teresa's School, Ravenshoe in 2021 following the retirement of Catherine McKechnie (pictured below).



"Michael is a committed, experienced and enthusiastic educator," Mr Dixon said.

"We also acknowledge the significant contribution Catherine has made over many years to continue to offer a quality Catholic education to the families of Ravenshoe and surrounding areas."



Gary Recklies will take long service leave from his role as principal at St Michael's School in Gordonvale during 2021. Jacquie Jackson (pictured), currently assistant principal administration at St Therese's School in Bentley Park, will be Acting Principal in Mr Recklies' absence.



A VERY COVID CHRISTMAS AT ST GERARD MAJELLA SCHOOL

Written by Mrs Ann Blakeney, Leader of Engagement



This year, COVID-19 has certainly redefined the context of parent engagement. Not being able to be physically present at school events has been quite the struggle for many of our families. Where possible, St Gerard Majella School has tried to provide a Plan B approach to ensure that our students can see that as a school community, we remain united.

As we all collectively breathe a sigh of relief that the end of the year is drawing closer, it has been essential to take stock of the achievements and tenacity of our students, staff and families at our school.

We started this Term with our annual Grandparents Day event, which we were unsure would go ahead this year due to social distancing

guidelines. Thankfully, our Prep and Year 1 students were able to enjoy a liturgy and time spent doing craft and old-fashioned games together. It was lovely to welcome in grandparents who had not been in our school community for many long months.

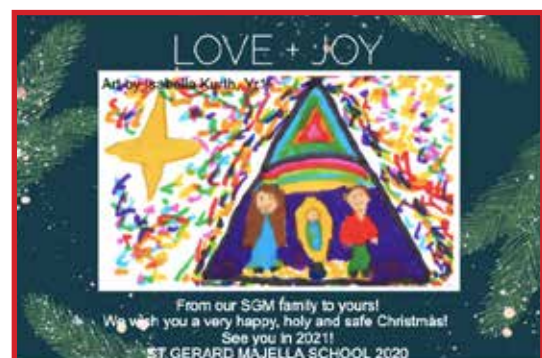
In the spirit of Christmas, this year our families will be receiving our first Christmas Card in the mail. Students were invited to participate in a Christmas Card Competition, with five winners chosen to be the featured images on the front of the card.

Hearing that Santa photos would be a little different this year and knowing that some of our families have been doing it really tough, we have also extended the service of our own Santa photos at school.

This initiative involves having two of our own 'Santas' who will roster on for several days in the comfort of air-conditioning so that our students can enjoy a traditional Santa photo.

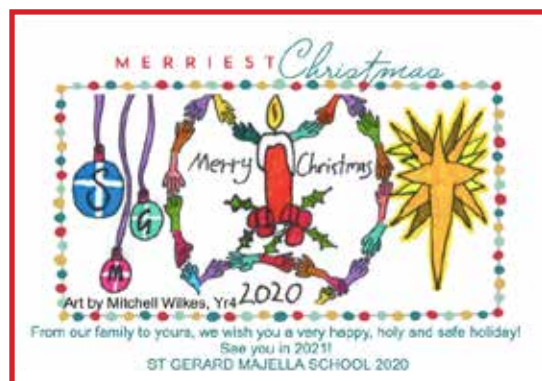


Our SGM families have gone above and beyond to donate their time and resources to create beautiful backdrops and a wonderful chair for Santa to sit on. Students will receive a small gift from Santa, and a percentage of each photo will be donated to Ronald McDonald House to help support sick children and their families, some of which are our own.



exchange with several surrounding Prep classes to help strengthen relationships with other local schools in our diocese.

Our youngest siblings (pre-school aged) will spend some time in the last two weeks of Term enjoying 'Christmas Crafternoon' which will be a playgroup style session in the library to listen to a few Christmas stories and to make a few decorations to take home.



Whilst all of the above have COVID restrictions in place; it's been well worth the planning and preparation to allow our school community to take stock of all with which we are blessed.



From our St Gerard Majella school to the schools and families within the diocese, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and happy and holy holidays.

CENTACARE FNQ CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF SCHOOL SAVVY

Written by Astrid Murray (Communications Officer)



Centacare FNQ launched the 2020 School Savvy Appeal on Tuesday 27th October. This appeal calls for donations of school supplies and school uniforms for what will be the fifth School Savvy pop-up shop, set to open in January 2021.

The School Savvy pop-up shop sells low cost, new and second-hand uniforms and school supplies in addition to providing information and resources for parents and an opportunity for learning and skill development in the retail trade for Centacare FNQ volunteers. The community response continues to be incredible!

The annual initiative, first developed in Cairns in 2016, would not be possible without the backing and support of The St Vincent De Paul Society who has, once again, agreed to partner by providing local drop off points.

Centacare Executive Director, Anita Veivers said, *“Australia is reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The full effects of which are yet to be seen. However, we do know many people in our community have suffered a completely unexpected blow. Australians have enjoyed consistent economic growth for many years. However, poverty rates were high before the pandemic with estimates suggesting there are three million people in Australia living in poverty, of which over 700 thousand are children.”*

“This year, more than ever before, School Savvy will play an important role to ensure that local children can start the new

school year with the things they need to participate in learning.”

School Savvy aims to assist local families on low incomes or those who are going through challenging times. We all know that Christmas and the summer months are an expensive time for all families. Add to that the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to purchase new school uniforms, as well as textbooks and school supplies can become a huge struggle, and all of that straight after Christmas.

Once again, Centacare FNQ is calling on families and year 12 students to dig out those uniforms that their children have grown out of or they have no further need for, to put them to good use by donating to the School Savvy FNQ Appeal.

Pre-loved and new uniforms and school supplies in good condition can be dropped off at Centacare FNQ, during business hours or at any local St Vincent De Paul outlets. Parents are now able to find School Savvy donation points on Google Maps.

Centacare FNQ is also calling on local businesses to get on board by donating unwanted quality stationery supplies such as pens, calculators, rulers etc., with many of last year's supporters already committed to this year's appeal.

For further information, please contact: Astrid Murray Communications Officer Centacare FNQ, 22-34 Aplin Street, Cairns P: 07 4044 0138 | M: 0424 580967 E: astrid.murray@centacarefnq.org

YEAR 12 GRADUATION LITURGY AT MOUNT ST BERNARD COLLEGE HERBERTON

Written by Deacon Michael Lindsay (Assistant Principal – Mission)

The highlight of every year has got to be the Graduation: the culmination of everything we do at MSB. Thirteen years of studying, teaching and learning, achieving and growing reaches its conclusion at the Graduation Liturgy when we celebrate with the Year 12s the conclusion of this part of their journey and farewell them as they move off to the next phase of their journey. It's both an exciting time and an emotional time. For many of our students, they have lived together (boarding) and dined together; shared joys and experienced disappointments together.

As a Mercy family, graduation at MSB is a time to thank God for the blessings that have supported them through their school journey. It is also a time for us to pray for each of them in whatever direction they take from here, knowing that in their own ways they will *Let Their Lights Shine*.

As with everything this year, restrictions in force due to COVID-19 saw some changes in this year's graduation liturgy, but the essential elements and the joy that comes with having completed thirteen years of schooling were still there. Guest restrictions saw just family, staff and only the Year 11 students in attendance while the rest of the college joined them via ZOOM from the classrooms. And as a measure to provide more room for social-distancing, this year's graduation liturgy was moved from the Chapel into the main hall.

After hearing the Gospel *Let Your Light Shine* (Matthew 5:14-16) the principal gave a heart-felt address in honour of the

graduates. This was followed by a slideshow of photos featuring all of the graduates.

Their home form teacher, Ms Dewley-Crane, spoke inspiring. She then introduced the MSB tradition of Year 11 students presenting a rose to each graduate, then in return the out-going seniors presenting the 2021 Senior badges to the Year 11s, as they take their place as the next student leaders of MSB.

Ms Dewley-Crane then called the roll for the Class of 2020 for the last time as each graduate stepped forward to receive their graduation candle and certificate from the principal and deputy principal. As they left the hall for the last time as MSB students, Mr Whitters and Mr Niemerg lit their graduation candles from the college candle: *Lucent Lux Vestra—Let Your Light Shine*.



AGED CARE MEMORIAL SERVICES

Written by Tania Senko Gilbert (Pastoral Care Associate Southern Deanery)



Part of the role of Pastoral Carers is to visit our local Aged Care facilities to offer spiritual and emotional support to the residents. Over time the pastoral carer develops a pastoral relationship with the residents and staff and becomes a part of their community.

An inevitable part of life is death. Residents, personal carers and pastoral carers at Aged care facilities cannot always attend the funerals of those residents within their care.

Each year the Pastoral care team run a memorial service for their local Aged care facility. It is an opportunity to remember the residents that have died over the last 12 months and an opportunity for fellow residents, staff and family members of the deceased, to share memories and celebrate “*lives well lived*”.

The memorials are often followed with a morning tea which allows the pastoral carers to connect with families, staff and residents who are still grieving with their loss. It is often an emotional time for staff in particular, who often become very close as they care for these residents, thus suffering multiple losses over the year.

A recent memorial was held at Churches of Christ Rockingham Aged Care facility in Cardwell. It was a beautiful morning with a candle and flower ceremony to commemorate those residents who had died. The staff created a moving slide show, residents and staff shared memories and specially selected songs. We finished the morning with a lovely morning tea and the sharing of more memories.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions family were not allowed to attend our memorials this year; instead, a similar version of the memorial was recorded and uploaded onto a private YouTube link so families could still be included in this special tribute.



Front cover image of Cardwell Memorial Service Booklet

“FINALLY MADE IT.” ST MICHAEL’S CONFIRMATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

Written by Hugh O’Brien (Parishioner)

COVID-19 has created many challenges and opportunities since March 2020. Our weekly Sunday morning Sacramental Program lessons were progressing well, and then COVID struck. Parents proposed that they continue the Sacramental Program lessons at home with teachers of the program giving guidance.

Bishop James approved Confirmation and First Holy Communion to be celebrated before the end of 2020. In early October the teachers presented two Sunday, summary sessions culminating in Confirmation and First Holy Communion being celebrated on 22 October 2020.

Of high significance was that the parents/ carers took control of their children’s learning of the Sacramental Program. The text “*Our Family Prepares*” for Confirmation and Communion was an excellent support for home-based learning.

One parent said “*the teaching program was a wonderful experience in evangelisation (relationship with Jesus) for parents. So, children were learning, and parents were being evangelised.*” Congratulations to our Gordonvale parents of 2020.

The Sacramental Program Parent’s Working Party and our secretary, Mrs Rita Watson, took control of the church preparation; banners, sashes, cupcakes, flames of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for each family. All the teachers had to do was say thank you many, many times.

Another parent voiced that in 2021, it would be a good idea for the Sacramental Program teachers to present the Sunday morning

lesson, and the parents lead their own child through guided work on the following Sunday. In this way, the parents, in collaboration with the teachers, are educating the child. What a great idea, remembering that parents are the first ‘*faith*’ educators of their children

Many thanks to St Michael’s School, especially Mr Bryan Grech and Ms Ingrid Drew, who supported the parish program. Special thank you to Ms Trish Logan and our budding guitarist Marcus for leading the music.

Many thanks to Father Roy, who empowered us along the way, and presided over Confirmation and First Holy Communion for the sacramental class of 2020



Fr Roy and Hugh O’Brien with the sacramental class of 2020

LEADER FORMATION RADICAL CHRISTMAS

Written by Rachel McLean (Leader Formation, Catholic Education Services)

Over the last two terms, it has been a privilege to work with APREs and Principals as we develop Formation Plans and experiences. Of particular gift has been the conversations with staff about their interpretation of artwork and scripture. These invitations to dialogue only exist when we are open to the story and experience of “*the other*” and are prepared to share some of our stories. In a number of these experiences, we have unpacked some provocative images and considered how meaning could be made with: our students in classrooms; our parents through many communication channels of schools; and each other as we collaborate and share meals in our staffrooms.

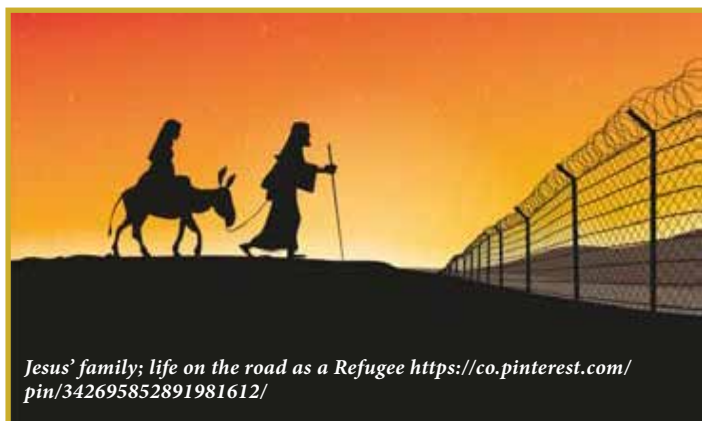
In some of these sessions, I share a small part of how I sustain my faith life through music. One of my favourite Christian Music artist, Matt Maher, is often a point of hope and respite when I get weary. He also encourages me to ‘*rise up*’ (check out Rise Up - <https://www.shazam.com/gb/track/53885692/rise-up>)

As we approach Christmas, I have been listening to one of his earlier albums and have been considering what it means to be radical in our faith. I think that when we genuinely respect people, places, spaces without expecting anything in return, when we are a person who loves all, not just those who are easy to love like family and friends, then we are radical people.

As people who have said yes to Christ’s invitation to be radically inclusive and vessels of love, our job is to be then as radical and inclusive as Christ.

Perhaps this Christmas you could consider with your students and families what it means to be a refugee, a person who is oppressed, a minority community in a hostile environment. Possibly you could invite your students to ponder what they see in this image of the Holy Family on their way to Bethlehem or the safety of Egypt. Maybe you could play Glory (let there be peace) (listen to Glory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW4c6DcxgGc>) and offer prayers for those families and communities who are approaching Christmas in war-torn and Coronavirus ravaged communities around the globe.

Whatever and however you choose to mark Advent and Christmas this year, may you do so with radical love.



Jesus' family; life on the road as a Refugee <https://co.pinterest.com/pin/342695852891981612/>



Banksy's installation in Bethlehem: At first sight it seems to be a traditional Christmas scene, but in the background, there is a gaping hole in the shape of a star. The scene shows also the words “love” and “peace” as graffiti on the barrier in English and French. The installation is called ‘Scar of Bethlehem’, a wordplay on ‘Star of Bethlehem’: the star that led the three wise men from the east to the city where Jesus was born.

Accessed <https://www.facebook.com/enhancingcatholicchoolidentity/photos/a.131635370827299/477987569525409/?type=3&theater> Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-50881270>

The image contains the logo for Reach Youth Ministries Inc., which features two stylized figures holding hands above the word 'REACH' and 'Youth Ministries Inc.' below it. Below the logo is a photograph of a group of young people in a room, some standing and some sitting, engaged in an activity. At the bottom of the image is a text box with contact information.

Reach is about inspiring ordinary youth through faith to become extraordinary in loving others, caring for the poor in our midst, and making a difference in the world.

For information about our meetings, events and youth camp please email admin@reachyouth.org.au or call 0429 475 825



2020 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CAIRNS

Mass information is also at Phone (07) 405

CHURCH	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Reconciliation
Atherton St Joseph's, 28 Mabel St	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 6pm with Carols & Live Nativity at 5.30pm	Christmas Day – Mass 10.00am	Thursday 17th December - 5.00pm
Babinda St Rita's, 15 Church St		Christmas Day - Mass 7.00am	
Bamaga St Stephen's	Christmas Mass Tuesday 23rd December Mass 6.00pm		Before Mass
Cairns St Monica's Cathedral 181 Abbott St	5.15pm early Christmas Eve: Mass during the night 6.30pm Carols before 7.00pm Children's Mass 10.45pm choir <i>Canticles in Candlelight</i> before Midnight Mass	Christmas Day – Masses 6:30am, 8.00am & 10.00am	Bishop James is available every Monday to Saturday (except Wednesdays) 4-5pm Conversation, Reconciliation or Spiritual Direction at Bishop's House, 183 Abbott St.
Cardwell Our Lady Star of the Sea, 121 Victoria St		Christmas Day - Mass 9.30am	Also see Tully, Mission Beach, El Arish & Silkwood
Chillagoe St Nicholas of Tolentino and Bl Mother Mary of the Cross, Queen St.		Christmas Day <i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i> 9.30am	
Cooktown St Mary's, Furneaux St	Christmas Eve – <i>Liturgy of the Word with Communion</i> 6.30pm.		
CROYDON	No Masses in the Gulf		
Dimbulah St Anthony's Raleigh St		Christmas Day – Mass 8.00am	Tuesday 22nd December - 9.30am
Earlville Our Lady Help of Christians, 18 Balaclava Rd	Christmas Eve – Masses during the Night 6.00pm & 8.00pm	Christmas Day – Mass 8.00am	
Edmonton (Bentley Pk) St Therese's, 135 Robert Rd	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 5:15pm & 7.15pm	Christmas Day – Mass 8.00am	Christmas Eve: 4.30pm to 5.00pm
El Arish Our Lady of Fatima, Glasgow St		Christmas Day – Mass 10.00am	
FORSAYTH	No Masses in the Gulf		
Freshwater Sacred Heart, 15 Duffy St	NO Mass at Freshwater or Stratford	See Northern Beaches	
GREGORY DOWNS	No Masses in the Gulf		
GEORGETOWN St Patrick's, High St.	No Masses in the Gulf		
Gordonvale St Michael's, 4 Muir St	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 7.00pm	Christmas Day – Mass 8.00am and 10.00am	Saturday 19th December - 9.00am - 10.00am
Hammond Island St Joseph the Worker	Sunday 20th Christmas Mass 8.00am	Christmas Day – Mass 8.00am Sunday 27th December - 8.00am	Before Mass
Herberton St Patrick's Broadway St	Christmas Eve Mass - 5.00pm		
Horn Island The Holy Family	Sunday 20th 11am Christmas Mass	Sunday 27th 11am Christmas Mass	
Innisfail Mother of Good Counsel 90 Rankin St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 6:30pm	Midnight Mass with Carols from 11:30pm Christmas Day – Mass 9.00am	Innisfail Mon 14th 7pm Sat 19th 11.30am
KARUMBA St James & St John, Yappar St.	No Masses in the Gulf		
Kuranda St Christopher's 20 Barang St	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 7.30pm with Carols from 7.00pm		Wednesday 23rd December - 5.00pm
Malanda St James 7 Monash St	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 8.30pm	Christmas Day – Mass 8.00am	Before Mass

CAIRNS CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

1 1990 or go to www.cairns.catholic.org.au



CHURCH	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Reconciliation
Mareeba St Thomas of Villanova, 59 Constance St	Christmas Eve – Masses during the Night 7.00pm with Carols from 6.30pm & 9.30pm with Carols from 9.00pm.	Christmas Day – Mass 10.00am	Every Saturday – 5.00pm to 5.30pm
Mercy Place - Westcourt Gatton St		Christmas Day – Mass 8.30am	
Millaa Millaa St Rita Coral St		Christmas Day – Mass 10.00am	Before Mass
Mission Beach Holy Spirit, Webb Rd		Christmas Day – Mass 7.00am	
Mossman St Augustine 24b Grogan St	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 7.00pm	Christmas Day – Mass 7.00am	Tuesday 1st - 5.30pm
Mourilyan Christ the King, 10 Harbour Rd		See Innisfail/South Johnston	See Innisfail
Mt Garnet Holy Rosary		Christmas Day – Mass 7.30am	Before Mass
Normanton Our Lady Help of Christians, Dutton St	No Masses in the Gulf		
North Cairns Mother of Good Counsel, 394 Sheridan St	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 5.30 pm		Every Saturday after the Vigil Mass or by appointment
Northern Beaches (Trinity Park) Holy Cross Reed Rd,	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 6.00pm - Holy Cross Primary school assembly area Trinity Park	Christmas Day – Mass 8.30am - Holy Cross school assembly area Trinity Park 10.00am All Saints theatre, St Andrew's College, Redlynch	(2nd Rite) - Holy Cross Church Trinity Park 6.00pm on Wednesday 23rd
Parramatta Park St Joseph, Cnr Draper & Loeven Sts	Christmas Vigil - Mass 5.00pm Indian Community Christmas Vigil - Mass 7.00pm	Christmas Day – Mass 8.30am	Every Saturday after Mass or by appointment
Port Douglas St Mary 2 Endeavour St	Christmas Eve - Mass during the Night 10.00pm	Christmas Day – Mass 9.00am	See Mossman
Ravenshoe St Teresa of the Child Jesus, 2 Moffatt St		Christmas Day - Mass 9.00am	
Redlynch All Saints Chapel St Andrews College Intake Rd	See Northern Beaches	Mass Christmas Day 10.00am	See Northern Beaches
Silkwood St John the Evangelist, Harold St	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 6.00pm		
South Johnstone St Rita, 5 Green St		Christmas Day – Mass 8.00am	See Innisfail
Stratford St Augustine 23 Kamerunga Rd	NO Mass at Stratford or Freshwater	See Northern Beaches	See Northern Beaches
Thursday Island Sacred Heart Douglas St	Sat 19th Mass 6pm Christmas Eve – Mass 6.00pm	Saturday 26th December - Mass 6.00pm	
Tully St Clare of Montefalco 13 Mars St	Christmas Eve – Mass 5.30pm		Tuesday 15th December - 7.00pm
Weipa St Joseph Boundary Rd		Christmas Masses will be celebrated on Saturday 26th December - 6.00pm Sunday 27th December - 8.30am	Reconciliation before Mass
West Cairns St Francis Xavier, Cnr Mayers & Atkinson St, Manunda	Christmas Eve – Mass during the Night 6.00pm	Christmas Day – 8.00am	Christmas Eve: 11.00am and 4.00pm
Yungaburra St Patrick's, Mulgrave St.		Christmas Day – 8.00am	Before Mass

CARE AND SUPPORT RETREAT IN SILKWOOD

Written by Tania Senko Gilbert (Pastoral Care Associate Southern Deanery)

On Thursday 5th November, the Southern Deanery Care and Support Team met at the beautiful Silkwood Brickworks for a mini-retreat. Care and Support ministers bring communion to residents in nursing homes, people who are housebound and the sick,

The funeral team helps families at a very emotional time to plan their loved one's final farewell. They often have additional roles in their parishes and are an integral part of working with the pastoral carers; the time they give each year is very much appreciated.

Silkwood, El Arish, Tully, Mission Beach and Cardwell volunteer ministers were invited to discuss any issues; reflect on the year that was, and take some time out for themselves to ponder and reflect on this year's topic - forgiveness.

Everyone was privileged to be able to enjoy this sacred time surrounded by lush tropical gardens and spectacular ponds, with most members commenting the outdoor venue helped them feel closer to God.

After some excellent and thoughtful discussion, Fr. Mathew and Fr. Hilary gave some interesting insights on forgiveness. This was valuable to the group.

The lovely hostess, Sherri, provided a confidential area, set aside with food and drinks available. Finally, we thanked her for her kindness in offering her private garden for this retreat.



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE GRADUATES CHOOSE A FAMILY CELEBRATION

Written by Theresa Redgwell (Assistant Principal Mission)

When the planned graduation venue advised St Mary's of the restricted numbers for events, they considered how we would celebrate the 2020 graduation dinner in an already challenging year.

Principal Wayne Wood met with Year 12 students and asked them to consider how they would like to celebrate with the full support of the college of their choice. Both students and families were asked to vote on either a student only dinner or dinner at the college that would allow families to attend. The overwhelming majority voted to have a formal sit-down dinner at the college that would let families celebrate a momentous milestone with students.

Mr Wood said this was one example of the "St Mary's family" culture so alive in the college. Staff came together quickly to host a 5-star formal dinner in the Nazareth Pavilion with dinner catered by the college resident chef, Mr Brent Van Dam. Mr Wood said feedback from students and families was that the event exceeded their already high expectations.

The graduation dinner had all the tradition of previous years but within the unique requirements of 2020. An added blessing of dancing being

permitted announced on the day of the dinner was an extra special surprise for the graduates.

While students went back to study for their final examinations, they were also excited to have their graduation Mass, guard of honour and morning tea to celebrate their last day at the college after exams. St Mary's is proud to have continued with tradition while having the flexibility to keep the community safe.



MOUNT ST BERNARD COLLEGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

SAVE THE DATE – We look forward to you joining us at these celebrations in 2021

Friday 5th February 2021

Centenary Year Commencement Mass and Commissioning of
2021 School Leaders

Friday 24th September – Sunday 26th September 2021

Centenary Weekend – More details coming soon



Celebrating
100 YEARS
of Mercy Education



Save the date!

**The School Savvy FNQ
pop-up shop will open...**

**88 Anderson Street, Manunda
next to MaraWay Community Hub**

Tuesday
5th of January 2021

Opening Hours

**10 am-2 pm every weekday
until school starts or stock runs out!**

schoolsavvy@centacarefnq.org



NEWS FROM O



“HEAVENLY BODS” AT OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Our exercise class recently celebrated the Melbourne Cup Race day.

All who attended class on Tuesday 3rd November wore hats, ribbons, fascinators on their hair and performed a routine using exercises they do weekly to spell out the words “*Melbourne Cup*”.

A delicious morning tea followed the celebrations. A lovely morning for all concerned.

WORKING BEE AT ST AUGUSTINE’S CHURCH, STRATFORD

Written by Jacky Tam (Northern Beaches Parish Parishioner)

On Sunday, November 16th after Mass, the Working Bee of 20 parishioners of St Augustine’s Church carried out the task of cleaning the church. The statues, pews, carpets and floors, windows, as well as the difficult-to-access large crucifix and Stations of the Cross frames, were now given a long-missed fresh look.

Participants were very happy to have the church cleaned before the start of the new liturgical year.



TULLY PARISH CELEBRATES CONFIRMATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Bishop James approved Confirmation and First Holy Communion to be celebrated before the end of 2020.

In his absence and the absence of Fr Hilary confirmation and first holy communion were celebrated on the 8th and 13th September respectively. Fr Kerry Costigan was the presider for both Masses.



A VISITOR AT ST MICHAEL’S CHURCH GORDONVALE

Written by Rita Watson (Parish Secretary)

Stan Carswell (pictured) was a visitor to our Mass Celebration on Sunday 8th November.

Stan was the first baby baptised in St Michael’s Church. He was baptised on the 11th November 1934 by our first parish priest Fr Ted Kenrick. (Fr Kenrick requested that when he died he was to be buried near the steps of the Church, so parishioners would pray for him).



OUR PARISHES

ALL SOULS DAY MASS AT GORDONVALE CEMETERY

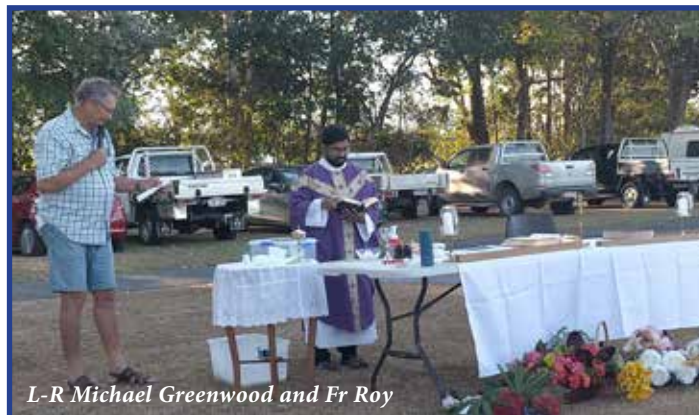
Written by Rita Watson (Parish Secretary)

November is a special time in the Church to pray for those who have died. All of the deceased are remembered at the Masses during November.

The Mass at the Gordonvale Cemetery is an annual celebration, started some 40 years ago by Fr Frank Gordon and continued by subsequent parish priests.

Seventy people attended the Mass at the cemetery on All Souls Day, Monday 2nd November, and what a moving, peaceful, prayerful celebration it was to remember our loved ones.

Following the Mass, relatives put flowers on the graves of their families and friends.



L-R Michael Greenwood and Fr Roy

GOOD NEWS FROM ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH WEST CAIRNS

Written by Peter Buckley (Parishioner)

In what has been a very trying year, it is refreshing to have good news to report.

The level of co-operation, commitment and service throughout the parish as we all take care of the welfare of each other has been excellent. Thanks to those efforts we have met the conditions of the approved plan for our parish, and this has meant we have maximised the attendance numbers for our liturgies on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays, and kept everyone safe.

Many thanks to all those who have made this possible. We look forward to the time when everyone may be welcomed back to all parish liturgies and events.

Also, some other very good news to report is the reception into the church of one of our parishioners. Supported and guided by Fr Frank and several community members from our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) team, Lara Kirk has been received into the church.

Lara has been preparing with regular meetings for some months and has taken this significant step in her spiritual pathway. She has been

active in our parish in her role as a teacher at St Francis Xavier's School, and she has been very warmly welcomed into our faith community, who will support her further in the full life of the parish.

We congratulate Lara and wish her every blessing as she continues on her spiritual journey.



L-R Fr Frank Gordon, Jo, Lara, Burnie and John

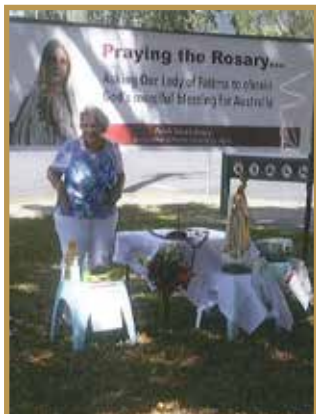
PRAY THE ROSARY IN NORMAN PARK, GORDONVALE

Written by Rita Watson (Parish Secretary)

The public Rosary is an international campaign to pray together in commemoration of the last apparition of Our Lady (October 13, 1917) at Fatima. It is an excellent opportunity for prayer groups and communities to join together in public prayer.

Last year approximately 30,000 Rosary Groups joined in a massive international effort in over 60 countries. In 2019, Australia reached 270 groups praying the Rosary.

Daria Bray (pictured) has been coordinating the Gordonvale Rosary Group for 15 years. The group met again this year on October 10 2020, with 40 people attending.



SURPRISE FOR OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS EXERCISE CLASS

The OLHOC "Heavenly Bod's" exercise class received a lovely surprise recently when the students from 6G presented the group with a punching bag.

The students and teacher Nat See Kee met and discussed how they could do something worthwhile for someone. They recycled poppers and milk containers for the containers for change program to raise the money.

Katie Corbett and Taubalu Carra (pictured) represented the 6G class and presented the Exercise Class with the bag. A very sincere thank you to all involved, it was a lovely gesture.



WE REMEMBER QUEENSLAND FIREFIGHTERS ...

Written by Peta-Lee Staples (A/FNR Community Engagement Officer Queensland Fire and Emergency Services)



In Queensland, 53 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty since 1877. Their names are remembered on the Firefighters Honour Roll.

Firefighters' Remembrance Day is held annually on 10 October — the 10th hour on the 10th day of the 10th-month — and is a day when Queenslanders come together to acknowledge and pay tribute to firefighters who have died while protecting and serving their communities.

It is a chance to honour their memory and to acknowledge the sacrifices they, their families and their communities have made.

This year Queensland Fire and Emergency had the honour of holding this intimate event at St Monica's Cathedral. With the harmonic voice of Soloist Rebecca Dempster echoing through the room and bouncing off the stately bricks and stone of the Cathedral, everyone sat mesmerised, remembering those Firefighters that had passed in the line of duty.

TOSCO OFFICE NATIONAL DONATES TO 2021 SCHOOL SAVVY FNQ



Centacare FNQ is delighted to announce that Tosco Office National is supporting School Savvy FNQ, once again, by donating 20 donation bins and pre-packing 1,000 pencil cases for primary and secondary school students for the fifth School Savvy Pop-Up shop!

The School Savvy team visited Tosco Office National on Thursday 26th of November from 10 - 11 am, to take delivery of 1,000 pre-packed pencil cases in addition to book packs and other supplies. The team have already distributed the donation bins which can be found located across the Cairns region - from Smithfield all the way to Atherton.

Locally owned and operated with locations in Townsville and Cairns, Tosco Office National is North Queensland's premier supplier of business solutions. They provide procurement solutions for Stationery and Office Supplies, Photocopiers, Managed Print, Digital Workflow, Commercial Furniture, Janitorial and Hospitality Supplies. Tosco Office National Sales Manager Vanessa Gatto-Baldin, said, "Tosco Office National is

very proud to be involved in this community project once again. We pleased to support local families who are struggling to get their kids back to school with what they need."

Centacare FNQ's Executive Director Anita Veivers said, "Centacare FNQ is delighted to be partnering with Tosco Office National Cairns for the third consecutive year. It is through the generous cooperation of local businesses like Tosco Office National that we can provide programs such as School Savvy FNQ to those in need in the community."

The School Savvy Pop-Up shop will sell low cost, new and second-hand uniforms and school supplies as well as provide learning and skill development in the retail trade for Centacare Business Trainees.

Other businesses interested in getting involved can contact the School Savvy team at Centacare FNQ on (07) 4044 0130.

Please contact me if you would like any more information please contact Astrid Murray P: 0740440138 M:0424 580967 E: astridmurray@centacarefnq.org

2020 Reach Christmas Carols



Reach Youth Ministries will be hosting a Christmas Carols evening on Wednesday 16 December at 7pm – 9pm in St Therese's Church, 135 Robert Road Bentley Park. Places are limited, so please register via our website <https://reachyouth.org.au/christmas-carols>

Battery operated candles will be for sale on the night.

Entry is by donation. Join with our youth to celebrate the coming of Christ.

All are welcome.

Any enquiries, please contact Priscilla O'Brien on 0429 475 825 or email admin@reachyouth.org.au

RIDDICK THE FRIENDLY GREYHOUND AT SAINTS

Written by Medhansh Sekhri, (Year 7 Student)



Riddick with Medhansh Sekhri

At St Augustine's, every Tuesday before school we have a dog called Riddick, with his carer Megan Carey, come to visit us in the Year 7 Quad. Riddick is a delta therapy greyhound; he has a wonderfully sensitive and loving nature; he is eight years old and is in perfect shape.

The boys at Saint Augustine's love meeting Riddick because of his calm, gentle and cool nature. Therapy dogs like Riddick teach us empathy, interpersonal skills and help further develop our social skills.

Interacting with a pet, in general, can help our overall mental and physical wellbeing. Research shows that with a companion such as a therapy dog, you release endorphins to produce a calming effect, helping reduce stress and enhance your overall mental wellbeing.

Therapy Dog teams like Riddick and Miss Carey are indeed companions that help lots of people as they visit hospitals, nursing homes, community members with disabilities and other schools.

Greyhounds are thought of as a racing dog, and many are put down each year, so they need adopting to good homes. I really enjoy seeing Riddick each week and would love to come home to a furry friend like him.

I encourage you to reach out to Delta Therapy Dogs and have a team like Riddick and Miss Carey visit your school. He is a great motivation for the school day ahead and all the Year 7 Saints boys love him.

FIRST NATIONS: STRONG WOMEN

Written by Antoinette Cole (Consultant Formation First Nations)

In honoring our past, we remember and acknowledge those who have paved the way before us. We celebrate those who continue to inspire us in the present and imagine our future as we reconnect with our story and connection to place across our Cairns Catholic Education Community. When we listen to the wisdom in and across our community, we meet people where they are at and strengthen our sense of connection and belonging.

During November, leaders across our Catholic Education Community gathered to listen deeply about the significance of place from a First Nations worldview.

NAIDOC theme, *Always Was, Always Will Be* We were privileged to hear from Henrietta Marrie, a Gimuy Walubara Yindinji Elder, where she shared the significance of place and inextricable link to land through her story in our local context. Henrietta's story is one of resilience, of passion ignited from the fire inside, of never giving up and one of courage to always advocate for her people and those oppressed near and far. By listening deeply to the impact of colonization in our local area, we were able to reflect on the legacy and consequence of colonization and what this means for us as educators in a Cairns Catholic context.

Also occurring on the world stage during NAIDOC week, was the nomination of Kamala Harris as US Vice President-elect; the first female to be nominated for this position, marking a milestone for the American people, and all women across the globe.

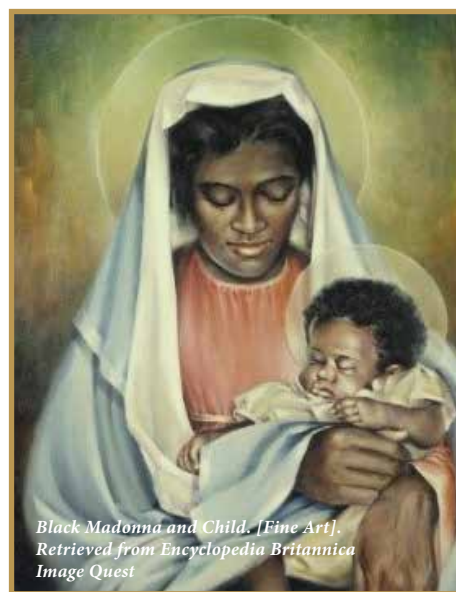
Not only will Kamala be the first woman to serve as Vice President but the first African American and South Asian American to hold the role. In her victory speech in Delaware, she reflected on the struggle, determination, and strength of generations of women on whose shoulders she now proudly stands.

In our Catholic context, we take time to reflect on the example of Our Lady, a strong inspirational woman. We draw on her guiding light and strength as we open our hearts to God, who loves grandly and generously. We are reminded of our "Yes" to God in moving forward in love in the good times, and challenging times.

Mother Mary, Kamala and Henrietta teach us strength, courage and how to be resilient in times of challenge. The witness of these women has opened our hearts. As we prepare for the Christmas season, a time when families come together, we are reminded of the thread that holds these families together and honours the strength of our mothers, grandmothers, aunties, sisters, and daughters.



Black Madonna Liii (Classic) 1998. [Fine Art]. Retrieved from Encyclopedia Britannica Image Quest



Black Madonna and Child. [Fine Art]. Retrieved from Encyclopedia Britannica Image Quest

Written by Caitlin Francis Catholic Education Services (Digital Media Officer)

Far North families are invited to get in on the ground floor of the region's newest and most innovative secondary school, which has procured a top educator as its Foundation Principal. Newman Catholic College, co-located with James Cook University at Smithfield, is now accepting enrolment applications through its website, newman.qld.edu.au.

Lauretta Graham, a well-known and respected figure across the Far North who has extensive experience in developing and establishing schools, has accepted the position of Foundation Principal at the college.

Mrs Graham was previously Foundation Principal at St Andrew's Catholic College in Redlynch, guiding the school from 2001 to 2011 as it became one of the most sought-after in the Cairns area. For the last nine years, she has been Foundation Principal at Mackillop Catholic College in Palmerston in the Northern Territory.

Cairns Catholic Education Services Executive Director Bill Dixon said Mrs Graham's vast experience in the education sector would be an invaluable addition to Newman Catholic College. *"Her thorough knowledge in this field will help to position Newman Catholic College as a leading school from the very beginning,"* he said. *"We look forward to working with Lauretta on this challenging, rewarding, and very exciting Journey."*

Newman Catholic College, the first Catholic school in Australia to be located within a university precinct, will initially open for the Year 7 cohort in 2022 and add a new year level each year to be a full Year 7-12 secondary college by 2027.

Construction has started at the site, and Cairns Catholic Education Services Director of School Effectiveness (Secondary and P-12) Dr Andrea O'Brien said there had already been significant interest from local families.

"Enrolments are open, and applications are flowing thick and fast. We are excited about the interest that is being shown in Newman Catholic College," she said. *"Our next major area for community consultation will be around uniform style and design."*

The college has been named for St John Henry Newman, one of the newest catholic saints who was also a champion of education. The red and gold of the college's logo are symbolic of Newman, being the colours of his personal coat of arms. The JCU's logo bears the same gold and the blue. The college's logo also acknowledges JCU.

Mrs Graham has extensive links with JCU, having completed a Bachelor of Education at the University and being awarded an honorary Doctor of Education Studies from JCU in 2019. She also holds a Master of Educational Leadership from Australian Catholic University.

CONSIDER GIVING A GIFT OF EDUCATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Adapted from Catholic Mission Media Release



Catholic Mission has launched its annual Christmas Appeal, focusing on the work of the Catholic Church in Ethiopia and supporting the education of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Partnering with The Lideta Catholic Cathedral School, in the country's capital, Addis Ababa, a scholarship program has been created to ensure that children who are orphaned or whose parents cannot afford to send them to school can access quality education.

"For the students, this is a golden opportunity to access a scholarship to one of the best schools in the country," says Sr Carmen Sammut SJA, who manages the scholarship program at The Lideta Catholic Cathedral School. *"The ethical formation of the school impacts students positively and helps them to become good citizens, educated and give back to the community."*

Many families are struggling in Ethiopia's capital city, due to a high cost of living and limited job opportunities, and many parents are unable to cover basic expenses such as school fees for their children.

The Catholic Mission Christmas Appeal will help disadvantaged children access education this coming school year.

Currently studying in Grade 6, 11-year-old Kaleb has seen how

the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School scholarships have helped his family, his older sister continuing her studies through to university. Kaleb hopes to follow her footsteps to success. Kaleb's mother struggles to cover the school fees for her children, but the scholarships have helped to ease the burden.

"Education is one of the keys to unlock opportunities where we can achieve our full potential and create bright futures. By supporting children like Kaleb through this appeal, we are not only helping him break out of the cycle of poverty but also lifting him up in faith and charity so that he too, can become an instrument of God's love for others," says Anna Jimenez, Director for Catholic Mission in Cairns.

"Kaleb is just one of many children at the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School who can access education through the support of the schools' scholarship program. The generous spirit of Catholic Mission donors towards sustaining this program, and many other similar programs, reach out to children in need around the world. The gift of education is a gift for life."

The principal of Lideta Catholic Cathedral School, Father Tekle Mekonnen is passionate about the work of the school supporting the education of children in need in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. *"We promote integral human promotion, and at the same time we strive for educational excellence,"* he says. *"We want to be a school with quality education and at the same time, integrate Christian values and principles. That is our main objective."*

Learn more about how you can partner with the Lideta Catholic Cathedral School in Ethiopia this Christmas and give the gift of education to those in need at catholicmission.org.au.

STATE SCHOOL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION 2020 SNAPSHOT

Written by Cathy Spencer and State School Religious Instruction Coordinators, Diocesan Outreach & Mission Services

This year especially has seen the SSRI coordinators and their volunteers continue to minister to Catholic children in Education Queensland schools with commitment, tenacity and creativity during what has been a turbulent year. Each coordinator has had different experiences, some similar understandings and ultimately 'new growth' and learnings to take away from the impact of Coronavirus here in the diocese.



Marie-Huberte Churchward
(Northern Deanery Coordinator)

Too often do we take things for granted, but 2020 was a year that shook up many of our accepted norms in State School Religious Instruction.

We started our program in February, teaching the students our Creator God prayer, which ends like this: "With you at my side, I can never go wrong." Indeed, God's grace was

with us and the State School RI programme continued through adversity in the Northern Deanery.

The year started with the usual frenzy to be ready to resume our mission, but even more so because, as soon as we had been welcomed back into the schools, I had to be on my way to attend the RE Congress and Youth Day in Los Angeles.

Being able to pause and receive a new in-filling at the RE Congress right at the start of the RI year was an amazing grace for me.

I was one of the 40,000 people who gathered at the Anaheim Centre in Los Angeles in February to explore/wrestle with the themes "Through God's Eyes" (Youth Day theme) and "Be Holy, Be Mercy". I listened to inspirational talks which encouraged me to look at different ways to serve in my work and in my Parish. One of the talks specifically challenged me to embrace the use of technology. This talk was titled: "What would Jesus post?"

Little did I know that, upon my return to Australia, I would soon have the perfect opportunity to embrace technology. The outbreak of COVID-19 in Australia and the restrictions it imposed provided a real "sink or swim" situation for using technology for the benefit of our programme.

We no longer had access to the State Schools for our weekly lessons and were not allowed to gather either. I realised that I had been prepared by the RE Congress for doing things differently; I was further challenged by Pope Francis' call to be "Creative" during the lockdown period. Technology proved to be a "Godsend" for helping us stay connected!

Through the use of teleconferencing and Zoom video conferencing, each team was able to spend time together each week, on the day and around the time they would have normally physically attended their Religion lessons in their allocated schools.

Although we did not have the students during these meetings, we were able to spend time in prayer for the students and for the staff of each school where we served. It helped us stay connected as an RI team and the schools appreciated our spiritual support as per some of the notes that we received back. One school wrote:

"Thank you very much for your kind message and for your prayers. It is comforting to know that you are there for our staff and students."

We were also able to share what was going on in our lives, support each other, keep our faith alive and more importantly prepare our lessons as a team for the return of face-to-face RI.

When we were finally allowed back into the classrooms in Term 3, our volunteers found it relatively easy to resume the program as they had somehow remained connected to the mission through our weekly conferencing.

The students seemed happy to resume RI. In one of the schools, we had missed the first week of Term 3 and it was touching when one of the school staff reported to us that they saw a little girl who seemed to be looking for someone. As it was RI time and the school staff knew that we were not back yet, she asked the little girl: "Are you looking for the Catholic ladies?", to which the little girl replied: "No, I am looking for the God people". What a wonderful title from the mouth of a young child. It witnesses Psalm 8, which says: "Through the praise of children and infants, you have established a stronghold against your enemies"

2020 has also been a year of major changes as we have been transitioning toward the use of a new teaching program in the future.

"Getting to know Jesus" is a Queensland program recently developed by Carole Danby from Evangelisation Brisbane. The program invites children from the State Schools to explore who Jesus is and to deepen their relationship with the person of Jesus. A lot of time and effort is being spent in having all our volunteers prepared to deliver this new program in 2021 to engage the students further in their spiritual learning.

Our hope for 2021 is that each child will have a true encounter with Jesus and that through knowing Jesus, they will be open to the Spirit of God to be active in their lives. We all in the Northern Deanery look forward to a relaxing and reflective Christmas period, and we pray that the world will emerge humbly and peacefully from the troubles that have plagued it this year.



Michelle Pike (Southern Deanery Coordinator)

2020 has been a rather challenging year affecting all of us in various ways. Some positive things are that we have very, very clean hands, are more aware of virus transmission and the big bonus, we have not had colds or flu this year due to social distancing!

In the Southern Deanery, late in Term 1 State School Religious Instructors received a directive from

Cairns Catholic Diocese to cease Religious Instruction classes in our State schools due to COVID-19 until further notice. After a COVID Safe RI Operation Plan was submitted to Queensland Health and Education Queensland, SSRI recommenced in Term 3 in most schools in the Southern Deanery. Students were excited to see their Religious Instructor return and to recommence lessons with lots of stories about their time apart.

2020 saw two new Religious Instructors join our Southern Deanery Team following intensive training in 2019 namely Diviniti De Guzman Palcat and Patrick Casser. We welcome them warmly and continue to see their growth in confidence and skills. Thank you for your selfless contribution to bring Jesus alive in children's lives through Catholic Religious Instruction.

This year we have all been attending training opportunities throughout the year in “*Getting to Know Jesus*” our new 2021 Catholic Program replacing “*Christ Our Light and Life*” which we have used for many years. We sincerely thank our 2020 trainer, Carole Danby for adapting so well to using Zoom sessions and for expertly guiding us in our new program. You are a blessed treasure to us all!

We extend heartfelt thanks to all our wonderful Religious Instructors for volunteering their time and efforts weekly in a dedicated, caring way to bring Catholic values and stories to their young students. You are a true blessing to the children in your classes.

We also take this opportunity to thank our Diocesan Outreach and Mission Services Director, Cathy Spencer for her guidance and support, our parish priests Father Kerry Crowley and Father Hilary Flynn, our parish administration officers Angie Pennisi and Wendy Murphy for their assistance and support throughout this year.

We need more SSRI's!! If you know of someone who would like to join our SSRI team in 2021, please encourage them to contact their parish or myself, as we require assistant and relief SSRI's for vacancies in some of our schools. Please pray that we will fill all our State Schools with Catholic SSRI's in 2021.

As we now move towards Advent and Christmas may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a joyous, relaxing, happy and hope-filled celebration of Jesus' birth. May your times spent together with family and friends rejuvenate and invigorate you all for the 2021 year. May the coming year ahead bring us strength, wisdom, and abundant kindness to share with all who cross our paths in 2021.



Janice Hunt (Western Deanery Coordinator) What a year! The effect of COVID 19 on Religious Instruction in State Schools has meant with the closing of schools, RI was cancelled for most of Term 1 and 2. But with an approved COVID Safe Plan, RI was able to begin again in Term 3.

We all felt a little disorientated as we went back for the first lessons armed with sanitiser. As one person

pointed out, we had been away from the classrooms for more time than time away over the Christmas holidays. It has been wonderful to be welcomed back into schools by Principals, staff and children.

As we move closer and closer to Christmas and the miracle of God becoming present in our world, we think of those who have made Christ present in our worlds of family, of school, of our town. We offer many ‘*thanks*’ to the state school religious instruction volunteers who commit to training, in-service, prayer, preparing lessons and encouraging children to know and love God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and share knowledge of our Catholic Church.

In March earlier this year one of our dedicated RI volunteers, Maureen O'Connor died. The Western Deanery RI team miss her smiles, gentle, loving encouragement and faith example. Maureen taught Catholic RI at Tolga School for many years and filled in for absent RI at Malanda School in later years. Thank you, Maureen.

Our new program for Catholic Religious Instruction in the Cairns Diocese, *Getting to Know Jesus*, offers the opportunity to connect with children both church and unchurched, through drama, actions, simple craft and storytelling. This year, amongst the

effects of COVID 19, Religious Instructors have been practising storytelling and drama techniques ready for RI in 2021.

The Western Deanery of the Cairns Diocese thanks the four Catholic Religious Instructors who share within Catholic RI classes and the three who share in Ecumenical classes, and congratulates them on their discipleship and mission in this challenging year. With our new program and continuing in-service training and team support 2021 promises to be full of exciting potential, would you like to join us?



Contact me if you like children, sharing about Jesus Christ and our Church and live in the Western Deanery (Atherton Tablelands) and we can talk about RI openings that are available.

**O gracious God,
bless our catechists
as they go into the classroom.**

**Fill their hearts
with Your Holy Spirit
so that they may
proclaim Your love by
the words they say
and the way they live.
Give them a listening heart and
a spirit of understanding.
May they be filled with
love and compassion for their students.**

**Loving God, bless the children they teach
and their families. Fill their hearts
with Your Holy Spirit so that their hearts may
be open to Your Word.**

**May they grow
in the knowledge of Your love for them.
May they be aware of the love and support of
their parish community.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord.
Amen.**

**From CATECHIST magazine's
Prayers for Catechists**

As the year fast approaches its end, I look toward 2021 with great hope and excitement for this ministry across the diocese. Thanks, must also go to Bishop Foley and the clergy of this diocese in recognition of their continued support of this valuable diocesan endeavour.

THE TRANSITUS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Written by Fr Nathan McKay



L-R Nathanael Honnef, Fr Nathan McKay OFS, Marina Schaefer, Sherry Jones, Tia Wells, Denis Provera, Jenny Hapea OFS, Joan Hanley OFS

On Saturday, 3rd October 2020, the emerging Secular Franciscan fraternity in Cairns celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis at St Monica's Cathedral. The Transitus marks the saint's crossing from earthly life to eternal life where he would be with the Lord. Francis did not fear death since our Lord became his focus through living the Gospels daily. He referred to death as 'Sister Death.' The ceremony took us through the steps of Francis' last journey and celebrated his life in his own words in the hymn *"All creatures of our God and King"*. We were also pleased to welcome two professed Secular Franciscans from Wynnum who joined us for this special occasion.

St Francis himself established the Secular Franciscan Order and included both laity (male and female non-clergy) and secular clergy (deacons, priests, bishops and even Popes). Secular Franciscans, are called to live the Gospel, in the spirit of St Francis, both in word and deed. We meet monthly to pray and reflect on a Gospel passage and the writings of St. Francis. Regular attendance at meetings is encouraged since it is within the context of the community that we learn to understand more about Franciscan spirituality and it provides us with the opportunity to get to know each other as members of the Franciscan family. For this reason, we always conclude the meetings with the sharing of a *"cuppa"*.

As a Secular Franciscan, one must believe and live by the Catholic Church's teachings, including participating in the sacraments of the Church. Simplicity is essential in all aspects of life, and one must use material goods as stewards. Secular Franciscans also have a love for justice, peace, and all of creation.

The members of the emerging fraternity have been gathering when possible throughout the past twelve months. To be professed as a Secular Franciscan is a gradual process and there is a formal process of formation

which can take somewhere between 2 – 3 years. Therefore no one is rushed, giving time to discern. If you are interested in discerning this vocation, please contact Fr. Nathan McKay OFS (nathanmckay@bigpond.com)

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Bishop Foley, Diocesan Outreach & Mission Services together with the editorial staff would like wish the diocesan community a

**Holy and Blessed Christmas
and
a Prosperous and Graced New Year**

Once again we publicly thank our advertisers for their continued generous support of the Cairns Diocesan News magazine over 2020 .
Thank you everyone.



Jeff Taylor Psychiatry

Dr Jeff Taylor
M.B.B.S., D.P.M.,
F.R.A.N.Z.C.P., DipCH

Dr Jeff Taylor wishes to
advise that he conducts
a home based practice in
General Adult Psychiatry
with special interest in
Psychotherapy at
7 East Parkridge Drive,
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Editorial staff, Cathy Spencer and Anita Lundie.

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