

From the Outback, through the Rainforest to the Sea



CAIRNS DIOCESAN NEWS

EDITION 27

EASTER 2021 - COVID 19 E-Newsletter

TAKE HOME COPY

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

Plenary Council :
Continuing the Journey

200 Years of
Catholic Education

Fresh Look for
Diocesan Website



DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph

BISHOP'S 2021 EASTER MESSAGE



On the day that I sat to write this Easter Message (a few weeks before Easter!) I heard on A.B.C. radio's Soul Search a discussion with a Brisbane theologian, Ben Myers, who has written *The Apostles' Creed, The: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism* (Christian Essentials Series).

This is the earliest of all Christian Statements of Faith.

There is though a tradition that each of its twelve (12) articles were composed, one each, by each of the twelve (12) Apostles. Hence the obvious awkward question *Which one did Judas write?!* So much for some pious traditions!

Then there is that awkward phrase: *He descended into hell!* For this (see Ephesian 4/9-12, 1 Peter 3/18-19). See also, very helpfully, 631-637 Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The Apostles' Creed was the original Baptism formulae common to all the early Christian communities – both East and West. It may well pre-date the writing of any parts of the New Testament.

The interesting point was made that The Apostle's Creed itself became the very touchstone, of orthodox Catholic Faith. Indeed it became the very test for what writings would be included in the Canon of the New Testament as the authentic Christian Scriptures.

It was on this basis that some odd quite early writings – such as the (Gnostic) Gospel attributed to St Thomas were excluded.

The Apostles' Creed proclaims a universal and an all-inclusive Faith:

*I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.*

It also proclaims an Easter Hope-Filled Faith.

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven*

So each one of us can affirm that:

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.*

Amen.

Yours truly in Christ,

+ James Foley

BISHOP OF CAIRNS

APPOINTMENT OF NEW SEMINARY RECTOR



At their March meeting, the Bishops of Queensland decided to appoint Fr Neil Muir as Rector of the Holy Spirit Seminary Brisbane to succeed Monsignor John Grace, who will finish at the end of this year.

Fr Neil is currently Moderator of the Curia, Chancellor and Episcopal Vicar for Finance and Administration and Education in the Diocese of Cairns. He is also Parish Priest of the Central Cairns Parish Unit (combining St Monica's Cathedral, Cairns City | St Joseph's, Parramatta Park | Mother of Good Counsel, North Cairns) and Dean of the Northern Deanery.

Fr Neil has a Masters in Theology from Heythrop College, London.

He will begin preparing for his new role from the 1st of July 2021 and will assume the role on the 1st of January 2022.

The Bishops are grateful to Fr Neil for his generosity in accepting their invitation to serve as Rector of the seminary. We thank Bishop James Foley for his generosity in agreeing to release him.



PLENARY COUNCIL UPDATE: CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

Written by Anne Chellingworth and Abridged from Plenary Post

PUBLICATION OF THE INSTRUMENTUM LABORIS

The working document (in Latin: *Instrumentum Laboris*) for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia was released on the 25th of February and is entitled *Continuing the Journey*. The document draws heavily on the voices heard during the *Listening and Dialogue* and *Listening and Discernment* phases of the Plenary Council and other key sources. Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, President of the Plenary Council, said, "*The abundance of wisdom in the writings of our rich tradition, together with the papers of the Plenary Council discernment thus*

PLENARY COUNCIL UPDATE: CONTINUING THE JOURNEY can't

far, provided an incredible foundation for the content of this working document.”

Archbishop Costelloe said *Continuing the Journey* will help create the agenda for the Council's assemblies and be a document of value in and of itself. The *Instrumentum Laboris* can be accessed at the Plenary Council website and has a reflection guide to help people throughout the country engage with the ongoing council journey.

Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins, said “In this particular time of changing norms in society and the emerging reality of post-COVID life, it is increasingly important to have as many faith communities, groups, agencies and individuals participate in this continued discernment as possible”.

PLENARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY MOVES TO MULTI-MODAL FORMAT

The Plenary Council's first assembly will occur with a combination of online and face-to-face participation, as uncertainty remains over restrictions on travel and gatherings. Archbishop Costelloe said the bishops, during their bi-annual meeting last

November, wrestled with the decision before conceding that the move to a multi-modal gathering was the only realistic option.

Under that format, delegates will gather in local groups – diocesan, inter-diocesan or provincial – and participate in some Council sessions within those groups. Other sessions will take place with those groups engaging in conversation, prayer and discernment with other groups around Australia. “We recognised that for this to be a true plenary council, it couldn't solely take place within geographical regions,” Archbishop Costelloe said. “It's clear this isn't the preferred way forward, but there was a sense that we couldn't just postpone the Council for another 12 months and hope for the best.”

LOCAL EVENTS

To keep the Plenary Council journey alive at a local level, the Diocesan Plenary Council Working Party is planning a series of workshops during May and June to reflect upon the *Continuing the Journey* document and discuss its application within our communities. Details will be advertised on the diocesan website in the coming weeks. <https:// Cairns.catholic.org.au/news-and-events/coming-events>

CENTENARY CELEBRATION DATE CLAIMER

TO: All past students, staff and Sisters of Mount St. Bernard College, Herberton!

MSB celebrates its Centenary this year and a great weekend of good food and drink, sharing stories and exploring a range of interesting exhibits back up at the old schoolyard.

Although the Sisters of Mercy received their first intake of students earlier in that year, the blessing and official opening of MSB was on 24th September 1921 (Feast Day of Our Lady of Mercy). Following suit, our big celebrations will be held over the weekend of 24th – 26th September 2021.

A summary of the events planned:

FRIDAY 24th

- ❖ Past students, Sisters and staff begin arriving
- ❖ 6:00 pm – BBQ dinner in the courtyard of Lourdes Residence (complimentary)

SATURDAY 25th

- ❖ Tours of the MSB Heritage Rooms (museums of the convent and school life)
- ❖ Tours of the Mercy Heritage Trail – a pilgrimage through the significant sites of Mercy heritage at MSB
- ❖ Optional: Historic train ride and Herberton Historic Village (see their websites for information)
- ❖ 5:00 pm – Thanksgiving Mass in the College Chapel
- ❖ 6:30 pm – Gala Dinner under the marquee on “Lower Field.”

SUNDAY 26th

- ❖ Official opening of the Centenary Labyrinth
- ❖ Departures

For further information and bookings for the Gala Dinner and accommodation, visit:
<https://www.msb.qld.edu.au/centenary/>



NATIONAL FINALIST AUSTRALIAN MIGRATION & SETTLEMENT AWARDS

Written by Astrid Murray (Communications Officer)



This initiative of the Migration Council of Australia is a unique opportunity to recognise some of the excellent work that Australians in the settlement space have undertaken in the previous year. There are three Award categories this year, and Centacare FNQ has been shortlisted as a national finalist in two of the three categories:

1. **Award for Settlement Innovation** – Awarded to a Settlement Engagement and Transition Support (SETS) provider or initiative that has demonstrated the most innovative methods to support new refugees and migrants, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Centacare FNQ's 'COVID Savvy, Keeping Communities Safe and Connected', is a finalist in this section which was our tele-support wellbeing check ins, tele-support Covid updates in language together with regional COVID-19 language videos.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, *COVID Savvy, Keeping Communities Safe and Connected*, became a vital tool supporting community safety and wellbeing. The project's key community partners collaborated immediately to ensure that everyone in the community was receiving crucial health and education messages and could access and identify community supports when needed. A range of stakeholders delivered wellbeing checks on high-risk community members ensuring information was easy to access and in over seven languages, including AUSLAN. This initiative played a pivotal role in ensuring zero COVID-19 cases across our humanitarian entrant communities locally.

Centacare FNQ Executive Director Anita Veivers said, "We were able to respond very quickly, at a local level, with an individualised focus to ensure the safety and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. The team did an outstanding job in really difficult and rapidly changing circumstances".

2. **Award for Empowering Women in SETS** – Awarded to a SETS provider (organisation), SETS initiative or person that has empowered migrant and refugee women in the SETS program, with a focus on safety, participation or leadership, particularly during COVID-19 pandemic. Centacare FNQ *Multicultural Women's Empowerment Initiative* is a finalist in this section which is an integrated women's

program comprising Multicultural Women's Wellbeing Group, Multicultural Girls Wellbeing Group, Women's Information Sessions Series on Preventative Health, Healthy Relationships, Conversational English and Caseworker support in a range of areas for all migrant women.

The Women's Empowerment Initiative was started as a holistic approach by Centacare FNQ to deliver several different outreaches and opportunities to women, teenage young women and primary school girls that allowed them to showcase their strength and resilience to the broader communities that they are now living in.

Over the past year, this approach included delivering programs that are co-designed and co-facilitated by the communities that we work with. The Women's Empowerment Initiative set a strong foundation for how Centacare FNQ is going to deliver services across Centacare Multicultural Services. Empowering women to co-design and co-develop the programs they are going to be a part of was such a success; this approach has been embedded across the entire service.

Ms Veivers said, "It is so fabulous to play a part in supporting women of all ages to be empowered to participate and share their skills and knowledge across all sorts of areas including sports, arts, culture and employment and great recognition for the team and our community to be finalists in this category."

The Awards Australia submissions closed in August, and awards are expected to be presented in February.

Astrid said "At the time of going to press, the winners for each award were announced. Sadly, Centacare FNQ didn't win an award, but what a wonderful achievement to have been selected from 70 organisations across Australia to be named as a finalist in two out of the three awards. Centacare FNQ is very proud of that."

The logo for Natural Fertility Services. It features a stylized illustration of a woman's silhouette in green, with a white heart shape inside her torso. Below the illustration is the text "NATURAL FERTILITY SERVICES" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "NATURAL" and "SERVICES" in green and "FERTILITY" in black. Below this is the tagline "We assist you with:" in a smaller font. Further down, there is a list of services: "Achieving Pregnancy | Managing return to fertility after pregnancy | Managing fertility during breastfeeding | Spacing future Pregnancies". Below the services list is the contact information: "Email: admin@nfscairns.org | Phone: (07) 40 417 365 | www.nfscairns.org". At the bottom, there is the address: "Suite 3, 195 Abbott Street, Cairns PO Box 625, QLD 4870". At the very bottom, there is a commitment statement: "Committed to educating the general public in fertility and sexuality awareness".

The logo for Palms Australia. It features a stylized illustration of two hands, one blue and one green, cupping each other. To the right of the illustration is the text "Palms Australia" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "Reach Beyond" in a smaller, blue font below it.

The need is acute!

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200 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION CELEBRATED

Address from Mr Bill Dixon (Executive Director)



On Thursday 11th February, the Catholic Education Community gathered in St Monica's Cathedral to mark this significant milestone.

Bill Dixon began by acknowledging the Gimuy Walaburra Yidinji and Yirrangangi people and all the First Nations peoples of the lands, seas and waterways that make up the Cairns Diocese. Bill said in his address, "It is a delight to have Bishop James presiding at this celebration of 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia. We thank him and all our clergy for their presence, leadership and companionship.

We warmly welcome the Federal Member for Leichardt, Mr Warren Entsch, Division 8 Member of Cairns City Council Cr Rhonda Coghlan, Division 1 member of Cairns City Council Cr Amy Eden. Your presence is a visible witness of the great partnerships we have with our civic leaders and the broader community; thank you for your collaboration and support.

Finally, we welcome the students, staff and parents who are at the heart of Catholic Education. We gather at St Monica's Cathedral, cognisant of those who have walked before us; hope-filled for those who will follow.

The first Catholic school in Australia was founded in October 1820 by an Irish Catholic priest Fr John Therry and run by convict and lay person George Marley. The school, which Catholic historians believe was in Hunter Street, Parramatta, taught 31 students. By 1833, there were 10 Catholic schools in the fledgling colony.

For 200 years, Catholic schools have evolved and responded to the needs of the communities in which they grew. Along the way, lessons were learnt, both inside and outside the classroom. Today, we reflect on these lessons, those learnt from: the poor treatment of our First Nations brothers and sisters; the horror and hurt of the Child Sex Abuse Scandal; and the decisions which kept some members of our communities outside. In recalling these lessons, we commit to learning from our past so that we can be a part of a stronger future.

It is no mistake then that the national theme for the 200-year celebration of Catholic Schools in Australia is "**Faith in the future.**" The theme reflects our commitment to embed the teachings and ministry of Jesus in today's classrooms and playgrounds while planning a Catholic education for future generations of students.

Gathered from the north, south and west, we stand in our Mother Church, illuminated by the magnificent windows that tell the stories of Creation. The windows remind us of the presence of the creator spirit long before Catholic schools arrived.

Bill finished his address with these parting words of encouragement and hope, as we enter the 200th year of Catholic Education, let us commit to being people who learn from our past and dream of a future that is faith-filled and hopeful. Let us be Christ-like in our words and actions. Let us be ambassadors for children of the future; those who might stand on our shoulders and continue to be witness to the radical teachings and ways of Jesus."

SEVILLE MERCY CONFERENCE CENTRE – A HOME

Written by Priscilla O'Brien (Ministry Development Coordinator)



Seville – A home for Laudato Si

2021 is seeing big changes in the direction of Seville. The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG), which owns Seville, supports the Conference Centre in moving towards a place of greater ministry and hospitality within the Mercy tradition but now with a focus on the environment. Responding to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor, Seville is working towards becoming a home for Laudato Si (Pope Francis' encyclical on Care of our Common Home).

Our purpose at Seville is to live and breathe Laudato Si. A vibrant ministry has begun at Seville with integral ecology at its centre. Primarily, programs will focus on ecological education and ecological spirituality with community engagement and participation. Programs are open to all people of good intent. They will provide a space for dialogue, community building, action and empower participants to act in their own lives, reduce their carbon footprint, and inspire others to do the same.

For many years the Conference Centre has been working towards a sustainable, eco-friendly centre, with energy-efficient and water-efficient appliances/plant, eco-friendly chemicals for cleaning and water-saving measures. Furniture is often repurposed, and products are sourced from ethical and local suppliers as much as possible. Seville grounds have seen new gardens, car park upgrades and exploration of environmentally friendly ways of dealing with invasive plants and weeds.

The hospitality industry across Australia has seen enormous changes over the last 12 months due to COVID-19. Seville has stepped up to meet each of those challenges and has implemented COVID-Safe procedures and practices. Changes are taking place at Seville Mercy Conference Centre in Cairns, Queensland, to ensure all clients and visitors remain COVID-Safe.

In making Seville the Home of Laudato Si, the Institute is investing in additional staff to bring about this vision to Far North Queensland.

With the appointment of a Ministry Development Coordinator (Mrs Priscilla O'Brien) and a Ministry Planning Coordinator (Sr Mary-Ann Lennon), the emphasis is on bringing more ministry and programs to Seville focusing on Laudato Si. Both Priscilla and Sr Mary-Ann are excited about their new roles and the possibilities and opportunities



Sr Mary-Ann, Rod and Priscilla exploring the possibilities of the rainforest

FOR LAUDATO SI



ahead. Together with Mr Rod Cole-Clarke (Centre Manager) and Ms Samantha Gaunt (Guest Services Supervisor), they form a great team to advance the cause of the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor.

Staff meeting with Sr Gaye Lennon



L-R: Priscilla, Sr Gaye, Sr Brigid, Sr Rovena, Sr Carmel, Rod, Sr Mary-Ann

On the 16th of February, Seville was blessed to have Sr Gaye Lennon, member of the Institute Leadership Team and McAuley Ministries Ltd Transition Executive, visit us and take us through a process of planning and strategising our mission of Laudato Si. In addition to a range of offerings on Ecological Education through breakfasts and movie sessions, Ecological Spirituality with retreats and reflection days, Seville is also looking at becoming a leader in sustainable and regenerative practices.

At Seville, we want to honour the immense contribution that the Sisters of Mercy have made to the Diocese of Cairns and continue their legacy of championing the Poor and the Earth through mercy and compassion in all that we do.

Morning tea with the local Sisters of Mercy



Holy Land Commissariat Good Friday Appeal

Australian parishioners have always been most generous to the Holy Land Good Friday (Good Friday) Collection.

This donation is a direct way to make a difference to the lives of those who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus often in face of great odds, made all the more difficult now due to the terrible pandemic afflicting our world.

Collections will be held in all churches on Good Friday and your donations are greatly appreciated. Kindly leave your donation in the boxes provided at the back of the church.

UPCOMING CURSILLO SHORT COURSE IN CHRISTIAN LIVING

Written by Maria Mezes (Secretary)

The Cairns Diocesan Cursillo Movement is set to run its short course in Christian Living over the Labour Day long weekend in May 2021. It will be held at Genazzano Retreat Centre situated on the shores of Lake Tinaroo. President, Mrs Rosalee Lankinen commented that after the cancellation of all Cursillo activities in 2020, everyone involved was excited to continue with this important annual event.

"If you have been searching to enrich your faith, I encourage you to attend the long weekend. Taking part in the activities will help attendees discover themselves, their relationship with Christ and with others."

We understand that finding funds to spend a weekend away may be difficult in these times. We invite those who wish to deepen their faith lives to take advantage of our \$100 early bird discount for attendees who make full payment **by the end of March 2021**," she said, "The weekend program presents a specific method for deepening and living the Christian faith. The program involves a series of talks presented by priests and laypeople. These are followed by small group discussions, where everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions. The weekend includes time for reflection, prayer, singing, and daily Eucharist is celebrated. Our spiritual director, Fr. Hilary Flynn will be available for reconciliation and conversation throughout the weekend."

Mrs Lankinen extends a warm invitation to any past Cursillistas who may wish to consider attending the May Labour Day Cursillo Weekend. In these challenging times, we can all benefit from a refresher to reinvigorate our faith lives.

Cairns diocesan school teachers who attend the weekend can also gain an eight-hour in-service recognition for their attendance.

"The weekend is followed up by regular group activities to support individuals in the journey to grow their Christian faith," Mrs Lankinen said.

The Cursillo Movement began in Spain in the 1940s. The founder, Eduardo Bonnin, gathered a group of young men together to run short courses to renew Christian consciousness.

This was the beginning of a movement that today has spread through 60 countries and numerous Christian denominations. It is estimated that some five million Christians have experienced Cursillo. Cursillo was first started in Cairns in the mid-1970s.

Cursillo has a Papal Mandate with participation encouraged by Pope Francis and diocesan bishops endorse it. 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.

Further information about attending the Cursillo long weekend is available by contacting Rosalee Lankinen 0429 426 949, Tony Pavich 0400 530 291 or Maria Mezes 0422 585 744.



L-R Maria Mezes, Fr. Hilary Flynn and Rosalee Lankinen

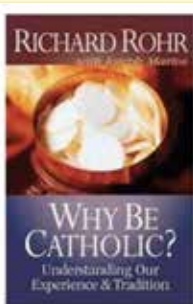
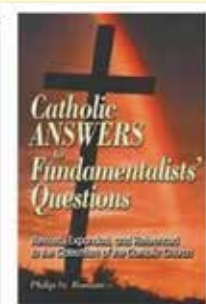
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FRESH LOOK FOR DIOCESAN WEBSITE

Written by Editorial staff



A new-look website was launched for the Cairns diocese in early December 2020, just in time for Christmas. The new site was created by local company Precedence Web Design, whom we are pleased to highly recommend, with content prepared by copywriter Mel Wicks and Diocesan Outreach and Mission staff.

The brief for the upgrade was for an inviting and user-friendly site, with visual appeal, a contemporary layout, and easy-to-navigate features. It is compatible with viewing on phone, tablet and laptop and is updated several times each week. Content on the 'Events' and 'News' pages promotes the many initiatives across our agencies, parishes and communities.

Key features of the site include:

- A **Mass Times search** function, where users can search for Mass times by day, time and region.
- A **Parish Index** listing parishes and Mass centres with contact details, Mass times, photos and maps for churches within the Diocese.
- A **history** of the Diocese with timeline and photos on the *About Us* page: this is particularly fitting. We look forward to celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Vicariate of Cooktown being constituted as a Diocese on 8th July 1941.
- Quick links on the bottom of each page to the diocesan agencies: Centacare, Catholic Education Services and Catholic Early Learning & Care.
- Easy access to information about *Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults* from the Home page.
- A calendar of events to advertise various opportunities for formation and fellowship
- A collection of on-line prayer and liturgy resources

Pastoral and Youth Ministries Development Officer Anne Chellingworth said *"the Parishes Index, Mass Search function and the Cathedral Windows gallery are the most viewed pages on the new site, with an average week seeing 700-800 users and 1700 users at Christmas and Easter times. 82% of traffic originates from within Queensland, with a further 9% from elsewhere in Australia and the final 9% of traffic originating from overseas. The website is also regularly visited by users in the United States, United Kingdom, India, South Africa, and Japan and several other European, Asian and African countries"*.

The content is a work in progress, with information available around 'Our Faith' and 'Becoming a Catholic' over the coming months. The team are now working on a dedicated Seasonal Mass Times search function, which will significantly assist visitors to the Diocese over the Easter and Christmas periods.



THE FOLLOWING MISSION
PROJECT UPDATES ARE
AVAILABLE

- Eden Gardens Children's Home – Nagaland, INDIA
- Nazareth Home for God's Children – Yendi, GHANA
- St John's school - Hakha, MYANMAR
- COVID-19 Relief – Bangkok, THAILAND
- St Luke's Health Centre – Bujuni, UGANDA

Please contact Anna Jimenez on 0450 213 042 or
email: ajimenez@catholicmission.org.au

ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE AND ST MONICA'S COLLEGE JOIN THE NYSF

Written by Harrison Oates (St Augustine's College Public Speaking Captain & Student Representative Council)



Harrison & Antoine participating in on-line workshop

Antoine Haddad and I, both from St Augustine's College, were placed into the Turing Computer Science interest group, while Nadia Chapman from St Monica's College was placed into the Blackburn Medical Science group. We all collaborated with like-minded young people from throughout Australia.

Some highlights of the program included extracting strawberry DNA with common household reagents; taking a tour of the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland with a nuclear physicist, going to Antarctica with an environmental engineer, meeting the legendary Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, and completing interdisciplinary escape rooms in our spare time.

We spoke to astronomers, rocket scientists, geneticists and had careers sessions from universities, Lockheed-Martin, the ADF, CSIRO, and the Australian Space Industry. It became crystal clear that a STEM field background is the key to future success, and even people who want to work in non-STEM fields would find it beneficial.



Harrison in the foreground and Dr Karl in the background

The proposal was to use AI-powered algae bioreactors to take carbon dioxide out of the air via photosynthesis. Algae is 400 times more effective than trees at removing CO₂. Algae grows into more algae. This excess product can be used as a replacement plastic, for a clean fuel source, or as food. These reactors can be installed in cities for an ongoing cost estimated at around €0.5 per kg of algae produced, and an upfront cost of €1.5 million per reactor, which would allow large cities to go carbon negative.

Who would have thought that students from Cairns would have their big idea presented to Prime Minister Scott Morrison at the beginning of the school holidays? But that is what has occurred, thanks to Nobel Laureate and Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University Professor Brian Schmidt and the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF).

Traditionally the NYSF is a 10-day residential program held in Canberra; however, like many events over the past 12 months, the 2021 forum went online. Fourteen days of interactive experiments, lectures, leadership workshops and challenges encouraged us to explore the world of STEM: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Nadia (3rd from the left) and her team looking through MRI machine



In-person visits were scheduled to happen in Brisbane, but the three-day lockdown again hindered students' plans. I cancelled my flights due to the uncertain nature of the situation and having to fly before a decision would be made on whether sessions at the University of Queensland would be cancelled. Antoine, having later flights, stuck it out and participated with students from across Brisbane to learn about quantum engineering from world-class researchers.

The second Nobel Laureate lecture from Professor Schmidt was remarkable. After he spoke about his astrophysics journey, we were set a challenge that would end on the final day of NYSF. Professor Schmidt was due to address 40 world leaders at the Climate Adaption Summit, including the likes of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the UK. COVID-19 economic stimulus is set to be in the trillions of dollars. Our challenge was to come up with an effective way to spend some of that money to combat the effects of climate change.

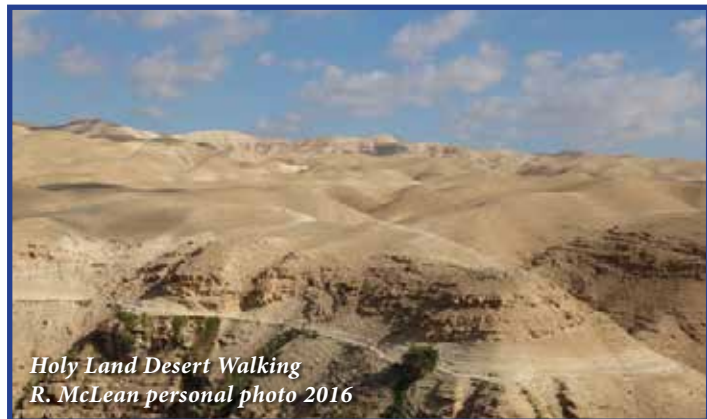
The combined Saints outcome was presented to Prime Minister Morrison and Australia's Chief Defence Scientist Dr Cathy Foley.

It was an honour to have our presentation put forward and very pleasing to take second place in Professor Schmidt's challenge at the 2021 National Youth Science Forum.

St Augustine's College Principal, Mr Matthew Brennan, said "We thank our Rotary sponsors, the clubs of Cairns West and Cairns Trinity, for their ongoing support. We also congratulate and recognise this outstanding achievement from Harrison, Antoine and Nadia; no doubt three young people with exciting futures. Both Colleges are very proud of them".

ASH WEDNESDAY – A REFLECTION “THE ART OF LESS”

by Rachel McLean, (Catholic Education Services - Leader Formation Identity and Outreach)



Holy Land Desert Walking
R. McLean personal photo 2016

After a hectic start to the year, Lent is an invitation to lean into the wisdom and ways of Jesus and slow down, take stock and reflect on our relationships with others and with God. The 40 days of Lent, a nod to the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, invites us to slow down and listen to the murmurings of our hearts.

I have had the privilege of walking in deserts in Australia, Africa and the Holy Land, and in each unique space, you have no choice but to slow down and listen deeply. You don't yearn for Wi-fi, hunger for Fast Food or fret about the list of things yet to be done in the desert. In the desert, your soul stills, and you make do with less. When we make do with less, we avail ourselves and

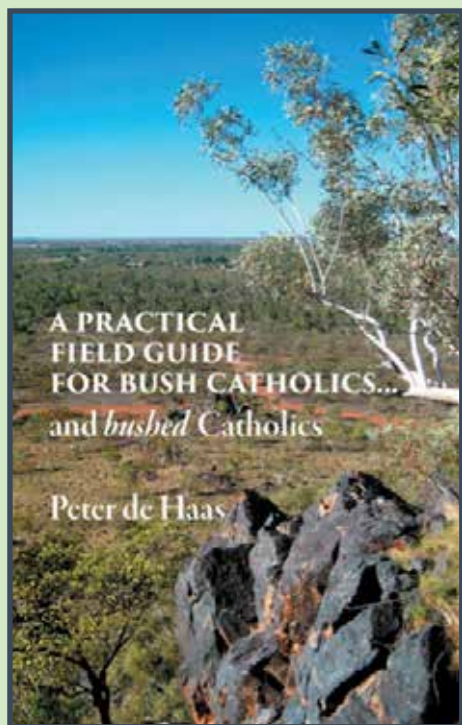
our resources to those who have less. This is the premise on which Project Compassion bases its annual call for support and advocacy. The 2021 theme, *Be More*, invites us to do just that, be more rather than have more, to give more rather than acquire more.

It has been over 12 months since COVID-19 changed the way we worship, work and connect. COVID-19 has exacerbated the gap between the haves and have-nots: the poor are getting poorer, the isolated lonelier, and those without access to health, education and outreach more vulnerable. Whilst at the same time, this virus has made us more aware of the gift of our common humanity: we are more attuned to the health of our planet, the plight of each other and the hope for a more connected future.

I felt this most powerfully on ash Wednesday when we received a sprinkling of ashes on our heads. This sprinkling was a connection back to the early Christian communities where those who sinned were removed from society and covered themselves in ashes as a form of penitence.

The sprinkling of ashes was a gentle and profound reminder for me that I am dust, and to dust, I will return. While there are not a lot of places that resemble deserts or places of ash in the Cairns Diocese, Ash Wednesday was a timely reminder to listen deeply to the wisdom of our world; to find time to wander, reflect, pray, fast and give generously. *How will you listen to the wisdom of our world, the wisdom of our God at this time?*

Finding Christ within...



Ongoing pastoral and spiritual support of isolated, bush Catholics in the vast Gulf Savannah Parish in Far North Queensland was the original inspiration and motivation for this guide. However, much of the content may be helpful for others who identify as Catholic (or Christian) but find themselves isolated from the 'mainstream' life of the Church for whatever reason. Some might also be feeling spiritually lost...one of the meanings of 'bushed'. This book is an easy-to-read, DIY guide for those seeking a deeper and a richer relationship with God, the God who is always seeking us. It includes proven practices, some quite ancient, which have assisted countless Catholics (and other Christians) to nurture and deepen their faith.

Included in this guide are guidelines or signposts for:

- o venturing into the mystery of God, as revealed by Jesus;
- o a basic understanding of the importance and centrality of the Kingdom of God vision which Jesus proclaimed;
- o developing a genuine Catholic spirituality;
- o practising the presence of God;
- o prayer and meditation;
- o entering into the spiritual gift of silence;
- o 'do-it-yourself' (DIY) liturgies for use at home;
- o how to read and pray the Bible; and
- o understanding the practical aspects of the Sacraments, including for emergencies in remote areas when there is no priest, deacon or religious available.

To assist ongoing formation, individually, within families and in small groups, the book also contains stimulating questions for reflection and discussion.

This book can be ordered on line via its webpage <https://echobooks.com.au/religion/bushed-catholics/> which links to a number of on-line sellers such as Amazon, Book Depository and Booktopia. Bulk orders at discount can be arranged by contacting Deacon Peter de Haas on 0411407780 or by email.

ABORIGINAL SPIRITUALITY

Written by Deacon Ralph Madigan

On 29 February 2021, Gertrude Davis, Robert Greenup and Ralph Madigan gave a talk to the staff of Catholic Education Services during their Staff Encounter Day at the Seville Conference Centre. The talk was based on a video presentation on Aboriginal spirituality that Ralph and Rob did for the Catholic Religious Australia Interculturality Committee <https://vimeo.com/480561097/3f10fd785d> We spoke on four main areas in our presentation.

1. The Aboriginal ability to wait, calmly and unhurriedly, whether it be for a harvest of bush food in God's good time or for justice. It will happen when it is meant to happen.
2. The deep Aboriginal sense of a much greater spiritual world out there – a sense of our interconnectedness with a spiritual world that is far greater than just what we can see with our eyes and touch with our hands.
3. The importance of family and relationships in Aboriginal life. Everyone belongs to an extended family which reaches out even beyond human relationships to include the whole of creation. We are part of creation and creation is part of us.
4. The cross of Jesus. Aboriginal people have a first-hand experience of the cross. We have lived and experienced tragedies, suffering, rejection and dispossession. These things are part of every Aboriginals life.



Used with permission: Images of Welcome to Country by Minjil, photographed by Stephen Nutt, CES Digital Media Officer

These four areas are at the heart of Aboriginal spirituality and life. They are the fruit of thousands of years of living in this land, as well as the hardship and suffering endured in more recent times by our great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and ourselves.

CES STAFF ENCOUNTER DAY

Written by Antoinette Cole (Leader Formation – First Nations)

On the 29th of January, Cairns Catholic Education Services staff gathered for a day of Encounter as part of a three- year formation plan that intentionally continues to inspire and connect us to our ministry with First Nations peoples in our diocese and our ongoing journey of reconciliation. A timely gathering, in the same week as the 26th of January.

On the 26th of January 1788, Captain Arthur Phillip raised the flag of Great Britain and proclaimed a colonial outpost in Sydney Cove, the Eora Nation's sovereign lands. For many First Nations people, the date is a reminder of their ancestors' pain and suffering, the invasion of their lands and enormous loss of life in the Frontier Wars, the massacres, and the intergenerational trauma that comes with that history.

In our context of Far North Queensland, so to is a story of pain and suffering that comes with the hurts of the past. As part of Encounter Day, we listened and learned from personal experiences and the impact of this history on our communities.

Through story sharing, staff learned from personal experiences of those currently engaged in ongoing ministries such as Indigenous Connections, Fr. Robert Greenup, Deacon Ralph Madigan, and Gertrude Davis.

These conversations are one way of building awareness and understanding of history's impact

in our context. Our hope is that the dialogue will continue to connect us to our ministry as Catholic educators and the ongoing reconciliation journey with the First Nations peoples in and across our diocese.

At the end of the day, staff were able to gain a deeper appreciation for the founding purpose of our diocese, namely, a mission of outreach and ministry with the First Nations people of Far North Queensland.



Used with permission: Images of Welcome to Country by Minjil, photographed by Stephen Nutt, CES Digital Media Officer

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS...

In 2021, Centacare FNQ will celebrate its 40th Anniversary.

It all began on the 10th of May 1981, when the Cairns branch of the Brisbane Catholic Family Welfare Bureau was officially opened. The Bureau was accountable to the Catholic Bishop in Cairns.

At the opening ceremony, 20 of the people who had participated in a two year training program, received initial accreditation as counsellors of the Bureau which entitled them to begin counselling under supervision.

On the occasion of the celebration of our 40th anniversary, Centacare FNQ is launching a commemorative logo. The logo reflects the history of Centacare FNQ by incorporating symbols from previous logos such as the butterfly and 'C' which surround the number 40 and sit against a vibrant, tropical themed background which represents Far North Queensland. The logo was designed by Centacare FNQ Communications Officer, Astrid Murray.

This custom logo will be used alongside the current Centacare FNQ logo in the lead-up to the 10th May and throughout the remainder of the year. It will feature in a new electronic signature for employees, on marketing collateral, media releases, the Centacare FNQ website, social media and many other places. Centacare FNQ is planning activities, celebrations and campaigns throughout the year as we celebrate this wonderful milestone.

centacare
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COMMENCEMENT MASS AT MOUNT ST BERNARD COLLEGE HERBERTON

Written by Ian Margetts (College Principal)



On Friday, 5th February, we held our Commencement Mass and Induction of Student Leaders. This event provided the first opportunity to acknowledge the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy and their dedication over the last 100 years to education here at Herberton. Originating in the heart and mind of the parish priest of the time, Fr. Patrick Bernard Doyle and enlivened by the Sisters of Mercy from its inception, Mount St Bernard College has evolved to meet the needs of the time.

As the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Catherine McAuley, did in Dublin nearly 100 years prior (1824), Fr Bernard and the local Sisters built a large 'House of Mercy'. Catherine stated that *"no work of charity can be more productive of good to society than the careful instruction of women"* and it was with this care and nurturing spirit that the Sisters of Herberton set about providing this 'instruction'.

Many, many Sisters of Mercy have followed the remarkable legacy of the vision and practice of the foundress Catherine McAuley. Catherine McAuley believed education is an essential ingredient in the betterment of both individuals and society. Catherine also inspired people to be living witnesses of God's mercy in the world, and it continues today. Education in the spirit of Mercy at Mount St Bernard College is embedded in our values. We encourage our students and all community members to commit to these values:

- Community - the way of living and giving gracious hospitality in the spirit of family,
- Mercy - acting justly with a compassionate heart,
- Respect - through valuing self, others, environment and the purpose of school,
- Excellence - by striving towards personal best, and
- Wisdom - through gaining life enhancing knowledge and skills.

The ministry of the Sisters of Mercy from those early days at Mount St Bernard



Scott Whitters AP Residential, Bryce Whap and Daliah Pearson, Boarding Captains

College, until the last sisters ceased residing at the College in 2018, has evolved and adapted to the times. The Sisters of Mercy were always practical and a wonderful source of real expressions of the Gospel.

The lay staff of Mount St Bernard College are now charged with this legacy and must likewise evolve and adapt to the times. We must *'be mercy'* in the world and particularly those we educate at the College so that we can continue to *"empower young people through our commitment to education to become persons of faith, learning and hope, and so contribute to their communities"* (College Mission Statement)



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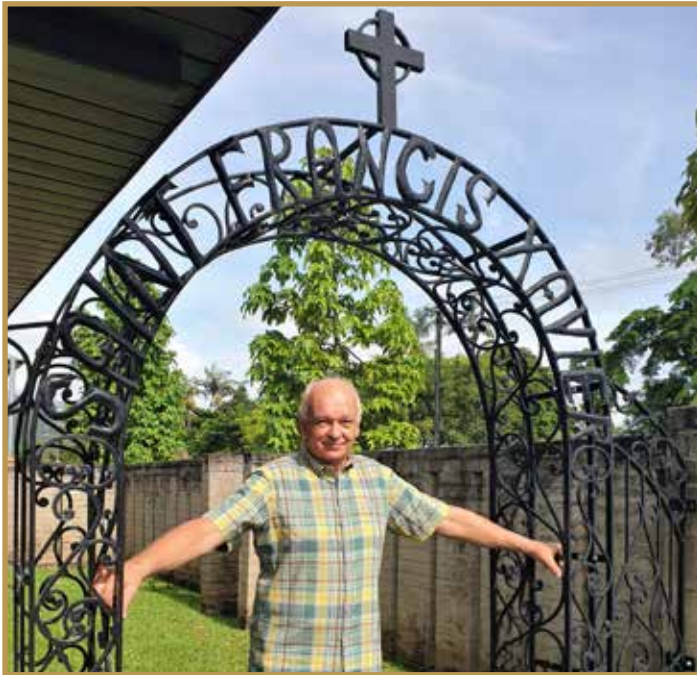
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WEST CAIRNS PARISH CELEBRATES A NEW CREATION & RESTORATION

Written by Peter Buckley (Parishioner)



The Church in Australia celebrated the *Sunday of the Word of God* on February 7, and the first Sunday in February has been declared the date for this celebration in future years. Pope Francis last year instituted this Sunday to encourage the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

The Vatican II Document on Divine Revelation (Dei verbum) states that *"The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since from the table of both the word of God and of the body of Christ she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life, especially in the sacred liturgy."*

To celebrate this occasion on February 7, our parish lectern was suitably decorated to reflect our veneration of both the Word of God and the Eucharist.



The parish is privileged to have Stan Serewko as a member. Stan is a master of his trade, a teacher, and he is also an artist creative in working with metal. Stan's creativity is now on display with the various artworks and restorations listed below:

As you enter the Church's driveway, your attention is caught by an archway, a welcoming structure that we pray is a good sign of the warm welcome extended to

newcomers by the worshipping community.

The Easter Vigil ceremony begins with the lighting of the Easter Fire and the Easter Candle. Stan has constructed a unique stand for the Easter Fire and has incorporated symbols from the Easter Liturgy into its three-legged support.

With their different sounds, Church bells call us to prayer and worship and touch our hearing and our faith as God calls us together to pray. Stan has tastefully prepared and mounted our bell, a gift from Bishop James.

Stan has also restored to its former glory the Tabernacle in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, providing a fitting place for the Real Presence of Jesus.

The parishioners are grateful indeed to Stan for the work he has done, and we praise and thank God for his faith, skill and generosity.



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2021 EASTER MASS TIMES

PARISH	HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
CAIRNS: St Monica's Cathedral, 181 Abbott St.	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	9am Morning Prayer -Bishop's House Chapel (entry via house front door or parish office); 11am Stations of the Cross then Reconciliation; 3pm Passion of the Lord then Reconciliation	Morning Prayer 9am Bishop's House Chapel (entry via house front door or parish office), Reconciliation 11.30am-12.30pm; Easter Vigil & Mass 7pm	6.30am, 10am, 5pm
ATHERTON: St Joseph's, 28 Mabel St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross 10am; Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 6.30pm	10am & 5pm
BABINDA: St Rita's 15, Church St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 6pm	Passion of the Lord 3pm		7am
BAMAGA: St Stephen's, Lui St	Tuesday 31st March 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper			
CARDWELL: Our Lady Star of the Sea, 121 Victoria St		Passion of the Lord 3pm Liturgy		9.30am
CHILLAGOE: St Nicholas of Tolentino and Bl Mother Mary of the Cross, 24-28 Queen St		Passion of the Lord 3pm		Liturgy of the Word with Communion 9am
COOKTOWN: St Mary's, Furneaux St	The Lord's Supper Liturgy of the Word with Communion 6pm	Stations of the Cross 3pm	Liturgy of the Word with Communion 6pm	
CROYDON: St Margaret's, Lot 9, Allridge St.				12 noon Mass
DIMBULAH: St Anthony's, Raleigh St				5pm
EARLVILLE: Our Lady Help of Christians, 18 Balaclava Rd.	Mass of the Lord's Supper 6pm	Stations of the Cross 10am, Reconciliation 10.30-11.30am, Passion of the Lord 3pm, Reconciliation 4-5pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 6pm	8am
EDMONTON (Bentley Park): St Therese's, 135 Robert Rd.	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross 11am, Passion of the Lord 3pm Reconciliation 4-5pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 6pm	8.30am; NO EVENING MASS
EL ARISH: Our Lady of Fatima,				10am
FORSAYTH: St Augustine of Canterbury				5pm Mass
FRESHWATER: Sacred Heart, Duffy St		Stations of the Cross 9am		7am
GEORGETOWN: St Patrick's, 88 High St.	Thursday 1st April 5pm Mass			
GORDONVALE: St Michael's, 4 Muir St.	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross 9am Passion of the Lord 3pm	Reconciliation Mon 29th, Tues 30th 7:30am to 8:30am & Wed 31st 7:30am to 8:30am then 5-6pm. Easter Vigil Mass 6pm	8am
GREGORY DOWNS		NO EASTER SERVICES		
HAMMOND ISLAND: St Joseph the Worker		Stations of the Cross 10am		8am
HERBERTON: St Patrick's, 2 Moffat St.				
HORN ISLAND: Holy Family, Outie St.		Good Friday Service 9am		10am
INNISFAIL: Mother of Good Counsel, 90 Rankin St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross 10.30am; Reconciliation 11.30am; Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 8pm	9am
KARUMBA: St James and St John's, 59 Yappar St				8am Mass

Information is also available on our website
www.cairns.catholic.org.au

PARISH	HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY		EASTER SUNDAY
KURANDA: St Christopher's, 20 Barang St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 4.30pm	Passion of the Lord 9am Stations of the Cross 3pm		5pm
MALANDA: St James's, 7 Monash Ave	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 7pm	8.30am
MAREEBA: St Thomas of Villanova, 57 Constance St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross 9.30am; Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 7.30pm	10am
MERCY PLACE WESTCOURT: Trinity Chapel, 257 Gatton St				10am
MILLAA MILLAA: St Rita of Cascia, 21 Coral St				10.30am
MISSION BEACH: Holy Spirit, cnr Webb & Beadman Rds		Passion of the Lord 3pm Liturgy		7am
MOSSMAN: St Augustine's, 24b Grogan St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 6.30pm	Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 6.30pm	7am
MOURILYAN: Christ the King, 10 Harbour Rd				No Mass; see Innisfail or Sth Johnstone
MOUNT GARNET: Holy Rosary, 3 Opal St				
NORMANTON: Our Lady Help of Christians, 26 Dutton St			Vigil Mass 7pm	
NORTH CAIRNS: Mother of Good Counsel, 394 Sheridan St	Wednesday 31 st 7pm 2 nd Rite of Reconciliation	Stations of the Cross 10am; Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 5.30pm	
PARRAMATTA PARK: St Joseph's, Cnr Draper & Loeven Sts	Tuesday 30 th 7pm 2 nd Rite of Reconciliation Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	Stations of the Cross 11.30am Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 5.30pm	
PORT DOUGLAS: St Mary's, 2 Endeavour St				9am
RAVENSHOE: St Teresa of the Child Jesus, 21 Moore St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7am	Passion of the Lord 7am		7am
REDLYNCH: All Saints Chapel, St Andrews College, Intake Rd	No Mass Times			No Mass Times
SILKWOOD: St John the Evangelist, Harold St		Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 6pm	
SOUTH JOHNSTONE: St Rita's, 5 Green St				7am
STRATFORD: St Augustine's, 23 Kamerunga Rd		Stations of the Cross 10am		10am
THURSDAY ISLAND: Sacred Heart, Douglas St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 7pm	
TRINITY PARK: Holy Cross, Reed Rd,	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm	Ecumenical Stations of the Cross 11.30am; Passion of the Lord 3pm	Morning Prayer and blessing of Easter food 9am, Easter Vigil & Mass 7pm	8.30am
TULLY: St Clare of Montefalco, 13 Mars St	Mass of the Lord's Supper 6pm	Stations of the Cross 10am; Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 6pm	
WEIPA: St Joseph's, Boundary Rd	Liturgy of the Word with Communion 7pm	Stations of the Cross 8.30am; Passion of the Lord 3pm	Liturgy of the Word with Communion 6pm	Liturgy of the Word with Communion 8.30am
WEST CAIRNS: Cnr Mayers & Atkinson Sts	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross 11am, Passion of the Lord 3pm	Easter Vigil & Mass 7pm	8am; NO EVENING MASS
YUNGABURRA: St Patrick's, 3 Mulgrave Rd				7am

HAPPENINGS ACR

2020 SVDP Christmas Happenings

Written by Gary Spencer (President of Holy Cross Conference) and Editorial Staff

Holy Cross Conference of St. Vincent de Paul distributed about 90 hampers to families in need. Donations were received from St Andrew's Catholic College on 27th November as the College celebrated St. Andrew's Feast Day.

The Mini-Vinnies Conference also donated \$1000 in Coles vouchers. They had raised the money from sausage sizzles conducted throughout 2020. The vouchers were added to hampers to allow the families to buy some fresh food to supplement the hampers.

Hampers from Holy Cross Parish School were received on Friday 4th December at the final assembly for the year and as the school community gathered to farewell their graduating Year 6 class.



Santa's helpers packing Christmas Hampers

This year's donations were extremely generous and allowed the Conference to make up hampers that were overflowing with Christmas goodies and food. The hampers were assembled over the following week, and delivery commenced on Friday 11th December. Nearly half of the families were able to collect their hampers from Holy Cross School on Monday 14th December.

The Conference would like to thank the Holy Cross Parish School and St Andrew's Catholic College communities for their generosity, allowing the Society to make Christmas so special for so many within our community.

To mark the end of another successful year for Conference members they gathered on the 21st of December for their Christmas party.



Anointing Mass & Morning Tea

The monthly St Michael's Anointing Mass is celebrated in Gordonvale on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Mass was celebrated on 10th February and was appreciated by our parishioners. A lovely morning tea, prepared by Pat Lazzaroni (Coordinator) and her ladies' group, followed in the hall.

Each month, this special day is a wonderful way of ministering to our sick and elderly who may rely on others to have access to this occasion. Also, our parishioners look forward to the special graces received from the anointing and love the socialising.

It is a win-win for those ministering and those attending!



Fr Roy anointing Gordonvale parishioners

Clergy Conference marks New Year



On Tuesday the 5th of January, all clergy gathered in the Bishop's House for a meeting, fellowship and the sharing of a delicious meal.

During the evening, Fr Frank Gordon (Vicar General), among others, took the opportunity to speak about Bishop's ministry here in the diocese for the last 27 and a half years.

Fr Frank said, *"I have been privileged on some occasions to observe your dealing with people who come with a complaint, who come with opinions contrary to the Gospel. To each, you have offered a patient hearing and tolerance, without judgement, then firmly and gently offering the mind and heart of Jesus in response. The end result is that they have been heard and treated with respect.*

After cyclone Larry devastated Innisfail, you were prompt in visiting the area to personally hand out cash relief.

I remember helicopters buzzing around and Channel 7 arriving with all their gear. Somebody asked me "Where is the Bishop? He should be here for Channel 7". I knew where you were James; you were knocking on doors offering help and comfort. Thanks for that leadership."

The evening was well attended and enjoyed by all.

CROSS THE DIOCESE

Launch of Project Compassion

Mount St Bernard College launched this year's Project Compassion campaign in our customary way during the Ash Wednesday liturgy on Wednesday 17th February. The Shrove Tuesday pancake sales really kicked-off the fundraising with a good boost. Meanwhile, our Grade 11 students are planning different activities throughout the term to raise awareness of Project Compassion and raise funds.

In his sermon at the Ash Wednesday liturgy, Deacon Michael explained how our *fasting* ought not to be only about giving things up; but giving things up *so that we can give more and be more for others*. This challenge to our thinking about Lent is directly related to our Project Compassion efforts: giving up our time to support a fundraising activity, giving up a run to Maccas and donating the money instead to Project Compassion. As the Scripture tells us: "*God is love*" (1 John 4:7-21). When we serve in love and compassion, we are serving God.



Lent Begins at St Augustine's School Mossman

Written by Liz Ottone (Assistant Principal Religious Education)

As a school community at St Augustine's Mossman, we have embraced the beginning of Lent with enthusiasm and passion.

On Monday the 15th February, we burned leaves from around the Douglas Shire. They were collected from Wonga Beach, Rocky Point, Miallo, Newell Beach, Mossman, Shannonvale, Cooya Beach, Port Douglas, Mowbray and Julatten. This collection was done to feel connected to the land that we walk on each day. Also, so we would feel that the ashes sprinkled on us on Ash Wednesday would truly connect us to God, who gave us the beautiful plants and trees that surround us in the Douglas and Mareeba Shires.

On Shrove Tuesday, Principal Mr Paul Rayner cooked pancakes for the students, and their class teacher also gave them pikelets. Besides enjoying the golden syrup and jammy pancakes, they were given an explanation of the significance of the pancakes and why we eat them the day before the beginning of Lent.

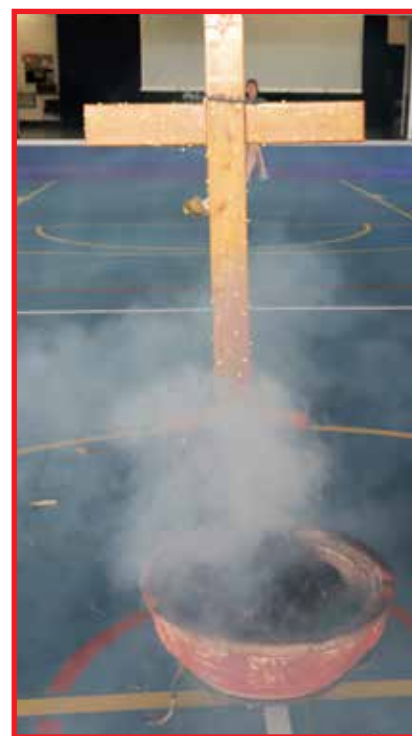


Mietta, Nancy & Mr Paul Rayner (Principal)

Mother and Daughter Baptised at Tully Parish

On Saturday, 30 January, Fr Hilary Flynn officiated at a Mass witnessed by 72 family and friends welcoming Ayla Silvestro as she was baptised into Christ. At the same time, Tara Silvestro was also baptised, confirmed and received First Communion as she was also welcomed into the Church.

Tara planned her Mass with the Liturgy Team's assistance as well as inviting the family and friends. Tara did her Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) journey with Barbara Musumeci with assistance from Betty Favier. Barbara presented Tara with a signed Bible at the end of the Mass.



On Ash Wednesday, we participated in a beautiful liturgy in the church. While the ashes were being sprinkled, each person reflected on the journey being taken by Jesus and the ultimate sacrifice he was about to make. We were also challenged to think about our own journey and what we could do to be more like Jesus.

We finished the liturgy by handing out Project Compassion boxes and explaining the Caritas charity and what we can do to help those around the world less fortunate than us.



L-R Renee Silvestro (God Parent) Anthony Silvestro, Fr Hilary, Ayla and Tara Silvestro, Maria and Daniel Marano. (God Parents)

HAPPENINGS ACR

NORTHERN BEACHES FAREWELLS FR MUIR

Written by Editorial Staff



During the 8.30 am Mass on Sunday the 10th January at Holy Cross Church, Fr Neil's 15 years contribution as parish priest was recognised and celebrated with a speech from the Chair of Holy Cross School Board followed by morning tea.

Within that speech was these final words, *"Neil is a people person. He has developed good people around him and set up a parish that is working well. He has made sure that the laity are fully engaged in the works of the parish. The Northern Beaches Parish is flourishing Fr. Neil – your work here is done. We are sorry to see you go, but we know that you will develop the new Central Cairns Pastoral Unit, and it too will soon be flourishing. Thank you Fr. Neil"*

Parishioners expressed similar sentiments recognising that Fr Neil's ministry commitment in the other Northern Beaches Mass sites of St Augustine's Stratford, Sacred Heart Freshwater and All Saints Redlynch.



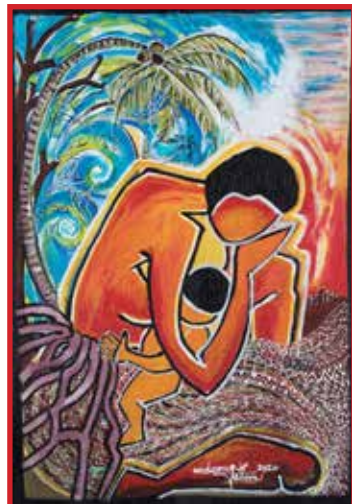
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Catholic Diocese of Cairns joined the Cairns Christian Churches in celebrating World Day of Prayer on Friday 5th of March hosted by the Emmanuel Uniting Church.

The celebration, inspired by this year's theme: Build on a Strong Foundation, featured the colourful country of Vanuatu, a small country located in the South Pacific Ocean. The country gained independence in 1980 and proudly adopted the motto, *'In God we stand'*.

Collection from the World Day of Prayer will support the Bible Society Trauma and Healing Program. The program aims to bring understanding, care, healing and hope to approximately 60,000 women who have been traumatized by gender-based relationships in Vanuatu.

For more information on World Day of Prayer, please visit their website:
<https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>



CROSS THE DIOCESE



Farewell Fr Joseph

After 3 years of ministering across the Cairns Diocese, Fr Joseph Pullanappillil returned to the Darwin Diocese in March.

Amongst other supply assignments, Fr Joseph had been the regular presider for the 7.45 am Cathedral Mass. We take this opportunity to thank Fr Joseph and wish him well in the future.

Mount St Bernard College at Herberton Gathers for Ash Wednesday Mass

Written by Deacon Michael Lindsay

On Wednesday, 17th February, the College community gathered to observe Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent's holy season. The usual prayers and readings from Scripture were shared; but just like all our Catholic communities this year, ashes were *sprinkled* over each penitent rather than *daubed* on their foreheads. A little bit different, but everyone seemed to adjust smoothly to this year's procedure. Deacon Michael's white Alb wasn't so white after the distribution of ashes as each sprinkling saw quite a bit of cloud drift... Oh well – doing a load of washing that night instead of TV might have been a starting penance!



Parish Secretaries Safeguarding Training Day

On the 8th of December last year, parish secretaries attended a training day to share individual parish activities, ideas, and resources related to Safeguarding and parish volunteers' registration and induction. It was a great gathering with lots of energetic discussion and the sharing of challenges.

Mark Pollock (Manager Professional Standards) and Patricia Andersen (Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator) particularly appreciated the positivity and hard work being undertaken in parishes concerning safeguarding.



Standing L-R Rita Watson(Gordonvale) Wanda Musumeci (West Cairns) Vera Skinner (Edmonton) Jodie Vincent (Northern Beaches) Rhiana Meaney (Atherton) Loretta Jackson (Earlville) Sitting L-R Mary Kleczaj (North Cairns & Parramatta Park) Patricia Andersen

Mass Celebrated at Kubirri New Aged Care Facility at Mossman



In December Fr Joby and the Parish Pastoral Care Team, Sylvia Bellerio and Liz Trewick held their first Mass in December. Chaplain Susanne Green made us very welcome and the Chapel facility is great.

We are now scheduled to offer Mass to residents on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

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LEADING EDUCATOR BEGINS NURTURING NEW CAIRNS SCHOOL

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

The leading educator appointed to grow Cairns newest school is looking forward to building a “whole community” as she starts to meet future students and their families at a brand-new office.

In February, Newman Catholic College Foundation Principal Lauretta Graham opened the school's temporary office doors, located across from Kmart in Smithfield Shopping Centre.

She encouraged families to visit for a chat or to grab some more information ahead of enrolment interviews. “Parents enrolling their children at Newman will have a voice and be part of the partnership that makes up education for their child,” Dr Graham said. “Families and staff will work together to build a curriculum that meets students’ needs and instils confidence in them as lifelong excited learners. This partnership is student leadership at its best. An opportunity not to be missed.”

Newman Catholic College, located on James Cook University's grounds, will initially open with a Year 7 cohort in 2022 and add a year level each year to be a full Year 7-12 secondary college by 2027. It is the first Catholic school in Australia to be co-located with a university.

Dr Graham was previously Foundation Principal at St Andrew's Catholic College in Redlynch, guiding the school from 2001 to 2011. For the last nine years, she was Foundation Principal at Mackillop Catholic College in the Northern Territory.

“The development of Newman is much more than building a school; it is building a whole community to surround and support 21st century learners,” Dr Graham said. “The appointment of the foundation staff will be a vital phase. Teachers at Newman will need to be 100 per cent committed and supportive of our Catholic ethos without reserve; watching out for and respecting each other and building the best Catholic school for Smithfield.”

“Newman Catholic College will offer “a place where students dare to be exceptional”, Dr Graham said. “Newman offers an opportunity to let go of outdated ways of learning and teaching while remaining true to core values, beliefs and purpose,” she said.



“I desire to build a College where students and staff belong and are excited and eager to learn every day; a place where students have an active role in choosing their learning journey and develop a zest for life. I see a place where students can step out of their busy lives, appreciate the gifts and the magnificent beauty around them, and with strong clear minds devote their time to learning and discovering their strengths, giving them courage, and hope for the future.”

“I am so thrilled and excited to meet our first Newman students and their families, and I am looking forward to working with James Cook University.”

Bryant Building Contractors have been laying conduits, pipes and sewer lines at the College's site and have erected four demountable buildings as offices and amenities. Construction of Stage 1 is due for completion in December. The first development phase will include the construction of a four-level building of approximately 7,000m² containing five design technology classrooms, four science lab classrooms, a library and the administration area, as well as an indoor PE court.

Expressions of interest suggest enrolment numbers will exceed the previously projected figure of 750 students by 2027. Newman Catholic College is also accepting enrolment applications through its website newman.qld.edu.au.

It will be the 30th school in the Cairns Diocese. A development application has been lodged for a separate Prep-Year 6 school at a site at Kewarra Beach, which would be another feeder school for the College.



Reach Youth Ministries

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- YOUNG ADULTS GROUP
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- FAITH FORMATION
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A SACRED PLACE TO KEEP WATCH AND PRAY AT EDMONTON PARISH

(Written by John Fitzgerald, President, Parish Pastoral Council)



The **Memorial Wall** records the names of those whose remains may have been buried or interred elsewhere; ensuring the person whose name is registered will continue to be remembered by the praying community.

The **Memorial Garden** provides a living environment for the honour and respect of our dead.

A unique art form, (pictured right) with the title **Sentinel**, adorns the setting. The sculpture was hewn



having similarities to wabi-sabi, embracing the flawed or imperfect – respecting every part of our history, even our brokenness.

A **Cross**, gifted to Gori Marble and Granite's parish – responsible for the granite work in the Columbarium and Memorial Wall, hangs from the church and overlooks the garden as an enduring symbol through which we are drawn beyond death to life. The heart of the cross draws us to the promise of life. Its arms embrace all of creation in our memories and lives.

Our thanks go out to all involved with developing and constructing these new features in our praying community: the designers, artisans and skilled workers; Gori Marble and Granite; parish volunteers and generous donors.

The parish proudly planned and constructed the project during the global coronavirus pandemic and blessed in November 2020.

Within the long Catholic tradition of providing a final sacred resting place for those of the community who have died, the Parish Pastoral Council decided in 2019 to construct a Columbarium and a Memorial Wall on the grounds of our church at Bentley Park.

They sit gently and proudly in a garden setting near the church entrance, so that parishioners, families and friends who wish to have ashes interred and cared for in memoriam may do so at the heart of the praying community.

The **Columbarium** ensures that a person's cremated remains are treated with respect and given a place of honour.

from a previously unfinished marble artwork; it has been reworked to suggest the presence of an ancient spirit emerging from the earth on its *long journey* in the tradition of our Indigenous peoples.

Looking front on to the artwork, we see the **Sentinel** gazing on our dead; the spirit's heart breaks through in loving solidarity. This movement of love, of God's love for all, is artistically symbolised in the ancient Japanese art form in kintsugi (golden repair),

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NEW PRINCIPAL FOR MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Written by Annmarie Arnold (Leader - Community and Staff Engagement)

Since 2016 MacKillop Catholic College has been “Inspiring Hearts, Minds and Spirits” and this year promises to continue this tradition. The MacKillop leadership team for 2021 will be headed by new principal Luke Brown, following the departure of Luke Reed to Mt Maria College in Mitchelton, Brisbane.

Mr Brown brings a lifelong passion for education, together with a wealth of experience working as a principal at several schools across Queensland and New South Wales. His previous post was as Director of School Effectiveness at Catholic Education Services.

Mr Brown explains: “I was drawn to the role due to the school’s reputation and the diversity of the community. The opportunity to be part of such a dynamic community is something I am excited about. I have been blessed to be part of a number of wonderful school communities throughout my career, and I am sure the MacKillop community will be no exception”.

It is an exciting time for the school as it is currently undergoing tremendous growth, with an estimated enrolment of at least 1200 students in 2025. Along with increased enrolment, there is also major capital works commencing this month. The 14-million-dollar project will add to the already impressive state of the art facilities providing new classrooms and a Performing Arts facility.

Mr Brown is looking forward to working with the expert teaching team to ensure that a quality Catholic education continues to be a hallmark of MacKillop Catholic College. “The entire team have been working hard to ensure that the students have the best quality teachers and the most supportive environment possible. I believe that providing a quality learning environment and quality teaching are the building blocks to student growth and achievement. As principal, my focus is to build on the great work already done and engage in the

process of continual school improvement.”

“I love my job! I feel privileged every day that I get to work in this environment and with this incredible staff. I look forward to working with the entire community to deliver a very bright future for the students of MacKillop Catholic College”.

At MacKillop, we pride ourselves on being a caring, welcoming and inclusive community where our students are nurtured and encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability. Every day we strive to follow the “MacKillop Way”, which is about Respect, Engagement and Personal Best. Our pedagogy is designed to reflect the needs of 21st-century learners, with agile, technology-rich learning spaces.

Limited spaces are available for 2021, and we are now accepting applications for all year levels for 2022 and 2023. If you believe your child would thrive in this environment, come and join the MacKillop family!



Students chatting with Mr Luke Brown
L-R (Front row) Ashton Nesbitt, Koen Moroney, Arika Grewal
L-R (Back row) Emitty Vick, Harison Werder, Tahliya Bligh

centacare CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CAIRNS FNQ

This year, the Our Place project, together with 20 community organisations, has created a Harmony Day event that is all about building connections and community.

Partners include: Cairns West State School, Mission Australia – Café One, Salvation Army, Access Housing, QSTARRS, Cairns Safer Streets, Australian Red Cross, Saints Soccer Club, Headspace, Harbrow Mentoring, Cairns for Refugees, QPASST, Queensland Police Service, Cairns African Association, Mercy Community, UCC, JUTE Theatre and possibly more.

The event will be fun, full of performances and delicious street food organised by the One World Welcome Dinner initiative.

We hope you can join us on Saturday 20th March at Cairns West State School in Manunda from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm performances will include:

Starboys - A high-energy Hip-hop group whose dream was to put together a recording, and their performance will bring energy to the event

Music & Fashion project – Is an exciting project that weaves

together culture, music and dance with fashion show woven into the mix.

Just Brass – a Musical initiative by the Salvation Army that teaches children to play an instrument and lots lots more!



Media Release adapted by Editorial Team



again in the second half of this year, or early 2022.”

Palms thoroughly prepares and supports those recruited for mutual development and welcomes inquiries today to ensure an appropriately paced preparation. The Palms website (www.palms.org.au) provides background to positions currently available.

“You can have a look on your own behalf, but please also let your friends, family and others know about the many and varied opportunities.” pleads Mr O’Halloran.

It is anticipated that even more requests from partners will be added in the coming months.

Mr O’Halloran also wants to highlight these reassurances:

- 2021 marks the 60th year of the Palms program;
- Living allowances and accommodation are provided in placement.
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- All placement requests are scoped in-situ, ensuring that those sent are well integrated into appropriate roles.
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If you would like to find out more, you can enquire online at www.palms.org.au or call Palms on 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567

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MISSIONARY IN FOCUS

(Excerpt from Mission Matters (Catholic Mission's weekly staff newsletter)).



Catholic Mission working together with the Sydney French Roman Catholic Charities (SFRCC), actively support Father Pedro Opeka from Madagascar, who has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

The SFRCC works with the Akamasoa Association, founded by Fr Opeka over 30 years ago, to provide sustainable food sources such as rice and beans for the community and ensure they can access adequate health services and necessary medical supplies. Akamasoa supports communities in Madagascar in several ways, including:

- Building homes for over 3,800 families across 22 villages.
- Supporting the education of 221 teachers and 71 apprentice tradesmen.
- Providing greater access to medical supplies vital to 7 health centres across the communities and allowing over 50 medical practitioners to offer adequate patient care. In 2018 this supported over 33,000 people who needed medical care.

Vatican News has an article on Fr Pedro Opeka highlighting his humanitarian association Akamasoa's nomination. The Akamasoa Community - which Pope Francis visited in September 2019 - has given an outstanding contribution to "social and human development" in Madagascar, helping it take vital steps towards achieving the 2030 UN SDGs (United Nations Sustainable Development Goals)

Pope Francis says of Fr Pedro Opeka - "It is a great joy to be with you in this great enterprise. Akamasoa is an expression of God's presence in the midst of his people who are poor. His is no isolated or occasional presence... it is the presence of a God who has chosen to live and dwell forever in the midst of his people."

And to Fr Pedro - We give thanks and glory to God for you and your good works!



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Sr Carol Zinn sjj,
2019 conference keynote presenter

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ST MONICA'S COLLEGE - GREAT SUCCESS IN SPITE OF VIRUS

Written by Ms Edna Galvin (Principal)

Last year, along with all the other Year 12 students in the state, our students completed the new senior in Queensland. We all know that 2020 was quite disrupted due to the unforeseen arrival of COVID- 19; however, all 113 of our graduating students successfully achieved either a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) or a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA).

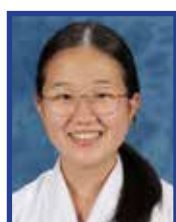
We are so incredibly proud of them all. We are also very grateful to the teachers who worked so diligently to ensure this first group of young women were able to achieve outstanding results despite the challenges wrought by the virus.

Every student who studied a Vocational Education and Training Certificate at the college also completed their certificate course. Every student who applied to university was offered a place, the vast majority being offered their first (or dream) preference. 90 students were offered places in Queensland universities, 10 students were offered places in NSW universities, and 4 students were offered places in Victoria.

Many are going on to train to be Paramedics, Nurses, Midwives, Doctors, Dentists, Psychologists, Scientists, Engineers, Solicitors, and Teachers. Each year at our first College Assembly we celebrate and recognise the performance of our top achievers – over 30 young women were invited to this presentation to be acknowledged by the college community and to inspire our younger students. Several of our invited high achieving students were unable to join the assembly as they were already settling into university.

Across our Year 12 Cohort last year several students achieved 100% in their final external exams – with some students even achieving this incredible 100% result in multiple subjects. All our 2020 seniors excelled in the external exams. Several students were recipients of the Queensland Certificate of Academic Commendation due to their exceptional results across six General Subjects. These students were:

- Jessica Choe
- Tara Dent
- Poppi Gregory
- Yasmin Mirshafiei
- Isabella Muckalt



These results are displayed on the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) website along with the names, schools and results of the other top 1% of students. We are enormously proud that St Monica's College was the top performing Catholic school in the Cairns Diocese. We are especially proud that these results were obtained in a new system during the very challenging period of the onset of Covid with many weeks online home and disrupted instruction.

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Dr Jeff Taylor
M.B.B.S., D.P.M.,
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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO NORMA!



Centacare FNQ is delighted to wish long-time client, Norma Fahey, a very happy 100th birthday in March! Norma Phyllis Blampied was born in Melbourne on 3rd March 1921.

One of three children, she lived in their family home in Richmond, Victoria which doubled as a shop for her father's business as a Bootmaker/Repairer. In 1941, Norma married William Thomas Fahey (Bill) and together they had two children; Vance and April. Norma and Bill travelled often to Japan, America, Malaysia, Alaska, China & Fiji.

In 1990, Norma & Bill followed Vance and April and their families and moved to Cairns.

Bill passed away in 2001 and Norma continued to live in her Smithfield home until 2018 when she then moved in to live with her son, Vance & daughter-in-law Nikki (known as the Barbary Coasters musical duo) in their Trinity Beach Home.

Norma has actively attended the Centacare Social Wellbeing Hub for over 10 years, and continues to attend 4 times a week. She enjoys the Social Wellbeing Hub's social outings, catching up with her friends, loves people and enjoys parties, gatherings and reading. Norma has 3 grandchildren, David, Amanda & Colby, and four great grandchildren, Layla, Maia, Elliot & Spencer. All, with the exception of Colby, live in Melbourne.

Anita Veivers, Executive Director of Centacare FNQ said, *"What a wonderful milestone for Norma and her family. Her Centacare FNQ family and I am sure, the rest of the Cairns community wish Norma a very happy 100th birthday!"*

Several family members are travelling to Cairns to help Norma celebrate her Centenary.

Centacare has arranged a party for Norma which will include performances by the Barbary Coasters and students from Mother of Good Counsel School and, of course, a big cake!

SACRAMENTS DAY AT ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Written by Robyn Chambers (APRE, St Joseph's, Parramatta Park)



Fr Nathan McKay, Janet Zaccour, Fr Dariusz Osinski, Fr Neil Muir with REACH Youth Group and Priscilla O'Brien

On Sunday 7 March 2021, more than forty students from St Joseph's School and Parramatta Park parish experienced an interactive day of reflection, sharing, games and music. This day was facilitated by Reach Youth Ministries as they reflected on the meaning of Sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Mrs Janet Zaccour (Sacramental Coordinator of the parish) invited Reach to organise the Enrolment Sunday Workshop, after students had partaken in after school zoom sessions which focused on the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reach brought a lot of energy and inspiration to the day and the Youth leaders were great witnesses of God's love to the students. Parents arrived back at the end of the 3-hour workshop to walk their children to one of the three priests present to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to symbolically represent the importance of home and church working together to nurture the faith life of our children. A big thank you to Fr Nathan and Fr Dariusz who assisted our amazing parish priest, Fr Neil on the day.

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Your generosity will allow missionaries, empowered and equipped by Catholic Mission, to step out in faith, confident that they are being upheld by you, even if you are not able to be physically render that support.

The legacy you leave behind may help free children from slavery in India; train seminarians and novices in Zambia; build a church in Mongolia; or support Indigenous children in remote Australian communities with education and formation activities. Your Gift in Will is truly an act of faith.

 **Save the Date!**

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE FNQ



Work Savvy sits alongside Centacare FNQ's employment programs and will provide suitable clothing and accessories to people who are entering the workforce or attending interviews. The aim is to also develop local partnerships to support women enter into or maintain employment.

Through an ethical and sustainable approach, we are providing new and pre-loved clothing suitable for interview or the workplace, diverting quality clothing from landfill, or languishing in the back of the wardrobe, to people who need a little extra support to overcome barriers to employment.

Centacare FNQ Executive Director Anita Veivers said, "*Work Savvy is a really simple and tangible way we can make a difference together, supporting employment pathways for people in our community looking for work. By donating new and pre-loved clothing and accessories, we can help build the confidence of someone who just needs that extra bit of help to take the final step into employment.*"

This International Women's Day, Centacare FNQ is asking local women, businesses and organisations to donate new or pre-loved quality clothing and accessories suitable for interviews for employment. This is an opportunity to sort out some of those quality clothes you know you won't wear again, but just can't quite put in the charity box. All donations will support the employment pathways of local women and girls.

Anita Veivers went on to say, "*Work Savvy's International Women's Day drive is an opportunity not to just donate, but to support women and girls, empowering independence through employment.*"

Anyone who would like to donate can drop off quality clothing and accessories to Centacare FNQ Aplin Street or McCormack street offices or if you would like to organise a drive in your workplace give us a call on 4044 0130 and we can organise a pick up.

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We remember those who have died.

May they rest in peace.

Sophie Graham	23rd September 2020	Mareeba	Olga (Gina) De Rose	2nd December	Mareeba
Carmelo (Charlie) Locastro	25th September	Innisfail	Kathleen Biletta	6th December	Innisfail
Jeffrey Olsen	6th October	Tully	Angelina Trimarchi	10th December	Atherton
Mariann Kelso	14th October	Atherton	Maurice Brophy	10th December	Tully
Encarnacion (Encarna) Moros	15th October	Mareeba	Elizabeth Gear	10th December	Mareeba
Vivian Pin	16th October	Mareeba	Norah Dunn	12th December	Innisfail
Frank Greenleaf	25th October	North Cairns	Kathleen (Kitty) Ellis	15th December	Innisfail
Giuseppe (Joe) Quagliata	25th October	Tully	Antonio (Tony) Ridolfi	17th December	Babinda
Francesco Scoffioti	26th October	Earlville	Paolo Pulverenti	20th December	Gordonvale
Maria Lana	2nd November	Mareeba	Patricia Miskin	1st January 2021	Tully
Gaspere Curcio	6th November	Atherton	Mirella Alterio	1st January	Mareeba
Margaret Nelson	11th November	Cathedral	Maria Sordelli	7th January	Innisfail
Iolanda Fassone	12th November	Mareeba	Elva Fornera	16th January	Gordonvale
Imerio Serafin	16th November	Mareeba	Angelina Strano	27th January	Innisfail
Federick Sue	16th November	Mareeba	Margaret Ward (nee Langtree)	29th January	Gordonvale
Claire Puleo	22nd November	Gordonvale	Maria Arena	29th January	Mareeba
Elio Bortolussi	23rd November	Mareeba	Nives Centis	8th February	Innisfail
Angelo Sartor	24th November	Innisfail	Hughie Raso	9th February	Cathedral
Estdell McFarlane	24th November	Forsayth	Antonia (Nina) Calleja	14th February	Innisfail
Maria Nucifora	25th November	Babinda	Settimio Iacutone	15th February	Mareeba
Maureen Tye	26th November	Mareeba	Ben Panozzo	20th February	Innisfail
Jean Corradi	28th November	Babinda			

**DIOCESE OF
CAIRNS**



Cairns Diocesan News is a diocesan endeavour on behalf of Bishop Foley and Diocesan Outreach & Mission Services. We take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge all article contributors and our advertisers for their generous support.

Editorial staff, Cathy Spencer and Anita Lundie.

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