

*From the Outback, through the Rainforest to the Sea*



# CAIRNS DIOCESAN NEWS

EDITION 28  
MID-YEAR 2021

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**St Andrew's Catholic College Celebrates 20 Years**  
*see centre page spread pages 15-20 for more information*



# CONTINUING THE JOURNEY

Two Media Releases adapted by Anne Chellingworth

Final preparations are well underway toward Australia's Fifth Plenary Council. The statutes and regulatory norms have been approved by the Holy See, along with the Council's working document *Continuing the Journey*. On Pentecost Sunday, Archbishop Mark Coleridge - president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference - signed the decree to formally convoke the Council.

In a short video capturing the decree's signing, Archbishop Coleridge said it has been more than 80 years since the Church in Australia last held a plenary council, noting "*how things have changed since then*".

In June, an agenda of 16 questions to guide prayer, conversation, discernment and decision-making throughout the Plenary Council was published, centered around six themes: Conversion; Prayer; Formation; Structures; Governance; and Institutions. The questions and themes have emerged from three years and several layers of prayer, listening, dialogue and discernment, and will shape the program of the Council's assemblies - the first of which opens on October 3 this year.

The agenda's preamble draws from Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, which explores the Pope's "*dream of a 'missionary option'... that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation,*" the Pope wrote.

Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said that invitation and exhortation to be a missionary people runs through the agenda. "*Through the Plenary Council, we are being called to consider how we can be a Church that goes out to the peripheries, that welcomes all into our communities and shows the face of Christ to the*

*world,*" Archbishop Costelloe said.

Online formation sessions for the more than 280 members have been conducted throughout June and July. Archbishop Costelloe asked people to continue to pray for the Council and for the members who will attend the assemblies.

At a local level the Cairns Members (Bishop James Foley, Fr Frank Gordon Vicar General, Fr Neil Muir Episcopal Vicar, Fr Kerry Crowley Vicar for Clergy, Anna Montgomery, Tanya Rodney and Sabrina Stevens) were commissioned at this year's Chrism Mass on the 24th of March.



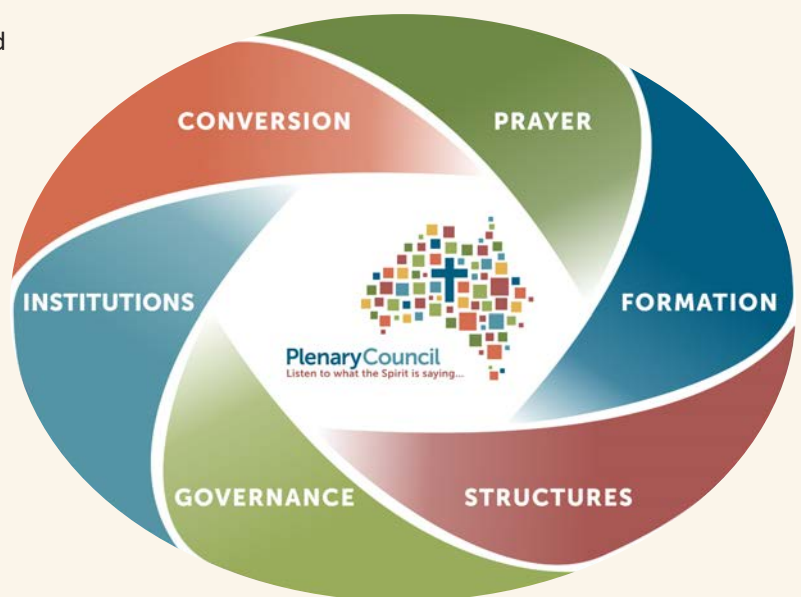
View the agenda on the Plenary Council website: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

## FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AGENDA

As children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, the Members of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia are called to develop concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia at this time.

*'I dream of a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.'*

*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 27*



## Conversion

- How might we better accompany one another on the journey of personal and communal conversion which mission in Australia requires?
- How might we heal the wounds of abuse, coming to see through the eyes of those who have been abused?
- How might the Church in Australia open in new ways to Indigenous ways of being Christian in spirituality, theology, liturgy, and missionary discipleship? How might we learn from the First Nations peoples?
- How might the Church in Australia meet the needs of the most vulnerable, go to the peripheries, be missionary in places that may be overlooked or left behind in contemporary Australia? How might we partner with others (Christians, people of other faiths, neighbourhood community groups, government) to do this?
- How might the Church in Australia respond to the call to 'ecological conversion'? How can we express and promote a commitment to an 'integral ecology of life' in all its dimensions, with particular attention to the more vulnerable people and environments in our country and region?

## Prayer

- How might we become a more contemplative people, committing more deeply to prayer as a way of life, and celebrating the liturgy of the Church as an encounter with Christ who sends us out to "make disciples of all the nations"?
- How might we better embrace the diverse liturgical traditions of the Churches which make up the Catholic Church and the cultural gifts of immigrant communities to enrich the spirituality and worship of the Church in Australia?

## Formation

- How might we better form leaders for mission – adults, children and families, couples and single people?
- How might we better equip ordained ministers to be enablers of missionary discipleship: the Church becoming more a "priestly people" served by the ordained ministry?
- How might formation, both pre- and post-ordination, better foster the development of bishops, priests and deacons as enablers of the universal Christian vocation to holiness lived in missionary discipleship?

## Structures

- How might parishes better become local centres for the formation and animation of missionary disciples?
- How might the Church in Australia be better structured for mission, considering the parish, the diocese, religious orders, the PJPs and new communities?

## Governance

- How might the People of God, lay and ordained, women and men, approach governance in the spirit of synodality and co-responsibility for more effective proclamation of the Gospel?
- How might we recast governance at every level of the Church in Australia in a more missionary key?

## Institutions

- How might we better see the future of Catholic education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens?
- How might we better see the future of Catholic social services, agencies and health and aged care ministries as key missionary and evangelising agencies?

# RECENT APPOINTMENTS



Fr Roy

Fr Roy Neervelil Chacko previously parish priest of Gordonvale, has agreed to become parish priest of the Central Cairns Parish encompassing Mother of Counsel North Cairns, St Joseph's Parramatta Park and St Monica's Cathedral.

Fr Michael Szymanski, currently parish priest for St Therese's Edmonton, has agreed to take on Gordonvale Parish as well.

These changes took effect on the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of July.



Fr Michael

# ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, ATHERTON

Written by Tim Jackson (Parishioner)

On Sunday, the 27th of June 2021, Atherton Parish celebrated the 90th anniversary of the church's opening.

Bishop James Foley presided over a Mass at 2:00 pm. Concelebrating with the Bishop were former parish priests, Frs. Pat McKenna, Greg Moses, Barry Craig, Joby Jose, and current parish priest, Fr Mathew Kochuveetil.

Other priests in attendance were Frs. Neil Muir, Robert Greenup, Martin Kenny, and Deacons, Alban Hunt & Ralph Madigan.

During Bishop Foley's engaging and inspiring homily, he gifted to the parish a painting, from his own collection, of St. Joseph and baby Jesus (pictured). This announcement was greeted with spontaneous applause from the congregation.

The imposing and iconic church of St. Joseph's was constructed during the great depression of the 1930s, providing much-needed employment





# ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – ST. JOSEPH’S CHURCH, ATHERTON CONTINUED

for local tradesmen. It has stood at the corner of Jack and Mabel Streets for ninety years and was blessed and opened by Bishop John Heavey OSA. in June 1931

The church is a testament to the faith and vision of those who have gone before us and given the Atherton Tablelands the wonderful gift of a beautiful church. Since then, St. Joseph’s Church has been a place of immense historical, religious and community significance.

Following the Mass, the Atherton Parish Catholic Ladies, under the tireless guidance of Annette Seawright, provided the over 300 guests with a *High Tea Garden Party*.

Guests enjoyed a selection of finely cut sandwiches, freshly baked scones, and a mouth-watering range of exquisitely presented pastries and cakes. A musical ensemble complemented this charming traditional afternoon tea.

Money raised from the event will go towards replacing the ceiling and other much-needed repairs to the church.



*Maree Wickham serving up afternoon tea to Pina Crear*

## A GUIDED CONVERSATION

Written by Fr Karel Duivenvoorden

A recent in-service in Cairns, on May 27, focused on the complex and often confusing experiences that some people (children as well as adults) face in dealing with gender challenges, usually understood as gender dysphoria – an unease or confused disposition with one’s personhood.

Diocesan Clergy, Pastoral Care Associates, key personnel, and some Catholic Education staff attended the one-day in-service (*A Guided Conversation – Let’s Start with Gender Dysphoria*). This session was facilitated by Dr David Kirchhoffer, Director, Queensland Bio-Ethics Centre, Brisbane.

David helped clarify some common clinical, moral and theological language in the area of gender and sexuality, particularly as it is used about people who struggle to find meaningful expression around such language, which is mainly bounded by long-held social and moral concepts.

He suggested a critical formula could be practical when working with gender-challenged persons. Firstly we help reduce the level of hostility or violence a person may be experiencing (including our own). Then

we can begin genuine listening with the person to understand their unease, hearing their truth and value. Then, and only then, can the good news of life and dignity emerge.

With open dialogue and reflection, the gathering looked at a range of views and debates (sometimes conflicting, and with no surprise, even in the church community) and layers of nuance and complexity in the medico-moral space.

Overwhelmingly, the participants appreciated a greater understanding of the dilemmas and multiple factors at play in every person’s identity growth and relationship with the world. There are no simple ways to understand a person’s rich diversity. We all seek the truth of meaningful responses to our queries and life challenges. And given our unique circumstances, we invariably do it differently from each other.

In gratitude for David’s careful and thorough conversation, participants agreed that pastoral responses must be increasingly framed. And more wholesomely directed, by a love of the person first, and by the concern for their ongoing good ... acknowledging that all things are created in the Divine – in Love, by Love, for Love; in their own unique way.



*Dr David Kirchhoffer, Priscilla O’Brien (Reach Youth Ministries Inc.) and Fr Peter Miller (retired priest and prison chaplain) share some insights.*



**catholic  
mission**

**WE HAVE MOVED!**

**Catholic Mission has acquired new office space  
and we are excited to welcome visitors!**

**Please come and visit us at  
Level 1, Centacare FNQ Building,  
22-34 Aplin Street, Cairns.**

**Contact Anna to organize a time to visit  
Mobile: 0450 213 042  
Email: [ajimenez@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:ajimenez@catholicmission.org.au)**

**We are grateful for the generosity of our friends from  
Centacare FNQ and Catholic Early Learning and Care who  
made it possible for us to create “mission hub.”**



# 200 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION CELEBRATED ON OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS FEAST DAY

Written by Kathy Fleming Consultant Formation



In this 200th year of Catholic Education in Australia, all schools gathered for our Diocesan Mass at St Monica's Cathedral on Monday 24th May. At the same time representatives from Dioceses and Archdioceses in all states and territories commemorated this significant milestone with students, staff and system leaders, in various churches and cathedrals across Australia.

Selecting the feast day of our National patron, Our Lady Help of Christians,

is poignant. As Europeans arrived in the Australian colony two hundred years ago, with no established church communities or clergy, many Catholics faithfully turned to praying the rosary, petitioning Mary for support, comfort and hope.

With this same faith, we cast our hearts and minds to Our Lady in this bicentennial year of Catholic Education. I invite you to pray the National Prayer with your communities, as our voices join with those of the more than 750,000 students and 100,000 staff across the country as we acknowledge the 200-year commemorative events.

## 200 YEARS - FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

Almighty and all-loving God, with gratitude for the endeavours of Catholic education in the past, with confidence in our Catholic pre-schools, schools and universities today, and with faith in their continuing contribution in the future, we celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in this Great South Land.

As our Heavenly Father, we thank you for your providential care for your children in this land in inspiring priests, religious and lay people to found and staff our schools in ages past. Through them the Good News of your Son was brought to the young even in colonial times – and ever since.

As Christ the Teacher, you grace the staff and leaders of Catholic education today. As they build on the achievements of their predecessors direct them in their present efforts to ensure that every young Australian has the opportunity for an excellent education and formation in faith.

As our Inspiring Spirit, you lead us into the future. In the century ahead grant those teaching and learning in our schools, those planning and leading, and the families and community that entrust their young people to us, a love of learning and a willingness to be the face of Christ in the world of tomorrow.

Pour out your abundant blessings upon all involved in the ministry of Catholic education. Amen.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross – pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Patron of Catholic Education in Australia – pray for us.

Image copyright © Paul Newton 2008



Catholic Education  
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS  
*Faith in the future*

*School Principals Group Assembly for Commemoration Mass*





# FAREWELLS – WE’VE HAD A FEW

Written by Editorial Staff



May saw the first of our diocesan farewells with Jenny Flood retiring from the Marriage Tribunal Chancery office. Morning tea was celebrated on the Bishop’s House verandah.

Next was the farewell to Vicki Bell, who retired from Catholic Education Services and Fr Neil Muir. Bill Dixon (Executive Director) presented gifts to both Vicki and Fr Neil. Representatives from all areas of the diocese were present for this occasion.

The diocesan clergy held a joint farewell at Portofino Restaurant in Palm Cove for Fr Neil Muir and Fr Karl Duivenvoorden.

Last but not least, a final farewell morning tea was held on the Bishop’s House verandah to say goodbye to Fr Karel and Fr Neil. Jasmin Greer (Executive Director – Finance & Employees Services) relayed the sentiments of everyone present “*Thank you both for your ministry, and we will miss you*”



*Group photo from Fr Karel and Fr Neil’s Farewell*





*Celebrating*  
**100 YEARS**  
of Mercy Education



# MOUNT ST BERNARD COLLEGE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF EDUCATION

Written by Ms Moira Dettori (Centenary Administration)



*1950's Mother Enda with students*

One hundred years ago, in 1921, the first boarders at Mount St Bernard College commenced with the official opening in September 1921. Originally the dream of Fr Bernard Doyle, the College was run for many years by the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters provided education and guidance to many young men and women, ensuring their time at the school was rich in music, prayer and skills they would take into their lives after school. In this centenary year, we have had the opportunity to speak with many past students about their time at the school and how it has shaped their future lives. Many have fond memories of their time in boarding at Mount St Bernard College, the Sisters who cared for them and the bonds they made with their fellow students.

In 2006 the Sisters of Mercy handed the management of the College over to Catholic Education Services, Diocese of Cairns. MSB has continued to educate young people with the same underlying Mercy values and is proud to be celebrating its long history in the North Queensland community.

To ensure this rich history is preserved, the College is creating Heritage Rooms to archive and display records and memorabilia and a labyrinth for past and present students and staff to record their part in the history with an engraved paver.

The College is commemorating this milestone with a weekend of activities in September (24th—26th). The weekend includes a Heritage Trail, the opening of the Heritage Rooms, the blessing of the Centenary Labyrinth and a Gala Dinner.

Please visit [www.msb.qld.edu.au/centenary](http://www.msb.qld.edu.au/centenary) or contact us via email at [msbcentenary@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:msbcentenary@cns.catholic.edu.au) to:

- get more information about the Centenary Weekend
- offer volunteering support over the weekend
- provide stories of your time at Mount St Bernard College to be shared on the centenary website
- loan or donate memorabilia to the Heritage Rooms
- order a paver for the centenary labyrinth





# CAIRNS CURSILLO A SPIRIT-FILLED LONG WEEKEND SUCCESS

Media Statement adapted by Editorial Team



Participants in the recent Cursillo long weekend have come away with a renewed understanding of their faith and what it means to be a Christian.

According to Cairns Cursillo weekend coordinators Rosalee Lankinen and Tony Pavich, the long weekend in May was a Spirit-filled and joyous opportunity for the 28 participants to renew their faith lives.

Our special guest speaker, Bishop James Foley, delivered a riveting Grace talk with props and stories, which ensured the audience's complete understanding of the topic.

Other guest speakers included Fr. Nathan McKay and Fr. Kerry Crowley, who supported our Spiritual Director, Fr. Hilary Flynn, to deliver thought-provoking presentations about Faith, Christian Life and the obstacles which often challenge or hinder their growth.

The weekend format provided all participants with the opportunity to discuss the numerous presentations in a small group setting – allowing for the sharing of ideas and the opportunity for bonding through conversation and facilitating the building of meaningful relationships.

The weekend is only made possible by the personal sacrifice, effort and support of a dedicated team who spend many hours preparing in the preceding months to ensure the weekend run smoothly and to schedule, whilst also allowing ample time for respite.

Mornings started with prayer and Mass celebrated in the charming lakeside Genazzano chapel. Meditations were contemplated in silence, and structured prayer gave participants time to reflect on what is fundamental to living and being Christian.

Attendees who had completed the 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' particularly benefited from the weekend.

Participants now have the opportunity to meet monthly in a celebration of song, prayer and personal witness to nurture their relationship with self, Christ and others, supported by the wider Cursillo Community.

Mr Pavich encourages more people to consider the Cursillo long-weekend short course in Christian Living. "It's ideal for all Catholics; couples and/or singles seeking to enhance their Christian lives," he said. As a bonus, Cairns Diocesan School teachers who attend the weekend can also gain an eight hour 'in-service' recognition for their attendance.

The next Cursillo long weekend is planned for **May 2022**.

For further information about Cursillo, please contact Rosalee Lankinen 0429 426 949, Tony Pavich 0400 530 291 or Secretary Maria Mezes 0422 585 744.

Further information and history of the Cursillo Movement is available by visiting: Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement [www.cursillo.asn.au](http://www.cursillo.asn.au) or [www.cairns.catholic.org.au](http://www.cairns.catholic.org.au)

## MOUNT ST BERNARD COLLEGE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



### CENTENARY WEEKEND

**FRIDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

5PM - MERCY DAY LITURGY 6PM - WELCOME BBQ

**SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

MSB COLLEGE TOURS & MERCY HERITAGE TRAIL

10AM - MSB MERCY HERITAGE ROOMS OPEN

5PM - CENTENARY THANKSGIVING MASS

6.30PM - CENTENARY GALA DINNER

**SUNDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

CENTENARY LABYRINTH OFFICIAL OPENING

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EMAIL: [msbcentenary@cns.catholic.edu.au](mailto:msbcentenary@cns.catholic.edu.au)

PHONE : 07 - 4096 1586





# ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Written by Priscilla O'Brien (Ministry Development Coordinator)



At Seville Mercy Conference Centre, we are rolling out programs, retreats and events to promote ecological education and ecological spirituality. Our women's breakfast, held on the 22nd of May, was one way for us to educate people around the environment and the role we can take as Christian women to reduce waste and stop the devastation of our ecosystems.

Our guest speaker Lesley Van Staveren was born and raised in greater London but emigrated to Cairns in 2007. She has three young children, and her vision is to contribute to a socially and environmentally conscious world for future generations to thrive in.

She began her recruitment and business development career, then transitioned to working within the plastic industry for ten years. This included co-founding the first recycled manufacturing facility in Far North Queensland. Being a respected powerhouse within the Cairns community, she actively educates individuals and organisations on plastic, recycling and waste reduction. After 4 years as founding president of the committee for waste reduction, Lesley has just stepped down to allow fresh leadership

to continue to evolve the organisation. In a private capacity, she is working on plastic infrastructure projects with Regional Development Australia.

Lesley's presentation was about changing our perception of plastics. First, she spoke about Earth Overshoot Day and how it marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. Earth Overshoot Day 2020 was the 22nd of August. With this trajectory, the need to look at our consumption and waste is becoming more urgent by the day. Next, Lesley spoke about the difference between sorting and recycling and the different types of plastics (some good, others really bad). Lesley talked about the need to move towards a circular economy rather than a linear economy. Finally, she spoke about what each of us can continue to do to make a difference in our planet's future. The Q & A at the end discussed mindset, behaviours and understanding the ripple effect.

Participants left the breakfast inspired and informed, and keen to take on individual action to reduce waste.



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# CHAMPAGNAT DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ST AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE

Written by the Student Representative Council



The Feast day of St Marcellin Champagnat has special significance for us at St Augustine's College, Cairns. We follow in his footsteps by providing a Catholic education in the Marist tradition. Therefore, St Marcellin's feast day is a time to reflect on Marcellin's life, his visions and hopes, and celebrate our Marist connections.

On Friday 4 June, the proceedings began with a whole-school Mass in Lennon Hall celebrated by our College Chaplain, Fr Laurie Timms (OCarm). His homily explained how spirituality could be expressed in different ways. He used the metaphor of a pizza: the base was God, and the different toppings were the varieties of spirituality people embraced around the world. Marcellin's spirituality is foundational to our Catholic ethos.

The College feels especially blessed to have four Marist Brothers in residence at St Augustine's. The Principal, Mr Matthew Brennan, said *"These wonderful men have given their lives to God, and their work over many years has positively influenced so many young people. I thank Brothers John, Roger, Michael and Bernie for their outstanding work, their simplicity of action and their deep love of Mary and Jesus."*

This gathering offered an opportunity for staff to be recognised for their contributions to Marist education. Notably, six staff members have achieved significant milestones with a combined total of 100 years of service. The College also proudly acknowledged students from Year 7 to 12 with Champagnat Awards in recognition of the Marist qualities they display. In addition, one senior and one junior student received the prestigious Champagnat Medallion for their outstanding efforts to build community.

College captain, Richard Huelin, was the senior Champagnat Medallion recipient and said he felt humbled: *"It's an honour to be given the medal, and,*

*for me, it's a reminder and an encouragement to keep living in a Marist way."* He reflected on the five Marist characteristics and identified two that mean the most to him: *"Simplicity and Family Spirit resonate most strongly with me. I like to be simple in my relationships with other people, and I believe that simplicity is the key to living a happy life. Also, my friends mean a lot to me, and I think of them as my family, so I try to remember that sense of family spirit in my interactions with them."*

After Mass, students enjoyed a sausage sizzle and participated in various games, including a teacher's v students touch football game. The Champagnat Day games brought the College community together to have fun and build family spirit.

Marcellin's dream of caring for others and living by Gospel values is deeply embedded in our culture, and we continue to be inspired by his vision.





# COMBINED SERVICE OF 76 YEARS BY TWO VINCENTIANS

Written by Con Carbone (President St Brigid's SVDP Conference)



L-R Con Carbone and Kevin Langtree

to do visitations and Nils loans.

Kevin began his association with the St Vincent de Paul Society in 1996, working in the Anderson Street shop. He was then an inaugural member of St Brigid's Conference in 2001 and worked in the Interview Room of the Emergency Relief section. Kevin's cheerful disposition and genuine concern for companions and co-workers made the Conference a happy place to work. Kevin was Conference President from 2004 to 2008. Our Indigenous companions respectfully refer to him as Uncle. Kevin retired in early 2020 due to poor health.

*Congratulations Leo and Kevin!*

On Wednesday, 19th May 2021, St Brigid's St Vincent de Paul Conference President, Con Carbone and FNQ Diocesan Central Council President Veronica Innes, were pleased to present Associate Life Membership Awards to Leo Carrol and Kevin Langtree. With a combined dedicated service of 76 years to the Conference and the Society, Leo and Kevin were acknowledged in the evening Mass, followed by a special supper surrounded by their families and members of the Vincentian Society.

Leo first joined the St Vincent de Paul Society in March 1968 in Sale, Victoria. He held many positions, including Treasurer, President, President of the Regional Council, and President for East Gippsland. In 1996 Leo moved to Cairns and was President from 2008 to 2012. Until his retirement in July 2019, he continued



L-R Leo Carrol and Veronica Innes

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[nathanmckay71@bigpond.com](mailto:nathanmckay71@bigpond.com)



# CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2021

## “A SPIRITED TOMORROW”

Written by Bec Burns (Consultant Formation)

In Term Three, we will celebrate Queensland Catholic Education Week, holding onto the theme “A Spirited Tomorrow”. When we combine this theme with “Faith in the Future,” the theme of 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia, we can envision the hope, promise, and joy closely linked to the Easter Season.

As educators, we often do not see what “tomorrow” looks like for the young people in our care. However, we do see the next generation of leaders, the next generation of parents, the next generation of human beings. We all have a role in shaping our future. As Catholic educators, it may be well worth spending time reflecting, during these celebrations, on how we see the point of difference in Catholic Education. What role do we play as Catholic educators in influencing the next generation into having *Faith* in their own future? What messages do you believe our learners need to create for a “Spirited Tomorrow”?

Pope Francis holds a deep sense of faith in our future generations and talks confidently on the importance of families in creating a *Culture of Care* for our families. Dedicating a year to Saint Joseph can be seen as a way of highlighting a role model who helped raise a young man whose faith in the future has extended over 2000 years.

What about the generations we are nurturing at home? How do we give our own children, nieces and nephews, the opportunity

to come to know God so that they can be positive leaders of tomorrow? St Paul's letters constantly reminded people of the good news of Jesus and discussed ways of living to help ensure a hopeful future. As we prepare for Catholic Education Week (CEW), we are invited to reflect on these questions, as without reflection and dialogue, these two themes are only words and become meaningless. We can bring these themes to life with dialogue and reflection and continue the journey started in Australia 200 years ago and in Queensland 175 years ago.

### Catholic Education Week 2021 - Deanery Mass Venue and Time

The QLD launch of ‘A Spirited Tomorrow’ will be held in St Stephen's Cathedral Brisbane, on Tuesday 27 July 2021.

- Southern Deanery – Eucharistic Celebration for CEW is 10am Tuesday 27 July at Mother of Good Counsel Church, Innisfail
- Western Deanery - Eucharistic Celebration for CEW is 10:45am Wednesday 28th July at St Joseph's Parish School, Atherton
- Northern Deanery - Eucharistic Celebration for CEW is 11:30am on Thursday 29th July at St Monica's Cathedral, Cairns

### CCR CAIRNS

Catholic Charismatic Renewal

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

# Grace

*“But when the kindness and generous love of God our saviour appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of His mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our saviour, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.”—Titus 3:4-6*

Guest Speaker

## Fr. Steve Fletcher

28th-29th August 2021

Venue: St. Joseph's School Hall—Parramatta Park



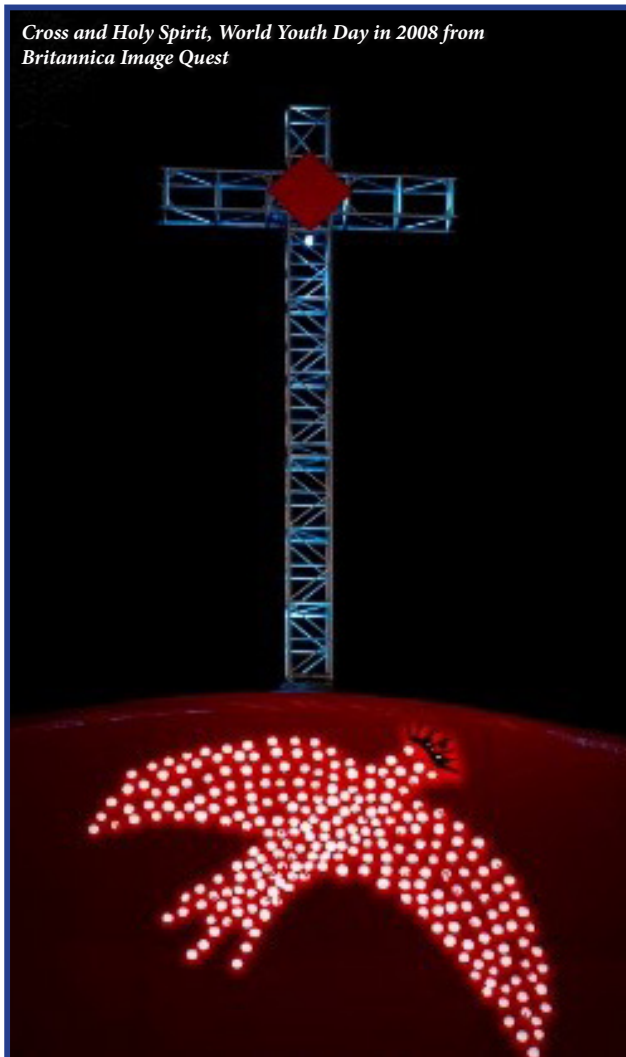
“Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that He may come and rain righteousness upon you.” - Hosea 10:12

Registrations: 0417682111 & 0428772793

Cost \$80 per person (Forms available on website)

[ccrcairns.org.au](http://ccrcairns.org.au)

Cross and Holy Spirit, World Youth Day in 2008 from Britannica Image Quest





# NICOLE DAMON (DIOCESAN HR) EXCELS IN HER IRON-MAN CHALLENGE SPIRITUALITY

*Thank you everyone! I had a great day, and it was amazing to have all the support. Thank you!!!!*

Small Race Report:

So proud of what I did on Sunday the 6th of June. It was an epically brutal, happy day. All the emotions a race can bring, and I'm glad it's done.

I managed an overall 28min PB from 2019, at 6:54:40, which I'm stoked with. A sub 40 min swim, at 39:15 and 8.5 min PB. A 3:39:39 ride which included a 5 min toilet stop and a 5 min PB. The run was 2:22:47 with another 5 min toilet stop but a 16 min pb for a 70.3.

I lost a nearly full bottle of electrolytes and nutrition at the 25km mark on the bike, and it took until the 32.5km turnaround to get my head back in check to work out a new game plan. The head and crosswind on the bike was absolutely brutal. I loved the swim and could have done a second lap! The run was slow to start, but I picked up in the second half.

Huge thanks to Astrid Murray from Centacare FNQ, for allowing me to call and message my husband in the minutes before my race while I was in a state of nerves. *Apologies for my frazzled state.*

Thanks for all the messages and words of encouragement by everyone. I heard people calling out my name from their cosy spots in the pubs and restaurants and on the race course, and I apologise if I didn't recognise you as I was in the *hurt locker*. However, I do remember seeing Anita Andacic (Diocesan HR), Lisa Skaines (Bishop's House Administration), Annette Hennebry (CELC), Pam Halliday (CES Payroll Services) and Astrid Murray (CentacareFNQ).

We have already received the email to register for 2022, and I'm taking time to recover, reassess and work out my 2022 goals.



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

# BISHOPS NAME THREE PRIORITIES FOR WORK OF BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australia's Catholic bishops have used a weeks-long process of prayer and discernment to identify three priorities to guide the work of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The recommendation to identify priorities for the Bishops Conference arose from a structured review of Conference operations and financing undertaken in 2019.

Earlier this year, the bishops were guided through a process of shared discernment, punctuated with prayer and conversation, by Br Ian Cribb SJ. Br Ian had earlier led the retreat the bishops made together immediately before their 2019 Ad Limina Apostolorum visit.

Following the three sessions, which involved the identification and ranking of possible priorities, the bishops approved the three priorities at their recent plenary meeting.

They are: Formation; Becoming More Missionary; and Fostering Collegiality.

*"It is important to note that these are priorities for the Bishops Conference to pursue, which includes the various bishop's commissions, the work of the general secretariat and the biannual plenary meetings,"* Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

*"These were not developed to be priorities for the Catholic Church in Australia, though many dioceses, parishes and other ministries are no doubt focusing on one or more of these priorities."*

The Conference's ongoing priorities are also reflected in the work of its nine bishop's commissions and two episcopal panels, which will take on new focus in light of the new priorities named.

Archbishop Coleridge said the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will have an important role in shaping priorities for the Church nationally.

*"We've already seen during the three years of the Council journey so far how key topics and concerns are being identified, and the Council assemblies will help refine those further,"* he said.

*"These priorities we have developed specifically for the Bishops Conference will help the work we undertake as a college of bishops, to make important decisions and to tread a path that pursues formation, collegiality and a missionary disposition."*

Br Ian said he was impressed with the way the bishops engaged with the process of discernment – individually, in small groups and as a collective.

*"Bishops are very busy men. It was encouraging to see them take the time during the three sessions and in between sessions to reflect and pray about their shared ministry as members of a Bishops Conference, not just leaders of their dioceses,"* he said.

*"Following on from their 2019 retreat and in preparing for the Plenary Council, the bishops are finding opportunities to practice the skills of discernment that will be valuable for their ministry."*



# NEWS FROM ST CLARE'S, TULLY

Written by Helen Andrews (Assistant Principal Religious Education & Leader of Diversity)

During Lent this year, St Clare's School students learned about Caritas Australia's work in many vulnerable communities. Each week, the students engaged in stories of people striving to 'Be More'.

Students were actively involved in these sessions and were touched by the need to support these people and their communities. Students were encouraged to bring in their Project Compassion boxes regularly during Lent, and a picture graph of the class totals each week created a lot of interest and excitement amongst the students.

The school also had two major school fundraising activities with Shrove Tuesday and green frozen cups for St Patrick's Day. The St Clare's School community made an amazing contribution towards



Project Compassion with donations of \$1559.60 in total. A special mention to the Prep class (pictured) and their families who donated \$400.

Our students have certainly been demonstrating the message of Project Compassion this year to 'Be More'.

St Clare's School celebrated Pentecost with a school Mass presided by parish priest Fr Joby Jose. Each class decorated a gift box with symbols to represent each Gift of the Spirit and gave practical examples of how we can live our lives using each gift.

Mrs Jo Wall (Year 3 teacher) created a unique 3D artistic design of the Holy Spirit which was the focal point on the Altar. It was a wonderful community celebration bringing together St Clare's charism of *Welcome, Community and Hospitality*.



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*Years*

**JOURNEY TOGETHER**

St Andrew's Catholic College  
2001 - 2021



## A MESSAGE FROM

# Bill Dixon

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICES, DIOCESE OF CAIRNS



In my reflection on the beginnings of St Andrew's Catholic College, a prayer that has become synonymous with Saint Oscar Romero (although he never actually spoke the words) immediately came to mind.

The prayer, titled "**A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN**", speaks of the hard work and sacrifices that many people make to build a community that may only reach its full potential long after those people have moved on.

The prayer starts:

*"It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.  
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even beyond our vision."*

The building of St Andrew's required bold vision, tenacity, sacrifice, commitment and even a bit of 'blood, sweat and tears'! The staff, students, and parents of those early years knew they were on a journey that would continue beyond their time towards that bold vision.

Whilst the facilities were sparse, the trees very young and the grass mowed by volunteers on Sundays, it was the people that made the community. Their incredible sense of adventure, work ethic, hope for the future and their ability to have a bit of fun, laughter and humility combined with a hefty dose of generosity and gratitude was the recipe to success for St Andrew's.

This is reflected in the later part of the prayer:

*"That is what we are about.  
We plant a seed that will one day grow.  
We water seeds already planted,  
knowing that they hold future promise.  
We lay foundations  
that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces effects  
far beyond our capabilities."*

It is however the last paragraph of the prayer that truly resonated with my recollection of those early days at St Andrew's. It could be said that at 20 years young, the building process of St Andrew's, the continuing development and expansion of the story, is a journey that commenced thousands of years ago with the First Nations Peoples – the Tjapukai – following the flow of the creek reflected on the floor of All Saints' Chapel and continued today in that magnificent location by all who are drawn to its promise:

*"We may never see the end results,  
but that is the difference  
between the master builder and the worker.  
We are workers, not master builders,  
ministers, not messiahs.  
We are prophets of a future not our own."*

### Bill Dixon

Executive Director  
Catholic Education Services  
Diocese of Cairns



First Day of School 2001

ST ANDREW'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE



# COLLEGE *History*

St Andrew's Catholic College was established in 2001 as a Pre-School to Year 4 college with an enrolment of 89 students. It is situated in the Parish of the Northern Beaches of Cairns. The founding Principal of the College, Mrs Lauretta Graham, worked tirelessly to establish not only a world class learning facility but a venue in which the whole community could share.

In 2009, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cairns, the Cairns Regional Council and the Queensland State Government developed the Redlynch Community Sports Facility on the grounds of St Andrew's. The aim was to provide sporting facilities for the local schools and community. During school hours this facility is used by all schools within the area for various sporting events and the facility is available for district sporting teams outside school hours.

All Saints' Chapel was constructed within the College grounds in 2009. This had been a vision of Mrs Graham's for many years. The Chapel has been nominated for a number of architectural awards.

St Andrew's began 2012 with the appointment of a new Principal Mr Lee MacMaster who continued to take the College from strength to strength. Lee continued to build on Lauretta's

vision and in 2018, All Saints' Theatre was built alongside All Saints' Chapel.

In 2019 a new era for St Andrew's commenced with the appointment of the third Principal for the College, Dr Sean Mangan. Under the guidance of Dr Mangan, the College has reached a total of 1740 students and the building program continues with a new building constructed in 2020 featuring contemporary classrooms, Science/STEM laboratories, Pottery and Textile facilities. Dr Mangan continues to drive the College forward as a leader in Catholic Education in Far North Queensland.

An overwhelming strength of St Andrew's Catholic College is the experienced staff who are caring, dedicated and committed to providing a quality education for all students. Overall program structures and philosophies are monitored by a highly skilled and experienced senior staff, whilst enthusiastic and committed teachers work to meet the individual needs of students, supporting each student to encourage them to develop a 'love of learning'.

The hard work and vision of our founders continues to inspire all whom work and study at the College today.



**Mrs Lauretta Graham**

*Foundation Principal  
(2001 - 2011)*



**Mr Lee MacMaster**

*College Principal  
(2012 - 2018)*



**Dr Sean Mangan**

*College Principal  
(2019 - Current)*

J O U R N E Y   T O G E T H E R



# THREE SECTORS; ONE CAMPUS

THROUGH THE YEARS...

1992

Review of school provision in Cairns

1997

Catholic Education Facilities in Cairns proposal prepared for Catholic Education Services by Rick Carr Epsilon Research

Mr Kevin Malone and Fr Neil asked by Bishop James Foley to look for land to build a school

1998

Task Force and Steering Committee formed for the establishment of the Northern Suburbs of Cairns Catholic Secondary College



2001

College opens with 89 students. Principal Lauretta Graham

Stage 1 of College receives commendation in the Queensland Architect Awards – FNQ Region for the 'leaf' like design of the building layout

Sunday Mass commences at the College

Launch of official College song 'Come and See' composed by Mrs Cathy Ransom



2008

Calvary Cross and St Andrew's Fishing Net installed in front of Administration building (L Block) and blessed by Bishop James Foley

Construction and funding approved by the Catholic Diocese of Cairns for All Saints' Chapel

Stage 7 & 8 of College officially opened and blessed by Bishop James Foley

P Block Science laboratories destroyed in fire

1999

Land purchased from the Reed family at Redlynch by Cairns Diocese



2002

Prime Minister John Howard officially opens Stage 2

Enrolments reach 172 students



2003

Enrolments reach 287 students

Commencement of Middle Years sector (Years 6-9)

2004

College accepts high school enrolments

Enrolments reach 427 students

First College music concert held at Eisteddfod Hall

2006

Northern Carpark opens



2000

Redlynch School Committee name the campus St Andrew's College, Redlynch Valley.

St William's College was also considered based on the Mt William mountains behind the College.

Turning of the sod for College site

Bishop James Foley holds Mass on College site and performs a blessing

College Open Day held under a tent opposite Mrs Reed's house

Mrs Lauretta Graham appointed Principal



2009

Redlynch Community Joint Facilities opens on the grounds of the College

Young Ladies of St Andrew's (YLSA) founded by Mrs Joanne Lawson

Mass and blessing of All Saints' Chapel site

First College musical – Oliver

First graduating Year 12 cohort





2010

All Saints' Chapel officially opens and blessed by Bishop James Foley  
Stage 1 of All Saints' Theatre

2012

Mr Lee MacMaster appointed as Principal  
New College logo launched  
Inaugural College fete



2014

St Andrew's Men (SAM) founded by College Captain, Harrison Symes  
Pottery representations of the Stations of the Cross installed around Admin Courtyard



2017

Turning of the sod for All Saints' Theatre  
Middle & Senior Years Coordinator offices open (N Block extension)  
Official College clock installed outside Senior Library



2018

All Saints' Theatre officially opened and blessed by Bishop James Foley and Fr Neil Muir – Parish Priest of the Cairns Northern Beaches  
Official College bell installed  
Updated College House logos launched  
New College House Sports uniform introduced



2013

IT Helpdesk and office opens



2016

College fountain installed in the L & N Block courtyard  
Official College entrance updated to include signage & electronic noticeboard  
Aerial walkways between Senior Years buildings installed  
Portelli Road opens offering a second entrance to the College



2015

T Block elevator installed  
Middle Years undercover area (Q T Blocks) opens  
ANZAC Reflections (Catholic Schools collaboration) in All Saints' Theatre



Dr Sean Mangan becomes third College Principal  
Junior Years Wall of Wellbeing 'Kindness' mural installed  
Official opening of the Project 126 totems  
Centenary of Armistice Music concert in All Saints' Theatre



2020

College student enrolments reach 1720  
Entry road to College officially named St Andrew's Drive



2021

College celebrates its 20th year anniversary  
Stage 14 of College opens  
New College anthem released



JOURNEY TOGETHER









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# HAPPENINGS ACR

## ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S MASS



The Cairns Circle of the Catenian Association held this Mass at Mother of Good Counsel Church, North Cairns on Saturday 20th March. President Joe Vella was pleased to welcome about 20 brothers and their partners. The Circle's Chaplain, Fr. Neil Muir presided at the Mass. Celebrations continued at the Salt House with a splendid lunch and some liquid refreshments.

## CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH AT ST CLARE'S

Written by Anna Jimenez (Director, Catholic Mission)

Mission partners Jay and Anna Jimenez celebrated the Feast of St Joseph with the St Clare's School community in Tully on 19 March.

The Preps and Year 1s put together a 3D St Joseph's Altar, remembering how people from Sicily in Italy depended on the intercession of St Joseph during the 1918 influenza.

Following the 3D version of the St Joseph's Altar, Jay and Anna prepared a simple St Joseph's Altar with fruits, cookies, bread and fish and chips for the 7 School Captains, Fr Joby (Parish Priest), Ms Helen Andrews (APRE) and Ms Narelle Harney (Principal). The group enjoyed the meal and conversations as an opportunity to dialogue with the people around the table. Our efforts to raise funds are also a tangible way of increasing our faith.

The Year 2s enjoyed colouring and putting together *St Joseph's Tools to do God's Work* (Pictured). These young missionaries are all ready and geared up to do God's work indeed!

The Year 3s came together to create a special honouring for St Joseph by filling up their St Joseph's Shrine with prayer requests from students.

And lastly but not least, Year 4s learned more about the devotion to the *Sleeping St Joseph*.

Jay and Anna's time in driving back to Cairns to be with their family was filled with God's Love. They shared a prayer of gratitude for the special graces they received from God through the intercessions of St Joseph, St Clare, Mother Mary and all the saints in Heaven!



## CELEBRATIONS HELD IN CAIRNS

Bishop Bosco Puthur (Syro Malabar Eparchy, Melbourne) recently visited Cairns. On Wednesday, the 30th of June, he presided over the Mass of the first holy communion of 11 children and confirmed three children. (pictured below)



A special feast, "*Dukhrana*", celebrated by the Syro Malabar Cairns mission on the Feast Day of St Thomas, took place from the 1st of July until the 3rd of July. The community were delighted that Bishop Bosco Purthur could join them.

Bishop Bosco Purthur also enjoyed a meal with Bishop James, Fr Neil Muir and the Syro Malabar pastoral committee.





# ACROSS THE DIOCESE

## Earlville Parishioner Celebrates His 90th Birthday



On Friday 23rd April, a small group of parishioners gathered in the Earlville Parish Centre to celebrate Kev McKenna's 90th birthday. His actual birthday was 18th April, when family members arrived from southern parts to celebrate this milestone with him. Longevity is very prominent in Kev's family, with his brother Fr Pat McKenna in his 92nd year, together with two slightly younger sisters who all enjoy good health.

All enjoyed a lovely morning tea, with a beautiful Ginger Fluff Sponge being cut and shared as the birthday cake. Betty Rodney had kindly baked Kev's birthday cake for the celebration.

During the morning, Kev delivered a lighthearted speech in jovial fashion. In it, he highlighted how parish life had been a very important part of his social life over the years. In the past, the well-known Earlville Parish Fete involved many workers and months of preparation before the big night. In time, due to an ageing committee of parishioners, fetes were no longer held each year. Kev also reminisced, *"I was delighted in the hours I spent helping out on the fundraising Lamington Drives organised by the Catholic Women's Group."*

The highlight of Kev's 90th Morning Tea was when Fr Nathan McKay (parish priest) presented him with a framed Papal Blessing (pictured) to acknowledge his contribution to the parish. Kev was very chuffed to receive the blessing. He said, *"I will prop the framed blessing up beside the photo of my dear late wife, Margaret, so she can now chat with the Pope"*. Kevin was also delighted to have Fr Martin Kenny pop in to celebrate his birthday with him.

We wish Kev all the very best for the coming years and hope that God will be kind to him with his health and continued mobility. We thank him for all that he has contributed to the parish's activities over the past 45 years.

## Easter Celebrated at the Cathedral

Written by Editorial Staff

Fr Karel Duivenvoorden presided over the Easter liturgies (pictured) before his leaving Cairns Diocese. Fr Karel has retired from active ministry to quieter places in South-East Queensland.

Before retiring, Fr Karel was temporarily living at the Bishop's House and would join the staff for lunch. During these everyday moments, Fr Karel would be fondly remembered saying, *"every moment is a moment for Catechesis."*



## Announcement from Catholic Education Services

The Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Catholic Education has appointed Sharon O'Keeffe (Director Identity and Outreach – Cairns, Catholic Education Services) (pictured) as the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) representative on the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) Faith Formation & Religious Education Standing Committee.

Cairns Catholic Education nominated Sharon for this role and we are proud and excited that she will share her wisdom and experience generously, and actively engage with the important work of this committee, which provides advice to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference at the national level of Catholic Education.



## Centacare FNQ supports Yarrabah Women's Day in Multicultural Celebration

Written by Emma Townsend (Manager, Operations)



Recently, Centacare FNQ was invited to celebrate a belated International Women's Day with the Yarrabah Aboriginal Community at Yarrabah State School. We were able to connect women from the Bhutanese, African, Pacific Islander and Papua New Guinea communities of Cairns and had a wonderful day of building new relationships.

This experience allowed us to reflect on actions towards reconciliation.

In 2021, as an organisation Centacare FNQ hopes to participate in more opportunities like this, where communities can come together to share stories and culture.

## Mother's Day at St Michael's Church

Fr Roy presented the mothers of the Gordonvale Parish with a red rose, to thank them. An excerpt from his homily on that day.

*"Our natural ability to love others is because we were first loved deeply, sacrificially by our mothers. We are grateful to that love and we loved them in return first of all by being obedient to them."*



There is a beautiful Spanish proverb: "An ounce of mother is better than a pound of clergy."

On this Mother's Day, let us gratefully admit the fact that we cannot return, in the same measure, all the love that our mother has given us.

Hence, let us thank our mothers today by lavishing our love on them if they are alive and by offering our prayers for them if they have gone to their eternal reward."



# HAPPENINGS ACR

## RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION PROGRAM TAKES OFF

On Friday the 4th of June, Marie-Huberte Churchward (Northern Deanery Coordinator, State School Religious Instruction) attended the official launch held in the Archdiocesan Precinct Brisbane of the Getting to Know Jesus Religious Instruction program.

The program was developed by Carole Danby in her role at Evangelisation Brisbane (Archdiocese of Brisbane). The Cairns Diocese SSRI volunteers and coordinators played a pivotal role of piloting the program supported by Carole's development and training to us of this new initiative.

This program has been running since the beginning of the school year and feedback has been very positive. State School Religious Instruction is offered to all Catholic children in Education Queensland schools across the diocese. This ministry has workforce of 100+ volunteers.

This important ministry is always looking for more volunteers and if you are interested and want more information please contact [spencer@cairns.catholic.org.au](mailto:spencer@cairns.catholic.org.au)

*Marie-Huberte front row 4<sup>th</sup> from the left and Carole centre of photo holding a copy of the program*



## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SLEEPOUT

Written by Veronica Innes (FNQ Diocesan President)



*Veronica Innes with Alex Loughton, representing Ken Frost Homes*

The CEO National Sleepout was held on the 17th of June. The Queensland event was held in a disused boarding house in Brisbane and raised \$1,226,524 to date from 202 participants. Dennis Innes, as State President, attended the event.

Locally, as we were not having a sleepout this year it was decided that we would form a team to support the CEO Sleepout. A virtual group, the FNQ Nappers Team, was formed by 4 participants who elected to sleep rough. Two slept on cardboard in a tent in their back yard, one in his pergola and one in her car. Together they have so far raised \$2,547.

A surprise donation of \$52,000 after the event was from local businessman John Richardson, Managing Director of Ken Frost Homes. He had read a pre-function News Release by the SVDPC CEO Kevin Mercer, decided that if the money he donated would remain in FNQ, John was prepared to donate \$52,000; on top of that, he raised another \$2,208.

The total raised by FNQ is \$56,755. Fundraising will continue until the 30th of July and can be made online at <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/organisation?kw=Far%20North%20Queensland%20St%20Vincent%20De%20Paul>



# CROSS THE DIOCESE

## MONTHLY ANOINTING MASS & FR ROY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED AT GORDONVALE



St Michael's Parish, Gordonvale celebrated the monthly Anointing Mass on 9th June and Fr Roy's birthday.



Stratford parishioners held a belated Welcome to Fr Dariusz (pictured) and yet another Farewell to Fr Neil with lunch at the Red Beret Hotel after the 10.00 am Mass on Sunday the 13th June.



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# BISHOP'S HOUSE HOSTS CENTACARE QUEENSLAND FORUM

Written by Emma Townsend (Manager, Operations)


Executive Directors from Centacare and Catholic Care's across Queensland met at The Bishop's House with Catholic Social Services Australia on the 21st May 2021 to discuss the impact of diocesan social services across the State.


The group represents a long collaboration between diocesan social services in Queensland. It contributes to developing and expanding locally based community programs from aged care, mental health, community cultural activities, and the disability sector.

The group then met with Michael Healy MP, Queensland, Craig Crawford, State Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership, and Bishop James Foley and Fr Neil Muir for an informal conversation over brunch.

Executive Director of Centacare FNQ, Anita Veivers hosted the event that showcases the work undertaken in FNQ on behalf of the Diocese. Anita Veivers, said *"Diocesan Social Services are distinct, local services that can respond quickly to what is needed at a community level. Together as a collective group Queensland diocesan social services are one of the largest providers of social services across the State, employing over 2500 people and providing support to almost 100,000 adults and children". "It was fabulous to be able to showcase the place-based impact each agency has, as well as the strength we have by working collaboratively"*.







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**DIOCESE OF CAIRNS**



## Safeguarding Commitment

The Diocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding all who interact with the Diocese through its activities, ministries and services, especially children and vulnerable adults.

### Safeguarding Principles

All Diocesan personnel, regardless of their position, are responsible for the protection & well-being of others who interact with the Diocese. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Diocesan personnel will treat everyone who interacts with the Diocese with dignity & respect, regardless of their gender, sexuality, abilities, religion, culture or ethnicity.

Diocesan personnel will prioritise the safety, wellbeing & best interests of children & adults at risk who interact with the Diocese.

Diocesan personnel will actively manage risks & respond to all abuse concerns, suspicions, allegations & incidents promptly & effectively, complying with all Diocesan & legal requirements.

### Roles & Responsibilities

**Clergy & Religious**

- Champion & promote safeguarding
- Overview & comply with safeguarding standards, policies, procedures & guidelines
- Actively manage safeguarding risks
- Respond to & report safeguarding, concerns, allegations, complaints & incidents

**Employees & Volunteers**

- Promote safeguarding
- Comply with safeguarding standards, policies, procedures & guidelines
- Actively assess safeguarding risks
- Respond to & report safeguarding, concerns, allegations, complaints & incidents

**Families, Communities & Parishioners**

- Support safeguarding locally
- Comply with safeguarding standards, policies, procedures & guidelines
- Raise safeguarding, concerns, allegations, complaints & incidents
- Provide feedback on policies & procedures

**Children & Young People**

- Be safe when participating in ministries & services
- Tell a parent, trusted adult or friend about concerns/incidents that make them feel unsafe
- Share thoughts about how to make ministries & services feel & be safer for children

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility**



# CENTENARY LABYRINTH UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT MOUNT ST BERNARD COLLEGE

Written by Deacon Michael Lindsay (Assistant Principal – Mission)

One of the projects MSB has undertaken to mark its centenary this year is constructing an outdoor landscaped labyrinth. Labyrinths have been used variously for prayer and other spiritual exercises since ancient times across several religious/spiritual traditions, including Christianity. The design and symbolism of labyrinths transcend both religious and non-religious boundaries. Arguably, the most famous Christian labyrinth is found inside the Chartres Cathedral in France, which is also the inspiration for our MSB Centenary labyrinth.

An important distinction is that labyrinth is not a maze; they are quite different structures with distinctly different purposes. For Christians, a labyrinth can aid discernment, deep prayer, meditation and even as a type of spiritual pilgrimage, all as one walks its path.

One method for using the labyrinth, for example, is **Release—Receive—Return**. As you journey gradually into the centre, you *release* or let go of those things that either distract you from God/your true self or that hinder your discernment. Upon arriving at the centre, you pause for some time and rest in God's presence; you *receive* whatever invitation or insight God is extending to you. Then, when the time is right, you begin your journey out from the centre *returning* to where you started: how do you integrate God's invitation/insight into my life? Whom are you being called to become?

The labyrinth being constructed for MSB will be a sacred space for the College community and a commemorative monument for the College's centenary.

A unique feature of the labyrinth is that many of the pavers/bricks marking the serpentine path are engraved with the names and years of attendance of students and staff (past and present) as well as the Sisters of Mercy.

For generations to come, as people journey through the MSB Centenary labyrinth, they can reflect on the generations before them who have played their part in the MSB story; and whose own stories have been formed in some way by MSB and the Mercy Charism.

If you have an association with MSB and would like to enquire about an engraved paver/brick, please see the MSB Centenary website [www.msb.qld.edu.au/centenary](http://www.msb.qld.edu.au/centenary) or contact Moira Dettorii on (07) 4096 1586.

For those familiar with the MSB grounds, the Centenary Labyrinth is being constructed adjacent to the Sisters' cemetery—a suitably quiet and reflective part of the property with inspiring views over the Herberton valley.

Recently, a group of eight MSB staff began an in-service in praying with labyrinths facilitated by Christine Ritchie at Siloam who also is assisting us with the design of our labyrinth.

Earthworks in progress at the site



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# CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION CELEBRATED...

Written by Hugh O'Brien & Lionel Williamson (Sacramental Coordinators)

On Sunday 13th June, St Michael's Community celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and Communion in a beautiful ceremony in our Church.

You could distinctly hear Fr Roy's words, "be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit," followed by each child's response. The Holy Spirit was certainly at work in our children, families and friends on this great day. An excerpt from Fr Roy's homily "Why is this the happiest day of your life? It is because you are receiving the biggest celebrity, Jesus our God and Saviour, as the guest of honour into your hearts and lives, for the first time, in Holy Communion. It means somebody very, very big is coming to stay with you, bless you, protect you and guide you."

The reception of the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit should happen frequently in our lives, so that Christ may live in us and grow in us. That's why we are invited at least on Sundays to the eucharistic banquet reminding us of the warning of Jesus "Without me you can do nothing". We wish that this journey you start today be continued until you reach the destination with the support of all this parish community, especially of your parents.



There were twenty-one candidates who engaged in the St Michael's Sacramental Program, which consisted of three consecutive Sunday morning study sessions followed by a home session. A significant emphasis was on the parents being involved in their children's learning.

A special thank you to the Parent/ Carer Working Party who organized the breakfast celebration, prepared the sashes, setting up the Church etc. Also, thank you to our primary school staff who joined the parish to bring the Sacramental Program to fruition.

Thanks to Trish and Marcus, who brought the Church alive with the sound of music. And thank you to our Parish Secretary, Rita, who co-ordinated the Sacramental Program.

*Many hands make light work.*

## ST RITA'S FEAST DAY CELEBRATED

Written by Maureen Gaul (Assistant Principal Religious Educations)

The old adage 'good things come in threes' came to life with the convergence of the two St Rita's schools on their feast day and the celebration of 200 years of Catholic Education in Australia. This took place prior to the official dates of both events when the staff and students from St Rita's Babinda travelled to our namesake school in South Johnstone on Friday 21st May.

Fr Kerry Crowley officiated at our Mass, where we gave thanks for the blessings of our communities and asked God to guide us to be people of faith, peace and forgiveness, like our patron St Rita of Cascia. Staff, students, and parishioners gathered to share Eucharist, then later, shared in a feast day cake, to everyone's delight. Afterwards the schools merged to enjoy some fun activities.

For the finale, St Rita's Babinda and St Rita's South Johnstone posed for an aerial photo in the shape of 200 to create our own piece of history and mark the bi-centenary of Catholic Education. A resounding finish, echoing hope for the faith education of tomorrow.



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# TRAINING DAY FOR OUR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTORS

Written by Marie-Huberte Churchward (Northern Deanery, State School Religious Instruction Coordinator)

*Religious Instructors receiving their Certificate of Appreciation at the Thanksgiving Mass*



In Term 2, we have been consolidating the implementation of our new program, *Getting to Know Jesus*.

Our Training Day on Saturday 15th May focussed on reviewing how the program has worked so far, and the religious instruction volunteers participated in an engaging evaluation session. They worked in groups and discussed what worked, what was challenging and how we could improve the delivery of the program.

The RIs valued the fact that the new program was scripture-based and appreciated how easy it was to engage the students. The consensus was that the students remember what they have been taught week after week, which is very pleasing. Challenges were also discussed, and the many feedbacks that the RI's provided will help us improve and enhance the delivery of the program for the rest of the year.

We concluded the training with a session on classroom behaviour management to support those who need help in this area.

During the Term, we have continued to give thanks to God for the state schools' ministry. A Thanksgiving Mass followed the training as we joined the Vigil Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians. Fr Nathan McKay commissioned the RIs who started this year and thanked God for those who served in 2020.

It was also a joyous occasion to farewell one of our long-serving volunteers. Theresa Garonne served for 35 years, and over thirty of us were able to attend the Mass and thank God for sending her to us. Fr Nathan offered her a beautiful plaque as a memento of this occasion.

We will welcome up to three new volunteers before the end of the Term, and we thank the Lord of the harvest for calling them to be Religious Instruction volunteers. As Pope Francis said in May this year, *Catechists play an important role in the life of the Church*. Therefore, we ask for your prayers for the three million Catechists who serve the Church worldwide, especially those serving in the Cairns Diocese.

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# SCHOOL HISTORY WALL UNVEILED...

Written by Liam Kenny (School Principal)

In this the 200th year celebration of Catholic Education in Australia, it was an opportune time for our Good Counsel Primary Community to reflect on our past and unveil our school history wall. The history wall comprises three distinctive elements beginning with our Mamu History - acknowledging and paying respect to our First Nations peoples of the Innisfail area through to our more recent history.

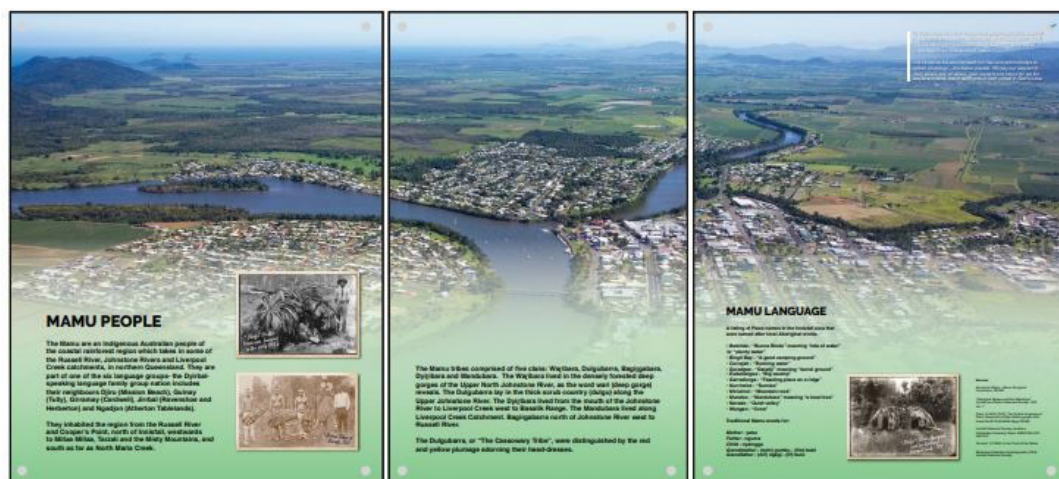
From a call to serve the needs of the Geraldton community in 1903, 4 sisters of the Good Samaritan Order of St Benedict were enticed to embark on a voyage from Sydney to the mouth of the Johnstone River, then board a small tender to arrive at the town wharf. These Good Samaritan Sisters were charged with opening a school to serve the educational needs of the Parish of Geraldton (Mother of Good Counsel). The Sisters educated many generations during those 91 years (Geraldton became Innisfail 1910). The school and convent have had a 'blazing' history, both at times have burnt to the ground as well as being partially destroyed by many cyclones.

From the ashes and rubble, with the dedication of many in the local community, the school has been rebuilt to stand today as an excellent educational facility here in Innisfail. Some 8000 students have attended the Sacred Heart

School/Good Counsel Primary School (re-named in 1975) since the doors were opened to 42 students on 21 November 1903.

Among the many special guests who attended the opening on 21 April were Fr Frank Gordon (Vicar General, Diocese of Cairns), Fr Kerry Crowley (Parish Priest of Innisfail), Mr William Dixon (Executive Director, Catholic Education Services), Sr Ann Maree Nichols (representing the Sisters of the Good Samaritan Order), Mrs Mhonnin Kerrigan (second lay principal of GCPS 1994-1998) and Mr Alf Joyce (Senior Mamu Elder).

As a community of faith, we would hope that all who enter our grounds and pass by the history wall will benefit from the knowledge the wall offers and keep our history alive in their hearts.



## OUR SCHOOL HISTORY



### THE JOURNEY

Bishop James Murray and Fr Michael Clancy were instrumental in convincing the Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict, an Australian Missionary Congregation, to come to Geraldton (as it was named). The Mother General of the Order, Mother M Berchmans McLaughlin finally agreed and she accompanied the community of four Sisters: Mother Charles Hiles, Sister Hilida Bergin, Sister Antoni Malone and Sister Imelda O'Brien on their long journey to Townsville. Bishop Murray joined the group from Townsville to Geraldton on the 'Aramac'. As a huge sandbar blocked their passage up

the Johnstone River, they jumped to a tender 'The Lally' to bring them on the remainder of their journey. Arriving at the wharf, the Sisters were met by several local families and transported to the church by horse and buggy. As the Convent was not yet complete, Fr Clancy accommodated them at the Presbytery.

The Sacred Heart School was blessed by Bishop Murray on Sunday 1 November, 1903. The completed Convent was blessed on 21 November 1903. Construction costs of the school amounted to £900, exclusive of furnishing.



Sacred Heart School 1903 - 1956

### SCHOOL COMMENCES

School commenced on Monday, 2 November, 1903 with an enrolment of 42. Among the first pupils enrolled were: May Peters, Nellie Watts, Patsy Leary and Lucy Bultz (later Sister Lucy). The Sisters not only educated the young, but also visited people in their homes and the sick in hospital. On Sundays,

when Fr Clancy was away visiting other parts of the parish, the Sisters would lead the Rosary in the church.

Numbers at the school grew quickly. A dormitory and facilities for boarders were eventually built for 20-30 girls, and later a few boys were accommodated.



The original Convent School



MOGC Church 1891-1906

### THE 1906 CYCLONE

Mother of Good Counsel Church (1891-1906) was destroyed after a cyclone in 1906 and rebuilt to be destroyed again by cyclone in 1918. The third and current church was blessed and opened on Sunday 5 August by Rev Cardinal Bartholomew Cantanéo.



MOGC Church 1906-1918



Mother of Good Counsel Church on opening day, 1928

### THE CURRENT CHURCH OPENS

The current church was blessed and opened on Sunday 5 August 1928 by Rev Cardinal Bartholomew Cantanéo.

In 1910, the Queensland State Government requested that the Johnstone Shire Council rename their town following confusion with Geraldton in Western Australia. Fr Clancy nominated 'Innisfail' which was derived from the ancient name for Ireland. The town was gazetted as Innisfail on 20 August, 1910.

Initially, only primary grades were taught at the Sacred Heart Convent School, but it was not long before the Sisters took on the challenge of High School examinations. The first successful candidate in the State Junior Public Examination was Maggie O'Brien (later McAvoy), in 1912. Mick Vandeleur in 1913 was the first recorded student to pass the Scholarship Examination. Students from around the district were taught singing, piano, painting, cello, violin and art of speech.

As demand grew for the Sisters to teach cultural subjects after school, the cottage on the northern side of the Convent was purchased from the Shaw family and later moved to the land beside the Church. It was named St Cecilia's, after the Patron Saint of Music.



# VICKI BELL RETIRES

Written by Paul Cazzulino (Director School Compliance)

*Part of the song sung at farewell morning tea*

**'HER WAY' – Tribute to Vicki Bell**

And now the end is here  
And Vicki faces that **final curtain**  
My friend we'll make it clear  
We'll state our case, of which we're certain

She's lived a life that's full  
She's travelled **each and every diocese**

And more, **much more**  
She did it, she did it her way

**Regrets, she's had a few**

graduates programs. Vicki led professional renewal tours and study tours both in Australia and overseas. She was central in developing some of our seminal frameworks, the School Effective Framework, Leadership Framework, Professional Learning Framework and the Role of the Principal document.

Vicki enjoyed several farewell events leading up to her retirement, where members of the Cairns Catholic Community acknowledged her work and professional input to the organisation. Her colleagues often included some of the lighter sides of past events and gatherings and the appreciation they felt for her.

At these farewells, Vicki highlighted several memorable events and named and thanked the many individuals who shared her success and challenges along her journey.

Vicki is a person of deep faith, showing a genuine interest in people's lives and setting an example for all.

Vicki retired from Catholic Education Services (CES) in June after a lifetime of service to education. While employed at CES, Vicki led the HR Team, where she created and or modernised many of the guidelines and processes we use today.

From HR, Vicki moved into the directorship of the challenging world of Leadership and Professional Learning. A role that Vicki was required to develop, and an area in which she excelled. This role complemented the new CES direction at the time. Vicki's knowledge, skills and capabilities were suitably accessed by various employees across the diocese. Vicki often facilitated the different innovative programs that were developed, so many of us were privileged to be the recipients of her shared talents.

Vicki was recognised and awarded the *Docemus Leadership Award* in 2014. She has been inspirational in developing well researched contemporary leadership programs supporting Leadership Teams, coaching leaders and people aspiring to be leaders, delivering Aspirant Leader programs, leading and developing



Vicki and Bill Dixon (Executive Director CES)

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Sr Carol Zinn ssj,  
2019 conference keynote presenter

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# THE INCREDIBLE GOD

Written by Danelle Jordan Villaruz

As the saying goes in Isaiah 60:1 'Arise, shine forth, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.' This was the Youth for Christ (YFC) moto during our youth entry retreat at The Billabong in Kuranda.

By the way, my name is Danelle Villaruz, a Year 8 student from St. Augustine's College. This retreat aimed to teach the participants more about God and how the Holy Trinity made history.

Throughout our retreat, we had three lessons based on the teaching of God. In my opinion these lessons gave me a whole new perspective of life and strengthened my spiritual relationship with God.

With the help of our adult volunteers from Couples for Christ (CFC) and the YFC camp service team, the three days and two nights were backed up with fun activities such as: Amazing Race, Friday Talent Shows (where my group and I performed the Sydney Yungins, *Eshay* song), exercises in between lessons, volleyball, bonfires, and amazing food!



You might think we slept in a fancy room with aircon, but our YFC coordinators (Michelle and Jordan) took us out of our comfort zone and made us sleep in tents next to a billabong which made me feel more connected with nature. Although we were unable to connect with our social media life and other forms of technology, we still had the same enjoyment as if we were playing our technology online, which made it an even better experience!

I encourage youth in my generation to experience an enjoyable and worthwhile youth retreat to expand their relationship with God and other participants.

## A YOUTH CAMP EXPERIENCE

Written by Stephan Lluch

I'm Stephan, and I go to Saint Monica's in Grade 8. The first thing that comes to mind after hearing "Youth Camp" would be kids talking about Jesus, right? Well, that's what I thought at first, but it turns out going to that camp was a whole lot more than just talking about God, and it really changed my life.

Going to camp helped me understand more about our God and, at the same time helped me make a new friend and grow closer to my friends, who I can call my brothers and sisters. Inviting my own friends to the camp was a great decision too, since they now talk to me about how life-changing that camp was and how they wish they could go back.

My highlights of the camp would be the talent show where people performed incredible things. We all had a laugh, when we played The Amazing Race, a race based on trust, with pairs, one blindfolded and one guiding them. The campfire, where we gathered around roasting marshmallows with glow in the dark necklaces and bracelets, watching Miraculous Ladybug in our tents.

When my friends and I would wake up during sunrise, we would sit down on the dock right next to the lake and appreciate God's wonderful creation. This experience is definitely one of my favourite memories from 2021 so far, and I would recommend going to next year's camp.

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# MEET OUR NEW STAFF



Anne Malone, parishioner and local Cairns person has recently been appointed as secretary to Northern Beaches Parish.

Anne brings a wide and varied work experience history to the role of Parish Secretary. The focus of Anne's work will be to update parish records, consolidate some of the processes already in place and maintain stability in the role already well established by her predecessor, Jodie. She looks forward to assisting Fr Dariusz in taking the Northern Beaches Parish on the next phase of its journey.

Anne has held many roles over her 45-year working career including health care and small business ownership and management. Anne has also had volunteer roles on school committees, Rosies, Vinnies and has also been on the Cairns Hockey Board.

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# *We remember those who have died from our Parishes. May they rest in peace.*

Nancy Brincat	26th February	Innisfail	Donna Moore	6th May	Cathedral
David Bray	28th February	Cathedral	Elpidio (Peter) Moroni	11th May	Innisfail
Alan Gilbert	7th March	Cathedral	Agata Traettino	13th May	Tully
Herman Bromell	12th March	Innisfail	Bernard Mullins	17th May	Cathedral
Maria (Mary) Fregona	15th March	Mareeba	Vinko Franich	17th May	Innisfail
Mary McDougall	17th March	Innisfail	John McNamara	23rd May	Tully
Angelina Zappala	22nd March	Gordonvale	Maria (Mary) Nucifora	29th May	Innisfail
Rita Costa	24th March	Atherton	Pompea (Pam) Cipolla	30th May	Mareeba
Noel Larsen	25th March	Innisfail	Mary Finn	1st June	Cathedral
Alfio (Alf) Cataldo	26th March	Innisfail	Karalos (Charlie) Winkelmuller	2nd June	Tully
Joan Curtin	29th March	Cathedral	Enzo Bettini	3rd June	Gordonvale
Walter (Wal) Anthony	31st March	Babinda	Anna De Luca	5th June	Mareeba
John Cochrane	2nd April	Tully	Alessio Del Sal	10th June	Innisfail
Bridget McLean	6th April	Atherton	Francis (Frank) McRobbie	15th June	Innisfail
Don Pike	11th April	Atherton	Filomena Giorgio	16th June	Mareeba
Alfio (Alf) Grasso	16th April	Innisfail	Maria Paron	16th June	Gordonvale
Glenn Gubiani	18th April	Cathedral	Francis (Frank) Azzopardi	20th June	Innisfail
John Menico	23rd April	Cathedral	Vlado Srhoj	21st June	Mareeba
Antonia Palmieri	26th April	Mareeba	David McDermid	22nd June	Mareeba
Evelyn Evans	30th April	Mareeba	Josephine (Ann) Hedley	24th June	North Cairns
Victoria (Vicky) Anastasi	30th April	Innisfail	David (Dave) Hartley	25th June	North Cairns
Muriel Skinner	3rd May	Mareeba	Archie Santarossa	25th June	Gordonvale
Giovanna (Joan) Bitá	3rd May	Innisfail	Peter Dalip	28th June	Mareeba
Olimpia Salerno	5th May	Mareeba	Lynette Doughan (nee Straguszi)	29th June	Gordonvale

## **DIOCESE OF CAIRNS**



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Editorial staff, Cathy Spencer and Anita Lundie.

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