

# V.Catholic Viewpoint†

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DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE



*Challenge  
Yourself*

# Engaging Young People With Living Reality



## The Bishop Speaks

In my conversations with young Catholics from many different walks of life I find many of them have great faith and love in God and an eagerness to live good and fruitful lives as members of the Body of Christ, the Church. In the course of conversation it often becomes apparent however that many of them find it difficult to reconcile their faith with reason, to see how they can accept both religion and science.

How is it, for example, that so many people think the Church is opposed to science when the Church actually has the oldest scientific institution in the world – the Vatican Observatory? I think a part of it is because they do not know our story, our Tradition. I don't just mean our history. I mean being immersed into Catholic literature, art, thinking, and way of life.

These two important things – seeing how faith and reason fit together, and knowing our Tradition to see how our past has got us to the present – are at the heart of a radical new Senior Religious Education curriculum for Years 11 and 12 that will be launched later this year and will begin a staged rollout in schools next year. The course has been submitted to the NSW Education Standards Authority and we hope and expect to receive approval mid-year.

The new course called *Studies in Catholic Thought* is the fruit of a two-year project that I have been chairing on behalf of all the Bishops of NSW-ACT. The bishops were keen that the new course be designed on the liberal arts approach so that students are not simply examining the Catholic faith and way of life as outsiders looking in like scientists

examining creatures under a microscope.

Instead, we want the students to be able to study the Catholic faith from within the religious tradition, being immersed into the Scriptures, theology, philosophy, history, the texts and fine arts of our Catholic Tradition in order to come to a deeper understanding of God the Trinity, of Jesus

Christ as both divine and human, of the human person, of the Church, and of our place and role in the world.

*I believe there is need for such a subject, but I believe there is also a great need for our Catholic Youth to develop an adult faith and an adult understanding of their faith.*

We wanted the new course to assist the students to embark on a wonderful journey into the great questions of life and thus to come to know themselves better too. We want our young people to develop critical thinking and moral reasoning and to be able to know, understand, celebrate, and live out their Catholic faith. I believe it's Divine Providence that this is happening precisely during the "Year for Youth". When we began this project two years ago we didn't even know there was going to be a Year for Youth in 2018.

The course is unapologetically Catholic and is designed to be robust and challenging to stretch our young people, navigating them into areas that they won't have previously studied. We hope the new course will help produce students who are not only well-formed in the Catholic faith but also critical thinkers who will not be afraid to stand separate from the crowd.

Currently in our senior high schools in NSW about 20 – 25% of students undertake Catholic Studies while the bulk undertake Studies of Religion in which students explore a number of religions and






the place of religion in society. I believe there is need for such a subject, but I believe there is also a great need for our Catholic Youth to develop an adult faith and an adult understanding of their faith. I would hope and expect that one common senior Catholic Religious Education course throughout the state that is theologically based and that appeals to both the head and the heart will help to lift the profile and reputation of Catholic Religious Education amongst our students and our teachers.

*Studies in Catholic Thought* will be unique in that it is the first common course in Religious Education to be developed for all dioceses in NSW. It has been a long time coming. As early as 2009 the Catholic Bishops of NSW agreed in principle to taking a coordinated approach to Religious Education in senior high schools but the conditions at that time made it difficult.

In 2015 I raised the matter with my brother bishops because the circumstances seemed more timely, that is, the 6 existing Catholic Studies courses at that time had all been written over a decade ago and so

did not necessarily reflect the developments of the Australian Curriculum. Also, many of the other key learning areas had undergone extensive review in recent years. So why shouldn't we also undertake an extensive review of Catholic Studies, the most important subject in our schools?

By developing one common Catholic Studies course, which will now be known as *Studies in Catholic Thought*, the NSW Bishops look forward to a strengthening of the subjects appeal; the immersion of more young people into the richness of our Catholic Tradition; increased opportunities for cooperation and sharing between dioceses of resources and professional development.



**Most Reverend Michael Kennedy**  
Bishop of Armidale

# Fifty Years of Marriage



*Ethan Makepeace, Mark Makepeace, Will Makepeace, Bill & Joy, Megan Marshall and Jaiden Marshall*

On the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1968 Joy Farlow and Bill Makepeace were married in St Francis Xavier's Church, Moree. Joy was a Moree girl and Bill grew up in Bingara.

They lived in Sydney for a short time until Bill was transferred to the Tamworth Post Office. They have been active members of St Edward's Parish at South Tamworth ever since.

Father Paul Aguilar presented Joy and Bill with a Papal

Blessing during the Vigil Mass on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. All members of the family were in attendance.

When asked about the secret to their long and happy marriage they answered, "Our lives revolve around family, friends and parish life."

We do things together with love, honesty and trust. Our greatest blessings are our son, daughter, daughter-in-law and three grandsons who bring joy to our lives every day."

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## Mini Vinnies Gathering

In March, St Mary's School Armidale hosted a Mini Vinnies gathering with both St Joseph's Uralla and St Patrick's Walcha. The day was made possible through preparations made by Michael O'Kane the Diocesan Youth Coordinator at St Vincent de Paul Society. The students joined together as one group in a prayer celebration to begin the day. They then viewed a presentation about poverty within our world. After this they worked together in groups to visualise their perfect world and discussed what actions they could take to reduce poverty within society. A big thank you to Michael for a successful day!



*Chloe Clarke, Aaliyah Walsh, Grace Pett, Heather Bassett and Maya Teege (St Mary's Armidale) with Sarah Gardiner and Jesse Gardiner (St Joseph's Uralla) and also Ella Luchich and Emma Wright (St Patrick's Walcha)*



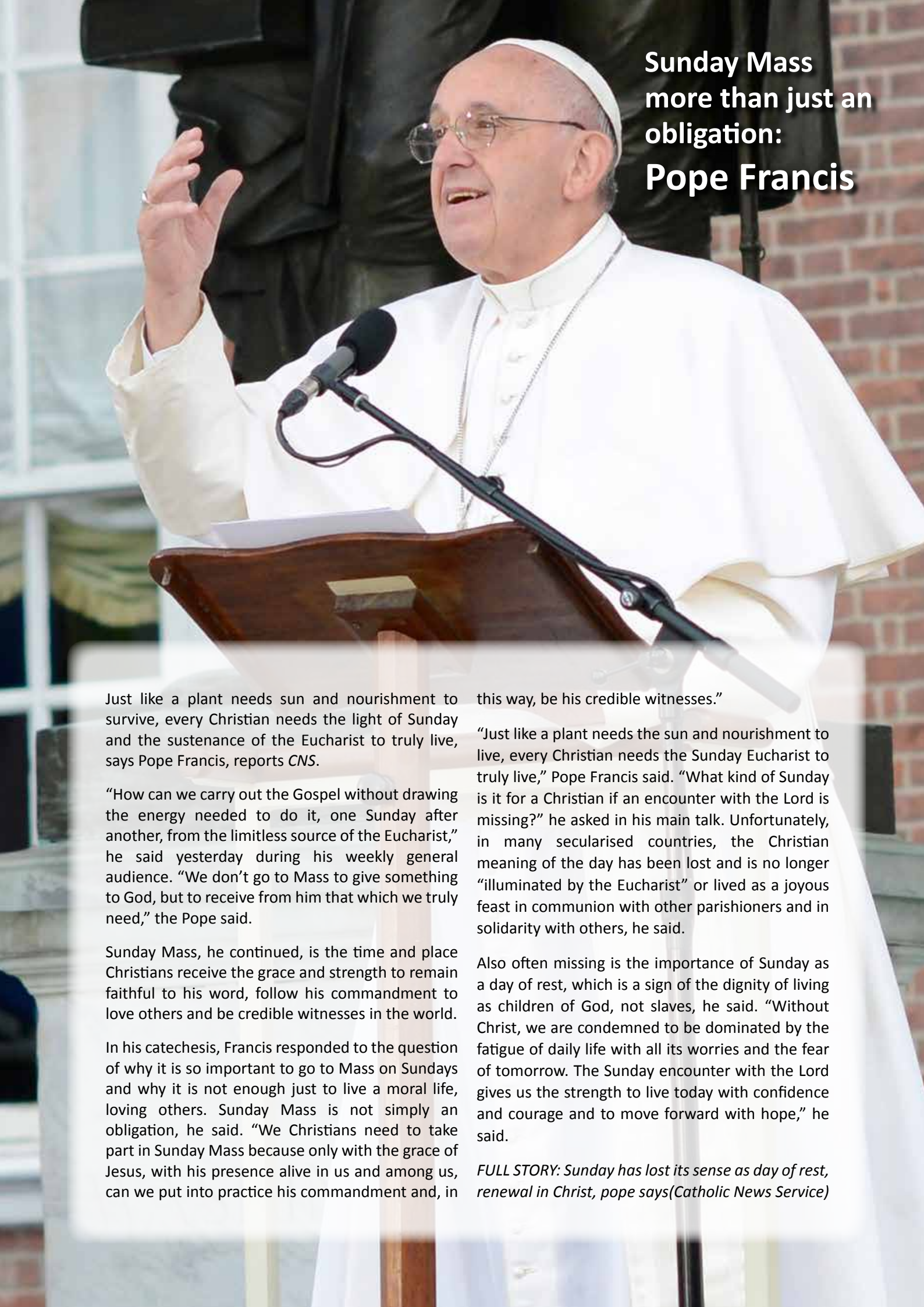
*Mary Hough, Darcy Woollett, Lachlan Hawkins, Jasmin Cuell, Jasmin Briggs, Keely Davis, Kay Power, Pat Carroll; Front row: Scarlett Smith, Breeanna Dunncliff, Anna-May Sharp, Izabel Smith*

## St Joseph's Warialda Mini Vinnies

The 2018 St Joseph's Warialda Mini Vinnies team was commissioned at our Opening School Mass. The Team recited the Mini Vinnie pledge then our Parish Priest, Fr Joseph Armah, blessed the students and presented their certificates. At our first meeting the students elected Jasmin Briggs (President), Keely Davis (Vice President), Darcy Woollett (Treasurer), Jasmine Cuell (Minutes Secretary) and Scarlett Smith (Publicity Officer) to be the Mini Vinnies Leadership Team. Also present at the meeting were Kay Power, Mary Hough and Pat Carroll

from the Warialda St Vincent de Paul Conference. The ladies talked about the upcoming Winter Appeal and the need for donations of blankets and winter clothing.

The Mini Vinnies Leadership Team met afterwards to brainstorm and discuss ideas for 2018. Among the suggestions were students donating an item of clothing for the Vinnies Winter Appeal, visiting our town's Vinnies store to sort clothing, supporting the Assist A Student program, visiting our aged care home, Naroo, conducting a market day where student made bracelets and donated books can be sold and learning more about social justice.

A photograph of Pope Francis speaking at a wooden podium. He is wearing his white papal attire, including a zucchetto and a pectoral cross. He is gesturing with his right hand raised. The background shows a brick wall and a statue.

## Sunday Mass more than just an obligation: Pope Francis

Just like a plant needs sun and nourishment to survive, every Christian needs the light of Sunday and the sustenance of the Eucharist to truly live, says Pope Francis, reports *CNS*.

“How can we carry out the Gospel without drawing the energy needed to do it, one Sunday after another, from the limitless source of the Eucharist,” he said yesterday during his weekly general audience. “We don’t go to Mass to give something to God, but to receive from him that which we truly need,” the Pope said.

Sunday Mass, he continued, is the time and place Christians receive the grace and strength to remain faithful to his word, follow his commandment to love others and be credible witnesses in the world.

In his catechesis, Francis responded to the question of why it is so important to go to Mass on Sundays and why it is not enough just to live a moral life, loving others. Sunday Mass is not simply an obligation, he said. “We Christians need to take part in Sunday Mass because only with the grace of Jesus, with his presence alive in us and among us, can we put into practice his commandment and, in

this way, be his credible witnesses.”

“Just like a plant needs the sun and nourishment to live, every Christian needs the Sunday Eucharist to truly live,” Pope Francis said. “What kind of Sunday is it for a Christian if an encounter with the Lord is missing?” he asked in his main talk. Unfortunately, in many secularised countries, the Christian meaning of the day has been lost and is no longer “illuminated by the Eucharist” or lived as a joyous feast in communion with other parishioners and in solidarity with others, he said.

Also often missing is the importance of Sunday as a day of rest, which is a sign of the dignity of living as children of God, not slaves, he said. “Without Christ, we are condemned to be dominated by the fatigue of daily life with all its worries and the fear of tomorrow. The Sunday encounter with the Lord gives us the strength to live today with confidence and courage and to move forward with hope,” he said.

*FULL STORY: Sunday has lost its sense as day of rest, renewal in Christ, pope says(Catholic News Service)*



# DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



*Sisters of the Order of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart 2018 Diamond Jubilarians celebrating in Sydney*

Sister Therese Conroy RSJ celebrated her Diamond Jubilee as a Sister of the order of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart with her congregation in Sydney in January 2018.

“These Sisters have lived the spirit and charism entrusted to the Congregation by Mary MacKillop and Julian Tension Woods with commitment, generosity and faithfulness. Over the years these Sisters like diamonds have become women of inner beauty. They have allowed our gracious God to use both the joys and hardships of

life as a means of transforming them into a glistening diamond that takes in and reflects God’s love.

Today we celebrate with you this sacred journey – a journey where the Divine Spark of God’s love has lead you into the midst of God’s people. We honour your wisdom, fruitfulness, beauty and life experience. We thank you Sisters for the women you have become – we, your sisters love you and we are proud of you.”

*Sr Monica Cavanagh Congregational Leader*



*Sister Therese Conway reflects on her time as a Sister of the Order of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart*

It was during the Mass at St Brigid’s Quirindi, in February, that Sister Therese renewed her final vows in front of the congregation which was followed by a dinner in her honour and hosted by Parishioners at The Hub Restaurant, Quirindi.

Sister Therese has been the Pastoral Carer of St Brigid’s for 22 years, a third of her professed life, and was humbly overcome for being recognised for her work here in the Parish as a “quiet achiever” and most of all her loyal support to all Parish Priests during that time and to our present Parish Priest Father Vic Ignacio.

During her time Sister formed the Josephite Associate Quirindi Group and although now small in number the members are still very active in the community, giving support with their work and prayer. Her devotion and care of the sick and infirmed has, and always will be, a much-loved part of her ministry as a Sister of the Sacred Heart, and for that the Parish is eternally grateful.

Father Vic thanked Sister on behalf of the Parishioners and wished her well with God’s blessings for her continued devotion to her life as a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

# Tony Ball Smiles with the Lord

Forty years ago, Bishop Henry Kennedy installed twelve young men from St Edward's Parish Tamworth, as acolytes. The last of these to be still serving as an acolyte, Cyril Anthony Ball died on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, aged 76. Even though he had been unwell for some months, Tony continued as an acolyte until two weeks prior to his death. He arrived early before every Vigil Mass to prepare the altar, to check that all who had jobs were present, to greet new faces and to welcome familiar faces, to encourage the first-time altar server and to ensure that all knew what to do. He did all this with a smile.

His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in South Tamworth Parish. Father Paul Anthony said the Funeral Mass and preached a beautiful homily. Tony had lived all his life in Tamworth and became known for his work in retail and his outstanding sporting ability, particularly in hockey. In the year that hockey was introduced to Christian Brothers' College as a sport the Christian Brothers' College team, captained by Tony, reached the final in a state competition. In the following year Tony represented NSW in the under 16 division. As a veteran he captained Australia on several occasions. However, it is as a coach that he is best remembered. Tony is survived by his wife, Jill, children Donna, Kevin and Michelle and eight grandchildren.



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- Free Carers counselling (through Carers NSW)
- Disability support services
- Support for young people through headspace Tamworth

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Armidale, Gunnedah, Glen Innes, Inverell, Moree, Narrabri, Tamworth, Walgett & headspace Tamworth





## Road Trip

Sr Anne McGuire, Head of Missions, Caritas Australia visited the Diocese of Armidale to speak to parishes and schools about the work of Caritas and where all the Project Compassion money goes.

She embarked on an ambitious road-trip visiting the Parishes of Glen Innes, Inverell, Guyra, Uralla and Armidale as well as the schools in Moree, Narrabri, Boggabri, Gunnedah, Quirindi, Tamworth, Manilla, Armidale, Guyra and Inverell.

She reminded everyone that compassion towards others lies at the heart of God and every little bit helps those in need, all around the world, through our donations to Project Compassion.

Her favourite quote at the moment comes from *The Diary of Anne Frank*:

***“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world...”***



Sr Anne with Georgie Edmunds, Lilly Grant and Ella Cameron from St Xavier's Gunnedah

## St Mary of the Angels Primary raises money for Project Compassion



Students, Leah Jones & Tessa Jackson enjoy the lunchtime fete at St Mary of the Angels' Primary with Principal Mrs Sharon Wittig. (Photo by Nick Fuller, Guyra Argus)

Three-legged races, water bombs, hair dyeing, face painting, and chocolate egg raffles were some of the activities at the lunchtime fete at St Mary of the Angels Primary – but the fun had a serious purpose. While kids romped in the autumn sun, they raised money for charity. The Catholic primary school only has 88 students, but service is an

important value. “Part of what we try to teach in our schools is to proclaim, witness, and serve others,” Mrs Wittig said.

“That’s a really important part of the culture of our Catholic schools, and that comes under the service to others. We do that in Lent particularly, because that’s a time when we’re asked to pray and fast and think of other people.” The fete raised money for Project Compassion, an annual fundraising and charitable event run by Caritas Australia, a Catholic agency for international aid and development. “Every year, we cover a charity for Project Compassion,” said Mrs Wittig. “They do fabulous work in poorer countries, and the work they do helps to change lifestyles.”

*Full Article in the Guyra Argus by Nick Fuller*



# MARY, MOTHER OF CHURCH

Pope Francis inserts the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, into the Roman Calendar on the Monday following Pentecost Sunday.

Pope Francis has decreed that the ancient devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Mother of the Church, be inserted into the Roman Calendar. The liturgical celebration, will be celebrated annually as a Memorial on the day after Pentecost.

In a decree released by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Cardinal Robert Sarah, its Prefect, said the Pope's decision took account of the tradition surrounding the devotion to Mary as Mother of the Church.

He said the Holy Father wishes to promote this devotion in order to "encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety".

*Devin Watkins, Vatican News*



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# Armidale Catholic Women Connecting 'Come to the water – Come as you are'



*2018 Catholic Women Connecting Retreat Participants*

The 35 women who gathered to spend time reflecting upon their Lenten journey, taking time away from their busy schedules to spend time with God and with one another came from a variety of different Parishes within the Armidale Diocese. We thank Father Sabu for helping to make the retreat a special and blessed time, celebrating Mass and providing opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration and Spiritual Direction.

During the retreat, facilitators Anne Finlayson and Margaret Atchison led the parishioners in exploring the theme 'Come to the water – Come as you are' – helping the attendees learn more about listening, to each other and to God. The ladies were reminded that the living water is never far away from us all. The grounds of the

Bellingen Valley Lodge were a perfect setting for quiet time, with spectacular views providing a perfect backdrop for contemplation.

Mass was held at both the Lodge and the Mt Tabor Convent where the ladies were welcomed by Sister Nini from the Mary's Little Children Community for Sunday Mass.

The next CWC Armidale weekend spiritual retreat will be held in 2020 with a day retreat scheduled for next year.

Catholic Women Connecting – Armidale is affiliated with Catholic Women's League – Diocese of Armidale. They meet on the third Saturday of each month at 7pm at the Holy Family Parish Centre for fellowship, discussion and prayer. New members are always welcome.

## All welcome!

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

blessing and opening of  
Holy Innocents Church Bendemeer

12<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Mass at 10:30am

followed by

12:30pm lunch

at the

Bendemeer Hotel



RSVP 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018

to Cynthia Murray

[c.yarrum@westnet.com.au](mailto:c.yarrum@westnet.com.au) or 67696695

# Seniors Cashing In For Their Future

There are many reasons seniors might consider a lifestyle change into a Retirement Village, but perhaps one of the biggest factors is the growing cost of living and the affordable and alternative options Oak Tree Retirement living can offer.

Oak Tree Residents as far North as Cairns in Queensland, to Kingston in Tasmania, have taken advantage of Oak Tree's affordability. Many have released an untapped source of hard-earned equity in their homes and when sold, they use surplus funds to set themselves up for the future and enjoy the benefits of a relaxed retirement lifestyle.

"Many of our residents often remark that for the first time in their lives they have money left over in the bank after they have sold their homes and moved into one of our villages," said CEO of Oak Tree Mr Mark Bindon.

"This residual money means they have genuine savings and cash to enjoy regular holidays, fund medical expenses, upgrade to a reliable vehicle, buy new furniture suitable for their next stage in life and generally enjoy life more".

"Family homes often require extensive maintenance and repairs but buying into a retirement village presents as a viable financial option in that residents have the

opportunity to avoid such costs," he said.

Oak Tree's Retirement Villages in Armidale offer brand new turn-key homes which are ready for residents to simply move in and relax.

The comfortable two & three-bedroom homes require minimum upkeep and all home maintenance including gardening is handled by the on-site Managers. Residents to enjoy a stress-free lifestyle.

"There are weekly fees charged to run the village and these cover such costs as council and water rates, insurances, gardening and pest control. Costs are actually shared amongst residents and this helps keep fees lower for the individual resident," said Mr Bindon.

"We continually review our pricing and village running costs to ensure we provide value for money to our residents and affordable retirement living options to Australians."

The Oak Tree village in Martin Street is well known to Armidale seniors and a second village in Taylor Street will open later this year.

To discuss your individual requirements and learn more about Oak Tree Retirement Villages, call Kate Pigram on 0407 333 453.



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# Improving the Learning Culture at St Mary's Gunnedah

## #rampitup & #nerdherd



*St Mary's Gunnedah Students with their learning goals and achievements*

In recent years at St Mary's College Gunnedah we have been focusing on improving the learning culture within the school. In 2017 the Nerdherd was introduced. This involved taking photos of our students holding signs with their learning improvement goals or their achievements.

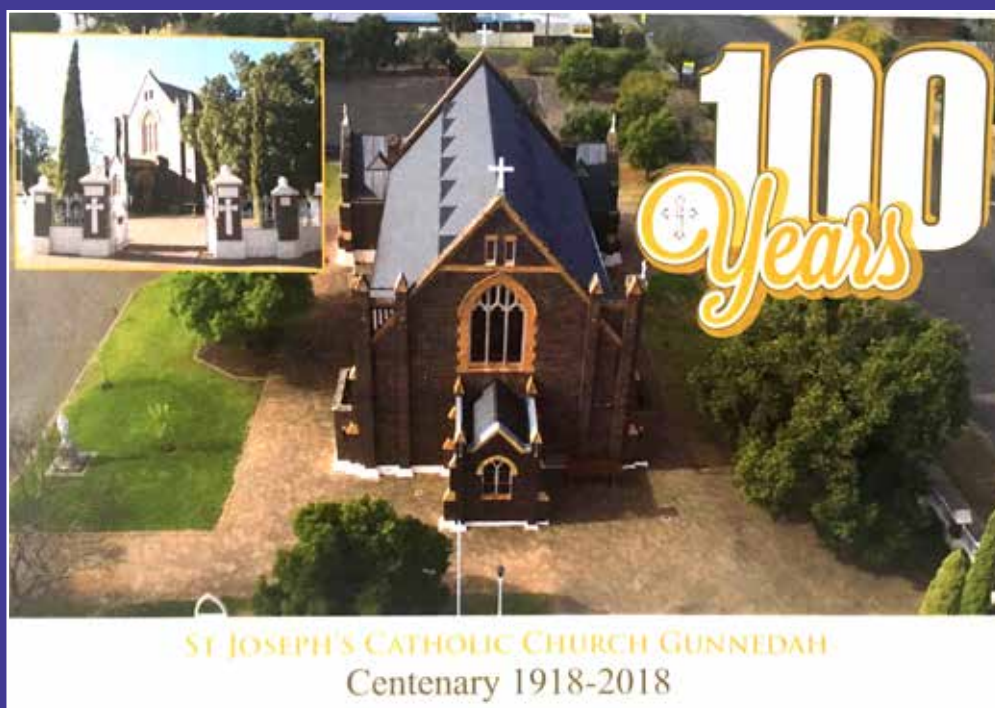
The photos were placed around the College grounds for all to see. These achievements were also read out at Student Briefing on Monday mornings by the SRC, included in the College newsletter and uploaded into the College Facebook page and website.

At first the students were hesitant to have their photo taken. However, once the initiative gained momentum it became 'cool' to be on the Nerdherd. We started with senior students and then rolled it out to the junior years.

We also included teachers in our Nerherd to emphasise that we are all learners at St Mary's College.

In 2018 we introduced #RAMPITUP. This was designed by a Year 10 PDHPE class. RAMP stands for: R = respect A = accountability M = maturity P = participation. It is linked to our learning culture as well as our pastoral & wellbeing focus for the year.

Each Monday at Student Briefing the Pastoral Care & Wellbeing Co-Ordinator and the Leader of Pedagogy link their talks about learning and attitude to the RAMP acronym. The RAMP acronym is also linked to the goals of the NerdHerd. Once again we have commenced with the senior students promoting this initiative, with the Year 12 students listing their goals for 2018/19.



Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018 • Mass at 9.30am - with lunch to follow  
RSVP by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May • 02 6742 0200 • [gunnedahparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:gunnedahparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



Bishop Kennedy with the student leaders of O'Connor Catholic College Armidale.

## Bishop's Listening Forums with Youth

As part of the National Year of Youth Bishop Kennedy is holding Listening Forums with senior school students in Armidale, Tamworth, Moree, Inverell and Gunnedah during the course of the year. The first Forum was held recently at O'Connor Catholic College in Armidale.

These Listening Forums provide a low-key environment in which the young people are able to voice their concerns, ideas and affirmations with their fellow students and their Bishop. Listening and sharing in this way, assist the young people in ongoing reflection and development of their ideas as well as actively contributing to the life of the Church.

A vital aspect of the Listening Forum is the "active listening" of those in leadership positions.

Senior school students have the ear of the Bishop during these informal sessions as he engages with them personally and hears about their challenges and successes.

The Year of Youth invites the whole Church into prayerful discernment about the important and life-giving presence of young people in the local Church and society.

It calls for dialogue and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of a new generation of young people in the life of the Church. Listening Forums can be

an integral first step in dialogue and active engagement of young people.

Listening to the struggles and triumphs of young people undoubtedly assist in future planning of celebrating successes and supporting challenges; recognising the movement of the Holy Spirit; including the voice of young people in decision-making; and identifying New Horizons for Spreading Joy.

*"The Church also wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls. St. Benedict urged the abbots to consult, even the young, before any important decision, because "the Lord often reveals to the younger what is best. (Rule of St. Benedict, III, 3)." Pope Francis. Letter to Young People for the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.*

O'Connor Catholic College Armidale tweeted: Today we welcomed [@BishopMKennedy](#) to [@OConnorArmidale](#). As part of Year of Youth [@BishopMKennedy](#) is meeting with young people from across the Diocese in listening forums to hear the thoughts of our students. What a wonderful initiative [@BishopMKennedy @REARMIDALE](#)



# Pope Francis backs decision to hold Plenary Council in Australia

Pope Francis has given his approval for the Catholic Church to hold the first Plenary Council – the most significant national gathering that can be held – in Australia in more than 80 years.

“The Council will be a unique opportunity for people to come together and listen to God in all the ways God speaks to us, and in particular by listening to one another as together we discern what God is asking of us at this time – a time when the Church in Australia is facing significant challenges.

“We sincerely hope the preparation and celebration of the Plenary Council is a time when all parts of the Church listen to and dialogue with one another as we explore together how we might answer the question: ‘What do you think God is asking of us in Australia?’” said Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, chair of the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council.

In approving the Plenary Council, Pope Francis also endorsed the bishops’ nomination of Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB as the president of the Plenary Council. Archbishop Costelloe said he holds great hope that the Council will bring about a period of authentic renewal.

“This is a significant moment for the Catholic Church in Australia and I look forward to walking with the people

of God as we look towards the future,” Archbishop Costelloe said.

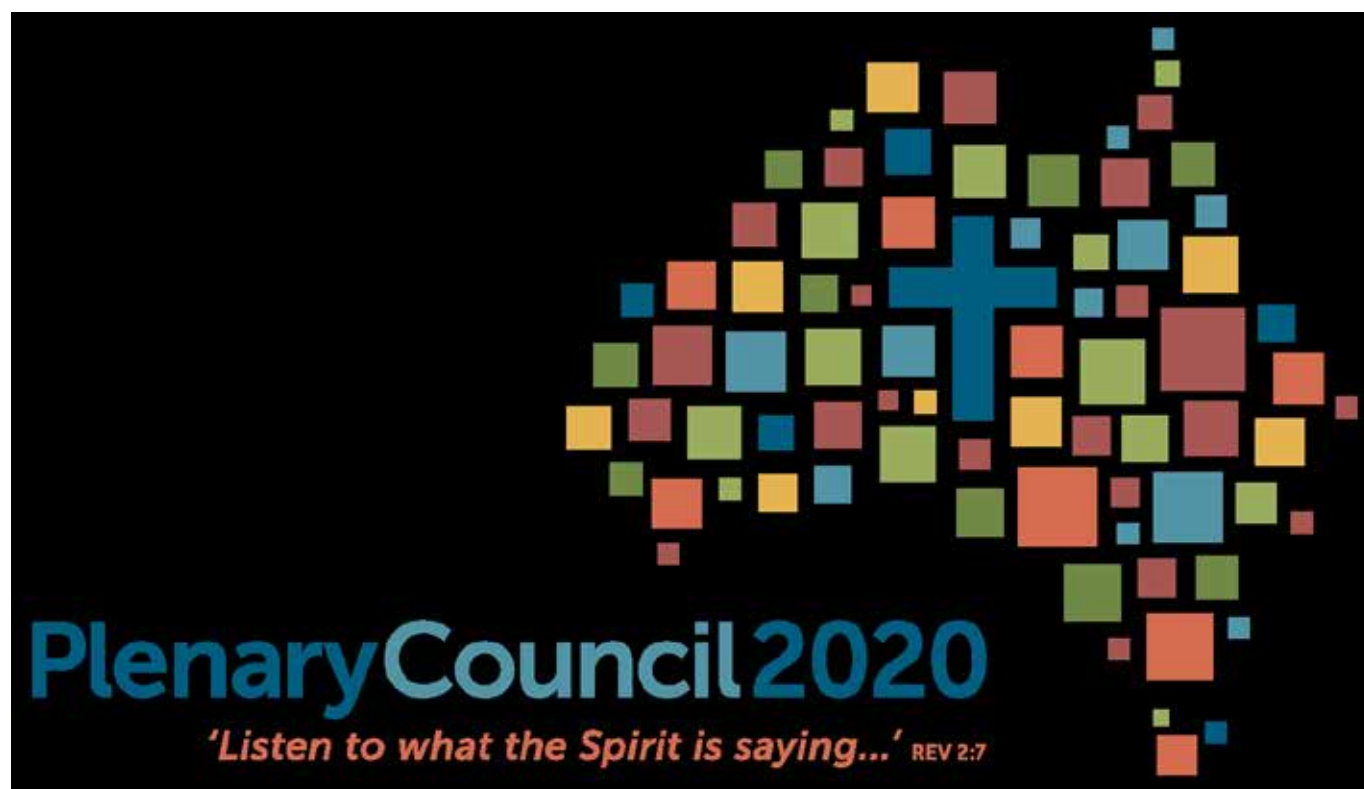
“I am honoured by the appointment as President of the Plenary Council and am committed to listening to the Spirit.” Archbishop Costelloe commented. “I encourage all Catholics, whether devout or disillusioned, fervent or frustrated, to seize this opportunity to speak what is on their minds and in their hearts.”

Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins said “The process of listening and dialogue, beginning at Pentecost 2018, will help form the agenda for the Plenary Council. It’s a chance for us all to learn to become a truly listening Church. All people are invited to share their story of faith, of life and of their experience of the Church.”

The website for the Plenary Council was launched this week and helps people better understand how they can participate in the process.

“Signing up to the e-newsletter and the Plenary Council social media channels is the best way to stay up-to-date with local and national activity for Plenary Council,” Ms Turvey-Collins said.

Visit the Plenary Council website at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)



# Around 'n About

## A community of leaders

The Sacred Heart Boggabri Learning Community celebrated Mass to officially welcome the new school year and also formally induct our School Leaders for 2018. Congratulations to Genevieve, Scarlett, Noah, Sienna, Himaja, Cameron and Chantelle who were elected to represent Sacred Heart Boggabri in a number of roles. All of the children should be very proud of how they conducted themselves with the presenting of the gifts and reading the prayers of the faithful. It's a shame that we cannot formally induct more students to become leaders as I know all of our students have great leadership qualities.

*School Leaders: Genevieve, Scarlett, Sienna, Noah, Himaja and Chantelle (Cameron absent) with Mr Hyatt and Fr McHugh.*



## Catechists Spreading the Word

Armidale catechists were sent with God's blessings into the community to spread the Word of the Lord. These dedicated people take an hour a week out of their busy lives to share our Faith with children in State schools. "The children have so many questions that we need to answer". Please contact Kerry Stellar if you would like to become part of the catechist team in Armidale – 6772 2218

*(Back) Corrine Buckland, Anne Bayliss, Robyn Driscoll, Pat Cody, Jenny Hanna, Judi Makim*

*(Front) Jeanette Macasieb, Kerry Steller, Margaret Barrett, Kath Russell (absent from Photo) Kathy McMahon, Lynne Muirhead.*



*St Edward's students Tamworth celebrating their First Reconciliation with Fr Paul Aguilar*

## A very special day for St Edward's students

These St Edward's Tamworth students, received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the very first time. After weeks of preparation the big day arrived. The children sang beautifully and followed the many rituals involved in receiving the Sacrament with great reverence. Parents and teachers were very proud of the way the children conducted themselves. A special thank you to Fr Paul Aguilar who presided over the liturgy making everything relevant to the children's understanding. His experiment demonstrating the cleansing power of forgiveness will be remembered by all present, for years to come. We would also like to thank Fr Jayaraj Gorantla, Fr Christopher Onuekwusi, Fr Vic Ignacio and Fr Anthony Koppman for sharing this special day with the children. Congratulations girls and boys! God bless you all!





## A new Kitchen

St Joseph's Gunnedah Parish Priest, Fr John McHugh accepted two cheques provided by the Mercy Associates and ADIG. The funds were used to install a new kitchen in the parish hall, constructed in 1876 as Gunnedah's first Catholic Church. The Associates raised \$16,500 with the ADIG funding the new hot water system to the tune of \$1500. Fr John was overwhelmed with the generous donations and expressed his thanks to the Mercy Associates who have supported not just parish events but also projects in the wider community, including the Rural Health Centre and the local nursing home.

*The beautiful new kitchen in St Joseph's Gunnedah Parish Hall*

## Hard Work Pays Dividends

At the end of February the Holy Trinity Inverell Ag Team attended the Inverell Show. The team exhibited 16 animals over the two days with outstanding success. The 15 students worked extremely hard and their work paid dividends receiving many of the top awards at the show. A new event for the show was the School Spectacular Feature. The event incorporated a school ambassador talk, herdsperson class, heifer fitting challenge, junior judging and paraders with the students gaining points across all the classes. Overall the Holy Trinity students gained the highest points of all the schools and won the main prize of a Clipping Chute. We are proud of our team!

*Holy Trinity Inverell Ag Team*



## Polding Swimming Carnival

Eleven students from St Nicholas' Tamworth travelled to Sydney to compete at the NSW Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Carnival. All children achieved personal best times and displayed excellent sportsmanship. Tilani Smith achieved outstanding results and was selected in the Polding team to compete at the NSW PSSA carnival on April 11th and 12th. Tilani will compete in the 10 year girl 50m freestyle, the Junior girl 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly and 200m individual medley.

*Back Row - Hugh Mitchell, Jack Mitchell, Hugh Burnett, Ben Sleeman, Eddie Willis, Jordan Hamlin*

*Front Row - Emily Brown, Tilani Smith, Alice Fahey, Elouise McCann, Ella Gallagher*

# Around 'n About

## Moran Prize Photographic Competition 2018

The Moran Prize Photographic Competition recognises excellence in Australian portrait painting and photography. These unique and globally significant prizes aim to celebrate and showcase the breadth of Australia's artistic talent. St Philomena's School Moree is proud to announce four students have been selected as semi-finalists in this year's competition. They are;

Year 7 Sophia Whibley

Year 8 Rochelle Roberts and Ryan Devney

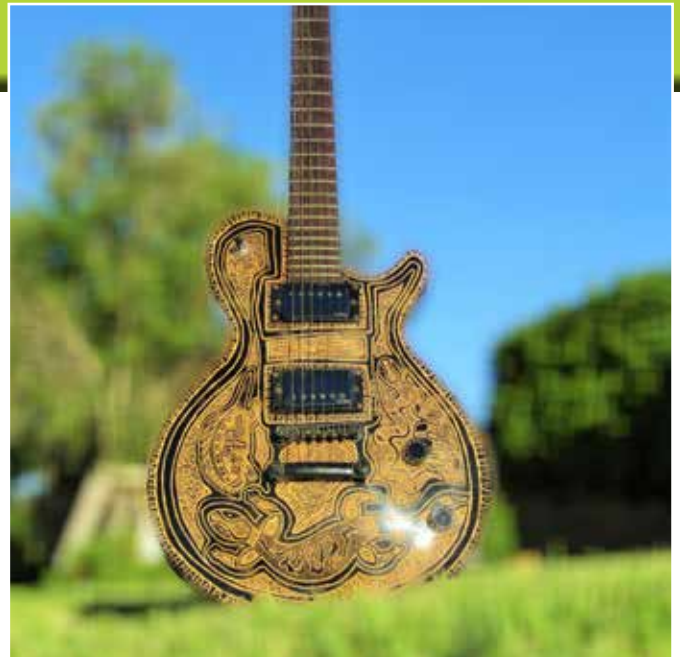
Year 9 Emily DiDonna

Their entries can be viewed at:

<http://www.moranprizes.com.au/student-gallery>

We wish them luck!

*Rochelle Roberts' entry*



## Manilla Celebrates

Recently we had an occasion to celebrate. It Was Fr Bernie Melville's 89th Birthday. Fr John Curran, parishioners and community members attended a gathering to celebrate. It is hard having a birthday in the middle of Lent, luckily, young children and older people are exempt from fasting. Fr Melville was grateful for the attention and we all enjoyed breaking bread together and a gorgeous chocolate cake.

*Fr Melville cuts his cake*

## Coming together

Staff from St. Joseph's Wee Waa and St Francis Xavier's Narrabri joined together to celebrate Mass for the start of the school year. Celebrating Mass together gives us a sense of togetherness and community that we love to share. Fr James always helps inspire us to work together in the Lord's name.

*Photo: Staff from St. Francis Xavier's Narrabri and St. Joseph's Wee Waa with Principals, Michael Ball and Jamie McDowall and Parish Priest Fr. James Poovathinkal.*







## St Joseph's School Barraba Celebrating the Feast of St Joseph

Students, staff, parents, friends and families gathered around the St Joseph's Garden in the front of the school for a special outdoor Mass to celebrate the feast of St Joseph. The Mass was lead by Fr Curran along with the K/1/2 class. We were lucky to have both Sr Petra and Sr Terese join us for this wonderful occasion.

*Bailey Hannaford and Takoda Brown serving with Fr John Curran*

## Stations of the Cross

During the season of Lent, St Mary's School Armidale Student Leaders did an amazing job of running the Stations of the Cross for the Saints Mary & Joseph's Parish. Each of our leaders took on the roles of either leading prayer or meditation. It was lovely to see members of our School and Parish communities join together for this lovely tradition during the Lenten season.

*Luke Rogers, Ava Vaughan, Riley Fittler (Absent: Anna Newsome)*



## Dynamic Diocesan Touch Trials

St Joseph's School Glen Innes had ten children represent them at the Armidale Diocesan Touch Trials in Tamworth this month. They all played superbly on the day under extremely hot conditions. The training and guidance given to the students by Mrs Casey Chard helped to prepare them. Team Manager Mrs Linda Bruce supported them on the day and helped them focus on the task ahead. Six students were chosen for the 'possible and probables' game which was an amazing opportunity. We were then lucky enough to have Lily Grieve, Ella Key and Toby Bruce chosen to attend the next stage in Parkes later in the year. As a school we couldn't be prouder of the ten students and their performance at the Diocesan Touch Trials.

*B: Chloe Klingner, Mia Baker, Lily Grieve, Edith Newbury & Ella Key*

*F: Joel Sloman, Toby Bruce, Austyn Hansen-Brown, Danny Daley & Braith Martin*



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## WHY USE FLEXIBLE LEARNING SPACES IN SCHOOLS?

Many of our schools have flexible learning spaces where teachers are collaborating for some or all of the day as they work with their students. Other schools are planning for the implementation of this approach to learning and teaching in some or all stages of the school. If it is to be the success we hope for we need to have a clear vision and strategy in our schools for why and how this is to happen.

There are clear reasons for why collaboration by teachers in a flexible space has proven successful in many schools. Collaboration:

- ▶ builds teacher capacity through the sharing of knowledge and skills,
- ▶ increases teacher accountability through peer expectations,
- ▶ promotes co-planning, co-teaching, co-debriefing and co-reflection impacts teacher professional learning (team teaching as *develop, deliver, review*),
- ▶ builds trust and recognises the strengths of everyone in the team,
- ▶ influences student outcomes through increased teacher efficacy,
- ▶ creates a more comforting environment that supports positive relationships and helps wellbeing, breaks down teacher centred approaches and promotes the idea that the teacher is not the sole distributor of knowledge.

The impact on student learning outcomes is less clear except for the long term effect of teachers with improved capacity. Nevertheless teachers in these spaces report:

- ▶ student improvement in engagement (reducing behaviour problems),
- ▶ improved student collaboration across classes and stages improving relationships,
- ▶ increased student independence as the pedagogy moves further from teacher-centred to student-centred approaches in the shared space,
- ▶ the variety of spaces created by a diverse range of furnishings provides for a greater range of student learning preferences,
- ▶ increased use of peer and self-assessment as students seek help from teachers and other students,
- ▶ increased student voice and therefore greater ownership and responsibility for their learning,
- ▶ increased teacher curiosity into different ways to enable learning.

Whilst a few of the latter can be achieved in traditional classrooms, the collaborative environment appears to promote these positive outcomes for student learning. Skills such as creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork, are elements of our curriculum that are sometimes overlooked in favour of just knowledge and skills in very teacher entered environments.

Technology that works is critical to teacher acceptance. The Google platform is well recognised for being a collaboration platform that engages students and teachers in new pedagogies, and also assists teacher confidence in the move to flexible learning spaces.

The most successful examples of schools that are open to learning are places where the teachers' craft is respected and their voice is heard in the design. All teachers can be leaders as schools struggle with the changes demanded by a rapidly changing world; this is the future world of the young people in our schools.

The collaboration between the CSO and schools, and between schools, is exciting as our system-wide Professional Learning Community continues to grow and develop. The energy and passion for change that we are hearing from teachers as they open to up to the possibilities of the future, is very encouraging.



Director of Schools  
Chris Smyth





# Catholic Schools Week 2018 27 May–2 June



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# Wii Gaay Literacy, Numeracy and IT Learning Hub



*Using the Bee-bots and Pro-bots to travel on the Cartesian plane*

The Armidale Diocesan Wii Gaay students recently gathered together at Echidna Gully, Armidale for their first 2018 Literacy, Numeracy and Information Technology Learning Hub.

A plethora of activities had been planned, prior to our learning hub, by our facilitators: Mrs Tracey Hughes Butters – Numeracy, Mrs Julie Van Dorst – Literacy and Mrs Kelly Walters – Information Technology. The students were asked to research and bring with them information they had found on someone they considered to be an Inspirational Indigenous person.

The researched information was then incorporated into both Literacy, in the writing of an Information report and into IT, in the making of an iMovie about their chosen person. Even though there was a variety of inspirational Indigenous people chosen, from many different walks of life including music, sport, history, ballet, modelling and politics, there was a consistent message that came through as the students presented their completed

works. The students were inspired by these people not only because of their well noted achievements in their various fields, but mainly because of their determination to overcome barriers, not giving up when they have to train and work hard to achieve their dreams and also because of the less noted work they do in helping to create better opportunities for Indigenous people. There was an audience of adults that were very inspired by the students' thought provoking iMovies, presented during our Echidna Gully movie night.

During the numeracy rotations the students engaged in programming Bee-Bots and Pro-Bots to travel to a specified coordinate on a Cartesian plane. The coding was further developed with the introduction of Spheros. The students coded the Spheros to move around the floor in different directions and to draw an imaginary square.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their time at the Learning Hub, continuing to learn and develop skills together.



*Wii Gaay Students, Lily Androutsos, Ruby Cathro, Delika Boney and Alexis Stalhut*



*Wii Gaay Students engaged in their combined Literacy and IT project*

# Disability Inclusions

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# The world needs GOOD men

Being a man today can be confusing. We are shamed for our “toxic masculinity” and told we should be less masculine if we want to get ahead in life.

Fathers are mocked in TV and movies, and men in general are often portrayed as either low-functioning, ill-bred beasts, or as cruel and violent.

Add to this the pressures on men to perform, to succeed, and to never show weakness or vulnerability, and it is no wonder men are struggling to live up to their full potential.

The truth is, the world needs men. And the Church needs men. Our masculine vocation, our unique gifts are given to us by God. We are called to be sons, brothers, fathers, and spouses; to be leaders in our homes, in our workplaces, and in our parishes.

Now more than ever, it is critical for us men to discover our true identity, embrace it, and live it. It is time for us to rise up and be who God has called us to be. **That’s why I’m excited to share RISE: A 30 Day Challenge.**

RISE is designed for men like you, men with busy schedules and many commitments. It’s designed to help you reconnect with your identity and grow as a man of God in just a few short minutes a day.

*From Sam Guzman’s “The Catholic Gentleman” blog*

Find out more at

<https://www.catholicgentleman.net/2018/02/catholic-men-lets-rise/>

<https://www.menriseup.org/>

## Advertise with Viewpoint - Next issue due: 25th May 2018

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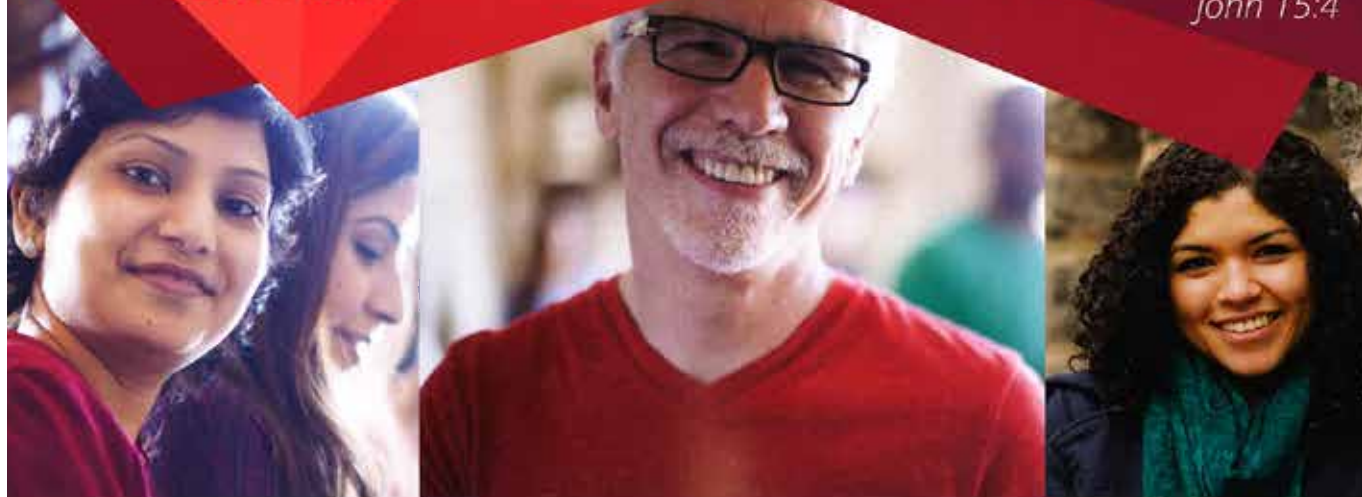
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John 15:4



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Plenary Council 2020  
Facilitator



**Cardinal John Dew**  
New Zealand



**Archbishop Mark Coleridge**  
Archdiocese of Brisbane  
Host – Proclaim 2018



**Ron Huntley**  
Divine Renovation  
Canada



**Mons Enrique Figaredo SJ**  
Apostolic Prefect  
Battambang  
Cambodia



# Is this Australia's next Saint?



Eileen O'Connor, a young woman who co-founded a religious order and died at 28, could become Australia's next saint. "Eileen was a young woman who received the love of God, multiplied it in her heart, and passed it on to others.

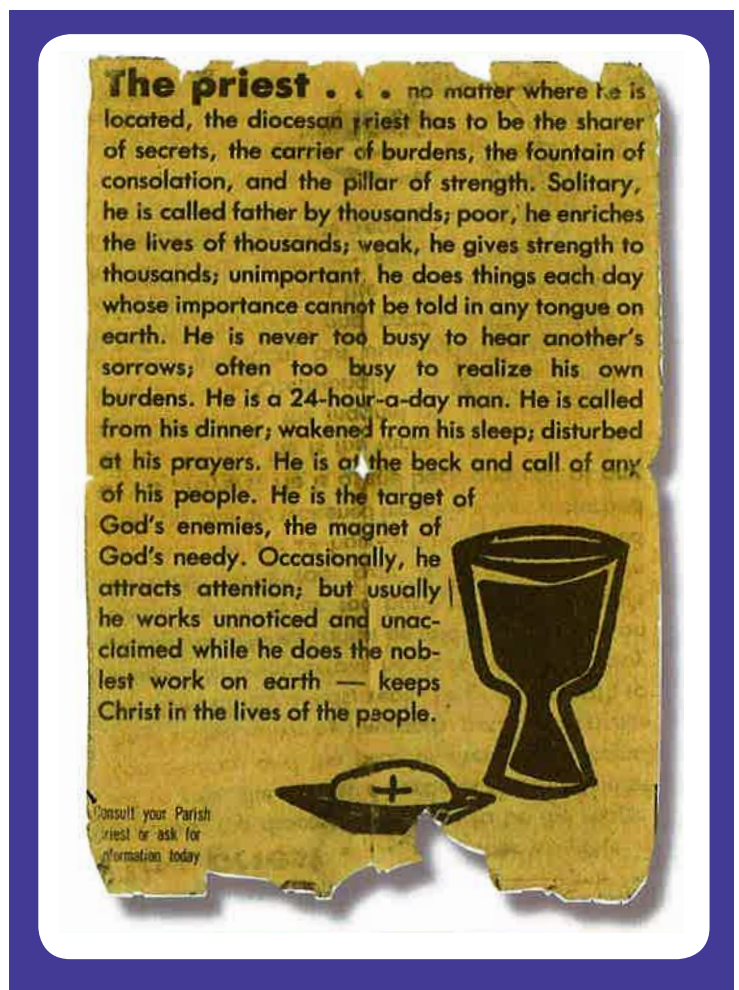
It is my hope that the heroic and saintly example of Eileen O'Connor will inspire everyone to live faithful lives as disciples of Jesus Christ." Archbishop Fisher said.

Eileen Rosaline O'Connor was born in Richmond, Victoria, on February 19, 1892. She suffered a crippling break in her spine at age three and lived her short life in constant nerve pain from what was later diagnosed as tuberculous osteomyelitis.

In April 1913, Eileen co-founded the religious order of Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor with Fr Edward McGrath MSC. The order, known as the Brown Nurses because of their distinctive brown cloaks and bonnets, was dedicated to caring for the sick and dying poor in their homes and they continue this work to this day.

Unable to undertake the work herself, Eileen supported the sisters with prayers and counsel, and at one point used the only part of her body not paralysed with disease and pain – her left arm – to make phone calls arranging the order's works. She died on January 10, 1921 – a month short of her 29th birthday. The 11 religious sisters currently serving as Our Lady's Nurses of the Poor have said they are "delighted" by the news.

(FULL STORY: *Catholic News*)



*This advertisement was featured in American diocesan newspapers in the 1960s. Most Rev Michael C Barber SJ, Bishop of Oakland, California, saw this advertisement as a child and was so taken with it that he cut it out and kept it. He carried this clipping in his wallet for over 40 years, until it finally disintegrated.*

# KIDS KAPERS



## JUST MY TYPE!



Psalm 100:3

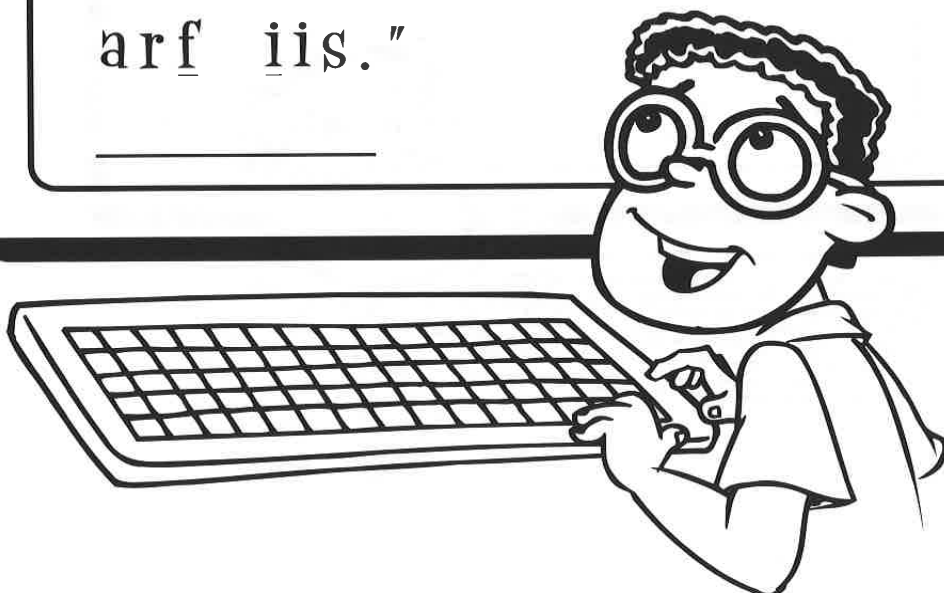
This guy needs to practice his typing a bit more. Each underlined letter should have been substituted for the previous letter in the alphabet. So instead of typing the letter A he typed B, and instead of B, he typed C. Help him write out Psalm 100:3 correctly, so he can memorize it!

"Lnox thau uhe More

it Hod. Iu it hf whp

naee vs, ane xe

arf iis."







## New ambulance, the most vital delivery yet for Uganda maternity hospital

It wasn't quite the delivery they are used to, but for Sister Mary Goretti and her small staff at St Luke's Health Centre in Bujuni, it is one that will save hundreds of lives. The maternal health centre, located three hours from Kampala, can finally celebrate the arrival of its long-awaited ambulance, which supporters in the Armidale Diocese helped to fund during last year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal.

Catholic Mission's supporters together raised nearly \$2 million for the appeal, which contributed towards critical staffing, infrastructure, and equipment upgrades for St Luke's, including the much-needed ambulance.

Jacqueline Toakley, Catholic Mission's Diocesan Director for Armidale, says the arrival of the ambulance was a pleasing outcome. 'The Diocese of Armidale really threw their support behind Sister Mary and St Luke's Health Centre last year. We put our faith into action to

help those in need and we're seeing the results now,' she said.

After a short customs delay, that vehicle has now arrived, much to the relief of Sister Mary and her staff. 'Finally, the ambulance has reached St Luke's Health Centre,' she said. 'Thank you very much for your efforts, and may God bless you abundantly.'

Along with the ambulance, St Luke's received an ultrasound machine and a humidicrib, while key structural improvements are ongoing, including the expansion of the maternity ward.

For more on that appeal and for updates on Catholic Mission's work with communities around the world, head to [catholicmission.org.au](http://catholicmission.org.au) or call Jacqueline Toakley on 02 6771 8703.



Sr Mary and the St Luke's Staff are very pleased with the new ambulance



New maternity ward extension is almost complete



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- There is a useful button at the bottom of each page that links to the relevant application form
- Forms are conveniently interactive – they can be typed, signed, uploaded and attached to an email then sent back to ADIG via the “Contact Us” tab
- Our “News” tab provides regularly updated information that may interest you. This information includes key dates, activities supported by ADIG, and also introduces new products and staff



### Welcome Tennille

We welcome Tennille Clarke to the ADIG family. Tennille is our newest Customer Service Officer in the Armidale branch. Tennille and her family have made Armidale their home after time abroad. Tennille’s husband grew up in Armidale and they have strong ties to the community.

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# HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

The students of O'Connor Catholic College, Armidale are still on a high after 6 sell out performances of *High School Musical*! Over 50 students were involved in all facets of production from on stage to backstage and behind the scenes.

The performers began rehearsals at the start of term 4, 2017 and were required to attend three weekly sessions in order to create a professional and high energy production. Under the guidance of co-directors Melissa Killen and Sarah Watson, and musical director Melita Roache, the

students developed and perfected their skills in singing, dancing and acting. The end result was a high energy, professional show which wowed every audience.

The O'Connor gymnasium was transformed into a contemporary theatre space which included a stage, outstanding sound and lighting effects, and seated over 200 people.

The College was proud to be able to showcase the amazing creative and performing arts talents of so many students to the wider community.





