

V.Catholic viewpoint†

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Mary Amongst Us

Inviting God into our Messy Families



The Bishop Speaks

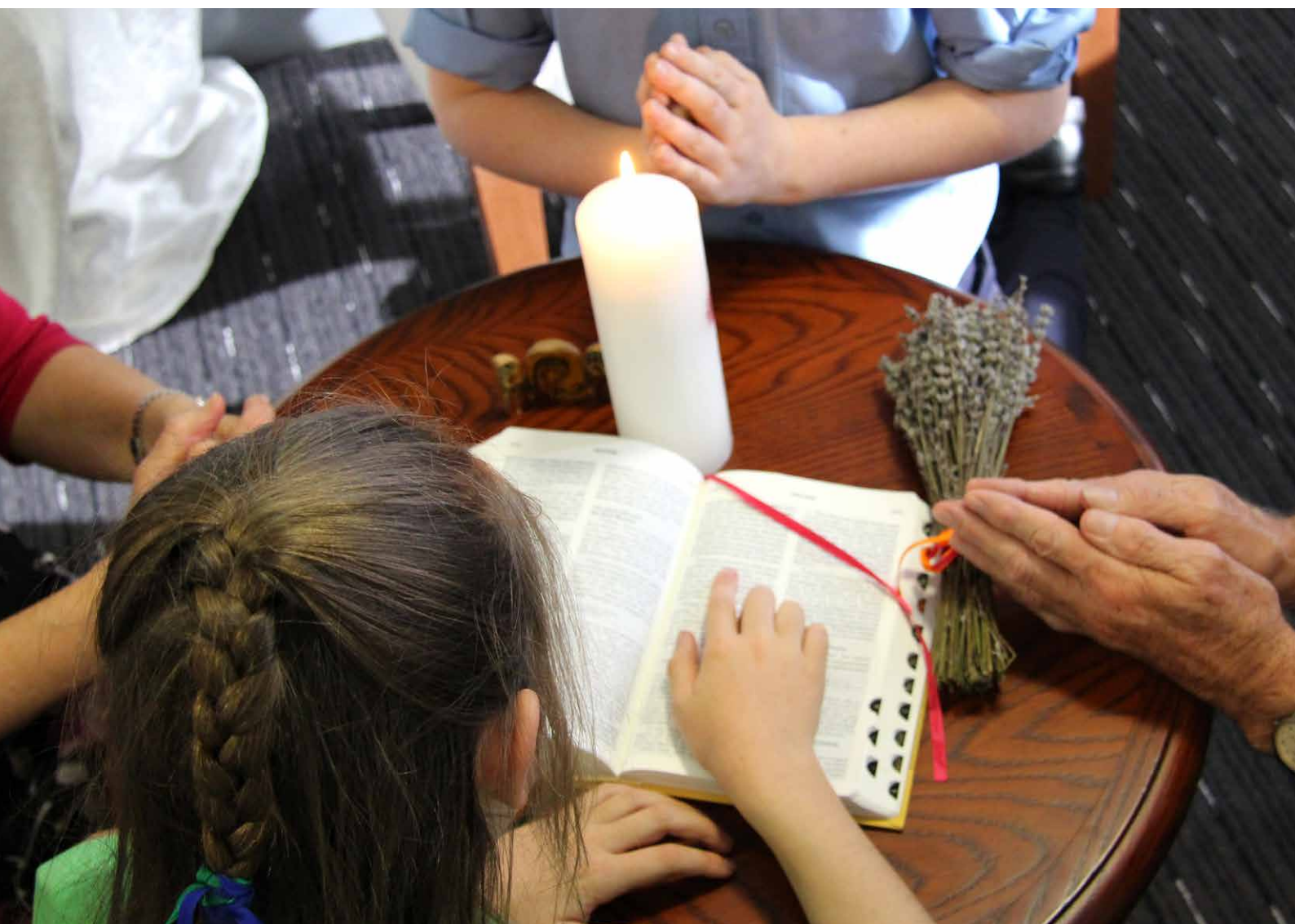
“No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed.” (*Amoris Laetitia* 325) With these realistic words Pope Francis talks *to* families, not *about* families. I too want to speak *to* you about the reality of your family life, not talk *about* you. Your family life is not perfect, but it’s beautiful. You love each other, not perfectly, but the best you can and you’re trying every day to do even better.

It’s in your family more than anywhere else where you give, receive, and learn kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, compassion, gratitude, forgiveness, bearing with each other, and love (CF Col 3:12-14). We all want to receive these things, so we have to be able to give them too. And if we don’t experience and learn them in our families where will we learn them?

It’s also in your family, more than anywhere else,

where you pass on your faith and values to your children. Our parishes, schools, and catechists can only do so much. It is, it always has been, and it always will be the parents who pass on the faith in the overwhelming majority of cases. The family truly is the Domestic Church – where faith, hope and love are nurtured and where we learn how to be good and virtuous.

Now as well as being beautiful, our Domestic Churches, our families, are also messy. You know there’s something not quite right about a family home that’s always spotless. I feel sorry for the children who live there! A family home that’s lived in and where the children feel happy and free, easily and quickly gets a bit messy. We tidy it up and then it gets messy again. This is normal. So too it’s normal for our family lives to get a bit messy – there will be the unavoidable problems, challenges, set-backs,



and hurts. As soon as we fix them more troubles emerge. It's a normal part of every family life.

It's important to realize that God comes to us in our messiness. God, who is Himself a divine family of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and who in the Son became part of a human family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, loves *your* family and wants to be part of it too.

I want to suggest three things every family can do to keep this presence of God active and strong.

The first is to pray, and to pray with regularity, familiarity, and personality. What I mean by these three words is that you form a habit of family prayer in which you pray at a *regular* time every day (after dinner and the washing up works well), follow the same *familiar* pattern of prayer every time, and that you include every *person* and their own personal prayers which then become part of the whole family's prayer.

In your family this might mean each person getting to lead a decade of the rosary and praying it for some particular prayer intentions; or it might mean each person saying in their turn one "Thank you", one "I'm sorry", and one "Please help" prayer to God at the end of the day.

There are many different ways your family can pray. It's important to find a way that suits you and then stick to it so that it becomes the way that *your* family prays.

The second thing to keep God's presence active and strong in your family is to come to Sunday Mass as a family. Your Domestic Church is not a Church in isolation but is part of the local Parish and Diocesan Church which is part of the Universal Church. Your family is part of something big, and it too is both beautiful and messy!

If you are bringing little ones to Sunday Mass I suggest you sit near the front so they can see what's happening rather than looking at people's backs. And please don't hesitate to bring them some picture

books of the Mass, to explain things to them during the Mass, and even to bring them a snack if they are still very little.

I know parents busy with little ones at Mass sometimes go home feeling that you haven't said a single prayer! Don't worry, go home at peace and at rights with God. You have made a bigger effort than anybody else to get to Mass and you have done something truly wonderful – you have brought your children to Jesus!

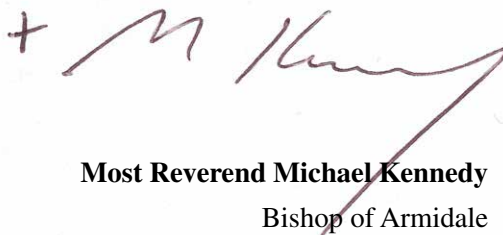
The third and final thing I suggest is to always speak well of the Church, even though she is messy! Your own family is not perfect but you love it and stick up for it. Our family the Church is not perfect but we love her and stick up for her.

It is especially important these days for parents and grandparents to speak well of the Church when so many others are criticising her all the time, even when some of these criticisms are valid and deserved. If parents don't draw their children's attention to what is good in the Church, who will? And remember, the Church is not just the Pope and the Bishop -

it's you and me; it's all of us.

Jesus said, "Where two or three meet in my name, I am there with them" Our God wants to draw close to us and wants to draw us close to him. Praying together as a family brings God into our family and our home every evening. What peace and joy this can bring to our messy family lives.




Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale

This is an edited version of Bishop Michael Kennedy's Homily for Marriage and Family Sunday at Saints Mary and Joseph Cathedral Armidale, 30th July 2017

VOCATIONS

National Vocations Awareness Week was 6th To 13th August. To highlight the many different vocation stories, we are getting to know a few of our priests a bit better. Fr John McHugh is the Parish Priest at St Joseph's Parish Gunnedah, Fr Kingsley Etoh is the Assistant Priest at St Patrick's Parish Glen Innes and Fr Sabu Pulimalayil is the Assistant Priest at Sts Mary and Joseph's Cathedral Parish Armidale.

Fr. John McHugh

My journey to priesthood began following the death of my beautiful wife Julie from breast cancer. Julie was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 1996 and she courageously fought her illness for the next six years. Julie died on March 1, 2003, and her example of faith and acceptance throughout her illness had been a source of inspiration for me and our three sons, David, Kieran and Shaun. Our faith had always been a central part of our life as a married couple and as a family, and Julie prepared us in a special way for her death. It was about two years after Julie died that I felt the Holy Spirit was calling me to a new direction.

In October 2006, I went to Rome, where I spent the next four years at the Pontifical Beda College undergoing formation and completing my studies for the priesthood. I was ordained on July 16, 2010 in St Nicholas East Tamworth. My first appointment was to Inverell where I was born and I spent 10 months there before being moved to St Edward's, South Tamworth, in June 2011.

As a child growing up in Inverell I enjoyed a very happy environment with my five siblings under the tender love and care of our parents Leo and Shirley McHugh. In 1959 we moved to Walcha, where we spent four years before moving to Tamworth. In Tamworth I was educated by the Dominican Sisters and the Christian Brothers. My first job on leaving school in 1970 was as a trainee manager with a

national supermarket chain. In 1977 I began my real estate career with Burke and Smyth. In 1979 I married Julie at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Corinda, a suburb of Brisbane. Fr Paul Mahony SM, my cousin, officiated at our nuptial Mass. In 1983 I joined Warren Ryan at Kelly's Real Estate in a business partnership that would last until we sold the business in September 2005. Julie trained as a nurse at Brisbane's Holy Spirit Hospital and the Mater Women's Hospital, also in Brisbane.

I met Julie while she was nursing at Tamworth Base Hospital. We settled into married life and the first of our three boys David was born in 1981, followed by Kieran in 1983 and Shaun in 1985. Our life was very happy and full and the three boys kept us busy with school activities and sporting carnivals, such as soccer, Little Athletics and junior rugby. We were very involved with the school as well as the parish, and Mass as a family each Sunday was very important to Julie and I – we love and miss her very much.

I am presently Parish Priest of St Joseph's Gunnedah and Administrator of the Sacred Heart Parish Boggabri. I am the proud grandfather of two little boys Jock (2) and Walker (1 month) McHugh. I am deeply grateful for the love and support I receive from my family, as they bring balance and perspective to my life. I am also privileged to be the Parish Priest in Gunnedah. I thank God for gently encouraging me to respond to his call and I pray that he will continue to sustain me in my vocation.



Fr John with his sons, Shaun, Kieran and David at his ordination - Courtesy of Lou Farina

Fr Henry Kingsley Etoh

God writes straight with crooked lines

I was born in Nigeria and worked in Equatorial Guinea teaching English as a second language before I became a priest. I arrived in Australia in February 2013 and was ordained a priest 8th December 2016 by Bishop Michael Kennedy.

The saying above fully captures the story of my vocation to the priesthood. It was a journey started, not with that purpose in mind and riddled with ups and downs, but which God had directed towards his own plan. With the benefit of hindsight, I believe it was really the will of God.

I started my journey in the Seminary in 1983 at the tender age of twelve, together with over two hundred other boys, but withdrew in 1996 after obtaining a degree in Philosophy. I spent nine years in Equatorial Guinea as a teacher, before responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to consider the priesthood once again.

I am a few months old in the priesthood, but the joy I have encountered so far is indescribable. I am very grateful to God for this privilege, because I am aware that no one takes it upon himself. Though I sacrificed a few things along the way, I have gained so much more in return.



Fr Kingsley

Prayer of Abandonment

**Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
Do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
And in all your creatures.
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with the love of my heart,
For I love you, Lord,
And so need to give myself,
To surrender myself into your hands
Without reserve, and with
Boundless confidence, for you are my Father.
Amen**

VOCATIONS

Fr. Sabu Pulimalayil, RCJ

Vocation is a mystery and my Vocation is a testimony that it's not what I want to become in my life but it's what God wants me to become. The times I was in crisis of my vocation I could experience the presence of God and also in times I wanted to leave my vocation God was there keeping me strong.

I am the youngest among seven of a good catholic, middle class family. Being the youngest I got the advantage of experiencing the love and care of my parents and siblings, but the disadvantage of obeying all my older brothers together with my parents! I was a naughty boy at home and school. I was very attached to my mother and I learnt all my prayers, my devotion to Mother Mary and Saints from her. My first desire to become a priest was motivated by one of our old Parish Priests, but as I grew older I forgot about it.

When I graduated from my high school I wanted to join in the military and to do something for my country, I went for the recruitment and I was rejected since I was not tall enough to become a soldier. But God has another plan for me. This time I thought of helping my father on the farm which made him so happy. But being with him working so hard on the farm I was tired and wanted somehow to escape from home.

It so happened that a priest who belongs to an order called the Rogationist of the Heart of Jesus invited me to the seminary. I accepted it and went to the seminary for a vocation camp. Staying with the priests and the brothers there, my childhood desire to become a priest came back to me. Even though I came to the seminary to escape from my father's farm work God put me in his vineyard as his worker.



Fr Sabu



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VOCATIONS

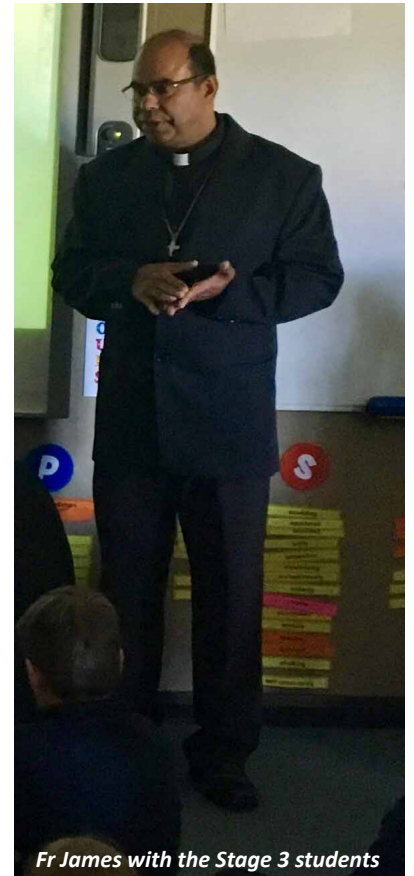


Fr James with the Stage 3 students

Stage 3 students at St. Joseph's Wee Waa have been spending time praying for priestly vocations. As part of Vocations Awareness Week, Fr James visited Stage 3 to discuss the priesthood and to share some incredible moments during his life. Sr Geraldine Leahy also took time out of her busy schedule to share the many wonderful and difficult parts of her life as a Sister of St. Joseph. The students in Stage 3 thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the time spent listening and responding to Fr James and Sr Geraldine. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Fr James and Sr Geraldine for sharing their stories with us.



Sr Geraldine (centre) with Stage 3 students



Fr James with the Stage 3 students

A Better Life for Seniors

Safety, security, affordability and comfort come to mind for residents John & Anne Fittler when describing their new home at Oak Tree Retirement Village in Tamworth. They firmly believe that the move has been the best choice that they have made.

Many Oak Tree residents have made the comment that when relocating from a large house with a big yard and a pool, they find they are able to release some equity in the family home, allowing them to be able to purchase a brand new retirement villa at Oak Tree.

The Fittlers now consider themselves fortunate to be rid of the commitment that comes with owning a bigger property and the costs incurred to maintain it. They are relaxing in a new lifestyle and downsizing to a smaller, more manageable home has allowed the couple to enjoy more social and financial freedoms.

“We are doing less housework to maintain our home and don’t need to take care of the lawns and gardens any longer. We can also leave the management of general repairs and home maintenance to the Village staff.

Everything right down to assistance changing a light bulb is handled for us. It’s easy, worry-free living” they said.

“For us, moving to Oak Tree was primarily a lifestyle decision which has allowed us more freedom to enjoy life and represented real value for money. The weekly maintenance fees are very reasonable when you consider that they cover

everything from building insurance, right through to water and council rates and all home maintenance. It simply means everything is easier.

Operating under the Retirement Villages Act, the Oak Tree group adhere to legislation which protects the rights and best interests of its residents and the future of the Village.

“Oak Tree keep funds in reserve and when the Village requires long term maintenance such as repainting or a new roof for our villa, the costs have been provided for.

And, when our time comes to sell the villa, we know we will get the best possible market price. The Village will be kept in a good state of repair and Oak Tree handle any necessary costs to makeover our villa and bring it back to as good as new.

Oak Tree even offer to re-sell the property on our behalf and charge no commissions” they said.

The Oak Tree Group have grown quickly based on the increasing popularity of retirement villages amongst seniors. There are now twenty villages in operation in the Eastern States of Australia with many more planned to commence soon.

Oak Tree’s primary focus is on regional areas and they build smaller villages than others in the industry. This makes for a more personal relationship between residents and with the Village management team.



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First Holy Communion

The word 'communion' means to be united with; Catholics believe that in Holy Communion we are united in a special way with Jesus Christ.

At his last supper, Jesus said of the bread that he shared among his followers, "Take and eat, this is my body." When we receive Holy Communion, Catholics believe that in a mysterious way we are sharing in the body and blood of Christ. Holy Communion and the whole celebration is also known as Eucharist, from a Greek word meaning thanksgiving.

First Eucharist is a special occasion - a further step in becoming one with Christ and united with the People of God. For most people first Eucharist takes place at about the age of seven. Children should have an understanding of the sacrament that is appropriate to their age. Hopefully, this understanding will develop over the years.

The church affirms that parents are the first educators of their children in the faith. You are handing on your faith to your children all the time. You have the wonderful responsibility of preparing your child to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

catholicaustralia.com.au

St Mary of the Angels Parish Guyra

A group of children from the Guyra Parish received their First Holy Communion in June. Congratulations to Ethan Wilson, Daniel Grills and Annabelle Williamson. Students often see this Sacrament as the most important as it allows them to fully participate in the Mass by celebrating the Liturgy of the Eucharist personally. This Sacrament was witnessed by proud parents, family and friends. The warmth of community spirit was present in both the Church and the celebrations held afterwards in the school hall.

St Joseph's Parish Tamworth

Children in years 3 and 4 received their First Holy Communion earlier in the year. This was an important and special time for the children and their families.



St Joseph's Tamworth First Holy Communion Candidates



Father O'Shea, Mrs Angela Hayes, Ethan Wilson, Daniel Grills and Annabelle Williamson from St Mary of the Angels Guyra



Saturday Night Vigil Mass at 6:00 pm

St Nicholas Parish East Tamworth

There were so many candidates receiving First Holy Communion this year at St Nicholas Parish East Tamworth, that Fr Joe Adriano had to split the group over two Masses. Congratulations to all of you!



Sunday Morning Mass at 9:30 am



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Catholic Women's League Armidale Diocese July 2017



Naroo Aged Care Hostel residents with members of Warialda CWLA. (Standing L-R) Helen Perrett, Paul Jones, Mary Hough, Anne Jones, Sr. Anne Gibson, (Seated L-R) Dora Kneipp, Pat Densley, Fr. Joseph, Fay Morris and Cynthia Stewart.

Armidale Diocesan Annual Conference, 'Recognising 2017 is Our Lady of Fatima Centenary and our Present Reality', will be held on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th October 2017 in Tamworth at the Services Club and the Diocesan Executive and Tamworth Branch as hosts are busy planning the finer details and hoping it will be as successful as last year's.

The National Conference of Catholic Women's League will be held in Adelaide during September and it is hoped that some ladies from the Diocese may be able to attend.

Please contact Madeleine Hayes: Phone 0267663954 or email pmhayes@tpg.com.au or Deirdre Andren phone 0267422912 or 0427422912 or email dandren@bigpond.com for registration details if you would like to attend either of these conferences.

Branches within the diocese have been busy with activities including celebrating their annual World Union of Catholic Women's League Day Mass.

Congratulations to Maureen Armitage on receiving Bishop Michael Kennedy's medal for her dedicated service to the Cathedral parish and priests and the Legion of Mary. Maureen is a life member of CWLA and a past Diocesan President as well as having held many committee positions in her own branch of Armidale.

Warialda continue to hold monthly Mass at Naroo Aged Care Hostel and earlier this year welcomed their new priest Father Joseph Armah.

Quirindi hosted a Ladies Only Night in June. Guest Speakers were Mrs Anita Lomax and Dr Amy Burraston. Mrs Lomax spoke about her journey of faith, her life growing up in Singapore and the countries in which she and her husband Michael have lived. Dr Amy Burraston spoke on "A Woman living in a Man's World". Amy completed her Medical Degree in 2007 and spoke about her achievements since completing university and showed photos of the places she has seen while working in Australia and overseas.

Moree Branch had a birthday luncheon to celebrate two member's birthdays. Sadly Moree have lost two of their members this year; long time member Molly Heffernan who died earlier this year and Margaret Murphy who died in April.

Gunnedah hosted a Luncheon in March with about 40 parishioners attending and a very successful Inter-Church Morning Tea in May. Entertainment was provided by Gerard (husband of Cathy, one of our members) and two of his friends who have just formed a singing group. A very successful Soup and Damper Luncheon was also held in July.

The Tamworth branch took part in the Annual Anzac Day Mass and have a big part to play in the Fatima Celebrations in their Parish and took their turn on 13th June. At their April and June meetings they celebrated two 90th Birthdays. The first for Kath Donoghue, who has been a long standing loyal reliable member of Catholic Women's League, and the second for Gwenn Gerathy. Gwenn has been a member of Tamworth Branch since it was formed 46 years ago and has held several executive positions in that time as well as being Diocesan President and was always willing to help with all the activities, her contributions well worth celebrating. Congratulations to both these two great ladies. Plans are also well in hand for the Fashion Parade in early September, in order to raise much needed funds.

Mrs Sheila McNamara, Miss Mary O'Donnell and Mrs Anita Lomax, from Quirindi's Ladies Only Night.



Historical Archives

The Diocese of Armidale archives are being highly organised and digitised at present. Although the job is mountainous we have been blessed by those before us who kept some computer records to refer to.

We have come across some very interesting documents whilst delving into the past, which we would like to share. In the coming issues you may find the odd historical archive of interest to you.

Who is that Seminararian?

Bishop Doody and Monsignor Mahoney went to visit the seminarians from the Diocese of Armidale who were studying at the Springwood Seminary in 1956. Do you see anyone you know?

Answers on Page 32



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St Mary MacKillop: 1867 - 1871

In 1867, Mary MacKillop became the first sister and mother superior of the newly formed order of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. In the same year, at age 25, she adopted the religious name Sister Mary of the Cross.

In Adelaide they founded a new school at the request of the bishop, Laurence Bonaventure Sheil. Dedicated to the education of the children of the poor, it was the first religious order to be founded by an Australian.

The rules developed by Father Woods and MacKillop for the convent emphasised poverty, a dependence on divine providence, no ownership of personal belongings, faith that God would provide and willingness to go where needed.

The rules were approved by Bishop Sheil. By the end of 1867, ten other nuns had joined the Josephites who had adopted a plain brown habit. The Josephite nuns became colloquially known as the Brown Joeys.

By the end of 1869, more than 70 Josephite nuns were educating children at 21 schools in Adelaide and the country. MacKillop and her Josephites were also involved with an orphanage; neglected children; girls in danger; the aged poor; a reformatory; a home for the aged; and incurably ill. Generally, the Josephite nuns were prepared to follow farmers, railway workers and miners into the isolated outback and live as they lived. They shared the same hardships while educating their children.

In December 1869, MacKillop and several other nuns travelled to Brisbane to establish the order in Queensland. They were based at Kangaroo Point and took the ferry or rowed across the Brisbane River to attend Mass at old St Stephen's Cathedral.

Two years later, she was in Port Augusta, South Australia for the same purpose. The Josephite Congregation expanded rapidly and, by 1871, 130 nuns were working in more than 40 schools and charitable institutions across South Australia and Queensland.

The Josephites were unique among Catholic church ministries in two ways. Firstly, the nuns lived in the community rather than in convents. Secondly the order's constitution required administration by a Superior General rather than a diocese headed by the bishop, a structure that remains unique today.



Lily Maxwell, Sr Geraldine, Fr James, Grace Holland, Hayley Jenkins, Kyne Allen, Annabel Carolan, Duncan Krogh, Sam Carolan, Maye Hutton, Tom Holland, Ted Haire, Oscar Crockett, Caitlyn Coutts Smith, Polly Carolan, Bradley Hutton & Samuel Rosewell.

MacKillop died on 8 August 1909 in the Josephite convent in North Sydney. The Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Moran, stated that: "I consider this day to have assisted at the deathbed of a Saint." She was laid to rest at the Gore Hill cemetery, a few kilometres up the Pacific Highway from North Sydney. Her canonisation was announced on 19 February 2010 and subsequently took place on 17 October 2010. This made her the first Australian saint.

Catholic Online – www.catholic.org



Fr James celebrates the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop with the students of St Francis Xavier's Narrabri

Our Lady at Fatima

St Mary's Parish Walgett, Our Lady of Fatima Lightning Ridge and St Joseph's Primary Walgett celebrated the 100th year anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima in Portugal.

The school students had spent a couple of weeks researching the events at Fatima and creating some beautiful artworks in preparation for the visit of the Statue to Walgett.

The day began with the students and local parishioners taking a small pilgrimage along the street to St Mary's Church. Bright waving flags, candles, Crosses and Rosary Beads were among the items that were carried down the street by the students as they followed the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

People were stopping in their vehicles and coming out of their houses to watch the procession. Auntie Faye Green, who was accompanied by some of the students playing the clapping sticks and didgeridoos, lead a special smoking ceremony at the entrance to the Church. This was followed by a Mass celebrated by Father Anthony Koppman and Father Gerard Ryan.

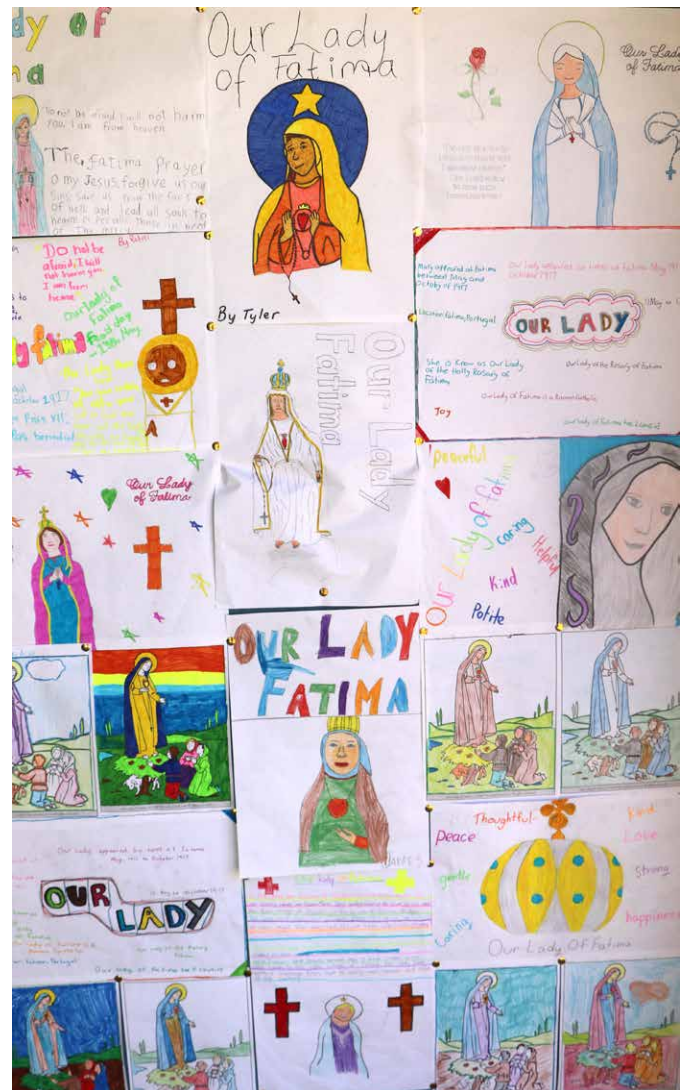
The Mass recognised the importance of Mary in Jesus' life and our own. The congregation were reminded to pray every day and to be open to the miracle of God's love in our lives. Special prayers were also offered during Mass for vocations to the Church and the Armidale Diocese. At the end of Mass, Rosary Beads and prayer cards were blessed and everyone received one of each in commemoration of the day.

After enjoying morning tea together the school students and the parishioners were treated to a talk by Father Gerard Ryan about the events of Fatima. Father Ryan has been travelling with the Statue for some time and was able to answer many questions the students had about the apparitions and the Statute itself.

A light lunch was then shared in the Church courtyard and many parishioners enjoyed the time for fellowship.

The Statue was then moving onto Lightning Ridge for the evening where Mass was to be celebrated again and the Lightning Ridge congregation were given the chance to listen to Father Ryan speak.

The Walgett and Lightning Ridge communities are very fortunate to have had the Statue visit and the students and parishioners alike enjoyed the day. We wish to thank Father Ryan for passing his knowledge and faith onto each us. The visit will leave a lasting memory in the hearts of the Walgett and Lightning Ridge communities.





Around 'n About

St Xavier's Primary Gunnedah Learn about Rescue Helicopters

Mildred and Friends is a unique fundraising initiative developed by the teams of the Hunter and New England North West Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Bases which is aimed to engage children across Australia.

Mildred and Friends is a series of books in which children will undertake a journey of discovery of why, how and when the rescue helicopters are required and how critically important they are to the people of the communities in which they serve.

Last term, Kindergarten were very lucky to have a visit from Mick Wilson, the author of Mildred and Friends.



Mick Wilson, author, with Evan and Jake Hausfeld courtesy of Marogallery



Pope Francis: "Never say never."

St Michael's Manilla- Grandparents Day

Grandparent's day at St Michael's Manilla was a huge success. The day included a lovely morning tea served by the captains, old fashion games – quoits, egg and spoon, three legged races, some lovely art activities involving making a hand family tree. Year 5 and 6 led a beautiful liturgy thanking God for the gift of our grandparents followed by songs and poems from each grade. Thank you to all the grandparents that travelled to the event!

Tahlia Kelly, Jo Scott and Jye Woodward





Happy Birthday Mary!

St Mary's Parish Tenterfield celebrated a very special Birthday last month. Mary Smith's 100th birthday was honoured with a Papal Blessing presented to her by Fr Barry Leech. Mary has been a member of the Tenterfield Parish for about twenty years, having moved here after her husband passed away. "A very special occasion for a very special lady" seems to sum up the thoughts of her fellow parishioners.

Mary Smith receives flowers from the Parish presented by Fr Leech

Necom Piano Trio Visits St Joseph's Uralla

The New England Conservatorium of Music Piano Trio came to visit St Joseph's, Uralla. "They came to help us learn about the Piano, the Cello and the Violin. The Piano Trio taught us some facts about these instruments. We got to sing some songs with them and march around the square. Jordan, Harry, Chelsea, Brittany and Monty got to play the keyboard. The rest of St Joseph's had to guess what keys they were playing. We all thought it was great!"

By Montana Daisy Hayes and Harry Joseph Kauffmann.



Harry Kauffmann playing the piano with the NECOM Piano Trio members Deidre Rickards, Alice Rickards and Camilla Tafra.



Caritas Conference 2017

The Caritas Community Engagement Conference was held in Adelaide this year and brings together all the Diocesan Directors of Caritas from around Australia. Naomi Bassett, Diocesan Director of Caritas, represented the Diocese of Armidale at the Conference of 'New wine for New Wineskins'. The aim was to provide a forum where there was time to reflect, time to celebrate our work, share our challenges, time to listen and time to be heard.

Naomi Bassett with all the Caritas Conference attendees in Adelaide

Around 'n About

Rock Wrangle "Rock Stars"

Some of the Stage 3 students from St Joseph's Glen Innes have been participating in a mathematics challenge that involves time and accuracy. They visited the Glen Innes High School and the Glen Innes Public School to compete against the Year 7 and Stage 3 students of these respective schools.

The last competition saw St Joseph's School come home victorious with our very own Year 5 student Charlotte McHarg taking out the title of "Rock Star" by completing the 120 questions in just under 3 minutes with all correct. Charlotte Dunn from Year 6 received an Encouragement Award for completing 116 questions and finished 4th



overall. Alexandra Wright also in Year 5 received an Encouragement Award with 95 correct answers.

Photo: Back: (L-R) Jai Sharman, Phoebe Donnelly, Lousia Beatty, Angus Cameron, Kayne Campbell Middle: (L-R) Charlotte Dunn & Alexandra Wright Front: Charlotte McHarg



Catholic Debutante Ball

Sacred Heart Parish Inverell hosted the annual debutante ball earlier in the year. The candidates came from our local district and presented themselves to Bishop Michael Kennedy beautifully. Traditionally a debutante is a girl or young woman of an aristocratic or upper-class family who has reached maturity and, as a new adult, comes out into society at a formal "debut". Originally, the

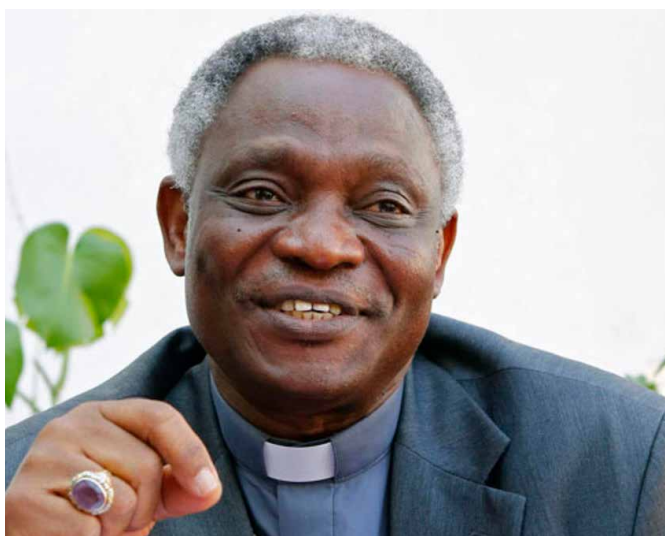
Sacred Heart Debutantes with Bishop Kennedy

term meant the woman was old enough to be married, and part of the purpose of her coming out was to display her to eligible bachelors and their families with a view to marriage within a select circle. These days it has become more of a 'right of passage' for our young people. The ball was a most enjoyable evening showcasing our very capable young people.

Cast into the Deep

Father Paul Aguilar and Joseph Armah have returned from attending the Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office (ACMRO) conference entitled *Cast Into the Deep*. The conference brought together those working in the area of pastoral care to migrant communities. The keynote speakers at the conference were Cardinals Peter Turkson and Orlando Quevedo. For Father Armah it was special to hear Cardinal Turkson who originates from Ghana. He is the first Cardinal from Ghana. Father Aguilar has been invited to join meetings of directors of Archdiocesan Catholic Immigration Offices. This recognises his special role as Ministry to Migrants Director in our rural Diocese.

Cardinal Peter Turkson





Ex Students Returns To The Start

Returning to where these young adults commenced the start of their schooling lives in Kindergarten, and the place where most of their secondary education was delivered, Tony O'Donnell, Stuart King and Ellie Johnson are all current teachers on the staff of St Philomena's

School. Tony is a Stage 3 teacher who has previously taught at St Edward's School in Tamworth. Ellie's first teaching position is back to her familiar surrounds here at St Philomena's School, where she is working with our youngest students in Kindergarten. Stuart is teaching music, technology and mathematics and completed his studies externally, combined with a working life. Returning "home", brings to St Philomena's, a group of dedicated and very capable young teachers who will educate minds and hearts for decades to come. Somewhere along the process, Tony, Ellie and Stuart have been inspired by teachers who have impacted positively on their educational experiences. They too, are now doing the same.

Tony O'Donnell, Ellie Johnson and Stuart King, the new generation of teachers.

Hockey Clinics

Thank you to Hockey NSW who ran clinic sessions from K – 6 for 5 weeks. The students learnt skills from dribbling to trapping and shooting for goal. St Michael's, Manilla is beginning to get a few very handy hockey players with the following students been chosen to play in the Tamworth Development squad for hockey: Girls – Olivia Coombes, Isabella Bolsom, Dakota Welsh, Jorja Easterman; Boys – Corben Shepherd, Harry Hagon, Dusty Hagon. Well done on this achievement and your success!



St Michael's Manilla students in 'hockey' action

Confirmation - Inverell

Congratulations to the children who received the sacrament of Confirmation in Inverell. May the Lord be ever present in your lives as you develop and grow in your faith.



Fr Roel and Bishop Kennedy with all the confirmation recipients

Disability Inclusions

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Centacare
New England North West
Rural Resilience

THE SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

Aloma and her family

Armidale takes action for Caritas' Project Compassion

Thousands of generous supporters across Australia, including schools and parishes, earlier this year joined the fight against global poverty by supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Appeal.

Nationally more than \$11 million was raised for the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church.

Project Compassion, held annually across the six weeks of Lent, seeks to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity all over the world and this year took on the theme of "Love your Neighbour."

Naomi Bassett, Caritas Australia's representative in the Armidale diocese, noted the powerful community response to this year's campaign which saw more \$78,000 donated to the Appeal from supporters across the diocese.

"For more than 50 years, Project Compassion has enabled Caritas Australia to transform the lives of millions of people," Ms Bassett said.

"The money raised through Project Compassion will ensure that Caritas can continue its life changing work with the most marginalised in 29 countries globally and also in Australia."

For Aloma in the Philippines, Caritas Australia has been an empowering force, enabling her to take a leadership role in environmental conservation—an initiative which is crucial to her entire community.

In 2009, when a major typhoon raged, Aloma and her small children cowered while their home fell to shreds around them.

"My kids were traumatised with that experience, as well

as me. We were lucky to survive," Aloma said.

But through training from Caritas Australia's partners, Aloma has prepared her community for new high risk scenarios. She's encouraging villagers to practice disaster risk management and to value the natural environment.

"The greatest change in my life was to realise that the environment is very important, because we grow up cutting down all the trees around us, including the mangroves...and use [them] for firewood," Aloma said.

"Now, instead, we are planting the mangroves for our own protection. It is important to protect the environment. This will protect us, because we are in a coastal area, from a tsunami or eventual flooding."

To make a donation or to learn more about Caritas Australia visit: www.caritas.org.au.





CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Diocese of Armidale

**Do your children and grandchildren need a Catholic education?
Our schools are good schools and good Catholic Schools!**

Our Catholic system of schools in Australia is unique in the world. With 1 in 5 students in Australia being educated in our Catholic schools we are in a strong position to influence Australian society. The Diocese of Armidale is leading the way with our efforts to ensure our schools remain authentically Catholic through Bishops endorsed document on Catholic Core Principles and Values and their integration in the school's curriculum. All teachers in the Diocese recently attended our annual professional development day on Fidelity in Relationships which follows on from the Primacy of God and Sanctity of Life considered in 2015/16. By exploring these principles and values in 2017 our teachers are challenged to see the church's teachings on controversial issues such as marriage and divorce, homosexuality, pornography and sexual relationships. The clash of secular and Catholic values in our schools is one of the challenges of our evangelising mission in our Catholic schools.

Our teachers must also be accredited to teach religious education and all of our staff are contracted to support the Catholic ethos of our school communities. It is a credit to our school leaders and teachers that so many of them have post graduate qualifications in leadership, theology and religious education. Our school leadership teams are committed to making our schools places where we do proclaim, witness and serve. School prayer life, masses and liturgies are a strong feature of our schools and our staff and students experience a unique sense of Catholic community based on positive relationships.

In order for our schools to be effective places of evangelisation we need to ensure our Catholic families choose a Catholic education. Our schools need to be good Catholic schools and very good schools. More next time on how we are working to ensure all our students get a quality education which is academically challenging in a pastorally caring environment.

Director of Schools
Chris Smyth



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:
GREAT LEARNING
GREAT COMMUNITIES**



Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Armidale

www.arm.catholic.edu.au



Support for people with low vision

This year the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale have begun supporting students in our diocese who are blind or have low vision. A young student who is blind needs braille books and tactile pictures to make reading engaging. The tactile pictures are 'looked at' with the child's fingers and add meaning to the braille text. Below are some examples of tactile pictures for a young student.

Are you creative and have some spare time? If so I would love to hear from you. I am looking for some people who would like to get together to make some tactile pictures for Kindergarten picture books for a student who is blind. The amount of time you share is entirely up to you. The resources will be provided and any skill level will be gratefully accepted. The key to success is being able to think with your fingers instead of your eyes. If you would like to help please call Karen Croake, Specialist Vision Teacher with the Catholic Schools Office on 0427 921 038.



Discrimination

Year 6 students from St Joseph's West Tamworth wrote these poems as a Christian response to discrimination whilst learning about the topic 'The Reign Of God'.

Let's Try a Little Kindness

By Augustin Monet

Where is acceptance and kindness?
None of this can be found because of those who are racist,
There is no black or white,
There is not even wrong, there is only right.

Where is the justice and compassion?
There only those who care about fashion.
I can't find equal because of the children that
are sick and dying,
Please, let's all have peace and stop the fighting.

Let's go back to before,
Where was the love? Not the hate and the war.
Let's open the door,
To those who are poor.

Where is the care for the people in need?
Let's show them love with a wonderful deed.
Think of those that bleed,
May we all please be freed.

Let's light up the world with brightness,
Let's show a little kindness.

Why do we discriminate?

By Thomas McKenzie

Why are we fighting?
Why is there war?
Why are people dying?
Let's change it for all!

Why are we racist?
Why do we hate?
People are hungry,
And we just ate!

Why are there rich?
Why are there poor?
We need to help,
Those who are sore!

Why are we mean?
And worry about karma!
Kindness is great,
Just like armour!

Aid to the Church in Need gives thanks for record year of donations

In 2016, international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) has once again raised a record total in donations. Last year, ACN brought in close to \$(US)148M, topping the 2015 total by \$(US)5.7M. This was the highest total ever raised in a year. The funds helped finance 5,303 projects in 148 countries.

More than a quarter of the grants were awarded for projects located in Africa, where the Church continues to grow. The African continent accounts for more than a third of all grant applications where an aggressive form of Islam has been spreading.

Just behind funding for Africa came emergency and subsistence aid for Church communities in the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity. This support is vital for ensuring the survival of Christianity in the region. This aid is expected to continue to grow exponentially in 2017 as ACN has launched a multi-million campaign to help displaced Christians return to their homes in areas newly liberated from the grip of ISIS.

In Central and Eastern Europe, the focus of the aid is shifting from building projects to training and ongoing

education for religious men and women.

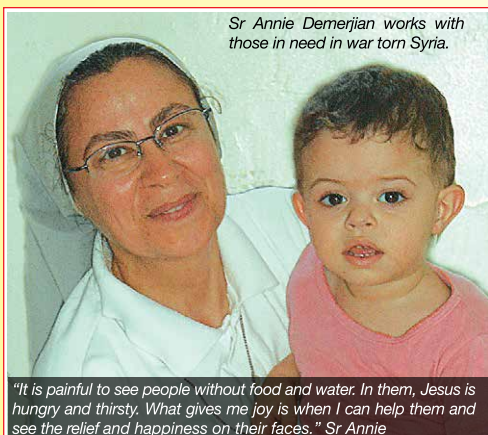
Construction and repair of 1,200 chapels, churches, cathedrals and seminaries all over the world were financed in part by ACN, mostly in regions hard hit by natural disasters.

The link to this story can be found at <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1499130586.html>

Seminarians of The Good Shepherd Major Seminary in Kaduna, Nigeria who receive support from ACN @ Aid to the Church in Need



Help Religious Sisters - the unsung heroines in the Church!



They smile, they heal, they teach, they comfort. Around the globe Catholic religious sisters quietly perform their dedicated and heroic service without remuneration and barely even noticed by the wider world. But in order to assist others, they themselves also need to be helped, for although they minister to so many, they themselves still need their daily bread and a roof over their heads.

Each year the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) supports over 11,000 religious sisters wherever the Church is poor or persecuted.

It is vital that the indispensable work of religious sisters in Christ's Holy Catholic Church continues. Religious sisters are the unsung heroines in the Church. ACN is proud to assist the inspirational work carried out by religious sisters in some of the poorest, most dangerous places in the world.

A complimentary Vatican rosary blessed by Pope Francis will be sent to all those who can assist with a donation of \$20.00 or more to support this cause and tick the box in the coupon below.



Send to: Aid to the Church in Need PO Box 7246 Baulkham Hills BC NSW 2153

Tel No: (02) 9679-1929 Email: info@aidtochurch.org Web: www.aidtochurch.org

I/We enclose \$..... to support the work of Religious Sisters for the poor and persecuted Church.

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to Aid to the Church in Need OR please debit my Visa or Mastercard:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Signature Exp Date /.....

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Sr/Rev

Address PC

Ph Email



The Papal rosary designed by the Vatican Rosary makers will be sent out to all those who can assist this cause with a donation of \$20.00 or more and tick this box ☐

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED... a Catholic charity dependent on the Holy See, providing pastoral relief to needy and oppressed Churches

Volunteering with Palms Interview

Contributed by Diane Hanna, Palms volunteer in the Diocese of Maliana, Timor Leste

About Dianne and the Maliana Diocese

Dianne Hanna, an accountant and parishioner of St Bernadette's Castle Hill, is volunteering through Palms Australia for two years as Financial Advisor the Diocese of Maliana in Timor Leste (East Timor). Maliana is the third and newest diocese in the young nation, formed in 2010 from 10 parishes in the rural Bobonaro District which borders with Indonesian West Timor.

Maliana is currently building a financial system to support its parishes in the delivery of services. Diocese staff had been initially trained in using MYOB software by Palms volunteers Paul and Esther Sim during 2014-15. Now Dianne is training and assisting teams in each Parish as the financial system is standardised across 10 remote communities. This is assisting the Diocese to enable improved delivery of social, health and education services to the rural people of Bobonaro.

Why I never regret going to Timor Leste

Timor Leste is a beautiful country surrounded with natural beauty. I enjoy walking and living in Maliana. It provides me with many trails to follow, sometimes taking the climb up the mountain, other times through the rice fields and other times along the water's edge taking a plunge to cool off on a hot day. In the community, I feel very safe to walk alone during the day and have come to know a lot more people and community groups through my regular walks. The people are very warm and welcoming.

What is best about living in community (the Palms approach)?

Through living in the community, I have become involved in community activities sharing in festivals and weddings, officiating soccer games and training with the players, as well as attending funerals and praying for those that have passed on.

All of this has deepened my understanding and appreciation of Timorese culture which in turn has provided me with insights that have been invaluable in working alongside the Timorese people. I also feel that the people within the community are able to better understand me which in turn builds the trust required for a cross-cultural sharing of experiences whereby I feel comfortable to communicate my perspective in a way that is culturally sensitive and the person I am interacting with can receive the information as intended and respond also knowing that they won't be misunderstood.

How has the volunteer experience changed or enriched your life, world view and attitudes?

Any experience has the potential to challenge and broaden a person's views on the world and to enrich and change their attitude but the person has to be willing to



be changed and enriched. A closed glass bottle tossed in the ocean will only ever float and know the surface of the ocean.

Through my experience I have come to value and become more aware of different perspectives. Working in the setting that I do, I encounter many NGOs that openly share their views on what the problems are and what needs to be done. I am very fortunate that I am able to balance these perspectives with others to benefit from their insights.

Has the experience contributed to your vocation and approach? In what ways?

In my professional work-life I was required to assess a situation and make decisions quickly. Through my placement I am starting to value taking time to see and understand a situation from different perspectives because each perspective provides a different insight not possible to be seen by me alone.

For many years I worked in a job that did not respond to my spiritual growth. Working in the finance industry I did not feel it possible to have that side of my life fulfilled through the work that I did. Through my placement I have come to know another way to use the talents that I have been given while at the same time responding to God's calling for me.

About Palms Australia

Since its creation in 1961, Palms has sent over 1500 volunteers to live simply and work in communities in Australia and overseas. In six decades and 39 countries, Palms volunteers have donated time valued at over \$200million. Since Timor-Leste regained independence in 2001, over 80 Palms volunteers have worked with local institutions to build the capacity of the poorest of Timor Leste.

Enquiries:

Kevin Wilson, Communications Officer kevin@palms.org.au +61 2 9560 5333



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2017 CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Sydney Olympic Park

This will be Australia's biggest Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney. Thousands of young people will gather for the final Mass of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival to be held in Sydney from 7 to 9 December 2017.

The three-day festival is a youthful and energetic celebration hosted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in partnership with the Archdiocese of Sydney. The surrounding dioceses, including the Diocese of Parramatta, and Catholic agencies are generously supporting this whole of Church celebration.

The event will be held at Sydney Olympic Park and at other key locations in the city. It is expected to attract 15,000 young people who will celebrate their faith together while also acknowledging 10 years since Sydney hosted World Youth Day in 2008.

The large national festival grew out of Australia's involvement in the World Youth Days and a desire over many years to gather Australia's Catholic youth together. It exists to provide young people with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia. The first festival was held in Melbourne in 2013 and the second in Adelaide in 2015.

Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney and Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate for Youth, is looking forward to welcoming young people from every diocese across the country.

"I look forward to welcoming the youth of Australia to Sydney in December 2017 for the Australian Catholic

Youth Festival," Archbishop Fisher said. "Who could forget the energy and the buzz when we welcomed tens of thousands of young people to our city for World Youth Day in 2008. Now, nearly a decade later, young people from across the country will join Church leaders to celebrate and pray for the young Church of Australia."

The festival marks the beginning of the Year of Youth in 2018, proclaimed by the bishops of Australia to celebrate 10 years since World Youth Day was hosted in Sydney. The theme of the festival is, 'Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment'. This theme will carry on throughout the Year of Youth.

With one year to go, Archbishop Fisher set in motion an electronic countdown clock by which all involved can track their preparations and build expectations for the largest Catholic national youth event to be held in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia.

For more information about the Festival, see www.acyf.org.au.

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta - www.parra.catholic.edu.au



Grease is the Word!



*St Albert's
students in College
production of
Grease the Musical.*

St Albert's College students, staff, parents and members of the Senior Common Room worked tirelessly to bring together the College's inaugural musical 'Grease'.

This spectacular production was performed over two nights at the Armidale Ex-Services Club with 800 guests treated to an entertainment extravaganza. With many laughs along the way, both actors and audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As a result of its success

and popularity amongst the student body, a College musical will become an annual fixture in the St Albert's calendar and we can't wait to see what the students have in store for next year's production.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the broader St Albert's and Armidale communities, for their support of what were two outstanding performances.



Leads Joe Keady as Danny and Sophia Thatcher as Sandy



Some of the St Albert's girls in the College production of Grease the Musical

BACK COVER PHOTO: Grease the Musical performed by St Albert's College students.



Congratulations Super Savers

Congratulations to the hundreds of students who entered ADIG Super Student Saver Poster Competition last term. We were impressed, not only by the number of entries, but also by the extraordinary standard of entries. Entries were thoughtful, bright, and all encouraged fellow students to save, complete with hints and tips.

Congratulations to the three winners:

Jesper Grace, Infants – St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Quirindi

Hannah Coghill, Stage 2 - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Quirindi

Oscar Krogh, Stage 3- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wee Waa

Each student won a book prize for themselves and pack of books at Stage level for their school. We hope these books are useful and enjoyable. Twenty-one Highly Commended awards were also presented throughout the Diocese.

Every Primary School in the Diocese has been sent a copy of each winning poster. Look for them at your school for savings goals, hints and tips.

Changes to Rainbow Club Accounts

Students were exploring the personal benefits of saving as ADIG promotes its new Student Saver Account. ADIG's Student Saver Account is an account for children who are in an Armidale Diocesan Primary school. Regular payments to a student's account through the school has benefits for both the student and the school. Students have the convenience of saving through their school and earning prizes through regular saving. Student saving earns the school a commission. Importantly, school saving promotes the religious and charitable purpose of ADIG.

Due to regulatory changes imposed on all Religious Charitable Development Funds, of which ADIG is one, Student Saver Accounts will replace Rainbow Club banking. Students will be offered a savings account with a notice period of 31 days' notice for withdrawal. All Rainbow Club accounts must be closed by January, 2018.

28 - AUGUST 2017 - CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT



Oscar Krogh of St Joseph's Wee Waa beside his award winning poster

All Rainbow Club account holders will be contacted via post over the next few weeks. Each letter will outline options for student savers. Please ensure ADIG is informed of any change-of-address details and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. At ADIG we value our account holders. Let us assist you through this transition.



L to R: Hannah Coghill (Stage 2 Winner), Isabella Stinson (Prefect), Tom McCulloch (School Captain) Jesper Grace (Infants Winner) & Jade Wilson (School Captain) from St Joseph's Quirindi accept Super Saver Poster Competition prizes from Meg Lloyd.

Extracts from ADIG 2017 Annual Report

Armidale Diocesan Investment Group (ADIG) has completed another successful year, providing a distribution of \$1,600,000 to the Diocese and Parishes.

In this year's Annual Report, Bishop Michael Kennedy stated how impressed he was with the work of ADIG within the Armidale Diocese. He expressed the value ADIG's support provides to parishes, schools, Diocesan organisations and the Diocese itself. Importantly, the Bishop acknowledged the pride the Diocese has in the way individual parishioners provide support through retaining accounts with ADIG. Armidale Diocese has the highest proportion of parishioners of all Dioceses

in Australia supporting their local catholic development fund.

Helen Dawson, ADIG's General Manager, further extended thanks to investors whose continued support allows the Group to fulfil their mission by assisting the Bishop in advancing the pastoral role of the Church in the Diocese by providing:

- a) adequate low-cost funds for capital works
- b) distributions to the Diocese and Parishes.

The continued success of ADIG is the result of the

stewardship of the Board and staff. The Board is determined to maintain an interest rate structure that is fair to borrowers and investors in the current low interest rate environment. ADIG investment rates are usually in the middle to top half of any comparative table. Investors are asked to consider not only quoted rates but the whole package of what the Group does.

As Religious Charitable Development Funds comply with recently introduced regulatory changes, ADIG is well positioned to meet changes in products and services, by focusing on becoming a highly competitive savings institution for retail investors. ADIG continues to improve and remains a customer focused organisation. Members of the Armidale Diocesan community are urged to enquire about ADIG's products and to experience their exemplary service.

Armidale Diocesan Investment Group Extracts from Audited Financial Statements

Income Statement

	31-Jan-15	31-Jan-16	31-Jan-17
Income			
Interest & investment income	14 624 262	7 955 372	13 640 997
Interest paid to depositors	(6 080 518)	(5 252 605)	(5 773 295)
Gross Margin	8 543 744	2 702 767	7 867 702
Operating Expenses	(1 425 661)	(1 570 229)	(1 748 127)
Operating surplus from ordinary activities	7 118 083	1 132 538	6 119 575
Add/(less) transfers from/(to) reserves	(3 265 000)	2 900 000	(2 851 841)
SURPLUS AFTER RESERVE TRANSFERS	3 853 083	4 032 538	3 267 734
Reserves Brought Forward	19 975 360	23 793 443	22 525 981
Transfers (from)/to reserves	3 265 000	(2 900 000)	2 851 841
Distributions	(3 300 000)	(2 400 000)	(1 600 000)
RESERVES & RETAINED PROFITS AT YEAR END	23 793 443	22 525 981	27 045 556

Balance Sheet

	31-Jan-15	31-Jan-16	31-Jan-17
Assets			
Loans	7 221 307	13 167 010	13 113 633
Investments	238 779 387	241 831 769	245 285 292
Other Assets	959 197	558 630	15 541 826
TOTAL ASSETS	246 959 891	255 557 409	273 940 751
Liabilities			
Depositor funds - individuals	109 249 417	103 672 572	106 134 822
Depositor funds - Other (see Note A)	113 459 901	128 647 629	136 250 213
Creditors & accruals	237 074	386 784	497 882
Other Liabilities	220 056	324 443	4 012 278
TOTAL LIABILITIES	223 166 448	233 031 428	246 895 195
NET ASSETS	23 793 443	22 525 981	27 045 556
Represented by Retained Profits & Reserves			
Retained profits	7 158 157	8 790 695	10 458 429
Reserve funds	16 635 286	13 735 286	16 587 127
TOTAL RESERVES & RETAINED FUNDS	23 793 443	22 525 981	27 045 556
<i>Note A: Short Term deposits included in deposit or funds-other</i>	<i>50 531 402</i>	<i>51 601 486</i>	<i>56 606 064</i>



Women and children's health the focus for Catholic Mission World Mission Month Appeal

If you've ever been in an ambulance or known someone who has, Catholic Mission's 2017 World Mission Month Appeal might have added meaning.

The annual appeal, to be conducted throughout the



Sr Mary with one of the baby's from St Luke's Health Centre

Armidale Diocese in October, will focus on Uganda and the Daughters of Mary, a local order, who are trying to improve women and children's health through Jesus' life-giving mission.

At St Luke's Health Centre in Bujuni, a small village three hours west of Kampala, Sister Mary Goretti manages a small staff to prepare expectant mothers for safe delivery of their babies.

With prenatal and postnatal education programs, general health check-ups and a maternity ward for new deliveries, St Luke's provides an invaluable service for the local community; yet many young women risk their lives to receive essential healthcare.

Evas Masanyu is a 24-year-old woman who lives on the outskirts of Bujuni. Last year, as she went into labour, Evas' only option to get to the nearest health centre was on the back of a motorbike.

Despite the heavy rain and dangerous conditions, Evas made it to St Luke's. But, needing a C-section, which is beyond the capacity of the small centre, Evas was referred to a larger hospital. She gave birth, but the baby was very ill and, two days later he tragically died.

Sister Mary, who visited the Armidale Diocese in June, says it is a tragedy that should have been avoided. 'When she's very weak, the mother cannot sit on a motorcycle which is the only available means of transport,' she said.

'I think if we get a vehicle it will really help us to save the life of the mother and the baby. People come with hope that you are going to help them. Then you look at the condition, it's beyond our care here.' The appeal will support plans to expand the health centre's maternity ward, build a new children's ward and bring in vital scanning equipment and the desperately needed ambulance.

Jacqueline Toakley, Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission, says Evas' tragic story brings to light the need of women and children in Uganda, even despite the committed efforts of missionaries like Sister Mary.

'Many of us here in Australia can recall times of grief in our lives, but Evas' journey on the back of a motorbike through treacherous conditions to give birth to her first child is difficult to fathom,' she said. 'That she lost her child is especially devastating because it should never have come to that.'

'This appeal is about ensuring that St Luke's Health Centre, and other projects like it around the world, are supported so that the dedicated Catholic missionaries who run them can provide the most effective and life-saving services to their local communities.'

For more information about St Luke's Health Centre visit catholicmission.org.au/uganda or call the Armidale Diocesan office on 67718703.

A warm welcome for Sister Mary



Sr Goretti with Year 6 students from St Nicholas' School East Tamworth



Radio Talk-show star!

The warmth of the welcome more than made up for the cool weather when Sister Mary Goretti visited the Armidale Diocese in June. Sister Mary, whose work will be the focus of Catholic Mission's World Mission Month Appeal this October, travelled from Armidale to Gunnedah, sharing her experiences as Sister in Charge of St Luke Bujuni Health Centre in rural Uganda. St Luke's is a 24-bed health facility servicing a population of 15,000 people with very limited resources.

Sister Mary shared many stories of hope, but also of great sadness as she described the challenges involved in caring for mothers and babies in a hospital that has no ambulance and lacks basic medical equipment such as an ultra-sound machine and oxygen concentrator.

Her busy itinerary included visiting six schools, having dinner with the parishioners of Sts Mary and Joseph's Armidale and St Patrick's West Tamworth, afternoon tea with the residents of Nazareth House, an early-morning

interview with ABC radio and even a flying visit to a local farm! In between there were countless cups of tea. In fact, Sister left the diocese with a new (very Australian) expression, 'Let's have a cuppa!'.

Sister Mary was touched by the hospitality she received and very grateful for the interest the local Catholic community showed in her work. On her last day she told me, "It gives us great comfort to know that our burden is shared".

A very big thank-you to Fr Afu, Fr Adriano, Fr Macdonald and Fr McHugh, St Mary's Armidale, O'Connor Catholic College Armidale, McCarthy Catholic College Tamworth, St Nicholas' Catholic Primary School Tamworth, St Xavier's Catholic Primary School Gunnedah, St Mary's College Gunnedah, the Sisters of Nazareth and the many Catholic Mission supporters who made Sister Mary's visit such a success.

Contributed by Jacqui Toakley



Sr Mary with Year 4 students of St Xavier's Gunnedah



Laying of the foundation stone at St Joseph's Gunnedah July 7, 1918, by Bishop O'Connor

Foundation Stone Centenary St Joseph's Gunnedah

Plans are under way in Gunnedah to celebrate the centenary of the laying of the foundations stone of St Joseph's Church by Bishop PJ O'Connor on July 7, 1918.

The celebration will be held in Gunnedah on Sunday, June 10, 2018, and the search is on for past parishioners to return for this momentous occasion.

As soon as you enter the welcoming portico of St Joseph's, you are filled with a sense of history and the realisation that over the past century many graces and blessings have flowed from within these hallowed walls.

With a rapidly growing town population and increasing number of parishioners at St Joseph's, the tiny church built in 1876 had become inadequate for the needs of the faith community and plans to build a larger church were undertaken by a gentle Irish priest, Fr Daniel Keane. Fr Keane had served as assistant priest from 1909 and when he was appointed Parish Priest in 1918 he set about building the new church, starting with a small fund from various sources. The architect for the building was FJ Bishop and the contractor M. Audet, with Walter Westerweller, of Gunnedah, the builder. The beautiful Gothic-style building was completed the following year, with the solemn blessing and dedication by his Lordship

by the Right Reverend Dr O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale on Sunday, June 22, 1919, "in the presence of a crowded congregation".

Further information is available from Parish Priest Fr John McHugh on 6742 0200.





St Joseph's Gunnedah War Memorial Church

St Joseph's Catholic Church Gunnedah was recently registered as the site of 14 war memorials to district soldiers lost in World War 1.

St Mary's College students, Mackenzie Dewsbury and Emmerson Tull, with the support of teacher Vicki Isbester, researched and uploaded the information to the NSW War Memorials Register. Gunnedah was a small town of less than 3000 people when World War 1 erupted, yet 325 of the town and district's young men answered the patriotic call. Sadly 108 of those young men did not return. Parish priest Fr Daniel Keane, had a vision for the future needs of his flock at a time when local residents were grieving the loss of so many young men on the battlefields of France and Gallipoli in World War 1. The beautiful Gothic building literally became a memorial to those lost in the Great War with the Stations of the Cross dedicated to loved ones who never came home.

The 14 stations cost 10 pounds (\$20) each and the pain and suffering of Jesus on his way to Calvary is a reflection of the deep tragedy and suffering caused by war. The stations in St Joseph's Church are painted reliefs, with an inscription honouring one or more soldiers, where and when they died, and the name of the donor. Building

work on the church began in the final months of World War 1. The foundation stone was laid on July 7, 1918 by Dr O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale and the opening and blessing of the church was celebrated on June 22, 1919.





Why the Andrews legislation is all about suicide

What's the sense of offering legal assisted suicide as a form of suicide prevention?

It's difficult to talk about suicide. Not a person who reads this hasn't been touched by one. As a society, we're learning slowly to talk about it, to keep a caring eye out for friends and loved ones and to ask: R U OK?

So, what's this got to do with the coming Victorian bill supported by Premier Daniel Andrews? Everything.

Part of the emotional sales pitch repeated *ad nauseum* about why Victoria needs this legislation came from a submission and verbal evidence given to the Upper House Parliamentary Committee looking into euthanasia and assisted suicide in 2016 by the Victorian Coroner, John Olle, and his colleagues.

Olle's evidence before the committee focussed on the Coronial data of suicides by people in the throes of what he called "irreversible decline". These people have a terminal and incurable disease and they can foresee their death. Or they have a chronic disease without death being imminent, but they have permanent physical incapacity and pain. There are about 50 such cases every year. A very sad statistic.

Olle's advice is to offer legal assisted suicide as a form of suicide prevention.

We need suicide prevention organisations and national strategies, but they have to be for everyone –including people living with disability and those who have a terminal illness. As British actress and disability activist Liz Carr told the Victorian Parliament a few months ago, the distinction between the two is very often blurred.

But the model proposed by Daniel Andrews' panel actually discriminates against those who might qualify for assisted suicide or euthanasia. Just because a person ticks all the boxes should not mean that they are treated any differently, but they will be. This is suicide enabling rather than prevention.

Right now, absent Andrews' Bill, if such a person were to ask for suicide or euthanasia there's a pause created by the current law that prohibits anyone from actively supporting someone to commit suicide. Instead, medical professionals will work their craft seeking to ameliorate the concerns and to deal with the very real issues. Palliative care specialists tell me that their patients rarely talk about wanting suicide. Even when they do, very few ever sustain that thinking over time. But we should not

discount the problem because of numbers.

Should Daniel Andrews get his way, the response of the doctor to these *cris de coeur* will change. Whereas, in a palliative context, requests may currently be rare, six months away from death or even 12 months as the model allows, such thoughts may be more common; particularly in the weeks and months after diagnosis.

Upon request, the doctor will then begin a process that will lead to a prescription for a lethal substance.

To be sure, many doctors will still seek to deflect, reassure and to otherwise counsel a patient against such an action. Many, not all. And the very knowledge of the existence of a legal pathway to suicide and euthanasia is just as likely to encourage a patient to persist with the request or possibly even plant the thought to ask, knowing that they have a 'right' to do so.

But the cruellest of hoaxes is the idea that the people who will suicide under such a scheme will be making voluntary decisions with full capacity. There's no guarantee. It really is an aspirational if not entirely utopian assertion.

Putting aside the fact that a request to be made dead is currently dealt with by suicide prevention; putting

further aside the reality that coercion and depression may be subtle and difficult to detect and even accepting, momentarily, that a request for suicide may somehow not be an indicator of suicidal thoughts, there's still the question about the time of the suicide itself.

This issue is about suicide and the Andrews' bill is state sanctioned suicide. It will also be an act of abandonment; a counsel of despair for those in critical need.

Paul Russell is director of HOPE: preventing euthanasia & assisted suicide, which is based in Australia.

Full article can be found at www.mercatornet.com



Back Cover Photo: Lydia Bassett, Charo Brown & Eve Newsome having fun after Mass on Sunday

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- Disability support services
- Support for young people through headspace Tamworth

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