

V.Catholic Viewpoint†

MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALASIAN
CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION
ISSN 1446-0041
CIRCULATION 6,200

VOL 25 - NO. 3
JUNE 2016
DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

In God's Image



Heidi Hoffman and her son Ethan Tribe

Look at me and let me hear your voice



The Bishop Speaks

I recently read a moving article about an American mother with an autistic daughter. Typical of autistic children, the girl was indifferent to her mother. She never followed her around or tried to imitate her; she never asked or called her mum for help; she looked *through* her mother; avoiding eye contact with her, and gravitating to solitude she resented and resisted any intrusion into her world.

The mother, along with professional therapists, undertook to recover the girl from her autism with an intensive course of behavioural therapy. They succeeded - to the extent that she became indistinguishable from her siblings and peers. The mother in particular gave herself wholeheartedly to the task. Much of what she did was to continually engage with her daughter and force her daughter to engage with her – to “look at me and let me hear your voice” as she put it.

The article I read summed up the process by saying that the mother committed both herself and her child to a demanding, sometimes painful therapy called life! And in the end she received back a fully alive, loving, talking, and laughing child.

In recent years the number of people diagnosed with autism has skyrocketed. At the same time, all around us, we are experiencing a different yet similar epidemic. On the streets, at work, in the playground, in line at the shops, and even at the dinner table people are not looking at each other or listening to each other, but are going about their business in isolation of each other bent over a small glowing screen, as if saying their prayers.

Recently in North Sydney I noticed large signs along the side of the road warning pedestrians to look up from their phones and stay alert so as not to get hit by cars. I'm sure, like me, you have seen people sitting in cafes and restaurants, not talking to each other, but texting or emailing or web browsing on their phones.

Today, anxious people unable to sit alone with their thoughts and unable to engage meaningfully with the person in front of them check their phones on average every 5 ½ minutes. Our new smart phones have turned out to be portable Pied Pipers irresistibly pulling people away from the person in front of them and from the task before them.



Fortunately, there is a therapy for recovery from this epidemic. It's a simple one that boils down to this: "look at me and let me hear your voice". A friend tells me of a restaurant in Melbourne which has a sign that says "No wifi. Talk to each other"! And science confirms what we already know: that eye contact is essential for brain development, emotional stability, and social fluency.

Created in the image of God who is a Trinity or Communion of Persons, we are social beings. We find our joy and fulfilment through our relationships with others, both human and divine and from being in their real (not virtual) presence. For God too says to us "look at me and let me hear your voice". I'm reminded of the 19th Century French peasant who used to spend hours each day in his parish church. When the Parish Priest, Saint John Vianney, asked him what he did all that time he said, referring to God, "I look at him and he looks at me".

Phones are not the only Pied Piper doing their best to draw us away from God. There are so many things to look at, to listen to, to busy ourselves with, and to worry about. Many of these things may not necessarily be bad in themselves, but do they leave us time to look at God and listen to him?

God is like that mother I read about. He wants to recover each one of us from our world of distractions and self-

absorption so as to be his fully alive, loving, talking, and laughing children. The Church does all she can to assist this therapy - our Cathedrals, spires, crucifixes, altars & stained glass windows; our liturgies, Gospel readings, chants, bells, & incense; our sacraments, bread, wine, water, and oil; the Eucharist, Jesus Christ's very own body and blood before us – all these things cry out to us from God: "Look at me, listen to me, taste me, smell me, and touch me."

The Church can only do so much for me. In the end, I have to create the time and the space in my life to look at God and let him look at me, to listen to his voice and let him hear my voice in return. Let us enjoy living in the real presence of God.



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale

A New Bishop for Parramatta

And so finally, the LONG wait is over (pardon the pun!). After 18 months without a bishop, you have been given one in the person of a Franciscan, an Asian Australian and a former refugee. You can blame Pope Francis for appointing me as a rather unlikely bishop to one of the youngest, most ethnically diverse and dynamic dioceses in the country. Indeed, I am very humbled by this appointment and grateful for the opportunity to serve the Church in Parramatta during this time.

My motto is "*Duc in altum*" or "Go further into the deep". I have taken many leaps of faith before, including the one that plunged me, literally, into the deep blue sea. Now I am about to be cast into the deep interior of Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, and I cannot help but feel daunted by what lies ahead. Nevertheless, I make bold to move forward, trusting in the sustaining power of God and the support of the clergy and people of this great Diocese.

Duc in altum! A bishop must not be afraid to walk with his people in the new exodus to the fullness of life and love. It's the place we can only reach with unwavering conviction and undying love for Christ and His people. I humbly ask you to pray for me your new bishop to walk this path with fidelity, humility and perseverance.

+Vincent Long OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta





This week, Facebook — along with Twitter, YouTube, and Microsoft — took drastic steps to trample free speech by signing an EU pledge “to combat online hate speech”. But an important, unanswered question remains — who will be deciding what exactly qualifies as “hate speech”? The concept of “hate speech” is itself highly subjective depending on the personal feelings of those monitoring online exchanges. Those advocating for the redefinition of marriage, for example, regularly accuse anyone who supports marriage as the union of one man and one woman of being “hateful”. In fact, “hate” has become a strategic buzzword within the LGBTI community as a means of immediately silencing dissenters.

*So Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Microsoft: who gets to decide which forms of speech are acceptable? Which viewpoints will be considered incendiary? How far does the definition of “hate speech” extend? Based on the history of strong support for same-sex marriage and LGBTI activism within these companies, **these are all valid questions that deserve answers.***

When messages are constantly monitored, when beliefs about marriage are subject to approval, and when unelected groups are given supreme power to remove any and all forms of expression they deem unacceptable, the fight against online hate speech mandates the surrender of free speech. Is this the type of society we want for ourselves — where one can only speak out if



he or she agrees with those in power? We believe, as you do, that freedom of speech and expression means being able to fearlessly speak out about marriage as the exclusive union of husband and wife. We will not be silenced!

Sophie York
Marriage Alliance Spokesperson
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28th national conference of the Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy.

Armidale recently hosted the 28th national conference of the Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy. The Confraternity (or the ACCC for short) is an association of bishops, priests and deacons which helps its members to grow in zeal, learning and holiness. It counts Bishop Luc Matthys and Bishop Michael Kennedy among its members, and Bishop Kennedy was in fact National Chairman of the ACCC until he was appointed Bishop of Armidale.

Bishop Kennedy was very gracious in offering Armidale’s newly-refurbished cathedral precinct as a venue for this year’s conference. Visiting clergy were grateful for the excellent conference and dining facilities, and the beautiful Ursuline chapel. The weather, too, was



perfect, marrying stunning autumn colours with a much-appreciated Indian summer.

The keynote speaker, Dr Anna Silvas, impressed us all, not only with her knowledge and wisdom, but also her evident love for God and the Church.



Over the course of three days, she delivered four thoughtful papers, covering the marriage covenant in ancient Israel, the marriage covenant in the early Church, the mysticism of St Basil the Great, and *Amoris Laetitia* — the most recent letter from Pope Francis to the Church.

Fr Julian Wellspring, who is an Associate Judicial Vicar of NSW Regional Tribunal, spoke to us about the Pope's reforms around the annulment of marriage.

Fr Scot Armstrong, a diocesan priest from Wagga who recently moved to Brisbane to co-found a new Oratory of priests living in community, shared his studies into Bl John Henry Newman's moral theology.

Dr David Daintree provided us with an enlightening survey of western civilization, which owes so much to Christianity.

Scholarly papers and presentations are an important part of the ACCC's national conferences, but they are not the sole focus. A lot of preparation and care is also taken towards prayer and liturgy, which constitute a significant portion of the schedule. We celebrated Morning Prayer in common each day, and of course Mass. We also celebrated Evening Prayer in common most days, and on two occasions the day concluded with a Holy Hour of

Eucharistic adoration and Solemn Benediction.

The ACCC Conference is also a great time to renew old friendships. There is plenty of time to share meals and catch up with others. The formal Conference Dinner concluded with an after-dinner address by Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green. He regaled us with amusing anecdotes from Wilcannia-Forbes' storied history. He also shared with us some of the unique challenges of pastoral work in remote Australia, and inspired some of the young priests and seminarians — at least momentarily — to surrender the comforts of city life and throw themselves into Outback ministry for a few years.

The five day conference passed quickly, but hopefully the memories linger. The national conference is only one facet of the ACCC's activity, but it is an important one. Clergy gather together to study, pray and enjoy each other's company. It's an occasion to live out Hilaire Belloc's famous ditty, slightly reworked:

Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine,
there's laughter [*and learning*] and good red wine.
At least I've always found it so.
Benedicamus Domino!

By Fr John Corrigan, ACCC Editor.



Armidale Pilgrims prepare for World Youth Day Kraków 2016

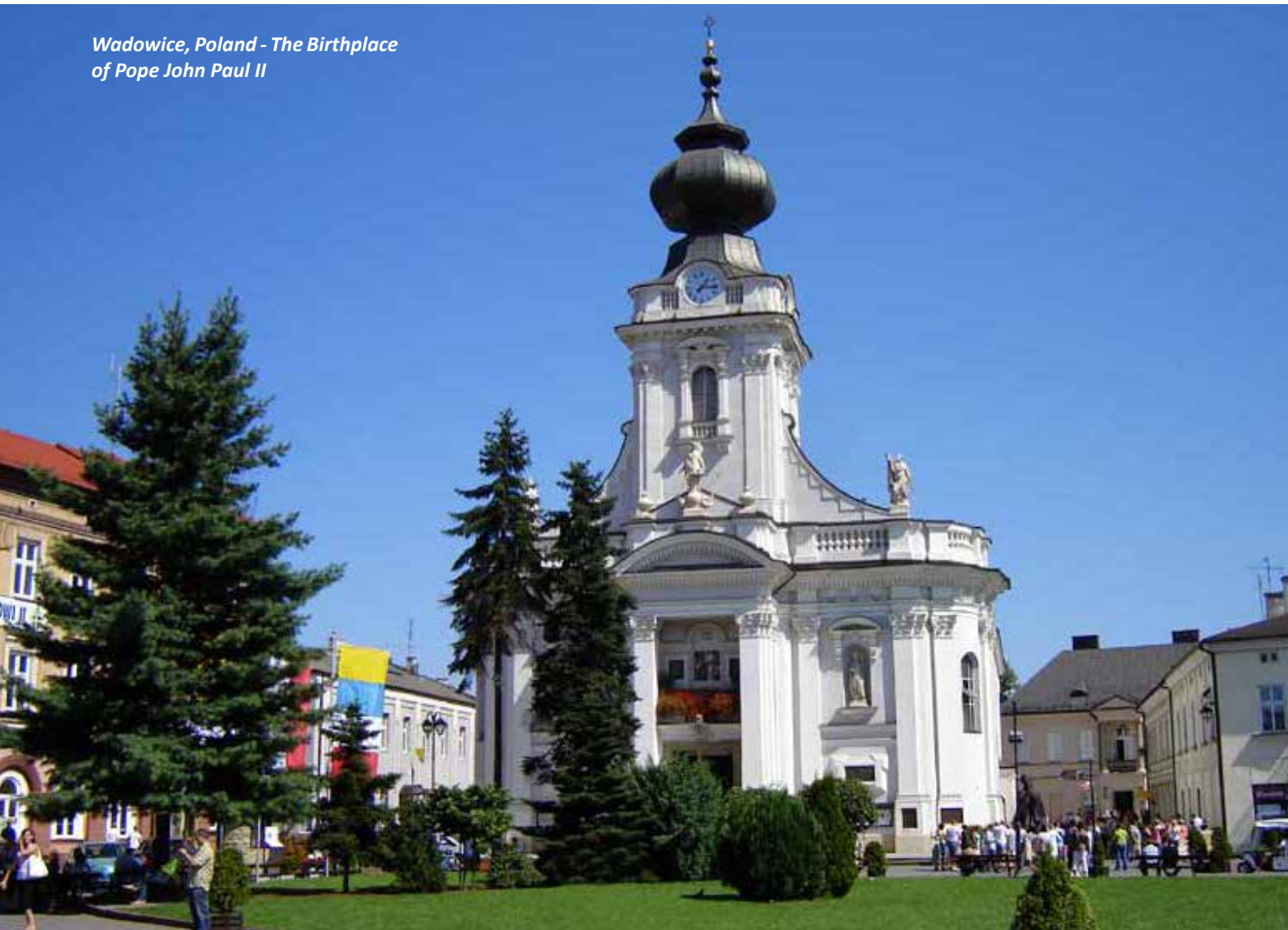
Over the past few months Fr Francis Afu has been working with Armidale Diocesan Pilgrims to prepare them spiritually for World Youth Day in Poland in July. The focus of the pilgrimage is exploring the legacy of St John Paul II. Fr Francis has been exploring the themes of mercy and the faith life of St John Paul II. Pilgrims have taken time to reflect on the lives of Ss Maximillian Kolbe, Theresa Benedicta and Faustina all of whom had an influence on St John Paul II.

Our pilgrims come from Tenterfield, Armidale, Tamworth, Narrabri and Moree and come from a wide range of backgrounds. There are farmers, store managers, university students, hospitality workers, teachers, married people, single people all journeying with Bishop Kennedy to Poland. The 20 Armidale Diocesan pilgrims will join with 40 other pilgrims from Wollongong, Cairns and Toowoomba under Bishop Kennedy's leadership to visit, pray and reflect on the significant places in St John Paul II's life such as his birth place in Wadowice, the shrine of Our Lady of Jasna Gora, the Shrine of the Divine Mercy and the many Cathedrals and Churches directly associated with St John Paul II or the other key saints.



*Weeping Madonna Our Lady of Calvary', Kalwaria
Zezrydowska, Poland*

*Wadowice, Poland - The Birthplace
of Pope John Paul II*



World Youth Day Pilgrims



I'm **David Kennedy**, aged 19. Currently I am doing casual farm/road work in a gap year after my HSC. I am from the parish of Wagga Wagga and heard about WYD from my older sister, Michelle, and Bishop Kennedy. I am looking forward to a wonderful and faith-filled experience on the WYD tour.

It will be great to share the pilgrimage with everyone on the Armidale tour. I have never travelled overseas and feel privileged to be able to tour around Poland then join with other young Catholics from around the world and participate in the WYD program and WYD Masses.



Renee Austin, I'm 23, and I'm a student at UNE studying a combined degree of Bachelor of Agriculture/Bachelor of Law. I am from the Armidale Cathedral Parish, and I have attended previous World Youth Days (in Sydney and Madrid), and was keen to go again. I'm hoping to meet people from all over the world, and experience

different cultures and ways of practicing the Catholic faith, whilst deepening my own faith.



My name is **Henry Buckman** and I am 26. I am currently working at The Reject Shop in Tamworth as the store manager. I am from St Nicholas Parish in Tamworth. I went to WYD in Sydney in 2008 but I found out about the diocesan pilgrimage from the ad in the Viewpoint last year. I am looking forward to exploring a new country (I have never been overseas before), enriching my own faith and hopefully bringing some of the energy and experiences from WYD back to my own parish.



I'm **Edward Ryan**, a 23 year old student. I am from the Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Guyra and I heard about WYD when Fr. Gleeson (of the Armidale parish) suggested that I should consider going. I am hoping to learn more about Catholicism in Poland (the

practices, history, saints, etc.) and to come into contact with more Catholics my own age.



Fran Mumford, 26. I teach Science and Religious Education at McCarthy Catholic College Tamworth. I come from St Nicholas' Parish, Tamworth. I have attended 2 previous WYD in Sydney and Rio de Janeiro. One of the really eye opening experiences from World Youth Day in Brazil was being able to see how another culture celebrates their faith, so I am looking forward to experiencing this in Poland.



My name is **Jessica Scully** and I am a Catholic Primary School Teacher at St Mary of the Angels in Guyra. I belong to the St Mary and St Joseph Parish in Armidale. I heard about the WYD pilgrimage through a Catholic Schools Bulletin that was sent to me mid-way through 2015.

I am really beginning to get excited about the WYD Pilgrimage. Father Francis told us in a preparation meeting that being a Pilgrim is different to being a Tourist. As a Tourist, you capture the moments, however as a Pilgrim you are captured BY the moments. I am looking forward to being captured by many moments on this trip.

As we are following in the footsteps of Saint John Paul II, I am looking forward to learning more about him and the places he visited. Being in the presence of Pope Francis and hearing his words on Mercy will surely be a memorable experience also.

Additionally, I am looking forward to the historical element of the trip, particularly Auschwitz. Being able to visit places where such hardship took place and being able to reflect on these moments is surely going to be a moving and emotional journey. I am very grateful to be selected to attend WYD in Poland and am ready to share the light of Christ with other pilgrims from around the world.

Others attending the WYD: Bishop Michael Kennedy, Fr Francis Afu, Lee Herden, Angela Farrell, Edmund Sadgrove, Lauren Donnelly, Mary Davidson, Courtney Mace, Paul Kennedy, Amy Roff, Zachariah Buckman, Katie McMenninman & Majella Mumford

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A VOTE FOR THE VOICELESS

A statement by the Catholic Bishops of Australia on the election

Australians are again going to the polls. The economy of course is important and there does need to be sound Management, but as Pope Francis has pointed out, there is also a danger that the economy can become a kind of false god to which even human beings have to be sacrificed.

This leads to what the Pope has called the throwaway culture - a culture of over-consumption where all kinds of things are thrown away, wasted, even human beings. The voices of the thrown-away people will not be heard in the long and rowdy campaign. Their faces will not be seen in all the advertising. Yet unless their voices are somehow heard and their faces seen, we will not have a truly human society in which economic management serves human beings rather than the other way round.

Among the people discarded in this throwaway culture are these:

- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Indigenous peoples
- The survivors of sexual abuse
- Those who suffer family violence
- Those in the womb
- The elderly
- Those suffering mental illness
- Those suffering addiction
- Those entrapped in new forms of slavery
- The desperately poor

There are others in our community, near and far, whose

voices are unheard, whose faces are unseen. they are seen as politically irrelevant. they will not decide any marginal seats or determine the result of the election. yet any society is ultimately judged not on how well it manages the economy but on how well it treats the thrown-away people.

Neither can we as Christians afford to be voiceless through this campaign. on all kinds of issues we need to make our voices heard. To do that we will have to listen first - not only to the voice of the voiceless, but even to the voice of God. That is why for Christians and others prayer is an essential part of this long journey to the election. By prayer, we mean first listening to God who has a word to speak in all this - the God who is neither voiceless nor faceless. If we can listen to God's voice, then there is a chance that we might be able to speak with a voice that is not just our own.

To listen to God and to the voiceless is in the end the same thing. In hearing their voice, we can hear the voice of God. That is where the real God is; that is how the real God communicates.

We hope that this campaign - for Christians at least and especially for Christian politicians - will be a time not of spin and bombast but a time of wise and true speaking that comes from deep and humble listening. Then our vote may be a vote in favour of a community where no-one is thrown away, where all the voices are heard and all the faces seen.

Full Version of publication is available on our website: armidale.catholic.org.au



Order of St Joseph's 150th Year Anniversary

Warialda Parishioners with Srs Yvonne McGettigan and Anita Vagg

Special blessings of St Mary MacKillop abounded when the Parish of St Patrick's West Tamworth celebrated the 150th year anniversary (Sesquicentenary) of her wonderful Australian Order. More than 300 people attended a very special Mass to commemorate the founding of the Order of St Joseph's of the Sacred Heart, established by St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison-Woods on 19 March 1866.

St Patrick's West Tamworth was delighted to be one of only five parishes in rural New South Wales to hold such an event. Clergy from throughout the Diocese attended, with many concelebrating the Mass. Many

nuns of the Order have provided invaluable service in the Armidale Diocese for more than 100 years and the gratitude for this service was expressed fully and eloquently by Most Reverend Bishop Michael Kennedy.

Many of those present commented on the spirit of St Mary MacKillop of the Cross being tangibly present. The spirit was also extended through the large numbers of Sisters of the Order being present for the occasion. Sisters from a number of other orders also attended. St Patrick's Parish's very own Sr Pat Duffy thoroughly enjoyed this special occasion and found it a great reward for her hard work in organising the event.



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Many ex-students of schools run by the Order attended, sharing special memories of their earlier schooling. Mary's spirit was especially present in the students who travelled from Mungindi and other local and distant schools. They were among the stars of the event. Following this very special Mass the Tamworth Josephite Associates and Catholic Women Connecting hosted a light lunch in the parish hall with sufficient food to feed the tribes of Israel.

St Patrick's Parish would like to thank all those who played their part in this most special celebration.

Photos by Farina Photographics



The Sisters of St Joseph of our Diocese and beyond celebrate their 150th Anniversary



The shrine at St Patrick's of St Mary MacKillop – the founder of the Sisters of St Joseph



Sr Mary Ellen O'Donoghue, NSW Josephite Regional Leader gives the opening address prior to Sesquicentenary Mass



The Celebratory cake and cross, the focus in St Patrick's Hall



Celebrating with Mass at St Patrick's West Tamworth



Reach out. Give life.

Diocesan Clergy Assembly

Catholic Mission was firmly on the agenda of the diocesan Clergy in June, with both National Director, Fr Brian Lucas, and Diocesan Director Jacqueline Toakley addressing the assembly.

Fr Lucas had just returned from a meeting of all the Pontifical Mission Societies' National Directors in Rome, and he gave the local priests a vivid description of Pope Francis' passion for mission.

He also reported that Cardinal Filoni, who oversees the Pontifical Mission Societies worldwide, was very complementary about Australia's contribution to the Society's work. Jacqui reported on the success of last year's Parish appeals across the Armidale diocese, thanked the priests for their support and spoke briefly about plans for this year's appeal which will be held in October.



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Rest in Peace

We remember a valued member of our community Sr Barbara, known as Sr Regina in the Diocese of Armidale before returning to her Baptismal name of Barbara.

When Barbara Bochat was eight, she told her parents she wanted to be a teacher, but not an ordinary teacher, she wanted to be one of the teachers in robes – in other words, a nun and a teacher. In 1966, she entered her novitiate in then rural Baulkham Hills. In 1968 she took her first vows and started teaching in the primary school in Manilla (NSW). In 1972, she took her final vows and became Sister Regina. The new sister had already started teaching in the primary school in Glen Innes and stayed there until 1977, when she moved on to Canberra as a principal, and then to St Mel's primary school in Campsie. In 1986, Bochat took a year off to go to Melbourne for study. In the 1980s she earned a master's in teaching, and in the 1990s, a master's in theology.

Back in NSW, Bochat became principal of the Catholic primary school in Walgett. From 1990 to 1995, she took a break from teaching and served on her order's provincial council, travelling around the state to see what the sisters

needed and arranging supplies in reply. Away from her life of teaching and prayer, Bochat enjoyed music, particularly opera, and ballet as well as live theatre. She loved people, treating everyone as deserving of generosity as a "brother or sister in Christ".



Then, in early 2014, a long-delayed (she was always too busy) colonoscopy revealed Bochat had bowel cancer. She died in April 2016 and more than 1000 people from all over NSW attended her funeral.

"Sr Barbara was on the Provincial Team for a while and was very supportive of those of us who were teaching music. I lived in the same community with

Barbara when she was teaching at Campsie and I was studying. I also met her at several meetings. Barbara was most conscientious about her responsibilities in whatever role she was asked to assume, both as a Religious Sister and as an educator."

Sr Margaret T. Cusack rsj



To the Llave family,

I wish to express my sympathies through Fr Roel to all of the members of the Llave family upon the death of your dearly beloved mother and grandmother Concepcion.

When possible I attend the funerals of the parents of the priests of the Diocese of Armidale. I do so as an expression of gratitude on behalf of the Church to parents who through their example have taught their children to lay down their lives out of love for God and neighbour. Concepcion did this as a mother; Fr Roel does this as a priest.

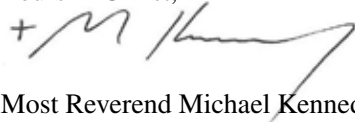
Unfortunately, I am unable to attend your mother's funeral today but I assure you all of my prayers for the repose of her soul and for your comfort and strength in this time of loss and sadness.

Although I never met Concepcion, it is clear from what Fr Roel has told me that she was a woman of quiet and trusting faith; a woman of prayer, love, and self-sacrifice; a woman who lived the challenges, the wonders and the beauty of motherhood.

May the Holy Mother of God, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, to whom Concepcion had true devotion in this life, intercede for her now to obtain for her the peace and joy of the risen Lord in the Kingdom of Heaven.

May she rest in peace and may God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy

Bishop of Armidale



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Around and About



Catechetics grows in Werris Creek

Mrs Lyndia Scott moved here late last year and is continuing the catechetical ministry in the Werris Creek Public school. There are now 18 children receiving weekly RE, a good increase on last year's number. This is particularly important in a parish which now has no Catholic school. She has great ability with making biblical figures and props for her lessons, using coloured cardboard which was given to us when the Catholic school closed down. Spring Ridge Public School has 5 Catholic children, attended to by Maree Lawson.

Lyndia Scott using her props with the kids of Werris Creek

Living Water, Myanmar

On Pentecost Sunday, Rosemary Breen of Inverell came and shared her presentation of the plight of Burmese villagers living in dry areas of the country, where tank water is becoming essential for daily life. The tanks need to be constructed, and it takes money to provide the materials, which the people put to good use to provide healthy drinking water. Afterwards, parishioners joined in a meal at the Wing Cheun with Rosemary, as we normally have a "parish" meal and get together every month.



A child from Myanmar drinking fresh water



Fr John Curran with the First Holy Communicants

First Holy Communion at Werris Creek

Congratulations to the children from Werris Creek Parish who made their first Holy Communion. As we do not have a Catholic School in Werris Creek, it's more important than ever to be involved with RE in the state school. Fr John Curran conducted five preparation lessons, in the church, after school for their First Holy Communion. The parents and participants were very enthusiastic and cooperative. It was hard work but it paid off and everyone enjoyed a very special day.

Around and About

Assist a Student

The reformed Mini Vinnies group at St Joseph's Warialda held a highly successful pyjama and movie afternoon to raise funds to Assist a Student. Children were asked to bring in a gold coin donation to go towards the \$70 needed to support a child to attend school in another country. The children got ready in the PJ's and slippers, we popped the popcorn and chilled the poppers.

With our English unit being about a dog, we watched "Marmaduke," which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Our two Mini Vinnies Treasurers counted the money, which was not only donated by the children but also parents, grandparents, staff and the Sisters. The children were so very excited to find out that they had raised \$75! Thank you to everyone who supported the Mini Vinnies children and the Assist a Student program.



Luca Quarello, Shianne McKee-Walsh, Mrs Mary-Jane Guest, Izzy Smith, Jasmine Cuell, Jasmin Briggs, Lachlan Hawkins, Darcy Woollett and Scarlett Smith enjoying the PJ afternoon.



Playgroup kids listening to The Gobble Gobble Moo Tractor Book by Jez Alborough.

St Patrick's Parish Playgroup Glen Innes

The Playgroup torch has been passed on to a dedicated new group of volunteers at St Patrick's Parish, Glen Innes. The new faces of Adriana Pietsch, Nicole Watson, Melissa Key and Narelle Pietsch are all very excited to take on a more responsible role within playgroup and find their creative side.

There has been a wide variety of children come and enjoy the Friday morning session, ranging in ages from 0-5yrs. Playgroup extends a warm welcome to all parents, grandparents and carers to come and enjoy a lovely morning at the Parish Hall on Fridays from 9.30am to 11.30am. Tea, coffee and morning tea are provided. Playgroup is a wonderful way to meet other parents with children of similar ages and they also have organised activities with the Kindergarten class from time to time.

Bishop Kennedy Medals Awarded

After the final blessing of Mass celebrating the feast day of Mary Help of Christians Bishop Kennedy presented the Bishop Michael Kennedy Medal to members of our Parish- Mr John Fittler, Mrs Marie Mooney and Mrs Jill Moroney for their significant involvement in St Edward's Parish South Tamworth and the Armidale Diocese. Congratulations John, Marie and Jill.

Jill Moroney, John Fittler, Marie Mooney (Rev. Paul Manvell, back), Bishop Michael Kennedy and Fr Paul Aguilar



Around and About



*Combined Soccer Team
Glen Innes/ Guyra/ Uralla*

3 Schools Combine for Diocesan Gala Day

St Joseph's Uralla, St Mary of the Angel's Guyra & St Patrick's Glen Innes' students combined forces to attend the Diocesan Soccer, Netball and Rugby League Gala Day in Tamworth. When we arrived at the fields we had to set up the gazebo and we were given our uniforms including shin pads and socks for the day. The Rugby League Gala team won 3 games, drew 1 and lost 1. The competition was somewhat difficult and it was a great experience playing against new people. The Under 10's Red Soccer team also had a great day out. They won 2, drew 2 and lost 1 game. It was fun to participate with the Glen Innes students. One Glen Innes student was injured at soccer - she bent her finger back and had to stop playing. The Under 10's Blue Soccer team played 6 games and we won 3 of them. When the Netball team arrived at the TREC centre, they also had to get into their uniform for the day. They played very well, playing 5 x 20 minute games. Our team came second on the ladder, only 2 points behind first. The competition was challenging especially against St Edward's. On the way home we watched movies and talked to our new friends from Glen Innes and Guyra! We shared a big bag of chips, talking about how much fun we had that day! Thank you to Mrs Brenda Wirth at St Joseph's Glen Innes for making this possible. *(Contributed by the primary students of St Joseph's Uralla.)*

Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia

Bishop Michael Kennedy with Parish Priest, Fr Paul Aguilar and priests from the Diocese celebrated Mass in Mary Help of Christians Church, South Tamworth. Bishop Kennedy blessed the Tabernacle which has been relocated to the centre of the Sanctuary, the new Repository for the Holy Oils (Ambry) and the new Mary MacKillop Shrine. Bishop Kennedy explained the importance of the tabernacle being in the centre of the sanctuary i.e. the tabernacle, altar and cross being the pivotal points of the sanctuary.

Statue of Our Lady Help of Christians



NSW supporters outweighing the QLD ones!

Go Team Caritas!

State of Origin in Mungindi brings even the quietest of people out... including the students of St Joseph's. Three times a year our little town situated on the border of Queensland and New South Wales gets to dress up and support their state. For the first game this year staff and students could wear their team colours for a gold coin donation to Caritas. As always we were not disappointed in the spirit and enthusiasm shown by all students!

Around and About

Confirmation at St Edward's School

A large number of students from our Mary Help of Christian's community made their Sacrament of Confirmation. This Mass was led by Bishop Michael Kennedy, Fr Paul and Deacon Manvell in what was a special morning. Congratulations to all confirmed candidates, their families and those who prepared them so well.

Fr Paul, Bishop Kennedy & confirmed candidates



St Michael's Manilla, Memorial Garden

Community Prayer Garden

The front of St Michael's school, Manilla has been a major piece of work for the community for the last year. After losing two teachers and two students over a period of time at St Michael's we wanted to remember them and celebrate their lives. We then developed the idea in to a community place, where every child and past student has a paver with their name on it. These were placed in the shape of a cross. We also ordered a beautiful statue of Mary all the way from Vietnam. The final touch to our garden was the mural. Mrs Debbie Brand one of our wonderful grandmothers/ aunts has completed our beautiful mural that is setting off our community garden. The picture is full of symbols and meaning. The tree of life is represented in the mural as well as the Holy Spirit and water cleansing us. The sun symbolises our school motto of let your light shine.

NSW Fire and Rescue Visit

NSW Fire and Rescue visited St Joseph's Glen Innes. Our Primary students were lucky enough to be given a demonstration on what can happen when a fire occurs in the kitchen. Learning how to respond in the case of a kitchen fire was a great tool to take away from the afternoon. The students were able to use and see how a fire hose worked and also had the chance to inspect the fire truck inside and out. They were joined by permanent fire fighters from Sydney and Brisbane as they cycled through town raising money for the burns unit in both city's hospitals.

Aide, Christine Webel helping student Kate Baker use the fire hose



Around and About



ANZAC Day Commemoration

St Joseph's Church, Gunnedah, was once again the scene of a poignant ANZAC Day commemoration, with the haunting sounds of the Last Post echoing through the century old church, where the Stations of the Cross lining the walls are memorials for many local soldiers lost in the Great War.

Veterans who have died since last year's ANZAC Day were remembered by placing a red poppy on the Easter cross. After the service those attending placed sprigs of rosemary on the cross to remember love ones. The Gospel acclamation summed up the ANZAC remembrance: "Happy are those who have died in The Lord. Let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them."

Phil Maybury presents the wreath

O'Connor Swimming Achievements

O'Connor Catholic College has been extremely competitive in the pool at recent state swimming events. In April Jack Hendy and Mitch Hayden both came first in their respective events of 50m backstroke and 50m butterfly. The relay team for 15/16 yrs boys comprised of Jack and Mitch, along with Lachlan Fittler and Jacob Minehan, won both the 50m freestyle relay and the medley relay events at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Swimming Championships at Homebush, in April.

They then travelled to Homebush in early May to compete in the NSW All Schools Swimming Championships. The boys came 4th in the 15/16 50m freestyle and medley relays, and Jack placed 3rd in the 50m backstroke. Mitch took GOLD in the 50m butterfly, just missing the record, and he is now off to Darwin in September for the Australian School Swimming Championships!!!



The relay team: Jack Hendy, Mitch Hayden, Lachlan Fittler and Jacob Minehan



Inverell Catholic Women's League

Former long time past member of Inverell Catholic Women's League for many years and former a member of the Armidale Diocesan Executive, Roma Fenwick who resides in St. Paul De Chartres Residential Aged Care in Queensland was photographed with Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk recently when she visited the Aged Care Faculty. Roma still remains a Diocesan Member of Catholic Women's League in our Diocese and takes great interest in our activities.

Roma Fenwick with Annastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland's Premier

No One Cares More Than Family

Generation to generation, there is no greater support network and friendship than that of a family and with Grand Parent's Day approaching in July at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Armidale Grandmother Jenny Pigram is looking forward to spending quality time with her grandchildren.

The Pigram family have a long standing history with St Mary's Catholic Primary School with two generations attending the school.

Jenny and her late husband John Pigram sent their four children, Paul, Kate, Sue & Mark to St Mary's and Jenny has now seen ten grandchildren enrolled in the school over the years.

Jenny relishes in Grandparents Day saying it is a fantastic inter-generational occasion and some grandparents travel long distances to make sure they are here for the special event.

"Supporting my grandchildren and all of my family however I can is very important to me; we all support each other, it's what family means" says Jenny.

Jenny's daughter, Kate Pigram has also sent her six children to St Mary's and now manages the Oak Tree Retirement Village in Armidale.

"Mum often volunteers at the village to help out at various events, as does my daughter Ally," says Kate.

"I'm very lucky; there is no one better to rely on than family," says Kate.

Kate speaks to a lot of families and notices more family members are becoming involved in the decision making process to help move mum/dad into a retirement village.



"Family support comes full circle; the younger generations are stepping up to support mum/dad/grandma/grandpa to help them find the best living environment for their retirement years.

"It's fantastic to see that family members are considering and understanding the benefits of retirement living and are there to help, because no one cares more than family," said Kate.

As Grandparents day approaches, Oak Tree Retirement Village Armidale welcomes families to visit the village for a casual tour of the display homes and community facilities.

Offering many lifestyle benefits including low maintenance living, companionship, security and the peace of mind that mum and dad's needs are well looked after, Oak Tree can deliver independent living environments and a comfortable retirement future.

Display homes are open Monday to Friday. Call Kate on 0407 333 453 for an appointment.



Thinking about your retirement future?
Visit Kate Pigram today.

Live an easier life at Oak Tree Retirement Village Armidale

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Family and School Partnerships

Parents are their child's first educator and Catholic school parents have always had a strong connection with their school.

Many of the very early Catholic schools in NSW were built with labour from parents. Before the days of Government funding, schools were only able to function because of the support they received - both practical and financial - from parents and the wider community. These days, Catholic schools receive funding from Federal and State government, but parents are still involved in their children's school and make contributions of approximately 15% towards the cost of their child's education. Be active this election by examining carefully the education policy platform of your local candidates.

Catholic schools acknowledge the rightful place of parents as the primary educators of their child and have embraced the idea of building stronger school communities by partnering with parents to improve students' learning.

We have all heard the saying it takes a village to raise a child. For a child to be successful, it takes more than a school, and more than a family. It takes everyone working together. The importance for mums and dad, carers, or aunties and uncles, or nanna and pop to be actively engaged with their kids and their learning on a daily basis has been highlighted by recent studies.

In 2012, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) found that students whose families regularly read books to them in their first year of primary school score higher marks on average in the Programme for International Studies Assessment (PISA) exam, which tests 15-year-olds performance in Maths, Science and Reading.

Talk to your children about things they have done during the day, eat meals around the table together, discuss books, films or television shows, tell them stories about

your day and get more involved with your school. Have a technology free day. Children love to see their parents/carers involved at their school. It builds community and creates a partnership between home and school. When families and teachers work together educational outcomes are achieved and student performance is lifted.

Establishing Links - What you can do

At home:

- Read to and with your children, create a love of literature
- Monitor and help with the use of technology
- Supervise and encourage home study patterns
- Respond to surveys

At school:

- Attend parent-teacher nights
- Volunteer at events and for extra-curricular activities
- Help supervise on excursions
- Explore options for involvement in the classroom
- Take part in school-based consultations
- Participate on Parent Committees and School Advisory Councils





Education *Excites*

Leaders of learning gather at CSO Office

Seventy-two Leaders of Learning gathered at the Catholic Schools office to examine current educational thinking around learning designs that improve student outcomes. The day was led by Mrs Kylie Lipcombe from the University of Wollongong. Kylie is also an associate with the professional learning arm of Hawker Brownlow publishers. The two days focussed on creating collaborative conversations and planning for rich learning experiences.



Teachers from St Joseph's Walgett, Leanne Chappe, Meredith Logan and Catholic Schools Office Coach Sharon Cooke.



Principal of St Francis Xavier's Narrabri, Katie Hanies and Teacher, Jenny Laird

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Cultural Activities within the Catholic Schools

There are a number of cultural opportunities available throughout the year to Armidale regional schools and their students.

Dancing, singing and reciting poetry, individually or in chorus, give our students opportunities to showcase their growing dramatic talents. Teachers from across our schools work to pool their skills and talents to support these cultural activities. Children and young people thrive in an education system that supports growth and development across all areas.

Catholic Schools Celebrate is a biennial production that celebrates the cultural and artistic talents of staff and students in our local Tamworth and district Catholic schools. Staff from participating schools work closely together as a 'Combined Catholic Schools Cultural Committee' to ensure a production of the highest quality and to provide students the opportunity of performing in a 'schools spectacular' similar to that of city areas. This year's event will take place on 15th September at the TRECC in Tamworth. The theme is Captivate.



*Jumpstart (Tablelands Catholic Schools Concert)
Stage 1 St Mary's students*

Biannually the Tablelands Cluster of Catholic Schools holds a Concert that showcases the dramatic and musical talents of students. The O'Connor Catholic College music and drama staff coordinate the event with representatives from the primary schools assisting.

Each year the New England Regional Art Museum holds



Musica Viva Performance for students



St Mary's Percussion Group at Jumpstart

an art exhibition that students can enter. The exhibition is sponsored by the University of New England and is called Let's Hang It! It provides New England/ North West students, from Kindergarten to Year 12, the opportunity to take part in a large art prize, be part of the wider community and to have their work hung in an art museum.

The New England Conservatorium of Music in Armidale biannually hosts the award winning New England Sings. Secondary and Primary Schools in the tablelands area are invited to participate in this musical extravaganza that has massed choirs of 200 to 300 students.



*Amber Lawrence working with stage 3 students
at St Nicholas' Tamworth.*

In addition to these events many local communities hold festivals that schools in the area are invited to perform either choral or dance numbers.



*Ryan and Adam McAllister
from St Joseph's Glen Innes*

ADIG Making a Difference – Savings & Schools

A startling headline recently in the Herald Sun (3/05/2016) read "Young adults drowning in debt". The most alarming part of this article was however the age of the 'adults' surveyed. It claimed, "Young Australians aged 16 to 25 carry a high proportion of debt to income." It stated that one in three of this age group carries more than \$2500 in credit card debt and that 16 to 20-year-olds only have an average of \$258 in savings.

At ADIG we recognise the long term benefits of teaching children to save. A Rainbow Club account encourages the saving process. Children can watch their savings balances

grow each week by monitoring their Passbook entries. These accounts accrue interest and have no fees and charges. Parents are an important role model in this process and are either a sole or joint signatory on the account.

Children are rewarded for saving regularly. Eight or more deposits, of \$1 or more, results in the child being sent a reward. This rewards your child for saving without the need to 'dip' into their own savings.

Your school benefits from Rainbow Club banking. A commission of .30c is paid to the school for each deposit. The more savings made through Rainbow Club, the more your school benefits. Speak to your school, or come into a branch to establish an account.

Finally, encourage regular saving. Do you know your schools Rainbow Club Banking Day?

Introducing New Armidale Staff Member - Deb Burey

ADIG welcomes new staff member Deb Burey to the Armidale branch. Deb has had previous work experience in both banks and credit unions. She also has had considerable administrative and accounts experience, having worked in real estate and insurance. Her most recent role was Divisional Accounts Clerk with the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters. Please come in and welcome Deb to the team. She will be delighted to assist you with any account queries.



*Deb Burey waiting to
assist you in Armidale*

ADIG Making a Difference in the Community

If you are in Uralla between 26 June and 2 July, visit the St Joseph's street stall. They would appreciate your support.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
St Josephs, Wee Waa	St Marys, Armidale St Josephs, Barraba St Xaviers, Gunnedah St Nicholas, Tamworth St Patricks, Walcha St Josephs, Wialda	Sacred Heart, Boggabri St Michaels, Manilla St Philomenas, Moree St Josephs, West Tamworth	St Mary of the Angels, Guyra Holy Trinity, Inverell St Francis Xavier, Narrabri St Josephs, Tenterfield	St Josephs, Glen Innes St Josephs, Uralla St Josephs, Mungindi St Josephs, Quirindi St Edwards, Tamworth

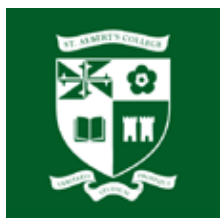
Join us and make a difference

ADIG



Dr Robert Smillie, Bishop Kennedy, Natalie Joyce, Vice Chancellor Prof Annabelle Duncan, the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP

Albies Inaugural Futures Dinner a Success



St Albert's College hosted its Inaugural Futures Dinner at the Armidale Ex-Services Club, in April. The dinner was well supported by the College's student body, members of the broader Albies' family and our many special guests. The highlight of the evening

was the opportunity to be both entertained and inspired by alumnus Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Barnaby Joyce and his wife Natalie, who is also a member of the College alumni.

The dinner was aimed at inspiring our community, by

connecting them with alumni who are experiencing dynamic journeys beyond university life, whilst sharing similar experiences at Albies. Barnaby and Natalie were perfect guests as they regaled stories from their days at the College by addressing the College as a whole and by speaking with students individually. They intertwined their experiences with the simple messages about life's journey and the opportunities and challenges that await our students beyond this unique time in their life.

The College looks forward to the Futures Dinner becoming an annual event on the St Albert's College calendar, as we reconnect with many others who are renowned success stories from our great College.

ONCE YOU'RE ALBIES...YOU'RE ALBIES FOR LIFE



Gabi Kassulke, Jack Sporkk, the Honourable Barnaby Joyce MP, Maddy Taylor, Harriette Sporkk

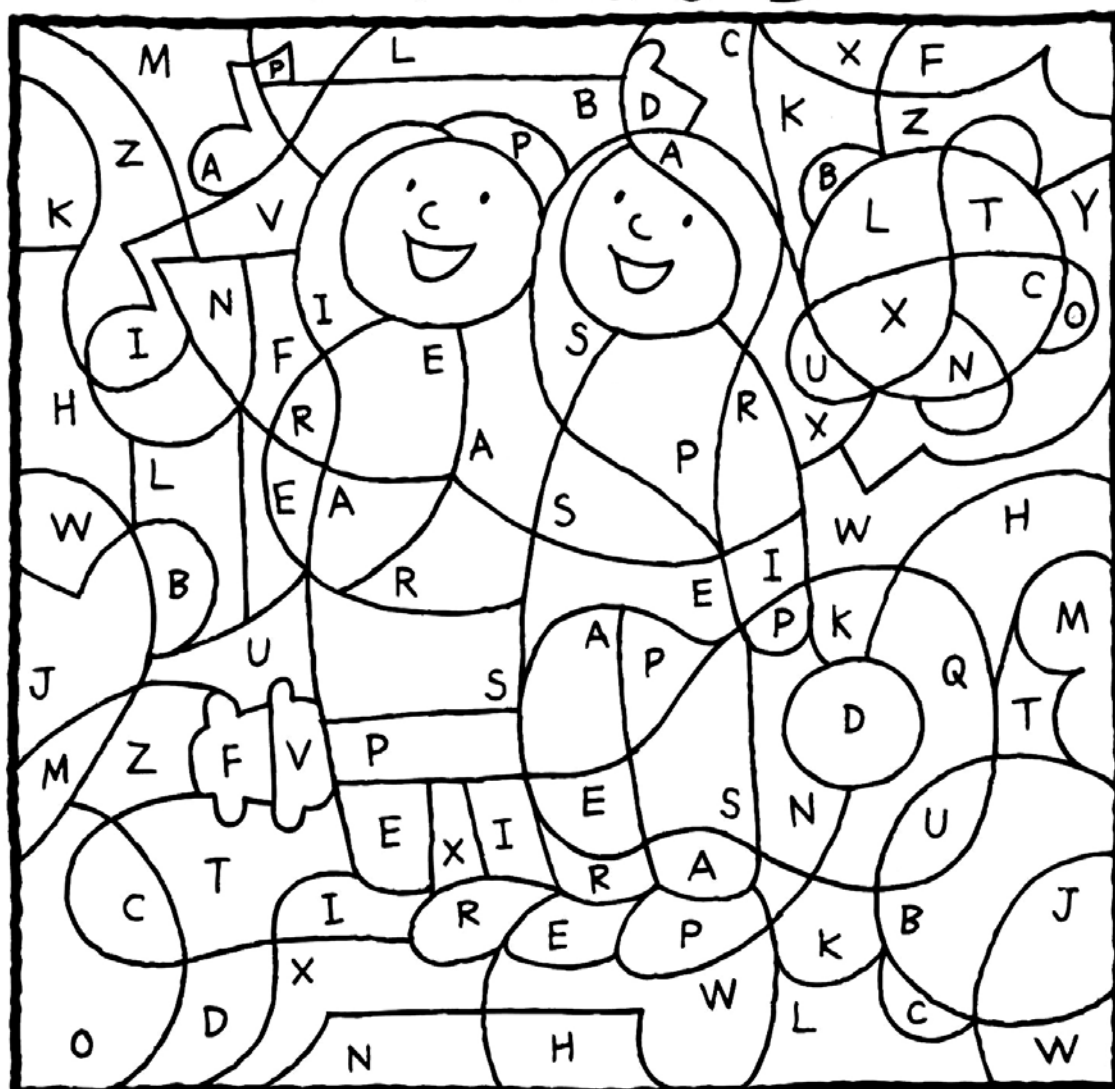
Kids Kapers



Puzzle 54

Color in only the spaces that have a letter from the word PRAISE.

P R A I S E



We can praise Jesus and show our love to Him.
Our Bible says, "Sing praises to the Lord" (Psalm 9:11).



Find a  and a  hidden in the picture.



Fr Armstrong writes

Hail, Holy Queen

Bl. John Henry Newman wrote that when we honour Mary the Mother of God as queen, it is no mere sentimental devotion. Rather, it is a recognition of a specific function in the Kingdom of God, even an office, prepared in the queens of ancient Israel and brought to fulfilment in the fullness of time with the advent of the Messiah.

Indeed, we hold that all the types of the Old Testament find their fulfilment in Christ in such a way that we are made capable of seeing the New Testament already contained in the Old. In ancient Israel, it was not the wife of a king who was queen.

It was the mother of the King, the *Ghebirâh* ("Great Lady"), who possessed and exercised a power greater than anyone else in favour of the people (and sometimes individuals). With Christ, who is King of kings and Lord of lords, we can perceive something of the greatness of the office of *Ghebirâh*, or Mother of the King, in no less than the Kingdom of God.

Some scholars surmise that Mary of Nazareth was related, at some distance chronologically, to the deposed royal Davidic family, which, after returning from exile in Babylon, settled in Galilee and lived in obscurity and poverty. The descendants of the royal family would have retained a sense of *noblesse oblige*, but with a special awareness of the establishment by the design of Providence of the Davidic line.

The evidence for this is rather thin, but it does shed light on the role of the Queen-Mother of the Messiah: the Gospel of Luke informs us that she was told that Christ would be given the throne of his ancestor David, and that of *his* kingdom there would be no end. Since the time of the kingdom of David appeared to have passed, this means that the fulfilment of the promise of the Lord concerning the *Messianic* Kingdom was about to be realised. The words of the prophet Nathan to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-13: "*When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who*



shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." Holy Mary would have understood this at the Annunciation.

The prophet Isaiah spoke often of the whole of Israel, both northern and southern tribes, as the "house of Jacob" – the kingdom had been split thanks to the folly of Kings Solomon and Rehoboam – over which the Christ would reign. Our Lady, the "Great Lady" of the reign of God, heard this phrase, and must have wondered how it could possibly be brought about, yet still trusted that it would. It is interesting that the New Testament uses the expression "house of Jacob" only once, and it is in the account of the Annunciation.

In this year of mercy, let us call on the Queen-Mother of God's kingdom to help us trust totally in the Divine Mercy, remembering that she fulfils the sacred office entrusted to her: Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy.

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Mini Vinnies at Work



Mini Vinnies Commissioning Mass

Mini Vinnies has reformed in 2016 within St Joseph's Warialda. In May a beautiful mass was celebrated to welcome and commission the eight students who wish to be part of Mini Vinnies for 2016. It was great to have the support of Michael O'Kane, the Armidale Youth St Vincent de Paul coordinator, as well as seven local members of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Children were presented with a certificate, a SVDP badge and prayer card as well as a badge stating the role which they will undertake in our meetings. Congratulations children on your commitment to Mini Vinnies and we look forward to seeing your works throughout the year.

St Mary of the Angels

On Monday 21st March, our Mini Vinnies leaders were commissioned and presented with their badges for 2016 at School Mass. Since their formation at the beginning of the School year, our Mini Vinnies group have been very busy. They organised a 'Pancake Tuesday' Fundraiser and St Patrick's Day Fete with money going toward Project Compassion. After hearing of a School in outback QLD reopening after 7 years and in need of books, our group asked for donations of books and then raised the money to post these books to the students at Yaraka Public School. Students also regularly visit residents of Kolara Hostel to read with them, sing songs or participate in craft activities. They will soon launch their 'Captain Underwear Appeal' to get brand new underwear to give to St Vincent de Paul in Guyra.



SOS! ... Christianity in the Middle East ... SOS!

Moved by the desperate plight of Christians throughout the Middle East, the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) calls on your support to help the region's beleaguered Christian population.

A mass exodus of Christians from the Middle East is now taking place. For some, like the Christians of Iraq and Syria, it is a question of their very survival as they flee the bloody persecution of the militants of the Islamic State (also known as ISIS, ISIL or Daesh).

For others, in parts of the Holy Land that Our Lord Jesus Christ knew so well, the proportion of Christians has plummeted from 20% to as little as 1.4% in the last forty years. The faithful now live in fear as increasing

poverty and growing extremism threaten the survival of these ancient communities.

ACN is helping to keep faith and hope alive throughout the region by providing urgent aid to priests, religious and lay people, offering subsistence help to refugees and building and repairing Churches and convents. Please help us strengthen and rebuild the Church in the land of Christ's birth.

An olive wood rosary handcrafted in the Holy Land, will be sent to all those who give a donation of \$20.00 or more to help this campaign.

Please tick the box below if you would like to receive the olive wood rosary*.



Donation form: SOS! ... Christianity in the Middle East ... SOS!



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 help keep Christianity alive in the Middle East

Made of olive wood from the Holy Land, the rosary is simple in design and yet profound in its symbolic significance. The rosaries are lovingly handcrafted by families in need in Bethlehem and your donation enables the faithful to put food on the table for their families.



☐ **Yes please send me the olive wood rosary***

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

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Viewpoint

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



Children in Homs gather in the destroyed Melkite Greek Catholic cathedral “Our Lady of Peace Church” for prayer and activities on the “International Day of the Child” © Aid to the Church in Need

Syria: “God, give us peace!”

Thousands of children in Syria celebrated “International Children’s Day” as a prayer day for peace

On 1st June, thousands of children of all denominations gathered in several Syrian cities to celebrate “International Children’s Day” as a prayer day for peace.

In Homs, this was the first public event held with children since the liberation of the city. More than 700 children dressed in white gathered together with the Catholic and Orthodox bishops in what was once a city under siege, a city in which Jesuit father Frans van der Lugt was murdered in April of 2014. They made their way through the city in a procession, stopping to pray together at the churches of the various Christian denominations.

The destroyed Melkite Greek Catholic cathedral, which is consecrated to “Our Lady, Queen of Peace”, was adorned with a monumental poster of the Infant Jesus of Prague. In the Melkite cathedral, the bishops joined the children in a prayer to the Infant Jesus. Bishop Arbach said that the Infant Jesus is “the source of peace for our

children and our country because His greeting is ‘Peace be with you’.” They also lit candles before a statue of the Infant Jesus.

Similar events, which continued throughout the day, were also simultaneously held in Damascus, Tartus, Marmarita and Aleppo. “We hope that the initiative of these children spreads and many other children all over the world pray for peace,” the Maronite bishop of Latakia and Tartus, Mons. Antoine Chbeir, said to ACN. In Tartus, children also showed posters they had drawn, in which they asked for prayers for peace as well as the end of terrorism and the war in Syria.

During the Angelus prayer on 29th May, Pope Francis had invited children all over the world to join the children in Syria in their prayer for peace. The Catholic and Orthodox patriarchs of the country issued a joint message calling upon children to observe this prayer day, which began as an initiative of Aid to the Church in Need.

The link to this story can be found at <http://members4.boardhost.com/acnaus/msg/1465456137.html>

Confirmation is the Perfection of Baptism:

Although, in the West, Confirmation is usually received as a teenager, several years after making First Communion, the Catholic Church considers it the second of the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism being the first and Communion the third). Confirmation is regarded as the perfection of Baptism, because, as the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation states:

‘by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.’

Will Jubb, Riley Stewart, Josh Urquhart, Sam Fittler outside Sts Mary and Joseph's Cathedral after Confirmation at Armidale

Doing it tough? We need to talk ...

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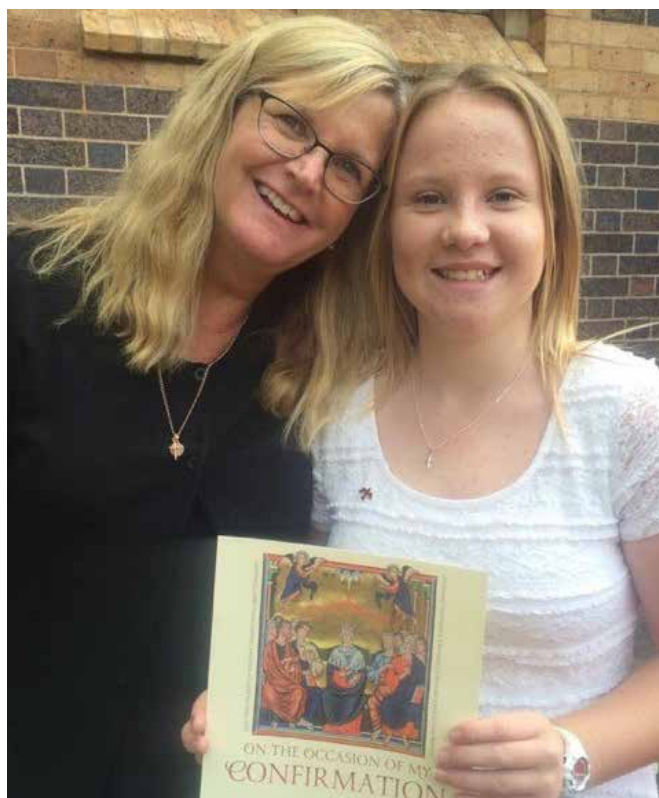
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The Form of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Many people think of the laying on of hands, which signifies the descent of the Holy Spirit, as the central act in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The essential element, however, is the anointing of the confirmand (the person being confirmed) with chrism (an aromatic oil that has been consecrated by a bishop), accompanied by the words “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” (or, in the Eastern Catholic Churches, “The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit”). This seal is a consecration, representing the safeguarding by the Holy Spirit of the graces conferred on the Christian at Baptism.

The Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church points out, “The *original minister* of Confirmation is the bishop.” Each bishop is a successor to the apostles, upon whom the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost—the first Confirmation. The Acts of the Apostles mentions the apostles imparting the Holy Spirit to believers by the laying on of hands (see, for example, Acts 8:15-17 and 19:6).



Belinda Burton with Bridie Giles



Liane Smith with John-Joseph Sarota and his mum, Kerrie Sarota



Bishop Kennedy cuts the cake with the confirmation candidates

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*Aide, Christine Webel
helping student Kate
Baker use the fire hose*