



Our Lady of Fatima

1917 Centenary Year 2017



Taking a Stand



The Bishop Speaks

One of the things I have the pleasure of doing as Bishop is travelling to the parishes to confirm our young. During the Rite of Confirmation one by one the names of the candidates are called out and one by one they stand until all are standing. This first action in the Rite of Confirmation is not simply to “introduce” the candidates to the rest of the congregation. No, they are not standing for us. They are standing for God! It is as if each boy and girl hear God call their name and so their standing says, “Yes, here I am Lord, I am ready and I want to be confirmed. I want to live my life as a confirmed Catholic.” We say a lot with this one simple gesture.

As they stand, I can tell by their hesitation and by the look on their faces that they feel somewhat uncomfortable standing up in front of so many people. This is natural and perfectly understandable, yet they still stand. This all says something about what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ


and a confirmed member of his body the Church. To be faithful to Jesus Christ means that we sometimes have to take a stand. We sometimes have to make choices that we know will draw the gaze and unwanted attention of others upon us.

Taking a stand makes us stand out from the crowd. We feel safe in the crowd; we feel vulnerable and exposed out the front of the crowd or at odds with the crowd. And the crowd can be very aggressive against anybody who dares take a stand that is at odds with the mentality of the current time. But I remember that Saint Paul said to the Christians in Rome “Do not be conformed to this world” sometimes translated as “Do not be conformed to this century” (Romans 12:2). Rather, we are called to conform ourselves to Jesus Christ, to follow and imitate *him*, and to make *his* thoughts our thoughts.

Recently Margaret Court, one of the greatest female



Coptic Christian fathers holding photos of their missing sons



Christian refugees with
nowhere to go

tennis players of all time and a devout Christian, became the victim of much public vitriol and condemnation because she took a stand and said that she believes marriage is between a man and a woman since that's what it says in the Bible. She dared to take a stand for Christ against the mentality of the current century and the world reacted.

When we take a stand for God, our faith, our Church, our neighbour, or our conscience we won't likely receive the same degree of scrutiny or resentment as Margaret Court since we don't share the same fame. But we will be scrutinised, possibly attacked, and maybe even hated. But remember Jesus said "If the world hates you remember that it hated me first" so we're not in bad company! As confirmed Catholics we must be prepared to take a stand, remembering that as confirmed Catholics we have received the Gift of the Holy Spirit who has sealed us and stamped us as his own and given us the divine gift of fortitude.

I think of the fortitude of the many persecuted Christians throughout the world. If we look at Egypt as just one example, since Holy Week this year two of their Christian Churches have been bombed killing 45 Coptic Christians, and a gunned attack upon a busload of Christians on pilgrimage to a local monastery killed 29 Coptic Christians, including children. And this follows the 2015 kidnapping and horrific beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians on a beach in Libya because they would not renounce their faith in Christ.

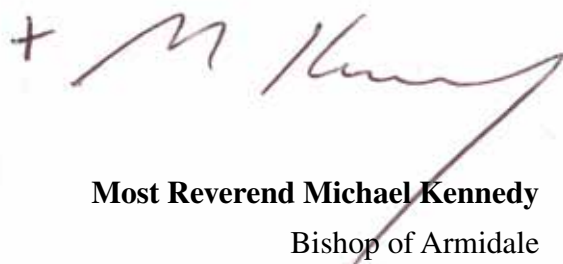
According to *Open Doors*, a charity working with oppressed Christians, every month 322 Christians are killed for their faith around the world. That's

nearly 4,000 a year! *Open Doors* estimates that each month 214 church properties are destroyed and 722 acts of violence are perpetrated against Christians. Yet the Christians in these countries continue to come to Mass on Sundays; they continue to profess and live their faith; they continue to take a stand with and for Jesus Christ because they truly love him.

As I write these few words it is the feast day of Saint Charles Lwanga and his 21 companions who were martyred in 1886 in Uganda for taking their stand. They refused to consent to the Kings immoral demands upon them and rebuked him for his debauchery. They took their stand with Christ rather than with worldly powers. In the Post Communion Prayer for Mass on their Feast Day we pray "As we celebrate the victory of your holy martyrs; may

what helped them endure torment, we pray, make us, in the face of trials, steadfast in faith and charity."

From the time we take our stand at our Confirmation to the time we take our last breath we will often be called upon to make hard choices and side with Jesus Christ. Most of these times the stand we are called to take will be in little things, but occasionally it will be in big things. May the love and fortitude of the Holy Spirit assist us at these times.



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale



Fatima Statue is coming to the Diocese of Armidale

Since the late 1950s, the Confraternity of Christ the Priest, a religious order based in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, has been in possession of the Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, originating from Fatima Portugal in 1949. It travels throughout Australia promoting devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. The travelling statue had a significant impact on the various Australian Dioceses and Parishes that it visited in 1965.

The Confraternity of Christ the Priest from its inception has promoted the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the particular devotions of Our Lady of Fatima, and the Green Scapular.

At Fatima in 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary announced, "Almighty God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart." The Confraternity has endeavored to do this now for over 60 years. It has conducted the perpetual novena to the Immaculate

Heart of Mary throughout the decades and distributed thousands of copies of the 95 page pamphlet, "Perpetual Novena and Devotions in Honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

In the special centenary year – 100 years since the apparitions – the Pilgrim statue is heading to the Diocese of Armidale. Father Gerard Ryan of the Confraternity will bring the statue to the Diocese of Armidale on 10th August and he leaves on 18th August, 2017.

The statue will be spending a day in the Parishes of Walgett/Lightning Ridge; Wee Waa/Narrabri; South Tamworth; Uralla; Armidale; Tenterfield and Guyra. These Parishes are developing programmes for the pilgrimage.

This pilgrimage is the major Diocesan event in recognising the significance of the Fatima apparitions. Parishioners are encouraged to join in the celebrations in their nearest Parish.



Portugal in 1917

In the year 1917, in a mountainous region at the center of Portugal, the Mother of God appeared six times to three young children.

Elsewhere on the continent the “Great War” raged, that would cost Europe an entire generation, over 37 million lives. Besides sending her own sons to die (in France and North Africa) Portugal was in political chaos at home. There was a dizzy succession of governments following a revolution in 1910.

The monarchy had been replaced by a republic, with a new liberal constitution separating Church from state. Government officials, under the influence of Freemasonry, were not sympathetic to the Faith. But for the people themselves, the Faith was the air they breathed, as in the village of Aljustrel, a collection of whitewashed houses on a dusty road in the parish of Fatima.

There Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta were born and raised in homes where the catechism was their daily bread, stories from the Bible their recreation, and the word of the village priest was law. Lucia de Jesus Santos was born, the youngest of seven children, to Antonio and Maria Rosa Santos, on 22 March 1907. She was a plain child with sparkling eyes and a magnetic personality, a natural leader to whom other children looked with confident affection. Blessed with an excellent memory,

Lucia was able to learn her catechism, and make her First Communion and Confession, at age six. She herself became a catechist at nine.

Lucia would be the constant guide and companion to her first cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, through the trials that accompanied the apparitions of the Blessed Mother.

Fatima Centenary Statue Pilgrimage Program

PARISH	DATE
Walgett & Lightning Ridge	10 th & 11 th
Wee Waa	12 th
Narrabri	12 th
South Tamworth	13 th
Uralla	14 th
Armidale	15 th
Tenterfield	16 th
Guyra	17 th



The Three Secrets

In 1917, the Virgin revealed the Three Secrets of Fatima to the children, which consist of prophecies about the future and have been the focus of much interest ever since. The secrets were not written down until 1941, when Lúcia was asked to compose memoirs about Fatima and her cousins so their canonization proceedings could begin.

The first secret described a horrific vision of Hell. The second secret foretold the end of World War I and the beginning of World War II and called for the “Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

The third secret was not revealed until Easter. The secret speaks of a pope being killed by soldiers at the foot of a cross on top of a mountain, along with many other bishops and priests. John Paul himself credited Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life, when Mehmet Ali Agca attempted to assassinate him on 13th May, 1981. Saint Pope John Paul said he saw her intervening to deflect the gunman’s arm and he maintained consciousness on the ride to the hospital by keeping his mind focused on her.

Fatima Centenary



A Decade A Day

Students at St Joseph's Tenterfield have made their own Rosary for Decade a Day in May

The “Decade a Day Children’s Prayer for Peace” was initiated throughout the schools of our Diocese during May and will continue in October 2017.

This year 2017 marks the centenary year of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the three shepherd children at Fatima in Portugal from the 13th May to the 13th October 1917. Whilst private apparitions and revelations do not belong to the Church’s Deposit of Faith the Fatima apparitions were extensively investigated and formally approved by the Church as worthy of belief. So, while the events and messages from Fatima in 1917 are not formal teachings of the Church they are encouraged because of the credible historicity of the events and because they are in harmony with the Gospel message and assist us in living the Gospel as followers of Jesus Christ.

Our Lady’s urgent calls at Fatima to pray for peace and to undergo penance for the conversion of sinners have particular poignancy when we consider the historical events of the war-torn twentieth century and the large scale turning away from God which still continues today.

The Fatima apparitions have also had a very significant influence on the popular piety of Catholics over the past hundred years. Additionally, Our Lady’s invitation and

encouragement at Fatima that we pray the Rosary has particular significance in the Diocese of Armidale whose patron saint is the Virgin Mary under her title Our Lady of the Rosary.



O'Connor Catholic College Armidale students pray a Decade a Day in May

Fatima Centenary

Maria gratia plena: A Marian Exhibit

The South Tamworth Parish and Fr Paul Aguilar are presenting an Exhibit of various church-recognised titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary, its theme is “Maria gratia plena” (*Mary full of grace*), showcasing a remarkable array of statues, icons and images to mark the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima in 1917.

The display includes newspaper coverage of the apparitions. It shows photographs of crowds of seventy thousand people who gathered to witness the Miracle of the Sun.

The official portraits and the sacred relics of Sts Jacinta

and Francisco are also on display for the public veneration of the faithful.

The exhibit also contains reproductions of the famous paintings of Madonna and Child by Sandro Botticelli; the icons of the Theotokos Sweet Kiss from Mt Athos, the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii restored by Blessed Bartolo Longo and many others.

Many have committed to offer a decade of the Rosary as part of the Million Roses campaign for peace: Will you join us?

Contributed by Brian Sullivan



Fr Paul Anthony blesses the statues and icons



South Tamworth Parish Hosts Filipino Diplomats

The Filipino Association of Tamworth Inc. in collaboration with the Ministry to Migrants of the Diocese of Armidale and the ADIG fostered a visit by diplomats who met and provided services to Filipino clients in the South Tamworth Parish Hall on June 3rd.

The Philippine Consulate General Sydney mobile outreach team headed by Consul Atty. Melanie B. Diano, offered services such as passport renewal, dual citizenship, registration of births and marriages for Filipino Nationals. National Police Check, Overseas Voters Registration and notarial services were also provided.

Labour Attaché Atty. Rodolfo Sabulao of the Philippine Embassy in Canberra was also on hand to give information and advice on labour related matters especially on the changes in 457 visas as recently announced by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. He also offered counselling for those people who are experiencing work



Fr Paul Anthony Aguilar with the mobile outreach team of the Philippine Consulate General Sydney and officers of the Filipino Association of Tamworth Inc.

related problems. Thirty people attended these sessions.

Although the majority of clients came from Tamworth, visitors were in attendance from throughout the Diocese and from Goondiwindi and Newcastle. Members of the local Filipino community were very pleased to host these important visitors.



Need to talk?

Sometimes life can be really tough.

You're not alone and we're ready to listen.



Talking through your worries and concerns with one of our professional team could help you to get back on track. It's ok to ask for a hand working stuff out - it's actually really brave, and what we're here for!

There are lots of different ways we can help you find hope - for free, or at a low-cost.



Ask us about: ATAPS (Access To Allied Psychological Services), Medicare, Gambling Help Service, Carers support, and general counselling, headspace Tamworth, EAP (Employee Assistance Program), transitioning to the NDIS.

We also provide mediation—Family Dispute Resolution; Property, finance & workplace mediation, as well as information & education sessions on mental health, wellbeing & family relationships. Our case workers support individuals & families.



Call us to talk about the help that's right for you and your family.

1800 372 826

www.centacareenw.com.au

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



Centacare
New England North West
Rural Resilience
THE SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

Farewell Fr Gleeson

Fr Gleeson farewell's the Cathedral Parish as Administrator to take up his new post in Glen Innes.

We wish him well on his journey and hope the parishioners of Glen Innes receive as much joy from his ministry as Armidale has.

Jacqui Toakley bids farewell on behalf of the Armidale Parishioners:

Last week Fr Francis spoke in his homily about parents and about priests, and it caused me to reflect on the parallels between Fr Gleeson's care for us over the last four years and the manner in which parents raise their children.

Fr Gleeson has been most like a Dad to us in his selfless devotion to our wellbeing. You have given so much of your mental, physical and spiritual energy to caring for us over the last four years, Father. Like many children, we often haven't adequately expressed our appreciation, but I want to say an enormous thank you for that today.

And there's other similarities with a good parent. Like many Dads you're always banging on at us to do our homework. You want us to be our best and you never hesitated to tell us when you thought we could do better. You worried a lot about the effect of peer pressure on us. You don't like it if you think we're listening to our friends in the secular world more than our family, the church. You've always been particularly concerned, dare I say, about the influence of our friends at the ABC. And in a manner that any parent of teenagers can relate to,



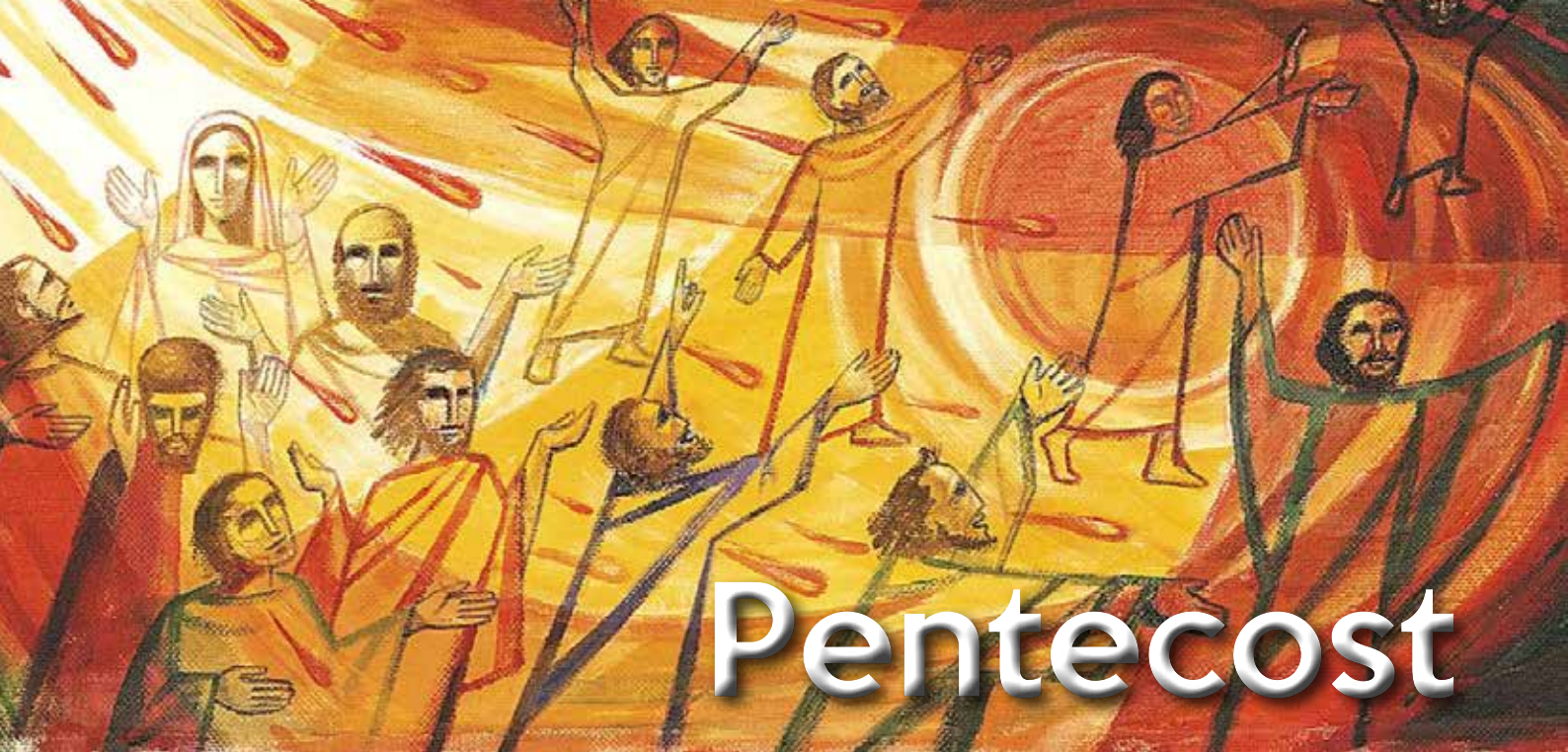
you're confident that you've got things sorted and you're really not that interested in our opinion of how the place should be run.

But I don't want to stretch the child- parent analogy too far because looking around the congregation today it's clear that most of your parishioners are adults and you've always challenged us to be adults, to take a grown-up approach to our faith and to make church matter. It's not easy to challenge other adults, or to be challenged, but it was a great blessing. Many of us did respond to your call, you shook us out of our complacency, and a more thinking, conscious approach to our faith and our Catholic life will be your legacy.

Your preaching will be greatly missed. So many people have expressed to me their sadness at no longer being able to hear your homilies. You have an extraordinarily broad knowledge of the Catholic faith and of the scriptures, and that's combined with a gift of being able to explain profound insights in a way that simple lay people can understand. It's been a privilege to listen to your homilies for the last four years. (We will all be praying for the parishioners of Glen Innes while they get used to those homilies, as I know that they're used to significantly shorter mass times up there at the moment).

I want to close with an observation a parishioner shared with me about Fr Gleeson and which I thought was a truly great compliment. You know that adage that says something like 'people won't remember what you did, and they won't remember what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel'? I was talking to parishioner yesterday and she said to me "Jacqui, when I am with Father Gleeson I feel loved and I feel heard". I feel loved and I feel heard. I think that's one of the best things you could ever say about any Christian.

Father Gleeson, you will be missed. Thank you, good luck and God bless you.



Pentecost

Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church, celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples were given the power they needed to fulfil their mission.

'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit

and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance'. (Acts 2, 14).

Christ had promised His Apostles that He would send His Holy Spirit, and, on Pentecost, they were granted the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Apostles began to preach the Gospel in all of the languages that the Jews who were gathered there spoke, and about 3,000 people were converted and baptized that day. That is why Pentecost is often called "the birthday of the Church".

Thoughtco.com

A Profession of Faith

Stage 3 children from Mrs Chard's class at St Joseph's Glen Innes were asked to reflect on particular aspects of the Creed and then put it into their own words. They were able to use this in conjunction with the Apostles Creed.

Jai Sharman - Year 6

I believe in God, the Almighty
The one true father of all
The one true father of Jesus,
seated at the right hand of
God.
I trust him to guide and help
me
Because of God's help,
I will try not to sin,
be selfless and really think of
others.

Chloe Klingner - Year 5

I believe in God, the father of
Christ
I believe in Jesus Christ
and I will live a good life to say
thanks
to him for going to hell so we
could go to heaven
I will try to be a role model and
to convince
people around me to live a life
with hope, love, joy and peace.

Charlotte McHarg - Year 5

I believe in Jesus the Holy son
of God almighty,
I trust that God will guide us
and help us,
I believe that Jesus died for us,
Now we will follow in his foot-
steps to live
a faithful catholic life.
Because he was ressurected we
experience everlasting life,
Now we can help others by car-
ing, loving and being respectful.
Amen.

Confirmation



*Sts Mary and Joseph's Cathedral Parish
Confirmation Candidates*

ARMIDALE

Congratulations to the 45 Candidates from **Sts Mary and Joseph's Cathedral Parish** who were Confirmed by Bishop Kennedy. The ceremony was a joyful and special occasion for these Candidates and their Sponsors. May their hearts be filled with God's love as they follow in the footsteps of the disciples in spreading the Good News.

QUIRINDI

31 students from our **St Brigid's Parish Quirindi** made their Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Michael Kennedy in what was a very special morning for all our parish community. Congratulations to all confirmed candidates, their families and those who prepared them so well.



St Brigid's Confirmation Candidates



WALCHA

St Patrick's Parish Walcha were proud to present a group of 12 young people to Bishop Michael Kennedy for Confirmation. We are pleased to congratulate Mrs Walters, Mrs Healey, the students and the parents for their preparation for this important step in the faith journey.

Front row: Bonnie Neil, Markeisha Cross, Benjamin Hall, Lachlan Carter, William Hicks, Jasmine Lynch

Second row: Samuel Timbs, Chloe Cox, Phoebe Imberger, Luke Heazlett, Austin Heazlett, Jack Power.

At rear: Monsignor Ted Wilkes and Bishop Michael Kennedy



Join us and make a difference

ADIG making a difference to the future study plans of Diocesan Year 12 Students

ADIG are proud to announce the inaugural ADIG Year 12 All-rounder awards.

This award acknowledges the Year 12 student who has:

- Provided outstanding service and contribution to their College and /or wider community.
- Academic potential and will undertake post-school education in 2018
- Demonstrated involvement in co-curricular activities
- Demonstrated contribution to spiritual life.

ADIG will be offering three awards to students who contribute and participate in all aspects of community and school life. This contribution should be genuine and consistent throughout a nominee's schooling.

Nominations for the ADIG Year 12 All-rounder students



Making a difference at the Diocesan Primary School Cross Country

ADIG was thrilled to assist St Joseph's School, Quirindi as they hosted the Diocesan Primary School Cross Country recently. ADIG's sponsorship supported the canteen and the St Joseph's community worked tirelessly to keep the masses fed. They did a magnificent job. Congratulations also to all who participated on the day. School staff, parents and students all contributed to a successful and rewarding community event.

opened on 5 June, 2017. Students eligible to be nominated for this \$1,500.00 award are students who are completing their Higher School Certificate in 2017 and will undertake further Vocational or Tertiary study in 2018.

Nominations can be made by school and community members. Do you know a worthy nominee? Nomination forms may be available in Diocesan Secondary Colleges, in Parishes and can be obtained through the ADIG webpage (in the forms and resources section) at: www.adig.com.au.

It is necessary that each nomination be supported by a recommendation from a Principal or a Principal representative, on school letter head. Further support by a Parish Priest will be looked upon favourably.

Payment will be made to successful nominees in the later part of 2018, with a view to assisting students during second semester studies, where financial hardship is typically experienced. At ADIG we understand the difficulties of budgeting and managing funds over a whole year, especially if unaccustomed to doing so. Nominees will need to contact ADIG and demonstrate current enrolment and progression at this time.

ADIG looks forward to learning about our Diocesan's talented and dedicated community minded students. We are excited to contribute to the future of students and look forward to presenting these awards.



Introducing the ADIG Year 12 All-rounder Award

Nominations open 5 June 2017, for students who contribute and participate in all aspects of school and community life.

Nomination forms and information are available from ADIG Branch offices, Parishes and the 'Forms and Resources' section of the ADIG webpage: www.adig.com.au

Who will you nominate?
Join us and make a difference





Bishop Gerard Hanna, together with Fr Jose Adriano, Fr Ross O'Brien, Fr Vic Ignacio, Rev Paul Manvell, Fr Paul Anthony Aguilar, Fr John Curran and Fr James Poovathinkal concelebrate Mass on the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians

Blessings of Mary Help of Christians

The Southern Deanery priests, together with Bishop Gerard Hanna, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga and formerly an Armidale Diocesan priest, celebrated Mass at St Edward's Parish South Tamworth on the Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians. At the beginning of the Mass Bishop Hanna blessed the new altarpieces hanging on the wall at the back of the sanctuary. The paintings by well known Filipino artist, Mr Paul Cardenas, depict saints which are of particular significance to the parish.

The centrepiece is Mr Cardenas's version of Mary Help of Christians, the colours traditional, reflecting the strong light in rural Australia. It depicts Mary wearing a crown and proudly carrying the infant King of Kings. Behind Mary is the Southern Cross. The paintings on each side of Mary Help of Christians are of saints which are significant to our parish and country. On Mary's right is St Edward the Confessor, the saint in whose honour our parish is named. The benevolent king is offering his ring to a poor beggar. He is supported by



St Teresa of Calcutta, a modern day saint who visited Australia several times during her life. Like St Edward, she had a great affinity to the poor.

On Mary's left are St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and St Vincent de Paul. These two saints are of special significance in our parish, a parish which has a St Vincent de Paul Conference and a St Vincent de Paul store and a tradition of being very generous supporters of the poor. St Mary of the Cross is supported by St Vincent de Paul who is very important to many of our parishioners especially those who were educated by the Sisters of St Joseph in our school.

Together these three paintings do much to create an atmosphere of prayerful peace and serenity, a place set apart from the ordinary world of noise, haste and worry. They are powerful symbols and reminders of how to live a more just and prayerful life. Parishioners are grateful to Mr Cardenas for donating these paintings to our parish.

Clergy Appointments

Priest	Role	From
Father Richard Gleeson	Parish Administrator, Saint Patrick's Parish Glen Innes	20 th May, 2017
Father Francis Afu	Parish Administrator, Cathedral Parish Armidale	20 th May, 2017
Father Sabu Pulimalayil	Assistant Priest, Cathedral Parish Armidale	19 th May, 2017
Father Kingsley Etoh	Assistant Priest, Saint Patrick's Parish Glen Innes	1 st June, 2017
Father John Carey	Sick leave	2 nd May, 2017
Father James Poovathinkal	Vicar Forane, Western Deanery	13 th February, 2017

India: 275 catechists grateful for the bikes ACN supplied for their work in the local villages

In the Indian diocese of Eluru, with its 1,150-plus Catholic villages, the lay catechists play a crucially important role. For it is simply impossible for the priests to be everywhere at once, so that it falls to the catechists much of the time to prepare people for the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Matrimony. They also lead prayer services and liturgies of the Word, visit the faithful in their homes and pray with the families. Thanks to the generosity of the benefactors of the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a grant of \$20,000 was given to help this cause.

By now the catechists have all received their bicycles, and Father Tatapudi Emmanuel, the diocesan bursar, wrote the following note of thanks to ACN. He wrote: "I thank you with all my heart for your generous help for the diocese of Eluru. The catechists are very happy to have these bicycles for their pastoral service. Recently we held a two-day meeting for all the catechists, and at the end of the meeting all the catechists expressed their great joy at having these bicycles. Their pastoral work will certainly be improved as a result. Together with my fellow priests, I thank you for all the help you are giving to enable us to proclaim the Gospel message to the people, and I assure you of my prayers. May Mary,

Joseph and the Child Jesus richly bless you!"

To help the work of Aid to the Church in Need please donate online at www.aidtochurch.org or ring the office on 02 9679-1929.



Some of the catechists standing with their new bikes in the Indian diocese of Eluru © Aid to the Church in Need

Help Religious Sisters - the unsung heroines in the Church!

Mother Teresa, now St Teresa of Calcutta, was canonised on September 4th 2016. The rosary carries the following inscriptions on the reverse side of the crucifix and central medal: "A little pencil in the hand of God" and "It is not how much we do, but how much love we put into what we do".

The colours of the rosary beads represent the simple white sari worn by Mother Teresa and the blue, her devotion to the Virgin Mary.



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 9,000 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 Mother Teresa rosary designed by the Vatican rosary makers and 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 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"/>
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Signature Exp Date /.....

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Sr/Rev

Address PC

Ph Email



The Mother Teresa rosary 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



Simple grace before meals

Bless us,
O Lord,
and these your gifts,
which we are about to receive
from your bounty.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Thanksgiving after eating

Loving Father, we praise you
For all the gifts you give us:
For life and health, For faith and love,
And for this meal we have shared together.
Father, we thank you Through Christ our
Lord.
Amen.

Turn off the WIFI for family time

Whilst talking to a mother of two teenagers recently she mentioned that each night they turn off the WIFI network in their home. This means that for both adults and children after this time there is no mobile phone data, access to social media, internet etc.

Recently, Bill Gates founder of Microsoft, said that his family had rules around technology use. "We often set a time after which there is no screen time and in their case that helps them get to sleep at a reasonable hour, you're always looking at how it can be used in a great way – homework and staying in touch with friends – and also where it has gotten to excess.

We don't have phones at the table when we are having a meal, we didn't give our kids phones until they were 14 and they complained other kids got them earlier.

A recent survey showed that 18% of families permitted children to have phones and devices at the dinner table and a staggering 36% of the parents were doing the same thing.

Having a family rule that no-one is online during meals and after a certain time gives you opportunity for family time. To join for a meal, saying grace, eating and talking together. Perhaps even extending your time around the table with a simple prayer at the end of the meal.

There is no better example to your children, than allowing them to see you disconnected from technology, reconnected with the family and your faith. There is no substitute for the face to face interactions you will have as a family when you gather together at the family meal.



Around 'n About

Mother's Day

Each year St Mary of the Angels Guyra welcome mothers and grandmothers in our school community to share in our annual Mother's Day breakfast with us. It seems such a small way to acknowledge the tremendous role that motherhood encompasses. No-one can ever explain to us what being a mother is going to be like. It is a never ending, all-encompassing thing that arrives with the birth of a baby and lasts a lifetime. Yet it is the most rewarding and most important thing that we do in our lives. Our student's absolutely love sharing this with their mums!



Sarah Campbell with her kids Darcie, Jack & Lucy



Walk Safely to School

St Nicholas Primary School Tamworth encouraged their students to 'Walk Safely to School' on Friday, 19th May. This annual event encourages all school aged children to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

Emily Brown, Sophie Brown, Kirsty Brown, Police Officer Michael Buko, Charlotte Traill and Police Officer Darren Traill.

First Holy Communion

Twenty-three children from St Franxis Xavier Parish, Narrabri, made their First Holy Communion in a beautiful ceremony. We thank Father James, the teachers and Catechists for preparing the children so well.



Michelle O'Connor, Father James Poovathinkal, Katie Hanes

Back row: Josie Harvey, Madeleine Taylor, Blake Fielder, Callum Nott, Tayla Nott, Patrick Welsh, Kate Leitch, Jonty Brayshaw, Tom Wheeler, Ashley Finlay, Isaac Hynch, Jayden Driza

Front Row: Bailey Cory, Alistair Dowdell, Campbell Williams, Lily Bogdanoff, Harriet Capp, Maxine O'Connor, Darcy Dickinson, Braiden Ryan, Drew O'Connor, Ali Murray, Lydia Clarke



CPR, a life skill for all!

St Nicholas Primary School Tamworth are endeavouring to improve how they look after each other.

Manners Matter at St Nicholas School and we pray that all the people in the world today can take just a few minutes to remember the person next to them, to treat them with respect and be kind.

Year 6 students are preparing themselves in case they ever need to step in and help in an emergency. They have learnt valuable lifesaving skills at their recent CPR course. Well done Yr 6, we hope you never need to use this skill.

Year 6 students learning how to put someone in the recovery position

Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians

St Joseph's Wee Waa celebrated a lovely Mass with Fr Ross O'Brien for the Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians. During the homily Fr Ross engage the children in a conversation around 'Why this feast day is titled Mary Help of Christians,' and how this day is also known as 'Our Lady Help of Christians.' He also quizzed the children, asking them many questions about the Patroness of Australia. Fr Ross was filling in while Fr James was away on family leave. We would like to thank Fr Ross for celebrating the Feast of Mary Help Christians with us.



Domonic Cruickshank, Dustyn Allen and Oscar Krogh, Fr O'Brien, Sonny Madden, Kyne Allen and Charlie Jenkins.



Never see a need without doing something about it

The staff, students and families of St Edward's Primary School, Tamworth, followed Mary Mackillop's words without hesitation. In response to the devastating floods in Northern New South Wales earlier this term, our school held a "Book Drive" to help the Catholic Schools in the Lismore Diocese restock their damaged libraries. Our Mini Vinnie students volunteered their own time to pack and box the books ready to be transported to St. Joseph's Primary School, South Murwillumbah. What a wonderful and very kind gesture! Thank you to the parents and St Edward's community for your support and helping those in need.

St Edward's Minnie Vinnie's students sorting books to send to St Joseph's in South Murwillumbah

Around 'n About

Eisteddfod Success!

St Joseph's School Barraba has made a strong return to the Tamworth Eisteddfod with successes with every group. After a few years away from participating in the Eisteddfod, the school entered every class in the Choral Speech section with great results. Kinder and Year 1 started the day with their poems 'Dogs' and 'Wicked Willie'. The small group of 11 students were thrilled when they found out they had achieved third place, with the adjudicator commenting "For a little group you were putting the other choirs to shame for projection". Our other year groups also performed well with the Year 2 and Year 5/6 groups receiving 2nd places and the



Year 3/4 group claimed first place in their sections. We congratulate all the students for their efforts on the day and we are keen to try again next year and perhaps bring a few more trophies home!



Ascension of the Lord

St Andrews Parish, Wee Waa, celebrated the Ascension of the Lord with a family Mass. During this Mass the Parish children's choir sang. Our choir has been organised by Mrs Anna Baird. They have scheduled regular afternoon practises and this certainly showed when they sang for us at Mass. The Parish children's choir will sing again during our First Holy Communion Mass later in the month.

*Emily Hartnett ; Bianca Williams, Sienna Melton, Maye Hatton, Anna Baird (organ)
Back Jessie Lennon, Juliet Maxwell, Isabel Freeman, Caitlyn Coutts Smith, Lily Maxwell.*

More than just a craze

School yard games and crazes have come and gone. Year 6 students from St Nicholas Primary School Tamworth have shown wonderful leadership and initiative by creating 'Crazy Crazes'. Bringing to life those simple and often bizarre games that were once played in every school yard. Remember what we could do with a metre length of string?



St Nicholas students bringing string games back to life



The infants children had lots of questions for Bishop Kennedy

Bishop Visit to school

Bishop Kennedy spent time with our staff and children in our parish school of St Joesph's, Quirindi. The children had lots of questions for the Bishop and enjoyed showing Bishop Kennedy around the school.



Children's Author Visits St Joseph's Uralla

The students at St Joseph's Uralla had a wonderful time recently when we hosted the well-known author Tristan Bancks. He is an Australian children's and teen author, with a background in filmmaking and acting. His books include *Two Wolves* (recognised as an Honour Book in the 2015 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, as well as winner of the YABBA and KOALA Children's Choice Awards), the *My Life* series and *Mac Slater*, *Coolhunter*. Our students not only listened to Tristan's stories but they also gained some valuable insights into how they can write their own interesting stories. The children are also excited to see the new Tristan Bancks novels on our library shelves.



Tristan Bancks working with the kids on their story writing skills



National Sorry Day

Students at Holy Trinity, Inverell, came together to our outdoor prayer space to celebrate National Sorry Day. Our indigenous students had designed and decorated the backdrop and took the roles within the prayer. The prayer was led by Mr Dom Gibson, Mrs Tracie Higgins and Ms Sarah Brockway. A local aboriginal gentleman and dad accompanied our Year 5 student Logan Johnson playing the didgeridoo. The prayer commenced our celebrations for Reconciliation Week.

Students of Holy Trinity light the candle to start the prayer service for National Sorry Day

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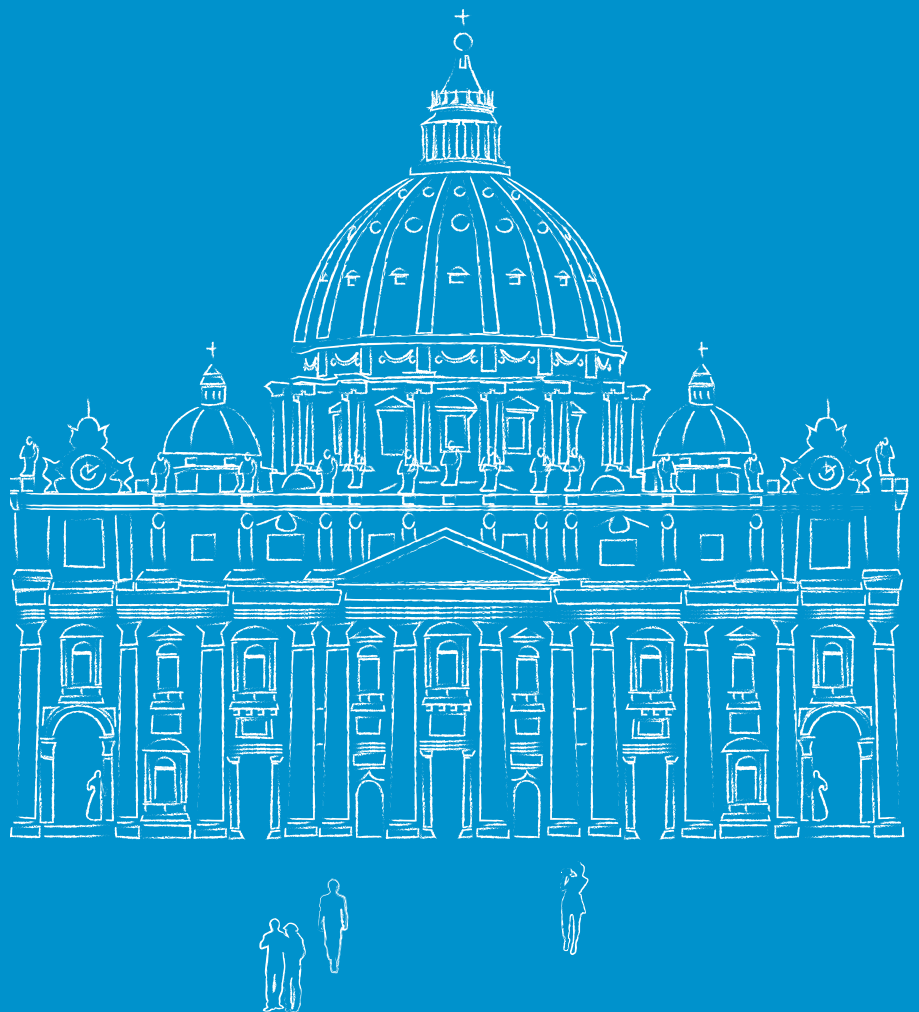
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Gonski 20 School Funding No Threat to School Fees in the Diocese of Armidale

The Catholic Schools Office (Diocese of Armidale) supports the Federal Government's introduction of a needs based funding formula. We appreciate the increased funding flowing to Catholic schools in NSW in 2018 and the guarantee of annual increases over the next ten years. The Catholic Schools Office (Diocese of Armidale) does not believe that school fees will need to increase in 2018 by any more than what would otherwise normally occur.



We do not believe the concerns of the Catholic sector regarding the new Gonski 2.0 funding arrangements are being well explained by both sides of the debate. The government is increasing education funding (even if not to the extent proposed by Gonski 1.0) and this is commendable.

The government is attempting to ensure that over the next 10 years all schools (government, Catholic and independent) are equally funded to the same School Resource Standard (SRS). The problem for the government is that all schools at the moment are not starting from the same level when compared to this standard.

To add to this variation is the difference between the amount of funding provided for education in the different States and Territories of Australia. The government has a goal that all schools will reach the same SRS and the contribution to education funding will be 80% (Federal) and 20% (States & Territories). This will require co-operation from the State governments and acceptance by the various education sectors that the starting point is different at the present time.

The Catholic sector's main concern is around their autonomy as a system. Earlier this month, the Federal

Government released figures outlining its planned funding allocation for schools in 2018 and beyond. It also produced a calculator on its *Quality Schools* website which purported to show funding figures for each school for 2017 and 2018. These figures are **not** an accurate reflection of the money **actually received** by each school. This is because – as the government's website itself notes – the amounts listed **do not take into account the impact of the Catholic Education system's "group funding"** arrangements. (Under this system, all Federal funding for Catholic schools is pooled together, and then redistributed according to a needs-based formula which reflects locally-identified areas of need.)

Thus, the raw federal funding figures listed on the website **are not reflective of the actual amounts received by each Catholic school**, now or in the future. Some schools will receive more than the figures listed on the website; others will receive less. This occurs because we are running a low fee paying system of schools.

Therefore the Catholic sector is just seeking an undertaking from the Federal government that it will retain the autonomy to distribute funds between and within Dioceses in NSW in such a way that we can maintain a low fee paying school system and maintain schools in high SES areas and small schools in regional areas because they belong to a system. Nevertheless we appreciate the government's insistence that the needs based approach to funding enshrined in the Education Act Amendment 2017 should be strongly reflected in the distribution of the government's funding by the Catholic sector .

The Catholic Schools Office (Diocese of Armidale) appreciates the efforts of Simon Birmingham (Minister for Education) to engage with the Catholic sector in order to better understand the role of systems in supporting the economic realities of Catholic schools.

Chris Smyth
Director of Schools

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Africa Famine: A Major Humanitarian Disaster that Requires an Urgent Response



“Our people are struggling simply to survive”- in a powerful pastoral letter, the Bishops of South Sudan have expressed a desperate plea for support.

United Nations agencies recently declared famine in parts of South Sudan and it’s a famine that is likely to spread. Caritas Australia’s CEO, Paul O’Callaghan said without concerted political and community action, there is the risk of famine spreading across the region.

“With over 20 million people at risk of starvation, this is a major humanitarian disaster that requires our urgent action. It’s vital for us to do whatever we can to assist, before it’s too late and the worst of this large-scale fine becomes entrenched,” Mr O’Callaghan said.

“This is an unprecedented situation and may be the gravest food security event since the 1984 famine that devastated the people of Ethiopia.

“Caritas recently launched its Africa Emergency Appeal to raise life-saving funds for those in need.”

Caritas Australia, in collaboration with the Caritas Internationalis network, has a long history of working successfully with desperately poor communities in the affected countries of Africa.

Mary Wachira, Caritas Project Coordinator, who works on the ground with communities in South Sudan said: “Caritas’ unique reach through the Church into vulnerable communities means that it is well-placed to support those in need.”

Through the generous support of Australians, Caritas is providing people with essential food and water, as well as continuing our long term development work so communities have resilience in the face of future threats.

“When you have no food, you have nothing. We must act before our worst fears are realised,” Ms Wachira said.

This humanitarian disaster is being driven in many areas by conflict, as well as sky rocketing food prices due to inflation, while climate change is compounding a severe drought throughout the Horn of Africa. The long term impacts of climate change are undermining the region’s ability to endure extreme weather, leaving thousands of people vulnerable to hunger and disease.

“While this is a moment to act to secure communities immediate access to food and water and sustainable crops, it is also a moment to reflect on the role of climate change,” Mr O’Callaghan said. “If we don’t move aggressively to tackle climate change, we will see more and more of these events in the future.”

To donate to the Africa Emergency Appeal visit <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response> or phone 1800 024 413.



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Model United Nations Assembly



On the weekend of 3rd and 4th June, four students from O'Connor Catholic College in Armidale set off to Kempsey to participate in the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), a Rotary sponsored youth activity which mimics a meeting of the United Nations. A number of nations that hold membership in the UN are represented by delegations consisting of two year 11 students. O'Connor was extremely fortunate to have two teams sponsored by the Armidale Central Rotary Club - Nick Troon and Grace Toakley represented Portugal, and James Hadley and Sophie Warner represented Andorra. These enthusiastic students prepared for several weeks under the guidance of local Rotarian Youth co-ordinator Kristyn Barker, and they were excited to gather with over one hundred students and Rotarians from the north coast, western NSW and the New England region.

Prior to attending MUNA, an agenda of topics and resolutions were sent to the delegations. Students were required to research the view of their country on all agenda items so they could participate in debating issues of interest and/or vote on each resolution, and each team focused in detail on at least one resolution that they were asked to speak to.

Participating in the Model United Nations Assembly enables young people to learn about international issues, how different countries and cultures interact and generally opens their eyes to global issues. They benefit individually in terms of research, presentation and

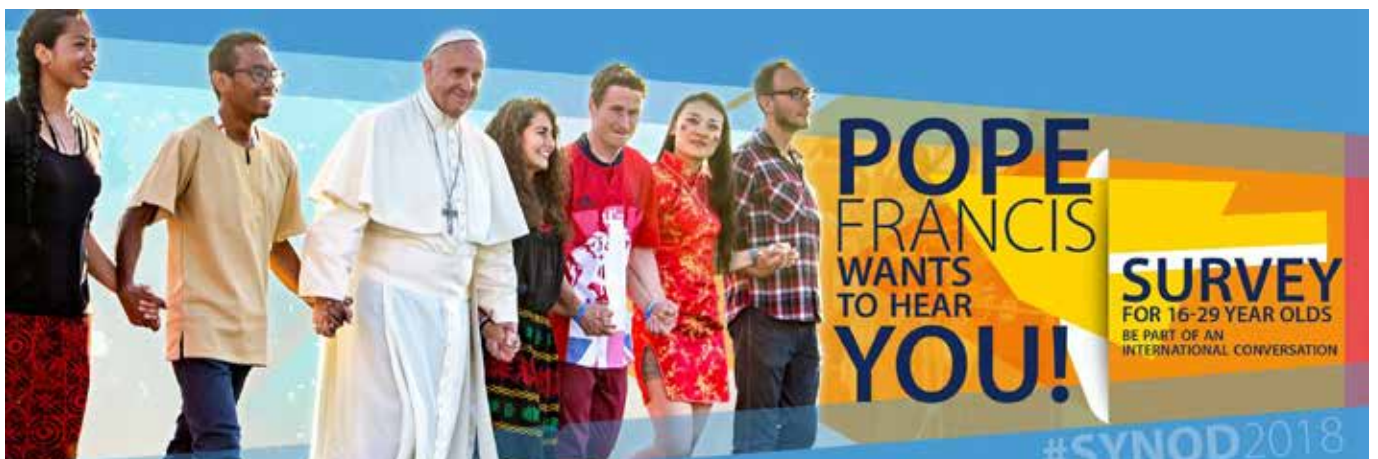
debating skills, as well as social interaction with other motivated youth and experienced Rotarians.

Nick, Grace, James and Sophie represented O'Connor Catholic College and Armidale Central Rotary Club with pride, and the College has received many accolades regarding their high levels of engagement and behaviour. As a bonus, at the end of the weekend James Hadley was awarded the Most Outstanding Delegate prize!

The Year 12 students' theme for this year is "BE", which links to the aims and objectives of MUNA particularly well...be involved, be aware, be tolerant...actions we try to live daily at O'Connor Catholic College.



James Hadley receiving his prize for Most Outstanding Delegate from the Rotary MUNA organising committee



Celebrating Life in Faith



Monica Ducrow and Kath Hunt with their Papal Blessings

Monica Carmel Ducrow will never be forgotten in her home town of Gunnedah, where St Joseph's parishioners are still mourning her death. Monica was walking across the road to church on Saturday, May 13, when she was hit by a car and died later in hospital, just two months short of her 92nd birthday. Parish priest, Fr John McHugh rushed to her side and could offer the Last Rites before she was transported to hospital – Monica squeezed his hand.

Monica's greatest love was her family, she always said her children were "gift from God" and she treated them as such. The children were all brought up in the Catholic faith and this faith provided much solace and comfort during times of hardship and following the death of her beloved Joe.

Monica's faith and love was also passed on to countless children in state schools where she volunteered as a catechist. Monica was presented with a Papal Blessing for her tireless instruction of the faith to little children. She believed that the children needed to hear about the love of Jesus and to be given hope.

Monica's deep faith shone through in every aspect of her life. She believed in the innate goodness of people and was a beacon of faith and hope to countless lost souls we will never know about.

She was a regular at Mass in St Joseph's and supported the work of the Sisters of Mercy as a member of the

Mercy Associates and Friends. Humble but gifted with a great sense of humour, Mon touched the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know her. Her full life and involvement in the Gunnedah community had someone calling her Gunnedah's Saint. Monica would have been uncomfortable with the many accolades made on her behalf in the Gunnedah paper but her care and appreciation of everyone in her life, no matter how small, was reflected in the outpouring of grief at news of her untimely death.

St Joseph's was packed to overflowing for the celebration of Mon's life on May 22. Four priests con-celebrated the Mass where Mon was remembered as a woman of great faith whose generosity knew no bounds". "Respected and admired by the whole community, Mon was described as a shining example of how we should live our lives in harmony".

Mon's son Tom said that his mother was a woman of vision, a progressive, while still embracing the traditions of the church. "She did the simple things really beautifully," he said. We will always remember her as a truly remarkable and inspirational mother. "She was a joy to be with, never short of a joke. It flowed from her love of God and humanity."

Mon has left a wonderful legacy to her eight children, 19 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. St Joseph's parishioners continue to give thanks for the joy of Mon's presence in their lives.



Jim and Dorethea with their Papal Blessing at St Edward's

Celebrating Sixty Years of Marriage

Jim and Dorothea Moriarty celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary recently. Jim was born at Yass and spent his first five years at Binalong where his father was the headmaster of the local school. A transfer to Sydney in 1939 enabled Jim to complete his education at De La Salle, Ashfield and St Patrick's College, Strathfield. On leaving school the city boy found himself at Walgett as a stock agent.

Dorothea had been born in the west and grew up on "Dreamland" a property at Cryon. Jim and Dorothea met at the Walgett Golf Club and were married in St Vincent's Catholic Church at Ashfield in 1957. They bought and lived on a property in the Riverina before moving to the Tamworth District in 1971. They have three children.

Jim and Dorothea have been very active in the community but involvement with their local parish has always been a priority for them. Recently Father Paul presented them with a framed Papal Blessing acknowledging their love for each other and their service to the church.



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Pope Francis declares October 2019 a month of mission

Pope Francis has dedicated October 2019 as a month of prayer and reflection for the missionary work of the Church.

The announcement came as part of an audience with the Pope to conclude the annual General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies. In Rome for the meeting, Father Lucas welcomed the call, saying the dedicated month will be an important initiative to help the local church in Australia focus on its missionary vocation.

‘We are no longer an isolated church here in Australia,’ Father Lucas said. ‘We are all engaged in the mission of bringing Good News to a globalised world.’

Like an extraordinary jubilee year, an extraordinary month is where a dedicated focus is placed on an intention outside the normal activity of the church in that time.

Pope Francis said that he hopes the month will be a

promising time of prayer and reflection on the testimony of missionary saints and martyrs, the Bible and theology, as well as catechesis and charitable missionary work towards the evangelization of the Church.

Father Lucas is expecting a strong spirit of collaboration in the Church in preparation for the special occasion.

‘Catholic Mission looks forward to working closely with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, and the local bishops, parishes and religious congregations to make October 2019 a time for all Australian Catholics to recommit to their baptismal calling to be missionaries of Christ’s saving message,’ he said. ‘Energy for mission has to replace a self-serving inward focus that is content with the status quo.’

Sources: Catholic News Agency, Vatican Radio, Agenzia Fides.



Pope Francis fronts the national directors of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the Vatican last Saturday. (Vatican Radio)

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Beacon of light for seafarers



There are about 1 million seafarers on the world's oceans on any given day.

Piracy is a scourge on the lives of seafarers, with 246 acts of piracy on shipping in 2015 alone, and in that year - about 20 ships were held hostage, and around 200 crew were held hostage. Some crew are killed or remain hostage for years. Much of this criminal activity occurs in the oceans surrounding Australia.

Apart from isolation and distance from family while at sea, seafarers can be confronted with very real threats and danger to their lives, as well as poor working conditions on some ships, so much so that mental health for seafarers has become a primary concern of union and church groups. Suicide, depression and self-harming is common, creating situations in ministry and pastoral care previously not encountered.

About 90% of Australia's trade is reliant on shipping. Various ports scattered around the coastline deal with the export/import of goods and services. Australia trades

in commodities, livestock and produce, together with a service trade that is generally leisure, with over 1.5 million Australians holidaying on cruise liners per year.

Cargo vessels generally do not have large crews, but the volume of shipping is huge. The cruise liner industry relies on crews of 1,000 or 1,500, but the cargo volume is less. Commercial shipping would have thousands of ships visit Australian ports every year, whereas only 500-600 cruise liners visit per annum.

Some busy Australian ports can have about 10,000 seafarers visit the local Stella Maris centre every year, with many ships in local harbours on any given day.

The Apostleship of the Sea Catholic ministry (AOS) offers a 'beacon of light' to seafarers around the world by providing pastoral support for their 'spiritual, social and material' welfare. In Australia there are 15 AOS port chaplains / centre managers and more than 160 volunteers supporting the estimated 130,000 seafarers who transit the nation's 25 ports each year through these centres.



The importance of one

A young man walking along the beach at dawn noticed an old man picking up starfish and tossing them into the sea. It was obvious he was rescuing the starfish before they were baked in the hot summer sun. "old man, this is a big beach with hundreds of these starfish," the young man said sarcastically. "How can your efforts make any difference?" The old man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. "It makes a big difference to this one," he replied.

Oak Tree Continues to Expand in Armidale

Oak Tree Retirement Village Armidale is expanding rapidly with the next phase of construction now underway to meet growing local demand.

The Village's recent open day drew high attendance numbers with the word out that Oak Tree is "the name" in retirement in Armidale, as well as Tamworth and Gunnedah.

Six excited new residents are expected to soon be making Oak Tree their new home where they will enjoy the many lifestyle benefits of the expanding community.

"The Village, will consist of eighty six villas upon completion. We are starting to get some traction now that the concept of independent retirement living is better understood," said Area Manager - Kate Pigram.

"When establishing a Village in a new location it always takes some time to build a name, but in a very short space of time we are seeing our community take shape. People who attended the initial Grand Open Day are now revisiting and making the decision to move," she said.

"The time is right to make the move. There are positive trends in the local real estate market. Buyers are active and sellers will be rewarded for a well presented, reasonably priced home.

"Our plans for the future stages of development at Oak Tree Armidale are well advanced and we are in a good position to meet the growing demand for life in a retirement community," she said.



Oak Tree Retirement Village Armidale offers a peaceful country lifestyle with the choice of a one, two or three bedroom home. The villas are fully self-contained and provide all the comforts of home.

Residents enjoy recreational facilities including the outdoor bowls green and BBQ area. The well appointed Village Centre comes complete with a hair dressing salon, community kitchen for functions and entertaining, media room, computer room and library.

In the securely gated community residents live with like-minded friends and neighbours nearby. They enjoy a carefree lifestyle with all garden and home maintenance coordinated by the Village Manager.

To experience Oak Tree and all it has to offer you must come to take a look for yourself. Call Kate on 1300 367 155 to book a tour or visit www.oaktreegroup.com.au



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www.oaktreegroup.com.au

KIDS KAPERS



"I Love Jesus" Bookmark

A.



B.



Materials: cardboard,
scissors, coloured textas/
pencils, hole punch,
wool/string

Instructions:

- Use the picture below as a template or cut out your own strip of cardboard
- Punch a hole at one end, not too close to the edge
- Draw the word 'I' under the hole, make it thick to stand out
- Draw a heart shape under the 'I' and colour it in
- Stick a picture of Jesus under the heart then write 'because....' at the bottom
- Turn your card over and stick another picture of Jesus under the hole
- Write the word 'first' under Jesus' picture
- Draw another heart under 'first' and colour it in
- Write 'Me' at the bottom using fancy lettering

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International Catholic megastar confirmed for Australian Catholic Youth Festival

Matt Maher is arguably the biggest Catholic name in global contemporary Christian music and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is delighted to announce he will be coming to Sydney for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival from 7-9 December 2017.

The internationally acclaimed Canadian songwriter and worship leader is heading to Australia with his band to join with 15,000 young people at the biggest Festival of its kind to be held in the country.

He will perform, lead worship and provide engaging input on each day of the three-day Festival at Sydney Olympic Park including Sydney Showgrounds, Qudos Bank Arena and The Domain.

'Matt Maher's music is a powerful tool to reach young people and we're so pleased to be welcoming this highly acclaimed artist for the ACYF,' Archbishop Fisher said.

'His strong faith and courageous witness right in the heart of contemporary culture is an

encouragement to all young people to use their gifts and youthful energy in service of the Gospel.' Many Australian WYD pilgrims remember Maher's performances at World Youth Day as a particular highlight including at World Youth Day 2016, which took place in Krakow, Poland.

The Festival is a youthful and energetic celebration hosted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in partnership with the Archdiocese of Sydney. It will be held from 7-9 December 2017. For more information or to register visit:

www.acyf.org.au.



BACK COVER: Edward Grills, St Mary of the Angels Guyra

