

V.Catholic Viewpoint†

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

VOL 25 - NO. 5
OCTOBER 2016
DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

God is Good



Praying For Marriage & Families



The Bishop Speaks

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, The Joy of Love, Pope Francis says “No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed.” (325) It was, I believe, one of the Pope’s key messages. It’s also one of the reasons the Catholic Bishops of Australia called upon all the faithful to undertake a month of prayer and fasting for marriage and families during the month of October. It’s also why many other Christian denominations and communities joined us in this effort too. Happy families require effort; happy families need prayer.

You see the Pope and the whole Church continue to present the beauty and perfection of God’s plan for marriage and the family as a community of life and love that reflects the very life and love of God himself in the Blessed Trinity. But we also know that the everyday lives of families can be rather messy affairs. You don’t need me, or anybody for that matter, to name all the things that can make our family life bumpy and difficult. Each of us just has to think of our own family situation!

But our family life is also beautiful. It’s where we

learn to love and to be loved; it’s where we learn to forgive and be forgiven; it’s where we learn to be patient and kind; and it’s where most of us receive the gift of faith. All this doesn’t happen in an instant; it takes time and it requires prayer. Pope Francis said it well in *Amoris Laetitia*, “I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfil their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way.” (57)

I was delighted that so many Catholics and other Christians become one as we joined in the prayers and fasting for marriages and families during the month of October. There was a specific prayer theme for each of the four weeks of the month, a suggested prayer on that theme, and a call to undertake some little act of fasting to accompany our prayer, perhaps going without dessert or forgoing a favourite treat. As well as praying at Mass, many people took the prayer themes to the Lord Jesus in their Eucharistic adoration or sought Our Lady’s intercession in praying the Rosary. Many families also included the





prayer intentions in their regular family prayers.

In the first week we prayed for the flourishing of all marriages and families, and in the second week we prayed for those families that are in distress because of particular trials or difficulties.

For some time our society has become more aware and sensitive to the difficulties experienced by members of our families and community who are same-sex attracted or gender uncertain, and of the distress this can bring to families. So in the third week of October we prayed for the members of our families and community who experience same-sex attraction or gender uncertainty.

The increased awareness and sensitivity we have for our brothers and sisters who are same-sex attracted or gender uncertain is a good thing. Love of God and neighbour urge us to be patient and kind to all people, especially when they have greater need of our patience and kindness. Whether this should mean that marriage between a man and a woman must be redefined is another matter.

Because the family based on marriage is the very foundational institution of our whole society, the Catholic Church, along with many other people and organisations, believe that it shouldn't mean we have to redefine marriage. So in the final week of October we have been praying that our nation will engage in a respectful and fair national discussion on marriage with an outcome that will preserve God's beautiful plan for marriage.

Hearing Their Cry Pastoral Statement

Other members of our families and communities that really need our prayers are the victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. In September I attended the Public Hearing of the Royal Commission that examined the response of our Diocese to this situation. I was deeply moved by the testimony given by victims and survivors and their families. I heard of their horror, pain, fear and hurt. I heard of their betrayal, of their inhuman treatment, and of the torment they continue to suffer as the abuse has long lasting effects on their lives.

The treatment they received from the Church was appalling. They, and others who brought the matter into the open should have been encouraged to do so and should have been listened to. I and the Church owe them a debt of gratitude that they did bring this matter to everybody's attention for the sake and safety of children.

My Pastoral Statement *Hearing Their Cry* is my personal reflection following my attendance at the Royal Commission Hearing. It is reprinted in full in this edition of *Catholic Viewpoint*. It is my hope that by reading it you may come to an understanding of my own depth of sorrow and shame for the failings of our Church and Diocese. I know that many of you feel the sorrow and shame too.

In reading the Pastoral Statement I hope that you might also be informed of the many changes that have been taking place in the Diocese to ensure that our parishes are safe places for all the children and vulnerable in our care. Please take some time to read it and share it with others and please keep the victims in your prayers.

In September we were reminded of the sufferings of abuse victims. In October we were reminded of the importance of marriage and families. We cannot simply forget these special people now and move onto something else. Please keep praying for marriages, for families, and for victims of abuse, and keep them all close to your heart.

Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale



HEARING THEIR CRY

A PASTORAL STATEMENT FROM BISHOP MICHAEL KENNEDY

27th September, 2016

I have recently returned from the Public Hearing of the Royal Commission into the response of Catholic Church authorities to allegations of child sexual abuse by John Joseph Farrell. The hearing has not formally concluded but has been adjourned. In due course the Royal Commission will publish a report on their findings and recommendations.

This statement is my personal reflection following my attendance at the Royal Commission Hearing. It is my hope that by reading this you may come to an understanding of my own depth of sorrow and shame for the failings of our Church and Diocese and that you might be informed of the changes that have been taking place in the Diocese to ensure that our parishes are safe places for all the children and vulnerable in our care.

Listening to the victims and survivors

Along with others from the Diocese I sat in the Royal Commission hearing room and listened to the statements and evidence given by the survivors. I was deeply moved by their testimony. It is crucial that the Church truly hear their cry.

I listened to two survivors. I heard of their horror, pain, fear and hurt. I heard of their betrayal, of their inhuman treatment, and of the torment they continue to suffer as a result of the abuse they endured. I heard of the long lasting effects this abuse has had on their lives. Their courage and integrity shone through in their testimony. They are brave and dignified men whom I hold in high esteem. I thank them for their testimony and assure them that I will never forget.

I listened to a victim's mother. She spoke powerfully of her family's struggle to be heard by Church authorities when their son had so bravely spoken up to reveal the abuse. The treatment they received from the Church was appalling. They, and others who brought the matter into the open should have been encouraged to do so and should have been listened to. I and the Church owe them a debt of gratitude for bringing this matter to everybody's attention for the sake and safety of children. I thank all who came forward and spoke up in 1984. The thanks you now receive comes far too late; you should have been thanked then.

Not every victim of child abuse is a survivor. A particularly tragic result of child abuse occurs when a person loses his or her life as a result of the abuse. Some victims have committed suicide and the lives of some victims have spiralled so much out of control that it has resulted in premature death. How can we not hear and respond to this desperate cry?

All abuse impacts terribly upon the victim. It is neither helpful nor appropriate to suggest that it does not hurt some victims as much as others. Every abuse victim and their family suffer as a result of the abuse and, no matter how well some might eventually learn to "live" or "cope" with it, they carry a tremendous cross their entire life. All child abuse is a despicable sin and crime.



Inadequacy of the Church's Past Response in the Diocese of Armidale

The Royal Commission Hearing has highlighted once again the inadequacy of the Church and our Diocese in responding to allegations of abuse. This inadequacy started with the failure to listen to the victims and their parents. Administratively the failures included poor record keeping, ineffective assessments, inefficient inquiries, and a failure to share important information. Pastorally the failures included a completely inept response to and treatment of victims and their families, and safeguarding the reputation of the Church ahead of ensuring the safety and well-being of children.

I apologise to all victims and their families for the failure of the Diocese to respond promptly, appropriately and decisively to protect you and your children.

The Church's Current Response in the Diocese of Armidale

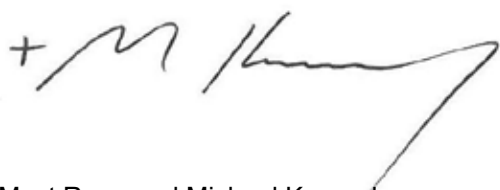
Whenever I meet with victims and survivors and their family members, they want to know what the Diocese is doing to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. I assure them that change has indeed been taking place and is continuing to occur. The Church's response and attitude may not be perfect but it is continually improving. Since becoming Bishop of Armidale in February 2012 I have instituted a number of changes and reviews which I believe are important to reducing the risk of a child or vulnerable adult ever being abused within the Church. I encourage you to read the ten point summary of the Diocese's current response at the end of this Pastoral Letter.

Don't let evil win

Abuse of a child is an abomination. It is criminal, evil and cruel. It damages the person being abused and impacts their families. The impact spreads to our whole community. All of us feel the weight of the shame, horror and disgust that a priest or any person can so horribly violate another person, especially a child. It is a violation of their body, their soul, their spirit, their innocence, their entire person.

During our Diocesan World Youth Day pilgrimage earlier this year our young pilgrims and I visited the Nazi Concentration Camp at Auschwitz. At the end of the visit our guide said "If you leave here angry, then Hitler will have won." These words struck me and I believe they are applicable to the evil of child abuse. It is not possible to comprehend how anyone can perpetrate such evil actions upon a child. I implore you to not let John Farrell and others who have abused or failed to protect children "win" by taking away your faith and peace of mind. I plead with you to consider that their actions do not represent the Church nor its people.

With your help and support I and the Diocese will do our best to ensure that such evil is never able to occur again in our Church. Let us continue to pray for all victims and survivors and their families, and to work together to ensure all our children are safe, happy, and loved.



Most Reverend Michael Kennedy
Bishop of Armidale



Ten Points of Change in the Diocese of Armidale

1. Seminarians

As future priests, seminarians are exposed to a lengthy evaluation process both before being accepted into the Seminary and during their training. These evaluations are undertaken by senior clergy, lay people, seminary staff, professional staff and myself. Seminarians are not accepted directly out of school and they have post-secondary school experience in work and education.

Their formation includes independent psychological assessments. The suitability of candidates for ordination is discussed with seminary staff and other advisors. I do not and would not ordain a candidate against the advice of the seminary staff or other advisors.

2. Clergy Professional Development

Each year experienced experts provide professional development in Professional Standards to the Diocesan clergy. This professional development is practical and aimed at providing clergy with the skills and knowledge they need to operate according to the standards and requirements of "Integrity in Ministry" (the document of principles and standards for Catholic Clergy and Religious in Australia). It is also aimed at supporting them in their role as leaders of the parish in ensuring that parish staff and volunteers also receive the required training and assistance.

3. Child Safe Parish Communities

The focus of the Diocese is on creating child safe Parish communities. The Diocese has been developing policies and procedures appropriate for both Diocesan and parish use. There is a recognition that parish communities are made up of many different people who are in different roles. Each component part of a parish has a responsibility to work together to keep children safe.

4. Reporting Protocols

All parishes and Diocesan Church Agencies have been provided with reporting protocols. All allegations of criminal behaviour are reported to Police by the Diocese. Parishes and agencies are required to report all allegations of both criminal behaviour and improper conduct to the Chancery Office to ensure a permanent record is kept of the allegations and the subsequent reporting to Police and/or other appropriate statutory authority such as the NSW Ombudsman's Office.

5. Professional Standards Advisory Panel

I have established a Diocesan Professional Standards Advisory Panel to advise me on all matters relating to child protection and the professional standards requirements of clergy. The panel members include both male and female lay people. The panel is forthright in its advice to me. Through this panel any allegation received is monitored and managed. I do not in any circumstances attempt to manage any allegation by myself. All information is shared within this confidential panel.

6. Role of Diocesan Chancellor

I have included responsibility for professional standards, child protection and safeguarding within the role of the Chancellor of the Diocese. This position is held by a lay woman. Any allegation of improper behaviour or conduct is initially reviewed and actioned by the Diocesan Chancellor.

7. Responding to Allegations

I wish to assure you that in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against a priest, that priest would immediately be stood down from all duties until the proper investigations were concluded. If a sustained allegation was made against them they would not be returned to public ministry and their faculties would be removed. If appropriate, I as the Bishop of Armidale, would petition the Holy See to have that member of the clergy dismissed and laicised.

8. Adherence to National Standards

The Diocese of Armidale follows the Towards Healing protocols; is party to the Commitment of Catholic Leaders statement; and adheres to the Guidelines for Church Authorities in responding to civil claims for child sexual abuse. In keeping with these guidelines the Diocese respects the choice of survivors to approach it in a variety of ways with outcomes tailored for each individual.

**These documents are available on our website: <http://armidale.catholic.org.au/royal-commission/>*

9. Compensation and a Personal Approach

In addition to the Diocese making payment of legitimate compensation claims without the need for litigation, I have met with abuse victims and survivors and their family members. I have listened to their story, acknowledged the impact of the abuse on them and apologised to them. When survivors choose not to meet with me, the offer of a meeting remains open to them, so that they may do so if and when they choose and feel able.

If you are a survivor or family member and if you have not already done so, please come forward and meet with me. I want to hear your story. I want to personally apologise to you and support you.

10. Ongoing Support to Survivors

One area where our Diocese still needs to improve is in providing appropriate ongoing support for survivors. To remedy this the Diocese is in the process of partnering with established services including Zimmerman Services in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle and the Healing & Support Services in the Diocese of Parramatta. These partnerships recognise that the Diocese of Armidale does not have the capacity to provide such comprehensive professional support to survivors, but wishes to do so to the best of our ability.

These changes are part of an ongoing and active engagement by me in the Diocese to ensure that we are constantly improving our practices and bringing about change in the way we all think and act.



Christ the King Pilgrimage Jubilee YEAR *of* *Mercy*



Sunday 20th November, 2016

**Ss Mary & Joseph's
Cathedral Armidale**

Procession & Mass 10am
(Please gather by 9.45am for procession)

Join with the priests, deacons, religious, laity and
Bishop Michael Kennedy
for a Diocesan celebration marking the end of the
Year of Mercy

and afterwards

Grace on the
Green

join in a picnic lunch and entertainment on the lawns of O'Mahony House

Ω Featuring popular Christian music by Sydney Group

"MOMENTUM"

and local school choirs and orchestra

Ω Please provide your own picnic rug

Ω A gourmet picnic boxed lunch will be provided
.....festivities will conclude at 3pm

Sponsored by



We Come Together, As One



The 'Migrant Candles'

The Saint Nicholas Parish Tamworth joined the worldwide celebration of the 102nd World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees through the celebration of a multi-language Mass. More than 20 languages and nationalities were represented throughout the celebration. Mass was followed by a multi-ethnic morning tea, featuring recipes and dishes showcasing the parishioners' ethnic origins. What a fabulous way to share such rich cultural differences.

The theme of this year's celebration, as set by Pope Francis: "Migrants and Refugees Challenge Us. The Response of the Gospel of Mercy". The celebration was organised by the Migrant & Refugee Sunday Mass Team, whose 5 months of preparation brought about a very beautiful mass and wonderful attendance and participation of parishioners.

Len Waters delivered the traditional Welcome to Country; supported by the Saint Nicholas Parish Choir led by Lawrie Hatfield and Peter Godden; Brian Lincoln served as the Mass Commentator and Mass was introduced by Richard Manning & Jacqui Hochstadt-Wong.



Luz Roberts, Linda Ello, Lalaine Lastra, Madeth Domingo, Elcid Donato

Four Migrant Families: The Markose family from India; The Dries family from Ireland; The Lanaja family from the Philippines; and the Rice family from the USA, lit the 'Migrant Candles' – a symbol of their hopes and aspirations; followed by the lighting of the Easter Candle by Del Camilleri and her daughter Julie McGuirk.

The readings were read in Spanish and Mandarin and Fr Joseph read the Gospel in Akan. The Prayers of the Faithful were in Gaelic, Hindi, Italian, Malay, French, Pilipino, Buli, Malayalam and in English by members of the parish. The Offertory Procession was presented by parishioners from Israel, Botswana, India and the Philippines

"It was grace to see parishioners and friends gather in friendship at this time, when there is so much hatred and division in other communities fueled by racial, cultural, and religious differences. We can be one if love rules... if GOD reigns! This is what World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees proves to us all," says Father Joe.



Justin Kora Je, Mervyn Fernandez, Jerome Wong, Jacqui Hockstadt-Wong, Fr. Joseph Beyelah Armah, Winsome Ng, Christina Ng, Rajeev George, Daniel Rajeev, Mini P. Markos, Fr. Joe, Catherine Maria Rejeev, Athira Kuriakose

Clergy Assembly – Professional Development

All our Priests and Deacons got together with the Bishop at the last Clergy Assembly in September.

They spent their time learning about essential elements of the RCIA from Mr Nick Wagner. Mr Wagner is the director and founder of TeamRCIA.com and has more than 25 years' experience as a leader and trainer in liturgical and catechetical ministries. He has a gift for translating theological principles into simple and clear language that inspires joy, commitment and passion for faith.

The clergy also took time to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Professional Standards required of them with Ms Narelle McMahon. Narelle is the Protection and Prevention Officer in the National Professional Standards Office.

She has many years experience as an educator, particularly in the protection and prevention area. She worked for many years in the Catholic Education Office of the Archdiocese of Sydney in the child protection area. She has provided training and support to Dioceses and religious orders throughout Australia. She has presented workshops to clergy and lay employees in almost all the Dioceses.



Fr Richard Gleeson, Fr Jayaraj Gorantla, Fr Francis Afu & Fr Paul Chandler

New Blokes on the Block

We welcome Fr Paul Chandler and Fr Jayaraj Gorantla to our Diocese. Fr Chandler has been in residence at the Cathedral Parish assisting with pastoral work whilst completing a PhD on Theology of the Body and Fr 'Raj' is here on a working visa from India to help broaden our ranks. You can see they have already brightened the lives of the Armidale priests.

BACK COVER: Diocese of Armidale Clergy gathered for Clergy Assembly

Doing it tough? We need to talk ...

Centacare NENW offers a range of services and support to individuals, couples, families and workplaces including:

- Counselling & psychological support
- Support for people with disability—talk with us about the NDIS
- Free Gambling Help Service for problem gamblers, their families & friends
- Mediation—Family Dispute Resolution; Property, finance & workplace mediation
- Information & education sessions on mental health, wellbeing & family relationships
- Corporate/HR psychology & Employee Assistance Program
- Free Carers counselling (through Carers NSW)
- Case work support for individuals & families



1 800 372 826

Tamworth, Armidale, Inverell, Narrabri, Moree & Walgett





Information for Parents about the Safe Schools Coalition

What is Safe Schools?

“Under the guise of anti-bullying, the Safe Schools Coalition is promoting a radical view of gender and sexuality”.

Kevin Donnelly, Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Catholic University.

The Catholic Church has significant concerns about Safe Schools resources, particularly the *All Of Us* materials, because the lessons and resources actively promote controversial ‘gender theory’.

All Of Us outlines eight lesson plans about “gender diversity, sexual diversity and intersex topics”, which it says is “... to build safer and more inclusive environments for same-sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, teachers, and families.”¹

What is gender theory?

Gender theory teaches children their gender is not just what they are born with - male or female - but what they choose.²

All Of Us student handouts state the “building blocks of identity” include “... the sex we were assigned at birth [the parts of your body], our gender identity [how you feel], and our sexual identity [who you like]”³.

What’s wrong with gender theory?

Gender theory is highly contested and the concept of gender fluidity does not reflect common experience. There is a very small number of people who do have real difficulty identifying their biological sex. While, every effort must be made to support and love those who experience this difficulty, this is the exception rather than the rule.



The rights and responsibilities of parents in this area must not be undermined by Government enforced programs.

What can you do?

Children can learn to treat each other with respect and compassion without being coerced to agree with radical gender theory. With this in mind, there are many important and simple actions you can take as a parent:

- Talk to other parents to raise awareness of this program and discuss your concerns with them
- Talk to your school principal – let them know you are concerned about the use of this program
- Raise your concerns with your local politician both in writing and also through face-to-face conversations.

Prepared by the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council www.acmfc.org.au

A Council of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Email: marriage@catholic.org.au



1 Safe Schools Coalition Australia, *All Of Us: Health and Physical Resource*. Understanding Gender Diversity, Sexual Diversity and Intersex Topics for Years 7 and 8, page 3. See: <http://safeschoolshub.edu.au/safe-schools-coalition-australia-resources>. All references to the *All Of Us* materials are references to this document.

2 Tobin, B (2016) “A key issue in the current discussion of ‘transgenderism’”, *Bioethics Outlook*, Vol 27(2) June, pp8-10.

3 Safe Schools Coalition Australia, *All Of Us*. Pages 34, 38.

CATHOLIC



Interesting facts about the Church today

Too often mainstream news about the Church ranges from unfortunate to bad to tragic. But in an effort to counter what seems relentless negativity, Fr. Richard Leonard SJ, Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting, has collected a sheet of facts which indicate the reality of what the Church does today. (These figures were the most precise Fr. Richard could amass in 2016.)

Parishes

There are 3,100 priests and 1321 parishes around the country, including 29 belonging to Eastern Catholic Churches.

There are 5.4 million self-identified Catholics in the country, of whom 662,376 (12.2%) go to Church every Sunday. (according to Fr Richard, we could fill the MCG seven times every Sunday with Mass going. Of the Mass goers some 92,334 are aged 13-18. There are also at least 3,200 volunteer catechists in Australia

Employment

We are the largest non-Government employer in Australia and the third largest employer overall, with at least 131,000 employees of which 98,500 are women (75%)

Welfare

The Catholic Church is the largest provider of welfare, after the Federal Government. There are 63 member organisations, 12,600 employees, providing 500 different services, and they cared for about 1.1 million clients in 2015. St Vincent de Paul is the largest and most extensive volunteer welfare network in the country with 18,209 members and 30,910 volunteers.

12% of all hospital beds are 'Catholic'. There are 66 hospitals with 9,500 beds comprising 19 public hospitals with 3,100 beds and 47 private hospitals with 6,400 beds. The Catholic Church offers 23,200 residential aged care beds, there are 5,393 retirement and independent living units and serviced apartments and 8 dedicated hospices with palliative care services

Australian Catholics,

now in its 16th year of publication, sells 200,000 copies five times a year nationwide. The website cathnews.com is the most visited faith-based website in the country.



Schools

Some 721,000 children

are being educated in Catholic schools. there are 1710 schools, including 1239 primary schools, 350 secondary, 95 combined primary and secondary, and 17 special schools. There are 82,000 staff members in those schools. That number includes 55,287 lay teachers and specialist staff, around 26,348 general staff and 365 religious. 70% of all teachers and 45 % of all principals are women.

Universities

The Australian Catholic University is the fastest growing truly national university. It is the largest English-speaking Catholic University in the world.

It now has around 23,000 students on its campuses and produces the largest number of teaching and nursing graduates in Australia.

The University of Notre Dame Australia, with campuses from Sydney to Broome, won the Kullari NAIDOC Award for the most successful University in indigenous graduations for the last three years.

Caritas Australia

raised more that \$30 million for the poor in 2015; the organisation also spent the least on admin costs of all Australian aid agencies.

Catholic Mission,

which had the second lowest admin spend, raised \$12 million for the poor in 2015.

Catholics are the largest provider of trained personnel for the Third World



First Holy Communion

Many children in the Diocese have received their First Holy Communion recently. It is a blessing to see churches overflowing with family and friends on such occasions, as the children begin their individual faith journey started by their parents in Baptism. We pray for these children and their families that they may be blessed and grow in faith and the love of God.



St. Francis Xavier's Parish Narrabri

Sophia Lampe, Ian Berney, Samuel Elms, Mietta Smith, Luke Lowick, Archer Dalton, Grace Gaynor, Liam Naismith, Olivia Simshauser, Christian Roth, Brigitte Rose, Jack Hartnett, Tessa Haire and Lillian Constable all made their First Holy Eucharist

St Joseph's Parish Gunnedah

St Joseph's First Holy Eucharist recipients celebrate with cake!



Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

Sacred Heart First Holy Eucharist recipients with Fr Roel.

Sisters of Mercy Renewal of Commitment

Members of the Mercy Associates recently renewed their commitment to the work of the Sisters of Mercy in Gunnedah with a special ceremony in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel. A short prayer service, followed by a renewal of commitment and presentation of badges and certificates was followed by morning tea. The Gunnedah group was established in 1997 to support the work of the local congregation of the Sisters of Mercy

and their mercy values of compassion, justice, hospitality and hope.

Over the years, the group has raised thousands of dollars for the community, with a special focus on aged care services, after the Sisters of Mercy made the decision in 2003 to transfer the licence for 30 beds at McAuley Hostel to Gunnedah Nursing Home (Lundie House).



Standing, from left, Sr Gabrielle Foley RSM, Val McCann, Pat Mooney, Colleen Buttenshaw, Anne Brady, Sr Regina McInerney RSM, Robyn Paul, Val Kelly, Monica Ducrow, Marie O'Donnell, Robyn Renton. Seated: Lynne Pollock, Margaret Nott, Deirdre Andren, Joan

A Sacred Trust . . .

A Priceless Confidence . . .



Shaun Hamilton Funerals Pty Ltd

A devout and dignified observance of the funeral rites of the Church, personally conducted by Shaun Hamilton, who has over 30 years' experience

- All funeral wishes attended to with reverence and understanding
- Compassionate Funeral Staff, always willing to be of assistance at any time, day or night
- Pre-arranged and prepaid funeral bonds available
- Catholic Family owned and operated

6746 2222
All Hours

Tamworth, Quirindi, Werris Creek, Gunnedah,
Manilla & Surrounding Districts

Not associated with or connected to any other funeral company bearing the name Hamilton.

'I want my children to have good priests in their lives'

In an online video, actor Mark Wahlberg says he will be praying for vocations to the priesthood, which he deeply values because of the role that priests have played in his own life, reports the Catholic News Agency

Wahlberg recorded the video as a greeting to those present at the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, taking place in his hometown of Boston.

"I want you to know my support for your work to foster vocations to the priesthood, because I want my children and future generations to have good priests in their lives, just like I had," he says in the video, posted on Facebook by the Diocese of Providence's vocations office.

"My Catholic faith is the anchor that supports everything I do in life. In my daily prayers, I ask for guidance, strength in my vocation as a husband and as a father," he says.

Wahlberg, known for his work in movies, is open about his faith and his love for the Church. He attends daily Mass and talks frequently about the role of faith in his life.

Last year, Wahlberg served as MC when Pope Francis came to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families.



In the video, he reflects on the "many wonderful priests" he had been blessed to know throughout his life. "Growing up in Dorchester, I got myself into trouble now and then but I always had a priest to stick by me," he says.

"I was married by a priest. My children were baptised by a priest. And whenever somebody in my family passed away, they've all been buried by a priest. My sins have been forgiven when I go to confession to a priest. Every time I go to Mass, it's through a priest's hands that I receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, which strengthens me to share my Catholic faith with others."

Published in Cath news

60 Years of Service – A Diamond Jubilee

Bishop Kennedy presented Fr Tom with a Papal Medal recognising his service to the priesthood. He was honoured with the Papal Distinction *Croce pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*.

Fr Tom Shanahan has lead an unassuming life as a priest, letting God lead him to where he was needed most at the time. He has been truly blessed with 60 years of rewarding experiences, sharing himself in others' lives, bringing him great joy throughout his life.



Bishop Kennedy with Fr Tom and his family

Around and About

Retreat with the Bishop

Bishop Kennedy spent some time on retreat with the confirmation candidates from St Nicholas' East Tamworth Parish. They shared the stories of the saints that have inspired them to be more giving in their lives with Bishop and other parishioners, who took the time to guide these young people on their faith journeys. Congratulations to the all the candidates and their families on continuing with their Catholic faith so enthusiastically.



Bishop Kennedy with Yr 6 at St Nicholas, Tamworth



Fr James with (from back left), Maye Hatton, Marty Hatton, Paige Hatton, Domonic Cruickshank, (front) Nate Dewson, Aiden Holcombe, Byron Tully & Jaxon Doring

Celebrating Our Lady of La Salette

St Joseph's, Wee Waa celebrated a special Mass for the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. Fr James Poovathinkal, the administrator for Wee Waa, together with Fr Abmar Dumayag, Warialda/Barraba/Bingara and Fr Vic Ignacio, Quirindi are La Salette Priests. The words of the Beautiful Lady at La Salette concerned the problems and daily concerns of her children. The responsibility as La Salette Missionaries is to share with others the graces they have received. They simply walk in the footsteps of Mary, sharing her message of motherly concern for her people. After Mass was celebrated, by Fr James, we cut a cake in commemoration of both Our Lady of La Salette and the Year of Mercy.

Author Comes Home in Book Week

Visiting author Emma Mactaggart, an ex-local girl returned to St Joseph's, Glen Innes and read a book she has written. Her picture book 'Imagine', has won GOLD in the 2014 Ippy Awards, for Best Children's Illustrated eBook and a GOLD Moonbeam, for Best Illustrated Children's eBook.

Our children created artworks relating to the book and shared these with Mrs Mactaggart. Mrs Mactaggart recently told the Glen Innes Examiner that "being asked to come 'home' to share my skills and knowledge is a privilege, especially when growing up here was so formative," she said. "I believe every child has the right to see their words in print and that children's imaginations must be nurtured."



Abigail Lightfoot, Ryan McAllister, Grace Cupitt, Phoebe Millar and Breanna Donnelly pictured with Mrs Emma Mactaggart

Around and About



Bishop Kennedy with the Confirmation candidates

MINNIE VINNIES host Pyjama Day

The rain didn't dampen the spirit of Pyjama Day at St Joseph's, Glen Innes, in September. The wonderful team effort of Minnie Vinnie organisers Abigail Lightfoot, Charlotte Doman, Matilda Doman, Lachlan Schafer, Mollie Cave, Phoebe Millar, Brigid Saxon-Dieben, Carla Villella, Grace Cupitt, Breanna Donnelly and Brooke Klingner made the day a great success. All students and teachers joined in the fun and wore their pyjamas to school. A gold coin donation was given to their chosen cause, the St Vincent de Paul's Winter Appeal, with a final amount of \$265.15 raised on the day. Kindergarten also brought along their teddy bears with a visit from St Patrick's Parish Playgroup who wore their pyjama's and came with their teddy bears too!



Pyjama's and Teddies for the Kindergarten Class with Mrs Gannon and Mr Withers



Katherine Hosking with her gold medal

O'Connor Sports Legend

O'Connor Catholic College, Year 10 student Katherine Hosking recently won a gold medal at the NSW Under 17 women's cycling road race championship. And just to prove what an amazing athlete she is, Katherine backed up the next day to run the City2Surf with the O'Connor team followed by two days competing at the NSW CCC netball carnival.

Around and About

RUOK?

Got a niggling feeling that someone you know or care about isn't behaving as they normally would? Perhaps they seem out of sorts? Or they're just not themselves. By starting a conversation and commenting on the changes you've noticed, you could help that family member, friend or workmate open up. And if all is well, that person will know you're someone who cares enough to ask "RUOK?"

RUOK is a suicide prevention charity in Australia, reminding people that having meaningful conversations with mates and loved ones could save lives. Students across all grades at O'Connor Catholic College participated in "RUOK?" Day, learning about the importance of trusting their gut instinct and acting on it when they notice something is not right, and this Year 8 pastoral class got particularly creative for their teacher Kath Czinner.



A very creative Year 8 pastoral class from O'Connor, Armidale



Fr Paul Aguilar, Deacon Paul Manville, Geraldine Chapman & Grahame Tighe collect shoeboxes filled with love

Distinguished Service

During his visit to St Francis Xavier's, Narrabri, Bishop Kennedy presented a Distinguished Service Award for dedication and service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Armidale to Mrs Jo Clark who is relocating to Victoria with her family. The award acknowledges Mrs Clark's hard work, dedication and commitment to our school community.

Two Hundred and Sixty Boxes of Love

St Edward's Parish Council instigated a social justice program with a difference. Its aim was to fill fifty shoe boxes with small luxuries to be given as a token of love and support to those in need. Parishioners were encouraged to fill a shoe box with goods and non-perishable food items suitable for a man, woman or child and to bring them to Mass as a special offering.

On collection day the church foyer was filled with two hundred and sixty boxes. Two hundred of these were given to Family Support Services in Tamworth to be distributed. The remainder were delivered to Armidale where they were gratefully accepted by the Care Van, Freeman House and the Women's Refuge. The organising committee urged parishioners to fill their boxes with love, knowing that they are making a difference. They certainly made a difference both for the giver as well as the recipient.



Bishop Kennedy presenting Mrs Jo Clark with her award.

Around and About

St Joseph's Public Speaking Cup

Twenty-one finalists from St Mary's Armidale, gave their final Bible reading, poetry recital or speech presentation on a topic of their choice to a live audience at the end of Term 3. There were three children from each year level competing for the Cup. Miss Madeleine Cowley from Year 2 won the Year 2 medallion and was overall 1st place in the Kindergarten to Yr 6 public speaking event. Madeleine entertained the audience with the poem – "I Saw My Teacher". Madeleine's excellent eye contact, clarity and engagement with the audience was a highly entertaining presentation.



Father Frances Afu is pictured with the winners on the evening, Emily Fernandez Year 6, Alexis Cook Year 4, Roie Wood Year 5, George Douglas Menzies Year 1, Madeline Cowley Year 2, Eliza Gibbs Kindergarten & Tommy Schaefer Year 3.

Grandparents Back at School

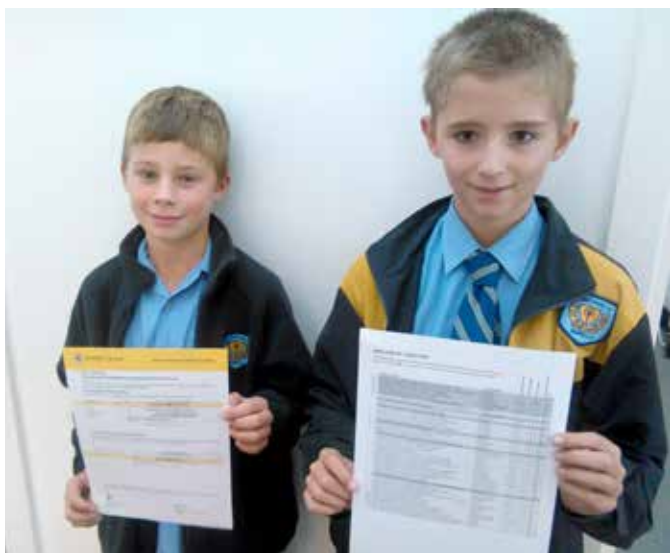
Grandparents and Special Friends Day was held early in Term 3 at St Francis Xavier's, Narrabri, and was a wonderful success with many visitors attending. The visitors watched the children perform a variety of items for Assembly, viewed the classrooms and enjoyed a lunch on the lawns. The day provides many benefits for the children, proudly sharing their learning environment with an older generation. Hopefully our visitors were able to experience the joys of being at school once again!

Braiden and Aylah Ryan and the grandparents are Maree and Glenn Richardson.



Excellence in Maths and English at St Michael's

The 2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is run by the University of New South Wales in schools throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, the Pacific region and South Africa. Congratulations to Cameron Keys, Year 5 and Harry Hagon, Year 4. These two students have excelled in the recent ICAS testing. Cameron Keys has achieved the top 1% in Australia for English and Harry Hagon has achieved the top 1% in Australia for Maths. These are amazing results! We are extremely proud of the boys and their outstanding achievements. St Michael's, Manilla, is also proud of all the students who participated in the competitions – most of our students have received awards – for a small school we are excelling – well done to everyone!



Harry Hagon and Cameron Keys



ADIG Making a Difference Future Planning and Your Saving Goals

I may be the new Relationship and Marketing Manager for ADIG, but my most important and longest role undertaken, is that of Mum. I have the privilege of sharing my life with two young adults; one working and saving money for university next year and one, currently, sitting his HSC and planning his next year.

I am watching them navigate costing for the upcoming year; trying to gather money for their rental bonds and saving for household items, working and understanding tax and superannuation. Car costs and travel expenses also need to be navigated. It would also be great to find some money for a holiday before studying and working again. And as they are still young, and learning about the benefits of hard work, they also need to have money to shop and play – to experience the benefits of their hard won savings.

But none of this money is currently outgoing. This money will leave their hands, all at once, next year. In



the mean time, I am encouraging them to look at Fixed Term Investments. They will need to plan how much they can afford to put aside for a certain period of time. They will gain more interest than a general savings account and they will begin to see the benefits of longer term planning and saving.

ADIG has both short and long term Fixed Term Investments. The interest rate is guaranteed for the whole of the term and we have options where the interest can be paid into another account or reinvested. These accounts, like all ADIG accounts, do not attract fees and charges.

Contact ADIG today, to discuss how you can make the most of your savings.

ADIG Making a difference In the Community

Jason Crocker and Meg Lloyd are currently visiting Parishes around the Diocese. We have the pleasure of presenting the distributions for the 2016 year. We particularly wish to thank the parishioners as it is their support of the Group that gives the opportunity to make the annual distributions. Please come and say hello to us after Mass.

Short term goals. Long term memories.



♥ the beach



My first car!!



Jam session



www.adig.com.au

Ask about our 3 month fixed term deposits

Join us and make a difference

www.adig.com.au • Armidale - 1800 040 903 • Tamworth 1800 803 194

20 - OCTOBER 2016 - CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT

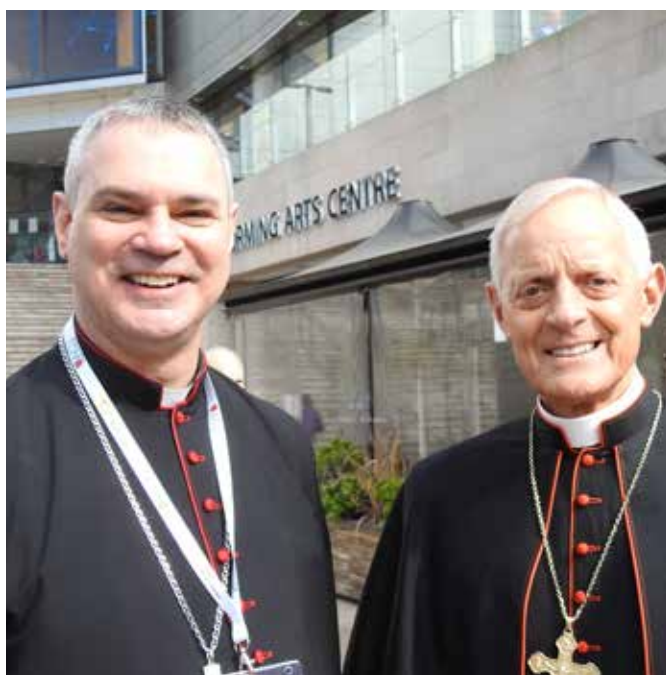


Catholics among us



Throughout three energising days, over 520 delegates from all over Oceania, came together in Chatswood to share insights and exchange best practices on parish evangelisation. The third turn of this National Conference, PROCLAIM 2016 was hosted and organised by the Office for Evangelisation, Diocese of Broken Bay, on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The unique character of the PROCLAIM Conference is its focus on the local parish and its life and mission, serving as a gathering point for those working and serving in the midst of these 1,300 parish communities across the nation.

Fr John Macdonald, Wendy Emery, Pippa McMahon, Tammy McMahon, Darryl Martin and John Moloney, from St Patrick's West Tamworth, participated in Proclaim 2016. His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, shared his learnings from Pope Francis with Conference delegates, confirming that the 'new evangeliser' in the parish requires four qualities to lead renewal: courage, confidence, a sense of urgency, and joy. While others have gone before us, the Cardinal underlined that it is our time and responsibility to stand strong in the faith that we believe is Good News and to share this announcement with boldness.



Bishop Comensoli of Broken Bay Diocese with His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington



Darryl Martin, Fr John Macdonald, John Moloney, Pippa McMahon, Tammy McMahon, and Wendy Emery

Under the guidance of Fr Macdonald, this group has met since the conference and formed the structure of the New Evangelisation within St Patrick's West Tamworth Parish. We have scheduled the gathering of the various groups within the parish who are working already to fulfil the mission given to us by Christ through the church. Of course Evangelisation is not a new thing. It has been occurring since the institution of the church by Christ and continues to this day, however the new evangelisation endeavours to reinvigorate this action here and now, starting at the foundation of the parish.

His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl made the point at the conference, to evangelise, one simply needs to get up, go out and do it. It is as simple as that. However, to be really successful over time there needs to be structure, mission and co-ordination of the whole parish. West Tamworth parish has already started with simple steps such as welcomers at masses and tea coffee after masses.

There were 25 daily workshops at the conference and to ensure the parish was able to benefit from as many as possible Fr Macdonald allocated different streams of attendance for each of the five parish participants. The group has since conducted brain storming sessions as a team and combined our collected learning to plot a path forward.



Clever Kids Hangout

During this year a small group of students from Walgett and Boggabri connected online to pursue their love and interest in Mathematics. Most Monday afternoons consisted of a Google Hangout facilitated by the Armidale Catholic Schools Office under the direction of Tracey Hughes-Butters. The students came together to discuss, investigate and manipulate their mathematical thinking through a set of varied mathematical contexts. Activities such as weird number patterns, investigating the connection between Area and Perimeter of rectilinear figures and creating number puzzles have kept everyone thinking about their Mathematics. The opportunity for these like minded young people to meet and collaborate in a virtual context has provided a positive and motivating experience for all.



Caden and Phoebe St Joseph's Walgett



Fergus from Saced Heart Boggabri

What's My Number?

During term 3, two-day workshops were facilitated for the Leaders of Learning from each school in the Diocese. The focus was on the different types of assessment and their implications for our students' learning. The two days were filled with participants considering various experts' views including Dylan Wiliam and trialling different activities that support Assessment for/and of Learning. It was also an opportunity to network, share stories and experiences from their classrooms. We even had the Director playing a very serious game of "What's My Number?"!



Shelley Humphries, Carissa McCall and Marcus Chittick



*Director Chris Smyth, Amanda Sheridan,
Amanda Halloran and Claire Ryan*



Keeping our children safe on the net

Many of our schools have been running parent Cyber safety information nights, below are a list of places parents and carers can access for support in ensuring a protected cyberspace in the home. The New South Wales Police Force support the ThinkUKnow program and deliver youth presentations to the schools through their Youth Liaison or Crime Prevention Officers. Most important message don't leave younger children alone, sit with them and teach them how to be safe, just like do when crossing a road, hold their hands!

ThinkUknow: <https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/>

IParents: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/iparent>



Mother and son St Xavier's Gunnedah

St Joseph's Mungindi Poultry Breeding Program

I am a Year 6 student and I am the St Joseph's School Captain for 2016. I live in Mungindi and have a special interest in raising quality chickens.

I began about a year ago when my dad bought my family a forty-eight egg incubator for Christmas. The first

time I set eggs in the incubator, I hatched eleven out of eighteen. This was an excellent result. The chickens were cross bred and a grey colour. I gave some of these away to my friends. I still have five which are now quite large and some are laying.

Now, I am researching poultry production and am going to begin breeding Light Sussex chickens. I recently bought a rooster and two hens at the Moree Markets and I am building a separate pen for them. As soon as they start laying I will begin my pure-bred breeding program.

I am really interested in starting a breeding project at school so that all the students can learn about looking after chickens. Along with my friends, we have designed and drawn up a plan for a chook pen that will allow all students to be a part of this project.

Many thanks to Ms Anne Sullivan, Mrs. Sharon Cooke and Mr. Colin Butters for their interest and kind donation towards our school venture.

If you would like to make a donation towards this young man's ingenuity and community spirit please call St Joseph's Mungindi 6753 2327 for further information.



Oliver Sykes with Colin Butters and Sharon Cooke

Oliver Sykes

Advertise with Viewpoint - Next issue due: November 21st

Viewpoint is an A4 size, full colour, bi-monthly publication

- each edition being published seasonally
- A wide distribution throughout the Diocese
- free of charge
- available in every parish and school in the diocese
- linked to the Diocesan website
- All advertisements will be full colour
- (note: front and back covers not available)
- 10% discount if you advertise for a full year – four issues.



To know more:
talk to Naomi 02 6772 4971 or
email: catholicviewpoint@armidale.catholic.org.au



Stories on the Walk

Post World Youth Day, we have had a chance to share our stories of transformation. I know that each and every one of us were moved by this Pilgrimage and the relationships we made. We want to keep this pilgrimage going, we want to keep forming relationships and we want to include everyone in our journey.

Stories on the Walk is a way of living our Catholic Faith as young people. It begins with a desire and a hunger for God. It grows to a coming together of people with a similar desire to tell their faith stories. In October, the Armidale Diocese WYD Pilgrims and other Pilgrims from Bathurst joined together to pray, share our experiences and begin Stories on the Walk. On our first walk in Tamworth we reflected on the question, 'What is it in my life that I would like to ask God to transform?'. Our second 5km walk around Armidale, focused on the question 'What

keeps my spirituality going?'.

Stories on the Walk includes physical exercise and prayer. We are faced with challenges both physically and spiritually on our walks, challenges which are great for our soul and relationship with God. As young people, we like to do. Incorporating physical exercise is the doing. We are aiming to have a Stories on the Walk session each month, travelling around the Armidale Diocese and completing different challenges along the way.

We are preparing our next event for the 3rd of December and it will include canoeing and a reflection on the mystery of the Incarnation. Like our 'Stories on the Walk' group on Facebook for more information on upcoming events. Most importantly, everyone is welcome to join us on 'Stories on the Walk'. Contributed by Jessica Scully

Farewell to Yr 12 2016

'He will not leave you. He will be with you, wherever you go'.

Today is a great day of celebration for our graduating class, their families and the staff of O'Connor Catholic College. There is joy because you've done it, and we are proud of you. In your journey to this significant milestone you have not only upheld the ideals of O'Connor, you have raised the bar to a new standard in so many ways.

As you leave today you take with you the very best that catholic education has to offer. It is my hope that you will call on the values at the core of your catholic education to help you through the many decisions that

you will be called on to make throughout your life. These times of decision making will call you to be strong and courageous. However, always remember 'He will not leave you. He will be with you, wherever you go'. These are the words God spoke to Joshua as he stood on the threshold of a new beginning, having farewellled all he had known until that time. (Joshua was Moses apprentice, who took over from Moses and lead the Israelites into the Promised Land). In your case, as we farewell you, and ask you to be strong and courageous we remind you that the Holy Spirit, at the centre of our college motto, will always be with you as you face good times and bad and that you can always call on the love of the Holy Spirit to assist and guide you.

Year 12 2016 I would like to finish by wishing you enough:

- I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.
- I wish you enough rain to make you appreciate the sun.
- I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.
- I wish you enough sadness that you appreciate the simplest joys of life.
- I wish you enough gain to satisfy your ambition.
- I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
- I wish you enough love so that you know how special you are.
- I wish you enough hurt to make you love even sweeter.
- I wish you enough dreams to make your imagination soar.
- I wish you enough reality to keep your feet on the ground.
- I wish to encourage success to make you proud.
- I wish you enough failure to make you humble.
- I wish you enough independence to accomplish your goals.
- I wish you enough dependence on others to keep your goals from being self.



And finally, I wish you enough dependence on God so that you can come to understand that who you are and all the talents you have are a gift from God.



An exert from Mr Charlie Allen's, Principal of O'Connor Catholic College Armidale, address to the outgoing Yr 12 class

A qualified yes to cremation, no to scattering ashes

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released an instruction yesterday, titled *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* (*To rise with Christ*), which states that while cremation “is not prohibited,” the Church “continues to prefer the practice of burying the bodies of the deceased, because this shows a greater esteem towards the deceased.”

The document explains that after “legitimate motives” for cremation have been ascertained, the “ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place,” such as in a cemetery or church.

It goes on to state that it is not permitted to keep the ashes in a home or to scatter them “in the air, on land, at sea, or in some other way. Nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewellery, or other objects.”

Key points in the newly published document include:

- States the Church’s preference for burial of the remains of the faithful.
- Because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning. The Christian vision of death receives privileged expression in the liturgy of the Church: “Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended, and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven”.
- Following Christian tradition, the Church recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places.
- Burial is above all the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body
- By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity
- Through the practice of burying the dead in cemeteries, in dedicated spaces within church buildings or their environs, Christian tradition has upheld the relationship between the living and the dead and has opposed any tendency to minimise, or relegate to the private sphere, the event of death and the meaning it has for Christians
- The Church raises no doctrinal objections to the practice of cremation
- The ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or in dedicated spaces within church buildings or their environs
- This ensures they are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community
- Conservation of the ashes in a private residence is not permitted
- Out of respect for the integrity and sacredness of both body and ashes, scattering or dividing ashes among family members is not favoured.





Fr Armstrong writes

The remarkable mysteries of the Rosary

We forget our own history to our own detriment. This October 7, feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, we are reminded of a remarkable event in 1571 which would have significant impact on the ages to follow, including our own.

The victory of Christian naval vessels at Lepanto who were outnumbered by more than two to one, was the greatest naval engagement until the Battle of Jutland in World War I, but it is not commemorated just as a lesson in maritime war. The core of the feast is that it saved Christian civilization. Compared to it, later battles were struggles to preserve what would not exist at all, had

it not been for 1571. Pope St. Pius V, by divine inspiration while praying the Rosary, announced in the Church of Santa Sabina that a triumph of the Cross had been won, at the very moment the battle was won in the Gulf of Patras in western Greece, though news of the confirmation of it would have taken many days to reach Rome by courier.

Had the battle ended differently, the conquerors could have fulfilled their vow to take Rome, and from there the rest of Western Europe. The epic poem of GK Chesterton *Lepanto* was written to impress upon our present impoverished sense of history that we would not be here were it not for Lepanto. The feast of its victory was instituted by Pope St. Pius V and, in 1716, Pope Clement XI made a universal feast celebrated throughout the Church.

Given the terrors of our present times, it would be well to pray the rosary not only on October 7, feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, but daily.

Remarkable events in salvation history are always to be traced back to the archetype of them found in Sacred Scripture.

When speaking of the prayer of the rosary, which contemplates the mysteries of the life of Christ through the eyes of the Holy Mother of God, we are recalled to the passage in the gospel according to St Luke how she kept all the words and deeds and events of Christ's life in her heart and pondered them. The Greek word *symbolousa*, here translated as "pondered", means to scan and recognise the connection between events, and embrace their God-given meaning. (Lk 2:19) In learning the capacity for the Most High to intervene in history from the contemplation of the mysteries of the rosary, let us also ask for similar interventions from the Almighty in our own time.

Shutting eyes to persecution of Christians by IS

There is one minority group that is more persecuted than any other in the world, persecuted more frequently, more widely and with more intensity.

Yet you will hardly ever hear about it in the Western media.

The minority group in question is Christians. A terrible process of ethnic and religious cleansing of Christians from the Middle East is strongly in train. Although especially acute in Syria and Iraq, this reflects, and is a kind of grim culmination of, dynamics at work for decades, indeed for centuries.

But the active persecution of Christians extends far beyond the Middle East.

The Western media is imprisoned in a kind of psychotic fantasy loop that makes it all but ignore this historic drama. The postmodern ideological mindset of most Western media attributes all the world's international ills to Western colonialism, neo-colonialism, capitalism and militarism, and in all instances (except Israel) the villains are nominally, or formerly, Christian states of the West.

Therefore the Western media cannot bring itself to describe, much less make moral judgments about, the

savage persecution of Christians.

According to a study by the non-partisan Pew Research Centre, Christians are the most persecuted minority in the world. In 2014, according to this study, Christians were persecuted and harassed by government or the general society in 108 countries, an increase from 102 the year before.

Assuredly, Christians are not the only religious group being persecuted. In the Middle East, all religious minorities, such as the Yazidis and others, face very tough times. Sunni Muslims are persecuted in some Shia Muslim lands while Shia Muslims are persecuted in some Sunni Muslim lands.

Even if the world cannot stop this persecution, it at least discusses such issues. There is very little open discussion of the systematic persecution of Christians.

The most terrible and famous anti-Christian outrages have been carried out by Islamic State in Syria, Iraq and Libya, and by Boko Haram in Nigeria. But it is wrong to see today's atrocities in isolation from the historical trends, especially in the Middle East.

A century ago, about one in seven people in the Middle

Celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy: ACN

by supporting priests and religious wherever the Church is poor or persecuted

Through their hands, God's hand caresses the earth... Priests and religious are above all the apostles of Divine Mercy - and not merely during the extraordinary Year of Mercy that Pope Francis has proclaimed for the whole Church. They feed the hungry, comfort the grieving, endure injustice. They promote reconciliation and absolve the repentant from their sins. Day by day, through the works of spiritual and corporal mercy, they show people the Face of the Merciful God. 'They' are the priests and religious of the Catholic Church.

Throughout the world wherever the Church is poor or persecuted, there are tens of thousands of priests and religious daily living the 'Yes' they have already given to God. It is vital that the indispensable work of priests and religious in Christ's Holy Catholic Church continues.

A complimentary Year of Mercy rosary designed by the Vatican rosary makers and blessed by Pope Francis will be sent out to all those who give a donation of \$15.00 or more to support this cause and tick the box below.

Rosary design: Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's Mercy Every confessor must accept the faithful as the father in the parable of the prodigal son. Confessors are called to embrace the repentant son who comes home and to express the joy of having him back again.

Chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God, Mary, from the outset, was prepared by the love of God to be the Ark of the Covenant between God and man. She treasured divine mercy in her heart in perfect harmony with her son Jesus. The red and white beads represent the rays of light of the Divine Mercy.



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

Viewpoint



I/We enclose \$_____ to support the work of Priests and Religious 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"/>
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Signature Exp Date /.....

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Rev

Address PC

Ph Email

The Year of Mercy rosary set will be sent to all those who assist this cause 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



East were Christian. Today the figure is less than one in 25, and the proportion continues to decline.

No atrocities today are more savage than those committed by Islamic State. It is right that its atrocities against all the people it regards as its enemies should be recorded, have proper attention paid to them, and be opposed.

But there is no doubt also that it is attempting to commit genocide against Christians. The acts of Islamic State barbarism recall the worst stages in human development. The world has witnessed horrific videos of its efforts, such as when Islamic State captured dozens of Coptic Christians, civilian workers in Libya, and took them to a beach and beheaded them on video.

In parts of Iraq, Islamic State systematically went through towns and villages with substantial Christian populations and wrote the Arabic letter N on the homes of Christian families. The N stood for Nazarenes. In most cases, the male inhabitants of such homes were killed, although

in some cases they were offered the chance to convert to Islam. The women were typically taken as sex slaves and the children given as labourers, or worse, to whoever wanted them.

The scale of the tragedy in Iraq and Syria is immense. Once there were 1.5 million Christians in Iraq. Perhaps 10 per cent of those remain there now, and most of them would leave if they could.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, Christians are not being slaughtered in such numbers, but they face severe harassment and discrimination.

Yet in the West, and in Australia, these things are almost never seriously discussed. In many other parts of the world persecution of Christians is a daily part of life. But you won't hear much about it at all among the hordes of conformist zeitgeist prattlers in the Western media. That's one bit of reality that just doesn't fit.

**Pope Francis 3 Phrases for
a Happy Family Life:**

**May I?
Thank you
I'm sorry**



POLDING ATHLETICS

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle hosted over 800 athletes participating in the NSW Polding Athletics Championships at the Hunter Sports Centre in Glendale. Children from our Catholic Primary Schools competed as a team, under the Diocese of Armidale banner. To get there they had to do well at their school carnival and then again at the Diocesan Carnival.

Families travelled from as far as Lismore, Armidale, Bathurst, Wilcannia-Forbes and Broken Bay. In wet and windy conditions, students from The Diocese of Armidale performed exceptionally well, with 35 students qualifying for the Polding squad to compete at the NSWPSA Athletics Championships at Homebush in October. Congratulations to all the children who have qualified.

ARMIDALE



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Armidale sent a large squad of 21 athletes to Polding Athletics. The children's performance was outstanding with 7 students gaining selection in the PSSA State Athletics to be held in October. Congratulations and best wishes to – Maddie Campbell, Bella Watts, Oscar Shephard, George Schmude, William Blackwell, Darcy Booth and Emerson Fittler who were selected in the Polding Team.

Bella Watts 1st in 200m



Junior Girls Relay Team - Eryn Benham, Olivia Osland, Zara Mannion, Briana Guy



Senior Boys Relay Team - Charlie Lawrence, Carter McIlveen, Cameron Byrnes, Charlie Osland



(L-R) Adam Campbell, Angus Cameron, Makaylah Doust and Mollie Cave

GLEN INNES

Angus Cameron competed in Junior High Jump and jumped 1.15m. Makaylah Doust came 6th in the Senior 800m. Mollie Cave came 3rd in the 11 years 800m and came 5th in her 200m heat

Adam Campbell came 3rd in the Senior Shot put with a throw of 8.80m and then went out and threw a record breaking discus throw of 37.94m. He broke the record by 95cm!

Mollie and Adam will now represent at PSSA Athletics Carnival in Homebush on the 19th and 20th October this Carnival includes all schools in NSW.

GUNNEDAH

St. Xavier's had 11 athletes compete at the Polding Athletics Carnival. Congratulations to Charlie Lawrence for receiving the bronze medal in his 800m and qualifying for State at Homebush.

Other great results were Cameron Byrnes qualifying for his 100m and 200m finals and coming a close 4th in both finals. Briana Guy qualified for her 200m final, coming in 7th with a PB and Carter McIlveen came 5th in discus. Cory Dimarchos came 10th in the senior boys shot put, Nathan Moore came 8th in the Junior boys 800m race and Vitorio Sardinha came 10th in the 11 years boys 800m. Eryn Benham performed well in the Junior girls long jump.

The Junior girls relay team (Zara Mannion, Briana Guy, Eryn Benham & Olivia Osland) and the Senior boys relay team (Charlie Osland, Carter McIlveen, Charlie Lawrence & Cameron Byrnes) raced their hearts out to qualify for their finals and just missed out on placings in the fast paced finals. It was a great day and the children's comradery was wonderful.



Olivia, Tommy, Henry, Alexis, the PP5 relay team.

MUNGINDI

St Joseph's Mungindi had 6 children who went to Polding. Olivia Houldcroft, Alexis Fleming, Henry Seigmeier and Tommy Tootell went in the PP5 Relay and came second so are off to Sydney.

Sebastian Sykes competed in Shot put and came second so he is off to Sydney also. Fletcher McMillan competed in Discus, went well but unfortunately didn't make it through to Sydney.

QUIRINDI

Jacqui Teuma represented St Joseph's and the Armidale Diocese at the recent Polding Athletics carnival in Newcastle. Jacqui competed in the Open girls shot put throwing 6.85m and placing a very commendable 11th. Congratulations Jacqui, St Joseph's is very proud of you.

Jacqui Teuma



URALLA

Three students from St Joseph's School Uralla participated in the Polding Athletics carnival. Congratulations to Jordan Redmond, Malakye Wright and Daniel Murrell on their outstanding results.

Jordan came 11th in the 11 year boys Discus. Malakye won gold in his AWD (Athletes with Disabilities) 8 yrs division for the 800m and Long Jump; silver in the 200m; and bronze in the 100m. Daniel won gold in his AWD 12/13 yrs division for the 800m, Discus and Shotput; silver in the 100m; and bronze in the 200m and Long Jump. Daniel and Malakye have now qualified to represent Polding in their AWD



Jordan Redmond, Malakye Wright and Daniel Murrell with their haul of medals

events at the NSW Primary School Sports Association (NSWPSSA) Athletics Championships in Sydney in October. Well done, boys!



TAMWORTH

St Edward's Primary School Tamworth had six students who competed at the Polding carnival. Jorja McCluand competed in the 12yrs 800m event placing 14th overall. Ben Chick competed in three events; 11yrs 100m and 200m placing 2nd in both and long jump coming 7th overall. Zac Whalan competed in the Junior 800m, coming 4th by 20 milli seconds. Lief Dietrich competed in three events; 9yrs 100m and 200m placing 2nd in both and the Junior long jump placing 7th. Lilly Vine competed in Longjump coming 4th, 10yrs 100m and junior 200m and Ryan Dunnill competed in the 8 years 100m coming 7th in his heat.

back - Lief Dietrich, Ben Chick, Jorja McCluand & front - Ryan Dunnill and Zac Whalan.

WEE WAA

St Joseph's Wee Waa had two students Jack Hatton and Makayla Hopman who gained selection in the Polding Trials. They both competed in the 11yrs high jump event. Both students achieved personal bests on the day. Jack was placed 6th overall and Makayla was placed 8th.

Jack Hatton & Makayla Hopman



WARIALDA

Nicola Briggs, from St Joseph's Warialda, received a placing of 6th out of 18 competitors at the Polding Athletics Carnival for Shot Put. She threw a personal best of 7.32m! A Massive throw! There was only centimetres between her throw and third place. Congratulations Nicola, we are so very proud of your achievements

Nichola Briggs pondering the scene



Centacare Inclusions

An instrument to empower
all people with disabilities
to live a good life

EMPOWERMENT

INCLUSION

FREEDOM

RESPECT

Centacare New England North West have been nurturing children through the Catholic Schools Office counselling program for more than ten years.

As well as providing a wide range of family and individual support, and education, we are now able to support individuals with disabilities, and their families.

Call us to talk about how we can support you to live a good life!

WHO WE ARE

Centacare NENW is a registered NDIS provider. Our friendly, trained staff are here to enrich the lives of all people with disabilities, turning their dreams and goals into reality. At Centacare NENW we encourage you to choose your own adventure.

OUR MISSION

To provide services for the social and emotional wellbeing of individuals, families and communities in the New England North-West.

OUR VISION

A society in which there is recognition of individual and social rights and responsibilities, a society that promotes the dignity, equality and participation of all its citizens.

OUR SUPPORT SERVICES

Centacare NENW is passionate about supporting adults with disabilities to live life their way and be included as valued members of their community. Together we can develop client centered plans to meet individual needs, giving participants choice and freedom to be involved in the daily activities they desire.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION (18 - 25yrs)

Promoting an inclusive community.

LIFE CHOICES (25 - 54yrs)

Empowering adults with disabilities to gain freedom and control.

ACTIVE AGEING (55 - 64yrs)

Promoting choice and control to ageing adults.

SUPPORTED LIVING

Supported living gives freedom and opportunities for people with disabilities to live the life they choose. Participants are encouraged to voice their decisions around their everyday living and functioning of their home. We strive to operate in a participant-focused approach. We can provide a broad range of drop-in support services to help you live independently in your own home. We can provide you with training to learn new skills including numeracy, literacy, budgeting, safety, shopping and cooking. Programs are developed around your needs to grow your skills and provide the ongoing help you need to live independently.

Centacare NENW offers accommodation services that are individual and supportive that meet the diverse needs of participants.

Drop-In Support

For people living in their own, rented or family home.

Individual Accommodation Support Packages (IASP)

Empowering adults with disabilities to gain freedom and control.

1800 372 826

 facebook.com/centacarenenw
www.centacarenenw.com.au

Centacare NENW
is the social services agency
of the
Catholic Diocese
of Armidale



Centacare
New England North West
Rural Resilience

Dear God

How did you make the world and were you tired?
Patrick Wright

How did you make the moon and are there houses in heaven?
Bronte Ellis

Does it rain in heaven and is it dark?
Emma Warner

How old are you and have you got any pets?
Harrison Bailey

How did you make the sun really bright?
Ruby Hodge

How did you get created and how many people are part of your family?
Riley Key

What is it like in heaven?
Brynn Biddle

What did you do when you died?
Connor Grob

Are there streets and houses in heaven?
Cameron McLelland

How did you make the stars so bright and make the first dinosaur?
Kaden Potter

God how do you move around in heaven?
Jimmy Matthewson

How did you make all the animals and God were you born in heaven?
Bobby Chard

How old are you and how many people are there in heaven and did you marry anyone?
Baden Chaffey

Are there stars and moon in heaven with you and can you see us when you are in heaven?
Jaylan Fuller

Why did you let Jesus die on the cross and how did you feel when Jesus died?
Toby Adams

How many stars did you make for the sky?
Grace Mabbott

And some thoughtful Prayers...

Dear God, thanks for the rain and the sun and the moon. **Eamon Yeates**

Dear God, thank you for the world and the sun and the moon. **Emily Lawler**

Dear God, why did you die for us? **William Wright**

Dear God, who was God before you? **Callie Whyte**

Dear God, what do you like? **Noah Grob**

Dear God, who was your best friend? **Charlotte Campbell**

Why two agencies: Catholic Mission and Caritas?

Why do we have two missionary agencies in the Australian Catholic Church: Caritas Australia and Catholic Mission? In this article Paul O'Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer of Caritas Australia and Brian Lucas, Director of Catholic Mission, explain what they do, the differences in their work and the importance of their work.



Catholic Mission – Brian Lucas, Director

Mission is about looking beyond our own preoccupations. Since taking up this role I have been given plenty of free advice. One recurring theme, which I might mention, is a confusion, at least in the minds of some, as to what Catholic Mission is and the difference between the work of Catholic Mission and that of Caritas Australia.

Catholic Mission is the 'brand' in Australia encapsulating

the four Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS). Each has its own orientation. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, The Holy Childhood Society, The Society of St Peter the Apostle and the fourth society is the Pontifical Missionary Union.

On the difference between Catholic Mission and Caritas – the last thing I would want is for anyone to see the two organisations as competitors. Both have a role in the Church and they have different accountabilities: Catholic Mission to the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples and Caritas to the Australian Bishops.

Catholic Mission supports Church communities in their material needs as well as financing explicitly religious activity. Naturally there will be some overlap but I propose working closely with my Caritas counterpart to ensure there is no wasteful duplication and that each organisation can flourish.

Funds raised are used scrupulously in accordance with the canon law that demands respect for the intentions of the donors.





Caritas Australia - Paul O'Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer

We have experienced substantial confusion among parish priests, other diocesan leaders, school principals and parishioners about the respective mandates of Caritas Australia and Catholic Mission.

Caritas Australia is the international aid and development agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. It is one of 165 national member agencies of Caritas Internationalis.

Caritas specialises in community development for long term projects and humanitarian responses in many countries. We use the term '*accompaniment*' to describe how we work with local partner agencies. We work with the most marginalised communities regardless of their religion or race. Our education programs promote awareness about global poverty and injustice in all

Australian Catholic schools through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching.

A key difference between Caritas Australia and Catholic Mission is that Caritas Australia does not carry out post-disaster rebuilding of Church infrastructure such as missions, schools, churches, parishes, clinics, water sources, Church warehouses.

While 75% of Caritas Australia's revenue comes from school, parish and individual donors, 25% currently derives from the federal government. Thank you sincerely for your ongoing support for the work of Caritas through your parish.

Without your solid support every year, particularly through Project Compassion and for overseas Emergency Appeals, Caritas Australia would be unable to make such a major difference in terms of the long term improvement in community well-being and for emergency responses.

Caritas Australia and Catholic Mission are important agencies of the Catholic Church globally. While we have different mandates, we look forward to working closely together in Australia into the future.

