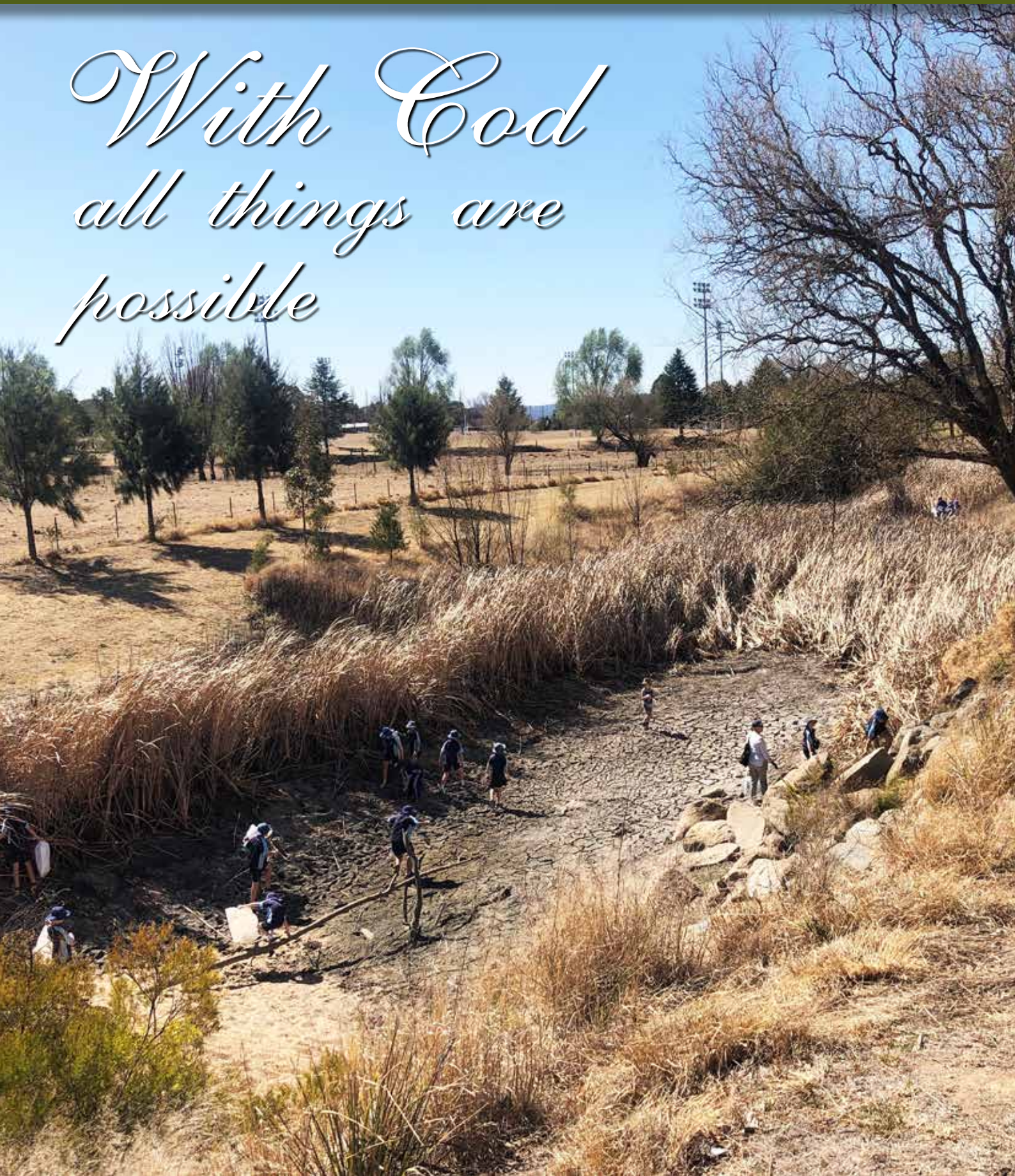


# V.Catholic iewpoint†

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

VOL 28 - NO. 5  
**OCTOBER 2019**  
DIOCESE OF ARMIDALE

*With God  
all things are  
possible*





# The awesomeness of a baby



## The Bishop Speaks

Babies have a special ability to enchant us. Just watch how people react to a baby. Smiles all round, strangers reaching out to touch and engage with her, to hold her and of course hand her back to mum at the first sign of a cry.

The loss of a baby through miscarriage, still birth, or at any time after birth is always devastating. That baby is mourned and remembered for ever. In my own family we keep alive the memory of two babies – one who died as a toddler and one in stillbirth - who make up our family of nine siblings. Our family consists of more than those who gather together today. In fact, if ever I say I am one of seven my mother promptly corrects me and reminds me I am one of nine.

Why are babies so special? Why do they connect with us at such a deep level? Babies touch us by their innocence, their beauty and the hope they inspire in us for the future of humanity. Even more profoundly, they remind us of the mystery of life itself and of its connection to God.

I always consider the abortion of a child to be a great tragedy – for both mother and child. I find the current public support of abortion up till birth without any restrictions by so many of our New South Wales politicians, including every local Member of Parliament within our Diocese, deeply troubling. It is concerning that our throwaway culture has progressed from throwing away unwanted appliances to throwing away unwanted children.

It is worth noting the language people use. Supporters of unrestricted abortion never refer to an “unborn child”. They might admit that “this is a very emotional issue” but they do not like to be reminded that it is an actual human life at stake. They seem to prefer the word “foetus” to imply that the child is not human but just an amalgam of cells. Perhaps

we need to remind them that “foetus” literally means “unborn child”. But we continue to kill, and as a society we change our thinking to a view that somehow killing is acceptable because we call it by another name. To me that is unconscionable and a most sorry reflection of the state of our society.

What about the Church’s language on this? It’s worth a look. “From the time that the ovum is fertilized, a life is begun which is neither that of the father nor the mother; it is rather the life of a new human being with his own growth. It would never be made human if it were not human already ... modern genetic science has demonstrated that from the first instant there is established the programme of what this living being will be: a person, this individual person with his characteristic aspects already well determined. Right from fertilization the adventure of a human life begins.”

The church therefore speaks of abortion as the direct killing of an innocent human being which is always gravely immoral; its victims are the most vulnerable and defenceless members of the human family. Saint Pope John Paul said, “The inviolability of the person, which is a reflection of the absolute inviolability of God, finds its primary and fundamental expression in the inviolability of human life.” The concept of inviolability demands that whatever is inviolable (in this case all and every human life) must never be violated! It is sacred and must be kept safe; it must not be infringed in any way.

Here’s more of the Church’s beautiful language. “Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mothers’ womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with his own hands, who gazes on them

Front Cover: St Joseph’s Stage 3 students clean up the Tenterfield Creek bed as part of a unit of work – Caring for God’s Creation

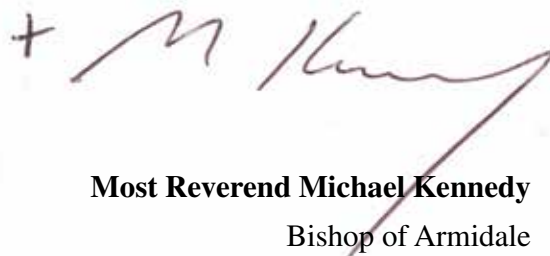


when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow"

The Church's strong condemnation of abortion does not extend to the mother. "It is true that the decision to have an abortion is often tragic and painful for the mother." Speaking directly to women who have had an abortion, Saint John Paul II said: "The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly, what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To the same Father and his mercy you can with sure hope entrust your child."

As I write this article the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019 is still before the NSW Parliament. Regardless of the outcome of the Bill, we must focus our attention on providing support, care and appropriate information to all those who are facing difficult choices around a pregnancy.

I pray that we will all value every human person created in love by God and that He will continue to guide and assist our efforts to promote the dignity, value and inviolability of every person.

+ 

**Most Reverend Michael Kennedy**  
Bishop of Armidale

# Did you pray for her?

At Pope Francis' General Audience, a young girl ran from her mother in the crowds and joined Pope Francis on stage. Suffering from an undisclosed illness, she walked back and forth in front of the Pope, stood by or in front of him at times, and would occasionally clap loudly. The Holy Father told the security to let her be, that she was beautiful and suffering from an illness and wasn't aware of what she was doing. "This poor girl is a victim of an illness, and she does not know what she is doing," the Holy Father said. "I ask one thing, and everyone should respond in their own heart," the Pope continued: "Did I pray for her when I saw her?", "Did I pray so that the Lord heals her and protects her?", "Did I pray for her parents and her family?", "When we see a person who is suffering," Pope Francis underscored, "we must pray. This situation should help us always ask this question."

*Zenit.org (photo credit: America Magazine)*



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# A synod is not a parliament: Pope



Before a synod, bishops must learn what their people want and think and need, not so they can change Church teaching, but so they can preach the Gospel more effectively, Pope Francis said some time back

The Pope discussed synodality with 47 bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church who met with him on Monday during their Synod in Rome.

“There is a danger,” the Pope said, which is “thinking today that making a synodal journey or having an attitude of ‘synodality’ means investigating opinions – what does this one and that one think – and then having a meeting to make an agreement. No! The synod is not a parliament!”

While synod members must discuss matters and offer

their opinions, he said, the purpose is not “to come to an agreement like in politics: ‘I’ll give you this, you give me that.’”

Bishops must know what their lay faithful, priests and religious think, Pope Francis said, but it’s not a survey or a vote on what should change. “If the Holy Spirit is not present, there is no synod,” he said. “If the Holy Spirit is not present, there is no synodality.

In fact, there is no Church.” The vocation of the Church is to evangelise, he said, and the Holy Spirit should help bishops gathered in a synod to do that better.

ARTICLE FROM: *CathNews* - 4th September 2019

PHOTO FROM: *americamagazine.org*

## Extraordinary Mission Month



In 2019, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*, Pope Francis announced that October will be an Extraordinary Missionary Month.

The Holy Father has chosen the theme ‘Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World’. Awakening the faithful to the awareness of the mission to the nations and reinvigorating the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel with new enthusiasm, are themes that combine the pastoral concern of Pope Benedict XV and the missionary vitality expressed by Pope Francis. "Missionary action is the paradigm of every work of the Church" (EG 15).

There are four dimensions, specified by the Pope, to live more intensely the journey of preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019:

A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in His Church through the Eucharist, the Word of God, personal and communal prayer;

Testimony: missionary saints, martyrs and confessors of the faith, as an expression of the Church scattered throughout the world;

Missionary formation: biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological;

Missionary charity.





*St Joseph's Tenterfield, whole school photo from 2018(left) and 2019 (right).*

# Prayers for Rain

**Emily Smith, the teacher of Stage 3 at St Joseph's Tenterfield, has been working on a unit of work with her students, Caring for God's Creation. Here are a few of the prayers the students wrote, during the unit of work, reflecting the effect of the drought and their love and faith in God. They have compiled their prayers into a booklet and Fr Leech will use a different child's prayer each week at the Parish Sunday Masses.**

*Beloved God,  
We plead to you for rain filled clouds,  
luscious green grass,  
And a vast amount of gentle love filled rain for our toiling, miserable farmers who are struggling and in need for your love to shine upon the universe.*

*Growing grass, rising animal population, new growth in the universe once again, is needed tremendously in this thankful world.  
We are asking for your Holy Spirit to help bring us a strength.*

*We ask this prayer through the name of our loving God.  
Amen.  
(Ava Mitchell & Lara Condrick)*

*Dear God  
We ask that you bring back the gentle rain  
that abandoned our unhealthy land  
and make the land flourish again.  
Let the dams refill with fresh water and the  
fields grow green luscious grass.  
Help the farmers through this tough time.  
Amen  
(Shayden Manu & Abby Roots)*





*Dear Loving God,  
We're desperate for rain,  
Oh please, oh please,  
Make it fall,  
Upon our trees,*

*Fill our dams,  
Fill our creeks,  
Make it rain,  
For weeks and weeks,*

*Our land is harsh,  
Our land is dry,  
Our plants are dead,  
Livestock will die,*

*We're desperate for rain,  
Oh yes we are,  
Please, Oh please,  
Make it go far!*

*But also thank you,  
For the water we've got,  
But we're running dry,  
We don't have a lot,*

*Send some more,  
Very quick,  
We need rain now  
More than you think.*

*(Paige Parker & Jayda Hill)*

*Our beloved God,  
We pray for rain over this drought stricken land.  
We would appreciate it if you renew our vegetation and our dusty  
paddocks with lush green grass.  
Please fill up our bone dry dam's with fresh healthy clean water  
for the farmers and the animals to drink and for the farmers to be  
able to plant new crops.  
We would be very thankful if you did that for us.  
If we don't get rain soon, some of the farmers will give up hope.  
Can you please send rain so the farmers can sell their livestock  
and crops to markets, so we can eat and drink.  
Amen.*

*(Lincoln Munce & Tara Warn)*



*St Joseph's students cleaning  
up the creek bed in Tenterfield*





Part of your parish  
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Part of your community



## ADIG announces distributions for good

Armidale Diocesan Investment Group (ADIG) CEO, Mr. Grant Devine has today announced the annual distribution of funds from the ongoing operation of the ADIG business. This year the Armidale Diocese Parishes will benefit from an allocation of \$605,000.

These funds are used by local parish communities to ensure the ongoing delivery of services. Mr. Devine, identified “the ongoing commitment to assisting the charitable, religious and educational works of the Catholic Diocese of Armidale as a core strategy for the group.” “ADIG’s success and our ability to assist in this way is only made possible through the support of our customer base and their belief in our business.”

Bernie Munro, Business Development and Marketing Manager ADIG noted that “since the ADIG’s inception in 1974, significant good had been done with the money generated and injected into our local communities.” “This funding distribution allows a ripple effect through the delivery of grass roots services by locals with these programs, tangibly supporting and making a difference to people’s lives”, he said.

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## Our new management team - building for the future

The Armidale Diocesan Investment Group (ADIG) Board has recently completed the engagement of a new management team as the business looks to continue its strong performance and take advantage of future growth opportunities.



*(L-R Bernie Munro, Grant Devine, Craig Archer & Andrew Draney)*

The new management team including Mr Grant Devine (CEO), Mr Andrew Draney (CFO), Mr Craig Archer (Corporate Services Manager) and Mr Bernie Munro (Business Development and Marketing Manager) bring with them significant industry experience from the financial and investment markets. The new management team will draw upon their vast experience working in their specialised fields within local mutuals through to large multinational firms.

Mr. Devine, noted “the core business of ADIG remains the same as those principles sought when the business commenced. Our ability to deliver strong returns that are underpinned by ethical investment is critical to the current and future success of the business. Through prudent management and strong corporate governance it is hoped that the business will continue to grow and set the standard amongst Catholic Development Funds across Australia”.

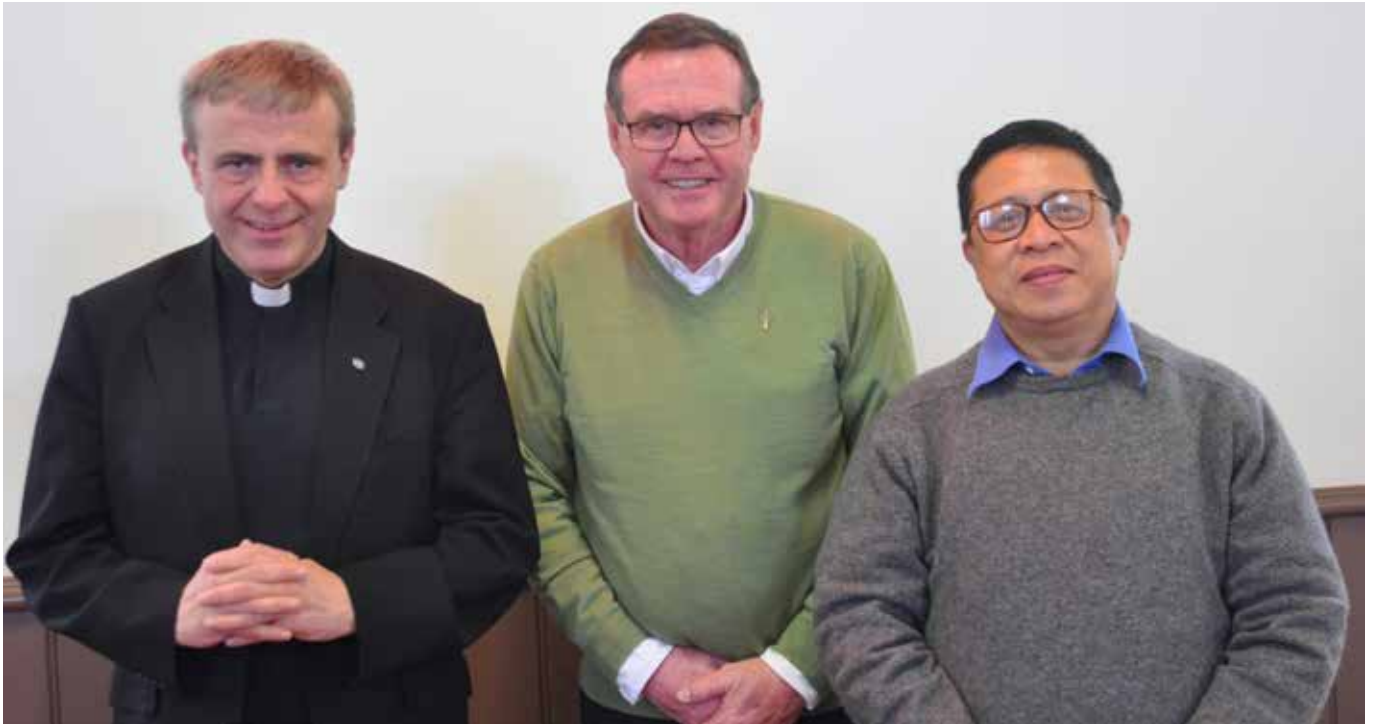
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# A Welcome and a Farewell at St Joseph's Gunnedah



*Fr John Peyton, Fr John McHugh and Fr Vince Amaro*

St Joseph's parishioners at Gunnedah have welcomed a new assistant priest, Fr Vince Amaro, and gave a farewell to Fr John Peyton, a visiting priest from England.

Fr Vince Amaro is a welcome addition to the parish clergy as assistant to Fr John McHugh. He arrived in Australia from the Philippines in June last year and spent time in the Inverell and Armidale parishes before being appointed to St Joseph's Gunnedah. Fr Vince brings a wealth of experience to his new role, after serving as hospital chaplain with the Disciples of Hope order in the Philippines. He was born in the Bicol region of the Southern Philippines, historically known as Ibalong prior to Spanish colonisation. After completing his high school education, Fr Vince entered the seminary and was ordained in his parish church in 2000. The second child in a family of two sons and two daughters, Fr Vince's father worked as an overseas employee and his mother was a teacher at the local school.

After his ordination, Fr Vince spent the first three years in his local Diocese, followed by six years ministering to the sick and dying in a hospital where he was appointed as a chaplain. After that, he was appointed Parish Priest of Mary Mother of the Church Parish, within the Diocese of Novaliches, while also served as priest-coordinator of pastoral care of the elderly where the prime focus was the older people suffering from common ailments, negligence and homelessness. Fr Vince said the elderly sector in Australia is in a lot better condition than what he had witnessed in the Philippines. Four years later, Fr Vince was assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in the same Diocese

and it was here that he heard about the call for priests in the Catholic Diocese of Armidale. Fr Vince is grateful for the support of fellow Filipino priests, especially Fr Joe Adriano, a former parish priest at Gunnedah, who became instrumental in his coming here in the Diocese of Armidale.

Fr Vince's arrival in St Joseph's Parish, coincided with the departure of Fr John Peyton who has been visiting from the UK. Fr John and parish priest Fr John McHugh became firm friends when they were undergoing formation for the priesthood in Rome. The two Fr Johns have stayed in touch and "Pommy John" as he became affectionately known in Gunnedah, immersed himself in the Australian way, which he says has given him many ideas for his own Parish at St Thomas More, in Sheldon, Birmingham, about 200km north of London. With a Catholic population of around 2000, Fr John said the smaller country Parish of St Joseph's seemed to have 'more time to care for each other'.

He was especially impressed with the devotion of young people at St Mary's College and St Xavier's School and the care and compassion shown by the community. Although he is a keen soccer fan in England, his friend Fr John McHugh is a 'rugby tragic' and he was coerced into watching the Wallabies play rugby during his visit, which also included a tour of Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Parishioners farewelled Fr John Peyton with a morning tea and welcomed their new priest Fr Vince, who is looking forward to becoming involved in the community and learning more about the Australian way of life.



# I am an Aussie now! Praise the Lord!

I arrived in this country 15 years ago, as a missionary of Our Lady of La Salette, with the simple intention of serving the Australian church. I have loved the people and its culture, and they have loved me back in a big way. I thought Australia as a country is very big, the land and the rivers and its natural resources are so vast but there is one thing bigger than this land... the HEARTS OF THE AUSTRALIANS. Big enough to welcome, people like me, who are learning many things about life and faith while sharing the same path with different colours, taste and love. I am pleasantly surprised of the number of supporters who attended the ceremony, in fact, Mr. Andrew Hope said that they were overwhelmed by the number of people who filled the chamber. I thank God for this opportunity and all those who helped and supported me in this journey, I would like to mention Fr. Paul Aguilar who really worked hard



to make sure I would succeed in this endeavour in the Diocese of Armidale, with Bishop Michael Kennedy and Bishop-Emeritus Luc Matthys, the priests, deacons, fellow religious, staff and all the parishioners and friends. Thank you all and let the journey continue...with the inspiration of St. Mary of the Cross and the intercession of Our Lady of La Salette.

*Fr Vic Ignacio*

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## This Foolish Law has Nothing to do with Child Abuse

Melbourne's Catholic Archbishop Peter Comensoli did a great service to the debate when he said explicitly that he would go to jail rather than break the seal of the confessional.

The Victorian government's legislation is bad, sectarian and will do absolutely nothing to help the battle against the scourge of child abuse. It will, however, effectively outlaw a central part of Catholic practice that has been honoured for at least 1500 years.

The royal commission strangely recommended that lawyer-client conversations should remain privileged because they were socially useful. So the lawyers, as usual, keep their privileges but the church is persecuted. Similarly, journalists rightly protect their sources.

The child sexual abuse scandals were a shocking business that did huge damage to innocent children and greatly and justifiably hurt the reputation of the church. However, there is no evidence the seal of the confessional played any role. This piece of sectarian anti-Catholic legislation will make the Catholic religion a religion of civil disobedience in its core practices. This is an insane outcome.

Anyone who thinks this legislation will help combat child abuse has no idea how confession works. It is the

normal custom that confession is anonymous. The person making the confession is behind a curtain or the like and the priest does not know their identity. The priest's role is anonymous, simply to administer the sacrament. The simple truth is that pedophiles do not go to confession.

As Frank Brennan has argued, there is a tiny possibility a genuinely repentant pedophile might seek the assistance of a priest in confession in owning up to his wicked crimes. That almost infinitesimally tiny possibility becomes exactly zero if the seal of the confessional is abolished. Many priests hear confession in prison. For it to have any meaning, it must be absolutely confidential.

Over the centuries, many priests have died rather than break the seal of the confessional. As recently as World War II, priests were killed in The Philippines because they would not tell occupying Japanese soldiers what anti-Japanese guerillas had told them in confession.

It is easy to imagine the legislation being weaponised against priests. This is really the state outlawing Catholicism. It is foolish legislation that has nothing to do with preventing the abuse of children. It is using that terrible tragedy to pursue a broader agenda of intolerant secularism

*Greg Sheridan – The Australian*



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# Caritas Australia Youth Workshop



*Eliza and Kate, with the other youth Caritas representatives.*

We were fortunate to represent the Armidale Diocese at the Caritas Global Justice workshop, targeted at youth from various Dioceses from around Australia. The workshop promoted youth empowerment through the sharing of knowledge and creating understanding. The more, we as a community know, the more we have the ability to empathise with other people from both the developing and developed world. The opportunity to spend two days with like-minded young individuals and the Caritas Australia team synthesized a passion for equality and the importance of subsidiarity.

The majority of parishioners and students within the Armidale Diocese know of Project Compassion but what is the ethos of Caritas Australia? We understand some of the benefits that members of the Armidale Diocese gave during Project Compassion have in our world at large, this year helping Caritas Australia raise 10.8 million dollars throughout the appeal. Despite this, much of our community fails to recognise the significance of Caritas as the second largest international aid agency worldwide.

Caritas takes a holistic and strength-based approach to community development in developing countries around the globe, assisting struggling communities to be agents of their own change. This approach is centred on preserving the dignity of the community and the individuals within. Caritas is seeking to actively involve youth from different dioceses to be engaged in the foundation and promote a pre-emptive response to engaging youth in the Church.

Caritas is currently working for environmental awareness from a sustainability viewpoint. We resonated with this as we are both climate advocates within our communities. Moving forward in our Armidale Diocese the advocacy for Environmental Sustainability by Caritas

has encouraged us into action. We have been inspired to advocate for awareness about a call for climate action. The central concerns raised in LAUDATO SI' provide footing for Caritas and Catholic Earthcare initiatives, including the OUR FUTURE FUND petition.

Most importantly, however, while being at Caritas Australia we heard and shared stories - the most human experience any of us can ask for. We gained a connection not only to the organisation, the workers and the beneficiaries of programs but with the other attendees. Finally, the workshop left us feeling inspired by the work of Caritas and determined to share the advocacy and education focused approach to global poverty within our community, watch this space!

*By Eliza Clark - Lasallian Youth Minister, O'Connor Catholic College and Kate Frazier - Office Assistant, Catholic Schools Office*



*Eliza and Kate at the Caritas Australia Office with Workshop Coordinator Chris Nolan, Justice Educator Caritas Australia*



# Celebrating our Multicultural Nation



*Vietnamese Children singing a hymn to the Blessed Virgin Mary of La Vang*

The 105<sup>th</sup> World Day of Migrants and Refugees was celebrated with joy and enthusiasm at St Edward's Parish. In keeping with the theme, "It's not just about migrants," new and old parishioners and visitors filled the church.

People from over eighty countries live in Tamworth. Several of their languages were used during the Mass: Filipino, Vietnamese, Spanish, Karen, English and Indonesian. Before Mass a group of children from different ethnic backgrounds processed to the altar to light the special lamp, atop with the cross of Christ as a life-giving light to the world.

The congregation joined in vigorously with all hymns, some lead by the Filipino Choir, the Vietnamese Choir and some by our Parish Guitar Group. After Communion the Vietnamese children came to the altar to sing a beautiful hymn to Our Lady of La Vang. As all processed from the church singing "Let there be Peace on Earth," the feeling was that in this little part of the earth there truly was peace.

Four members of the congregation shared their personal stories. Grahame Tighe is a volunteer teacher in an English as a Second Language program which has been running in the Parish Hall since February. He explained that on most Sundays about twenty parishioners meet in

the Parish Hall with the Vietnamese and Karen people to assist them with spoken English. He explained that the tutors gain as much from the experience as those being tutored. The second speaker was Tien Bui, a skilled labourer from Vietnam who has been working in Tamworth for about a year. Tien spoke passionately about the warm welcome that he and his friends have received in Australia. The third speaker was John Vincent Cunningham, a Filipino High School student. John spoke of some of the problems encountered by young people with limited English when attending school.

The fourth speaker was Damien Locke, a Uralla born seminarian who is working in the Diocese while on holidays from his seminary studies in Rome. Damien shared his experiences as an Australian working in foreign countries, initially in Indonesia and later in the United Arab Emirates and now as a student in Rome. He spoke of his difficulties with loneliness, language, food and customs in these countries and how he appreciated the patience and understanding shown to him by local people.

The celebrations continued outside the church for another hour as all enjoyed a multi-cultural feast, the piece de resistance being a roasted pig supplied by the Filipino Community.



# Celebrating our Multicultural Nation



*Delmar Balgoa, Chito Ibo and Diona Kendell with A filipino specialty – roast pig. (L-R)*



*Ha Thi Kim Anh, Huynh Phuong Thao, Pham Thi Thu Thủy, Nguyen Ngoc Phuong Thùy, Nguyen Huynh Mai Lam, Nguyen Huynh Nha Lam & Ho Bao Han from Vietnam*



*Angelina Soehla in pink, with her mother, Lershee Hla and grandmother, Pet Htoo, from Karen*



*A multicultural congregation.*



# Around 'n About

## Reading Is My Secret Power

Book Week, at St Joseph's School in Glen Innes is a week-long celebration of everything books. School Librarian, Mrs Adams ensures that everyone has a wonderful time and this year the students and teachers harnessed their secret powers! Each year the Children's Book Council of Australia brings children and books together during Book Week. The week involves a book fair, open classrooms, reading activities and culminating with a fabulous book character parade. We saw Thing 1 and 2, Robin Hood, Harry Potter, Pocahontas, Superman, Dr Who, The Mad Hatter, Tiny Timmy, Thelma the Unicorn, Dorothy, Fantastic Mr Fox and that was just the children!

*Our Book Week Staff: Mrs Core, Mrs Willis, Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Gannon, Mrs Croft, Miss McShane & Mrs Adams*



## Holy Trinity School Inverell Vinnies Sleepout

In Term 3 our Secondary Junior Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul and our Mini Vinnies groups held a combined 'sleepout' to raise money for the Vinnies Winter Appeal. The students brought their swags and mattresses to school and slept in our hall. Soup was provided for dinner. The secondary students led activities for all participants and raised over \$700 for this important cause.

*Everyone ready for the 'sleepout'.*

## A busy day at St Patrick's Walcha

The day began with the annual Father's Day breakfast with bacon and egg rolls and a cuppa in the school COLA. After breakfast all guests were invited to attend a 45-minute music appreciation concert. A piano chamber music trio from the New England Conservatory of Music performed for the gathering and involved the entire audience.

Next, the classroom doors were open for the visitors to see the children at work. Then the guests watched the Book Week costume parade with the Transition children to Year 6. After the parade the morning was concluded with the annual Grandparents Morning Tea. All in all, a wonderful day was had by all.

*St Patrick's Superheroes*







*Dan and Darcy Sisson*

## Dad's Favourite.

Students at St Mary of the Angels School Guyra really know the way to Dad's heart, bacon & egg rolls and coffee!! Our Father's Day brekky is an annual event that sees our Dad's, Grandads and Guardians come together with their children and enjoy a meal and some light-hearted conversation. It's the perfect chance for kids to show off their school, and a great opportunity for parents to meet all the other staff that are involved in the day to day lives of their children.

## Big School Transition

St Joseph's Tamworth Transition Program is well underway. Commencing in September our future kindergarten children attended 'big school' and were able to enjoy the benefits of experiencing our extended transition program - including meeting their teacher and new friends, getting to know the school environment and giving the staff an opportunity to identify the learning style and needs of our future attendees.



*Matilda Craig & Ari Pollard*

## Stay for a cuppa?



Parishioners of St Mary's Catholic church Bingara enjoyed a cuppa and some conversation with Fr Thaddeus in front of the church after 8.00am Sunday Mass.

*June Ritter, Barbara O'Dell, Wendy Reading in blue hat, Beulah Molloy, Jill Smith, Garry O'Neil, Robyn O'Neil, Lee Loudon, Mandy Loudon, Elisabeth Ritter, Penny O'Dell, and two grandchildren, Julie, Marie Pankhurst, Chris Young and Fr Thaddeus.*



# Around 'n About

## Mercy Day

Celebrated on the feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Mercy Day is a time of reflection and a renewed sense of mission, looking forward and looking back with great respect for the commitment and devotion of the Sisters of Mercy and people of Mercy. The Sisters of Mercy were honoured in Gunnedah, with Mass and morning tea prepared by the Mercy Associates. Sr Gabrielle Foley, Sr Christine Belling and Sr Regina McInerney cut the Mercy Day cake, later shared with Mercy Associates and parishioners. Members of the Mercy Associates renewed their commitment to the works of Catherine McAuley, deepening their spirituality and relationship with God and living the 'charism of mercy' in their daily lives.

*Sr Gabrielle Foley, Sr Christine Belling and Sr Regina McInerney cutting the Mercy Day cake*



*The College commends the committee's fundraising efforts in 2019*

## Happy Father's Day!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the St Joseph's West Tamworth Father's Day activities. The Father's Day Brekkie was a huge success, and we would like to thank all the parent helpers. It was lovely to meet the Dads and Grandfathers. The annual Father's Day Stall was very popular with the students, and a special thank you must go to the wonderful, small band of parent helpers and the hard working P&F Committee for their time and effort. Hope everyone enjoyed a special day together with family and friends.

*Elizabeth, Christian and Darran Eldridge*



## St Albert's supporting Where there's a Will

In September the St Albert's College 2019 Charity Long Lunch took place at St Alberts. The lunch provided an opportunity for the St Albert's Charity Committee to present our 2019 charity partner, 'Where there's a Will', with \$35,000 raised across multiple events this year. Where there's a Will works with schools and communities to improve mental health and wellbeing in the Upper Hunter, a mission which is becoming increasingly important. As ever, it was a colourful affair in keeping with the Where there's a Will colour scheme and was a lovely way for the students to round out the year of fundraising. Students and our broader community took part in last minute auctions and raffles in an effort to add to the fundraising for 2019.





*St Joseph's Uralla Students on a field trip with Z-Net Uralla*

## **Z-NET at St Joseph's Uralla**

Our community is fortunate to have many professional retirees, including scientists from CSIRO, who are dedicated to helping our world. One such group is Z-NET Uralla. Their mission is to assist Uralla Shire to transition to energy self-sufficiency based on renewable sources. Their aim is for Uralla to become Australia's first 100% renewable energy shire. The Z-Net team have been visiting St Joseph's for the past 2 terms teaching the students and school community about the importance of renewable energy, sustainable firewood, building design, water, waste, transport, food and preserving our natural environment. These weekly sessions are presented by talented locals who have a passion for sustainable design and practice.

## **Community Service Day for McCarthy College Students**

St Joseph's West Tamworth welcomed Year 12 students from McCarthy Catholic College who completed a Community Service Day at our school. These students are former students from St Joseph's Primary School, they assisted in various ways including helping the Transition Class and challenging our chess team.



*McCarthy students helping in Transition*



## **St Philomena's Moree Wellbeing Week**

The week was organised around the knowledge that a healthy state of wellbeing enables young people to successfully overcome difficulties and achieve their true potential. Students and staff participated in activities which encouraged them to connect, reduce stress, reflect and improve their overall wellbeing. To finish the week, all students and staff dressed as 'farmers' to raise money to be donated to St Vincent De Paul to help our local farming community suffering through the drought.

St Philomena's would like to say thank you to professionals from the local Moree community, including representatives from Headspace and Moree Community Health. Another big thank you must go to the local Woolworths for their generous donation of fresh fruit and vegetables used throughout the week to support learning around healthy eating.

*Jackson McPhie, Liam Marshall and Tayte Duncan-Tighe eating healthy snacks*



# Archie In Action!

Year 9/10 Elective Music and Visual Arts students of St. Philomena's School Moree have recently been fortunate enough to attend the '2019 Archibald Prize' exhibition at the NSW Gallery of Art in Sydney. This excursion was made possible due to the generous support of the Catholic Schools Office through their Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) grant initiative, and through an opportunity presented by the NSW Gallery of Art.



Our senior CAPA students attended both the NSW Festival of Choral Music 'Argyle Concert' at the Sydney Opera House and a guided tour of the 2019 national 'Archibald Prize' portraiture competition at the NSW Gallery of Art. Both of these activities have directly tied into the content that our Year 9/10 students have been studying in classes, with our Visual Arts students studying 'portraiture', and our Elective Music students studying

'musical performance in large ensembles'. All of our students enjoyed themselves immensely during our short time in Sydney, and all were extremely grateful for the opportunity to learn and experience nationally significant artistic and cultural events in some of Australia's most iconic creative and cultural spaces.

## A Priceless Confidence... A Sacred Trust...

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# Celebrations

## Farewell to Sister Therese

In August, St Brigid's Parish Quirindi and St Joseph's School Quirindi celebrated in thanksgiving with Mass followed by lunch for Sister Therese Conroy who has retired after 23 years in our midst and working within the Parish and community. Father Vic Ignacio presented Sister Therese with the Bishop Kennedy Medal at Mass. Sister Therese has worked with and assisted all the Parish Priests in her time here, instigating and leading the Josephite Associates Group which is still very active, being Parish Pastoral carer for the house bound and sick of the Parish and many more activities too numerous to mention. It is with sadness that we say farewell to Sister, however, may God bless her in her retirement days as she enjoys a quieter prayerful life in Tamworth.

*Sister Therese cutting her retirement cake*



## Snow Carrigan celebrates his 100th Birthday

St Joseph's Gunnedah parishioner, Snow Carrigan, was honoured with an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis as he celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends at Gunnedah Rugby Club.

The honour was bestowed by Parish Priest Fr John McHugh at Saturday evening Mass in St Joseph's Church, which appropriately has also reached its century. Surrounded by four generations of the Carrigan family, including his brother John, who is 94, and brother-in-law John Hallman, Snow was the centre of attention. Born, June 16, 1919, and baptised Clarence Patrick, Snow grew up at Boomi on the Queensland border. He was introduced to horses and farming life at an early age, was sent to boarding school at the Inverell convent and then Snow boarded at De La Salle College in Armidale, where his sporting skills were quickly recognised and he captained the under 14 cricket and rugby teams. After completing the Intermediate Certificate, Snow returned home. Snow was called up for military service in the Lighthorse Brigade and he enlisted on August 21, 1942, spending 3 years in the Army before returning home. Snow quickly gained acclaim as the most successful amateur jockey in the north west, he retired having booted home 300 winners at amateur meetings and winning 30 "whips" for most successful rider.

Snow's bride Joan Mary Kenniff was the love of his life. They tied the knot at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Boggabri, in July 1947 and raised their family of four girls and two boys on their property.

Snow and Joan Carrigan retired from the farming life, with its highs and lows, and settled in Gunnedah where they became much loved parishioners at St Joseph's. It was a huge loss for Snow when he lost his wife Joan in December 2010. Two years ago, Snow moved into

frail-aged-care at Alkira, where he is popular with staff and residents alike. He enjoys visits from family and parishioners and takes part in liturgies and anointing Masses in the Sr Judith Carney Chapel. He still attends every ANZAC Day commemoration and follows horse racing with great interest.



*Carrigan Family*



*Snow Carrigan - Papal Blessing*



# Farmer's Brekki



*Mini Vinnies committee (Executive group) – Quinn Ryman, Penny Torrens, Isobel Hargraves, Missy Harrison-Brown, Wylie Smith, William McNeill & Rory Shepherd*

The Farmer's Brekki, hosted by our Mini Vinnies group of students from Years 3-6, was a resounding success with many local farmer's and people from associated businesses taking a well-earned break to enjoy an egg and bacon roll, a cuppa and taking the chance to swap stories with other like-minded people. Many of the Mini Vinnies' students arrived early to set up for the event and then were kept busy preparing, cooking and serving the morning feast, as well as handing out cards, chocolates and raffle tickets. It was a wonderful morning and the Mini Vinnies group would like to thank everyone for attending and making it so special. Congratulations Mini Vinnies on a job well done!

The community has shown overwhelming support for the Mini Vinnies function and donations have flooded in from many different organisations. A huge thank you to the following people and organisations for their generosity: Budden's Hardware & Clothing; Centacare; CWA Sundowners; Hart Rural; Manilla Meats; Manilla Lions Club; Manilla Post Office; Manilla Rural Medical Clinic; St Michael's Catholic Primary School; St Michael's P & F; The North Store & The Square Man Inn.



*Willem Janse Van Rensburg, Hugh Trotter & Angus Shepherd*

*Stephen Bowman, Gary Kirk, Dianne Kirk & Murray Martin*



*Chris Bowman, David McNeill, David Ryman & Tanya Ryman*



# First Holy Communion



*Sacred Heart Parish Inverell First Holy Communicants*

## **Sacred Heart Parish, Inverell**

The Sacred Heart Parish welcomed 32 young people to receive their First Holy Communion in August. Father Ross O'Brien officiated and inspired children and adults alike with his words. The children were great ambassadors for their families and schools in the way they reverently received the Body of Christ for the first time.

## **St Patrick's Parish, Warialda**

In August seven children made their First Communion at St Patrick's Church in Warialda, watched by their families and local parishioners. The children had been preparing for their Reconciliation and First Holy Communion with

Father Thaddeus Ike for several weeks. The children are from Gravesend, Delungra and Warialda. We pray that the sacrament they received will nourish their faith. Mrs Warby made and decorated the Communion cake that was enjoyed by all at the morning tea following the Mass.

## **Sts Mary & Joseph's Cathedral Parish, Armidale**

The Cathedral Parish witnessed 12 children on Saturday night and 22 children on Sunday morning receive their First Holy Communion. The children and their families welcomed the Lord into their bodies beautifully. Well done to Fr Samson Koyipurath and Kerry Stellar who prepared the children for the sacrament.



*Armidale's Sunday Morning Candidates lead the procession out of the church*



*The children from St Patrick's Parish Warialda: Alexander Warby, Gabriella Quarello, Poppy Barwick, Mia Ireland, Luca Quarello, Riley Plain, Roley van Velthuisen with Father Thaddeus Ike.*



*Armidale's Saturday night Communicants celebrate with cake*



## A visit from Northern Beaches Christian School Band and Choir

St Mary's Armidale had the enormous pleasure of attending a concert by the Band and Choir of Northern Beaches Christian School (NBCS). Their choir sang a beautiful French language song in harmony and then all 200 of our students in K-4 were taught the Ave Maria. It sounded amazing. The 30 piece band played 'Highlights from Brave', 'Schaefer's Old Time Dances' and 'The Brave'. Our music room exploded with sound from tubas, saxes, trumpets, clarinets and horns.

After the concert, the band stayed in the music room and participated in a workshop with the St Mary's orchestra. We played "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" which we had been working on for a few weeks. Dani Cosgrove, a conductor with the NBCS band directed the workshop. To hear the big band of NBCS play the music with us was a unique and inspiring experience. These high school students just played along, having not seen the music before. It also benefitted our students greatly to have the experience of working with another conductor.

While the band was with our orchestra, the NBCS choir went to the Cathedral and practised for the Mass and concert for Saturday night. Five St Mary's students – Johanna Chin, Peter Cowley, Mahli Raggett-Skinner,

Marisa Suluma and Maya Teege joined them at this rehearsal. The Concert and Mass on Saturday night was truly wonderful. The Armidale City Band joined the NBCS Band for some of the pieces, and some local musicians also came along and played.

Altogether a lovely couple of days.



## Balance is the key/RBA governor provides insights to ADIG

Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe outlined his thoughts on the global situation and national economy during a speaking engagement in Armidale on the 24th of September.

The presentation was the first regional presentation by a Reserve Bank governor in almost a decade. Dr Lowe grew up in Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga and was excited to be back in a rural community.

Dr Lowe said "Looking forward, there are some signs, that after a soft patch, the economy has reached a gentle turning point. This is evident in the fact that GDP growth over the first half of this year was stronger than over the second half of last year. We are expecting a further modest pick-up in the quarters ahead."

"It is nevertheless likely that an extended period of low interest rates will be required in Australia to make progress in reducing unemployment and achieving more assured progress towards the inflation target. The fundamental factors underpinning the longer-term outlook for the Australian economy remain strong"

Attending the event Mr Andrew Draney, ADIG Chief Financial Officer, said "the insights provided in the presentation by Dr Lowe enable ADIG to remain well



*L-R: ADIG CFO Andrew Draney, RBA Governor, Dr Philip Lowe and ADIG CEO, Grant Devine*

informed of the domestic and international factors underpinning our economy especially when they are provided by the Reserve Bank governor." Whilst the ADIG business does have a diversified portfolio mix, including cash, commercial property and equity assets, we continue to monitor our performance and adjust our positions accordingly to maintain sustainable returns." ADIG CEO, Grant Devine identified, "Prudent risk management of our business remains a key priority in ensuring that we are well positioned to take advantage of current and future opportunities. The commentary presented by Dr Lowe demonstrated a solid base for our current Australian economic and monetary policy."



## Three cartoon children are standing side-by-side, smiling and waving. On the left is a boy with dark skin and short black hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt, grey shorts, and white sneakers with red accents. He has a blue backpack. In the middle is a boy with light skin and short blonde hair, wearing a blue t-shirt, grey pants, and white sneakers with orange accents. He has a yellow backpack. On the right is a girl with light skin and bright orange hair in pigtails, wearing a pink dress over a white shirt and pink shoes. She has a green backpack with a yellow flower on it. They are all standing on a white surface against a white background.

Abraham was going to follow God's command and offer his son, Isaac, as a burnt offering. Write the letter that comes after the letter given to see what an angel of the Lord said to Abraham. Read the story in Genesis 22:1-13.

1. **Identify the main components of the system.** The system consists of a **client** and a **server**. The client is responsible for sending requests to the server, and the server is responsible for processing these requests and returning responses.

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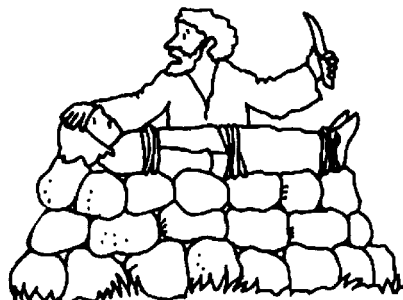
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## Bully or bystander?

At the end of September, a bill passed through the NSW government legalising abortion on-demand up until 22 weeks gestation, and up until birth with the permission of two doctors. As I have been living in Sydney, I was able to witness this happening firsthand and, if I may, I'd like to share with you something that really struck me. It is to do with our responsibility as Catholics to stand up for what is fundamentally right.

It is incredibly difficult in our culture to take a stand that goes against the tide of popular opinion. It is a thousand times harder to express that unpopular view in the public sphere - whether that be on social media, or in conversation with friends and family, or in the literal public square, Parliament. Naturally, that is because we are afraid to be frowned upon or disliked for believing in a particular cause — we're scared of what people will think of us. Well I certainly am anyway. But this very public debate that sprung forth with the introduction of this 'Reproductive Healthcare Reform' bill gave me a whole new insight into what it means to stand up for the truth.

Catholicism stresses, in every aspect of its teaching, the importance of human dignity and the inherent sanctity of life! That message shines through in the Gospels and has been echoed in the teachings of Vatican II. Both *Evangelium Vitae* and *Gaudium et Spes* explicitly express the Christian responsibility to safeguard life, for, "through Christ, man is given the possibility of knowing the complete truth concerning the value of human life, and the capacity to accomplish that truth perfectly. Therefore, we are, as humans, able to accept and fulfil completely the responsibility of loving and serving, of defending and promoting human life." (EV 29)

The key word there is responsibility. You and I are called to love, serve, defend, and promote human life. It is our responsibility, our duty, we are obligated to do this as Christians. But we should also want to do this — it isn't just an obligation that we must 'fulfil' because Jesus said so. To stand up for life is an incredible plight! And, to put it awfully bluntly, to do the opposite is to support a culture of death. Read that aloud: A culture of death.

How absolutely depressing.

So, when this bill was presented in Parliament, and when its supporters tried to rush it through in a matter of days without the public noticing, I felt obligated to act. My friends and I - a group of Catholic university students with no pressing commitments, effectively had no excuse to not go and support the pro-life campaign. And that we did. We rallied outside NSW parliament for days as the bill was debated in the lower house, in an attempt to show our politicians that the public as a collective did not support abortion on demand being legalised! We stood on the street and received all kinds of abuse from the public — at one rally I stood face to face with a group of pro-choice students who did nothing but scream abortion slogans at me. But we have to do that on behalf of those who cannot. The pre-born cannot stand up for themselves. A newborn cannot stand up for itself. A toddler cannot even stand up for itself. No young child has the physical capabilities that you or I do as adults — but that certainly does not mean that they do not have a right to exist.

I was having a conversation with a friend about this recently and they were commending me for helping to "fight the good fight!" But my point here is this: we are not deserving of commendation, because we are merely standing up for those who are physically incapable of doing so. And in speaking on behalf of the unborn, we are promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life and are thus fulfilling our responsibility as Catholics.

And, as harsh as this may be, to not fulfil that responsibility, in failing to actively express the dignity of each human person, you are indirectly supporting the culture of death that our secular society promotes. Remaining idle, though it is comfortable, is one of the worst things we can do!

So, even though the bill has now passed, please remember that responsibility. When you're conversing with friends or family and someone makes an off-hand comment about abortion, interject and encourage whoever you are speaking with to think about the value of human life. Remember that saying, that the bystander is worse than the bully - because she sees the wrongdoing and does nothing about it. Do not stand to the wayside but step out in faith and say something - because everyone deserves a birthday.

Rebecca Cooper



# McCarthy Catholic College Annual Walkathon Fundraiser

The whole College contributed to make our annual Walkathon fundraiser a resounding success. Despite the awful blustery conditions towards the end of the school day, we managed to avoid most serious complications and finished our 14km walk in good time. Mr Geoff McManus, Principal, would like to publicly commend staff for keeping students safe at road crossings and turns and for their enthusiastic participation. Similarly, the College greatly appreciated the ongoing support of Tamworth Regional Council and the Police.

The College is now in the final stages of collecting donations and has achieved an amazing result of over \$10,000 which we will in turn present a portion to the local St Vincent De Paul Society, who will be coordinating the allocation of funds and goods to the needy Tamworth and New England families affected by the drought. It is the College's intention to allocate the remaining portion to our own McCarthy families who are "doing it tough" from the effects of the drought.

The Year 11 and 12 students from the MCC Environment Council also ran the annual McCarthy's Got Talent Show following the Walkathon. As has been noted in previous years, the talent pool at McCarthy never fails to deliver a wonderful showcase.



*Back Cover pic:  
McCarthy College  
students participating in  
their annual walkathon  
to raise money for those  
affected by the drought*



