



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

No. 50 October 2016

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OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

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EDITORIAL BOARD

Sr Geraldine Mugavin, Mrs Julie Boyd, Ms Kate Lawry, Ms Fiona Tonkin, Dr Susan Crowe, Mrs Bernadette Lynch, Fr John Corrigan, Mrs Jane Collins.

The next ODC will be in March 2017.

All contributions to ODC may be forwarded to:
OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY,
PO Box 576, Ballarat 3353.

Phone: (03) 5337 7179 Fax: (03) 5333 5148
Email: odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Web: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Our Diocesan Community: The story continues



This is the 50th edition of *Our Diocesan Community* in the current format. I offer my congratulations to all those who have been involved in producing this magazine in this layout over the past fourteen years. This includes the writers and editors and the people of the diocese who have sent in the news stories and the photos. It also includes all those who have made the news, the people who have been part of the life of parishes and schools around the diocese over these years.

The present form of *Our Diocesan Community* built on an earlier form. The first issue with the new layout appeared in August 2002 and the editorial committee at that time paid tribute to those who had produced the earlier version. "For many years now, the small publication, *Our Diocesan Community* (ODC), has been coming to parishes." The committee acknowledged "the wonderful work done by all who have contributed to ODC in the past". They then introduced the new version.

"During 2001, it was decided to look at ways to revitalise the publication in order to reach people in all parts of the Diocese. As a result, this August issue of ODC is the first one in a revised format and will be distributed through the parish and school communities." The same basic format and the same distribution through parish and school networks continues today.

The editorial committee in 2002 planned to have a particular focus in each issue and in the course of numerous issues to "open up the many and varied matters which affect us all in our lives as Catholics and Christians in the Diocese of Ballarat". The focus of that first new format edition is still very relevant. It was the challenge of care for the environment.

The article on the front page was entitled "Caring for God's Own Country". It was by Des Brennan, a farmer from Buangor, a small community in the parish of Beaufort. Des wrote of the need to be careful in our use of natural resources. "Our Church has an enviable record of involvement in promoting social justice and in caring for the ill and underprivileged . . . Sadly a similar concern for the environment has not been evident until recent times."

Des' call to care for the world that God has given us is in harmony with the call made more recently by Pope Francis in his letter "Laudato Si" on care for the earth as our common home. Following the Pope's letter, the theme of the environment has featured in *Our Diocesan Community* again this year.

Many issues from that edition in 2002 continue to be relevant today – how to provide the best opportunities possible for the education of children and of adults, how to foster our prayer as parish communities, how to contribute to the cause of justice in our society. In 2002, the parishioners of Sacred Heart in Casterton were collecting food for the Ballarat Refugee Support Network and the parishioners of St Joseph's Warrnambool were holding a forum on the issue of asylum seekers.

Such issues continue to be part of our life as a church community and as members of society as a whole. As we record some of the key elements of our diocesan life in our magazine, we see how we share in the life of the broader community. As the Second Vatican Council

declared: "The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ." (The Church in the Modern World, paragraph 1)

Over the years, *Our Diocesan Community* has recorded many of the highlights of the life of local communities, such as celebrations of anniversaries for parishes or schools. As we mark the high points, we are also conscious of the struggles that lie behind the achievements. To tell of the good that has been done is to bear witness to faith in the face of uncertainty and hope in the face of adversity. It is to bear witness to the power of God's gift of joy, even in the midst of trials.

In this regard, I would like to recall some reflections of two women who have had a considerable influence on our diocese – Catherine McAuley who founded the Sisters of Mercy who have done so much for education in so many ways and Mary Ward who founded the Loreto Sisters who in turn founded Loreto College Ballarat.

These were women of firm faith and they were also women of deep joy and they persevered in faith and joy even in times of adversity.

In the course of her writings, Catherine McAuley referred to joy as one of God's special blessings. In a letter in 1835, she wrote: "It comforts me exceedingly to hear you are happy." In one of her instructions, she referred to a cheerful countenance as a sign of gratitude to God for all the gifts we have received. "The most acceptable return benefactors can receive from those on whom they bestow favours, is a countenance testifying the gratitude of the heart. How acceptable it must be to God when we make Him this return, showing to all, by a cheerful, happy countenance, the gratitude with which our hearts overflow towards Him for His many favours in this life, and His great promises for the life to come."

Of course, Catherine McAuley was well aware that our lives are not all joys. There are times of sadness too. In a letter in 1841, she wrote: "This is your life, joys and sorrows mingled, one succeeding the other." Yet she was confident that blessings would follow times of trial. She wrote: "Some joyful circumstance will soon prove that God is watching over your concerns, which are all His own, but without the Cross the real Crown cannot come. Some great things which He designs to accomplish would have been too much without a little bitter in the cup. Bless and love the fatherly hand which has hurt you. He will soon come with both hands filled with favours and blessings."

We see a similar confidence in God and a similar joy in the life of Mary Ward. She certainly had her share of trials. She endured long, tiring journeys, travelling through Europe on foot. There were times of sickness. There were disappointments in her attempts to have her institute officially approved. Yet Mary Ward placed her trust in God and this brought a certain lightness of heart, even in difficult times.

On one occasion she recalled Jesus' parable about the servants and how the good servants were faithful even in small matters. Because of this, they were invited to share in the joy of their Lord. She encouraged her Sisters to be like the good servants, faithful in serving God, particularly in the little challenges of daily life. "Faithfulness is not so much to be praised in great as in little things, as we may perceive from the words of our Lord himself, who says in the Gospel, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, because you have been faithful over a few things I will place you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.' (Matthew 25:23)"

Mary Ward also spoke about being cheerful. She said that various virtues are necessary in our lives, yet she highlighted the virtue of cheerfulness. "A cheerful mind, a good understanding and a great desire after virtue are necessary, but of all these, a cheerful mind is the most so."

May our life as a diocesan community continue in this spirit. There will continue to be times of trial. There will continue to be disappointments and sorrows. Yet, in the midst of whatever difficulties may come, may we continue to be blessed with a deep faith in God and the gift of joy. As the Scriptures tell us: the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

FLAGS IS 80

Fr Pat Flanagan celebrated his 80th birthday on July 22, 2016. A Papal Blessing for this occasion was presented to Fr Pat at the National Council of Priests Convention held in Melbourne in July. The Ballarat priests who attended the Convention are pictured with Fr Pat - Frs Eugene McKinnon, Barry Ryan, Paul Mercovich, Paddy Mugavin, Justin Driscoll, John Fitzgerald and Tom Brophy.



PEPLOW HOUSE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Peplow House has celebrated a milestone of forty years providing crisis support and outreach services to homeless men in the Ballarat and surrounding communities.

An afternoon tea was held at Peplow House on August 11, where the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and the reproduced 1976 Ladies Auxiliary Cookbook was released.

Local members from Ballarat community agencies, Centacare and former volunteers gathered at Peplow House to honour the work of those who volunteered over the past four decades.

In 1976 Fr Gerry Baldock identified a need for a local homeless service to provide meals and a place to stay for homeless men. With the support of the Ballarat Council of Churches, he spoke with local parish communities, the Ballarat City Council and the Department of Social Security and his passion and commitment to the homeless saw the establishment of Peplow House.



David Beaver, Centacare Chief Executive Officer said the needs for homeless men has required Peplow House to stay operational over the past forty years with ongoing community and government support. "Over the last forty years Peplow has been a refuge, a place of solitude and a safe haven for thousands of men. Although the demographic of those who access Peplow services has changed, the need for the service has never wavered" Mr Beaver said.

Centacare have reproduced the 1976 Ladies Auxiliary Cookbook in commemoration of this event. Copies of the book are available from local parishes or can be downloaded from the Centacare website www.centacareballarat.org.au (from the homepage slider Peplow House).

Donations in support of the work of Centacare can be made at <https://www.centacareballarat.org.au/donations/>

Top: Liam Davison and Gerry Baldock unveil the plaque, Bottom: Gerry Baldock and the Ladies Auxiliary

Molly the Delta Therapy Dog!

At our school we have an extra helper every Wednesday morning but she's not like all the other helpers we have at St Mary's School, Hamilton. For a start she has four legs and a very waggy tail and sometimes her breath is a bit woofy. Molly is a big, black, friendly Labrador and Noreen, her owner, brings her in each week.

First she visits the little kids and she listens to them read; she never gets bored. They give her lots of pats and treats, she loves both. When she has finished in Grade 1/2 she comes up to our classroom. Mrs Gallagher is our teacher and she likes dogs, just as well! In Grade 3/4 Molly helps with writing. Her favourite kid is Bailley and we know he is the favourite because she often sits on him and makes him laugh and he gives her treats.

Molly is very obedient, when we tell her she will sit, drop, shake hands, 'say' hello or do a high 5. We get to put a treat on her paw but she will not eat it until we say 'okay' even though she wants to.

Some kids were a bit scared of Molly when she first came last year because we thought that she might jump on us or bite. She is big and she has enormous teeth, but she is really gentle and we know that she loves us and we love her.



Our Diocesan Community - October 2016

Family Groups Anniversary

25 years ago Parish Family Groups were formed at St Aloysius, Redan with the intention of building social cohesion. The movement was under the umbrella of the Passionist Order. Families were distributed randomly within six groups, each group with a nominated leader, while one couple accepted overall leadership. These leadership positions have changed over time and for most groups to have lasted for 25 years says a great deal about this leadership and the commitment of members.

Different age groups, beliefs and occupations were, and still are, part of the mix. Most groups work on the basis of a monthly gathering to share time together. For some groups a few days away together is still on the agenda.

To look back is to be grateful for the friendships that were formed, the special occasions celebrated, the support given and received in difficult times, witnessing the maturing of the young ones over the years and the sharing of many, many meals and activities together. An enriching experience for everyone involved.

On Sunday, August 14, 2016 we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a beautiful breakfast, after celebrating Mass together, hosted by the parents from St Aloysius Primary School.

St Aloysius Redan Parish Family Groups



TREE PLANTING

What a fantastic response we had to our tree planting on Sunday, August 7. It was truly wonderful to see so many of our families come and help at this working bee. So much so that by the time I'd finished leading at our Lay Led Assembly the planting was complete. After a BBQ lunch a few hardy souls assisted with the laying of the poly-pipe so that the trees and shrubs can be watered easily. Thank you to Jamie Donnell for organising the plants and the poly-pipe and to Jonathan Stark from the Hindmarsh Landcare Network for advice and the sourcing of the tree guards and stakes, which were donated by Kaniva Landcare via Ross and Fran McDonald. We even had an impromptu visit from the Director of the Ballarat Catholic Education Office, Audrey Brown and her husband Philip who were returning from Adelaide and stopped in to see how we were going. A huge thank you to all who assisted and now we will wait patiently for sun, rain and God's nurturing so that our wind break and outdoor classroom grow and mature.

Kathryn Bendall - Principal, St Patrick's School Nhill

SO BLESSED....

I have been so blessed to have spent nearly four years working and living in a remote Indigenous community in the Northern Territory. I work as the Inclusion Support Coordinator at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School. Every day is a new day. It provides those challenges, rewards, disappointments and inspirations that keep you on your toes and thinking outside the box.

I have been in education for the past 35 years. I grew up in Ballarat and for twenty years, I worked as a teacher and leader in Catholic schools in the Ballarat Diocese. In 2002, I took a leap of faith and went to work at the Marist Teachers' College in Baucau, East Timor for 3 months. These months turned into years and in September, 2012, I left East Timor. Over a ten year span I worked training trainers and teachers and had the privilege of travelling to most of the 65 subdistricts in this small, rugged, new country. I have trained many amazing young Timorese who have now gone on to achieve their Masters in Education, have become educational managers and leaders of local Timorese NGO's, are completing their Bachelor of Education at Charles Darwin University or have carried the Timorese flag at the Rio Olympics representing their country in mountain bike riding.

Living in East Timor taught me about the importance of resilience and hope. At times of civil unrest, I was inspired by how the Timorese clearly believed that the only way forward to become a strong and successful nation was to educate their children. Schools were always full of children, well overflowing in small remote schools, where you could find between 80 to 100 children in each classroom. Each day these children would walk up to 2 hours one way, to learn how to read and write in a language that their teachers barely spoke. These teachers were not trained, so my role involved upskilling trainers and teachers. This was done in a cultural context, using resources that could be easily obtained and with materials found in an overcrowded classroom. Powerful storytelling, songs with actions and rocks for counting became part of the school routine.

As a team, we designed and produced Tetun and Portuguese books for beginner readers (using local photos), literacy packs with flashcards and sentence starters and trained teachers in simple reading and numeracy strategies. We presented in grassroots workshops to over 4,000 teachers across the country. There were endless challenges and frustrations but the look on a teacher's face when the 'penny dropped' said it all.

As my Timorese training team became more independent, resourceful and skilled, I knew it was time to leave. It wasn't a hard decision as I was absolutely sure that these incredible people would move their country forward in education. I was proud that they invited me to be a little part in this journey.

After spending a few months back in Ballarat with my parents, family and friends, I decided to try my luck teaching in an Indigenous community. In January 2013, I



began my work at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School, Bathurst Island.

I work with indigenous children with disabilities in the school. These children are on the fringes of their community. I was given a quote once that I stand by each day "The children who need the most love will ask for it in the most unloving of ways".

In our community the parents of a disabled child often feels shame because they have a child that isn't 'right'. Some of these parents have lost faith in the education system and others struggle with their own addictions. Many families have been damaged by domestic violence, gambling habits, excessive alcohol and substance abuse. Parents and carers often have limited knowledge, understanding or rights of children with disabilities. There is also an increasing lack of services available in the community to support the needs of a disabled child and their families.

Our school community acknowledges and celebrates the uniqueness, efforts and achievements of all students. I was given the opportunity to design and initiate a program to support children with high needs and behavioural issues. The 'Tiwi Wallaby Kids Program' provides children with a safe place with predictable structures. It provides rewards/incentives to stay at school all day, a secure place

to talk and respect each other and it encourages peer support and 'time-outs' to monitor and control behaviour. Often these children follow the 'fight & flight' approach which is part of their community life. Our school has worked very hard to build a safe, respectful learning place encompassing Tiwi culture and traditions.

One 8 year old boy was listing all the things that he liked about the Tiwi Wallaby Kids Program. Like most 8 year olds he talked of food, milo, a toy, bananas, grapes and iPad use. At the end of his list, I asked him what he wanted to do when he got older and he said he wanted to work at the school. This boy, who refused to come to school last year, now has a 95 % attendance. He has a goal to aim for and hope (in a community with massive unemployment). He speaks about himself in a positive manner, he enjoys learning, and he understands and follows our school rules and looks up to his cousin/brother, Cyril Rioli, as his role model.

For me, the spirituality of the Tiwi's is powerful and extraordinary. Smoking ceremonies are part of your welcome to country, an invitation to traditional land and a blessing. Tiwi funerals connect the sacredness of the Mass to the spirituality of its people. In May of this year, I was invited to accompany the Grade 5 children to the funeral mass of a former classmate. This young boy died of a brain

tumour in Darwin. We travelled for over an hour along a bush track to Rancu – his country. The priest had set up the service under the shade of a tree and a blue tarp. It was extremely humid and hot. The smoking ceremony began. The family invited me and his classmates to form a circle around the coffin. We held each others hands. These often tough and aggressive kids were so respectful of the situation. As I looked around the circle, the tough boys cried silent tears. As we sang a hymn in Tiwi, the families of these Grade 5 children formed another circle to hold their children and to show respect for the young boy. These circles continued until all the community embraced the family and the spirit of the boy. During the ceremony the family circled the coffin and the community circled the family. Skin groups danced their dreamtime and at the end of the Mass all the community danced and sang their Tiwi farewell song. It was a sad day but it was an honour to have been invited to join the circle.

Soon the Health Screening Team will be arriving at school for a week – a program that will check on the health of our two hundred and fifty indigenous students. Not sure how many children will turn up but I am sure that I will be on the school bus in the community looking for the kids that live on the fringe. Sometimes, they just need to be invited.

Rosanne Simpkin



RAISING AWARENESS OF MENTAL HEALTH AT RU OK? DAY

RU OK? Day is an annual event celebrated at ACU's Ballarat Campus which focuses on the importance of engaging with friends, family and colleagues and asking the important question of "RU OK?".

Each year the event provides students and staff the perfect opportunity to showcase the importance of reaching out to others, helping to break down stigma associated with mental health issues and encouraging people to discuss wellbeing in an informal but supportive way.

With many young people experiencing mental health issues, the ACU Counselling Service and the Office of Student Success are dedicated to promoting open and honest discussions on campus about wellbeing, RU OK? Day provides the perfect forum to promote these important messages.

On Thursday, September 8 the campus hosted a variety of fun and engaging activities to promote awareness of this important theme. Activities included decorating biscuits, relaxation activities such as painting a mural, colouring and a variety of activities around having the conversation with others and asking "RU OK?" as well as information regarding mental health issues.

Gemma Kelly - Marketing Coordinator, Australian Catholic University

HOSPITALITY AND CONVIVIALITY

Students at St Joseph's College in Mildura are bringing to life one of their Core Values of Hospitality, as well as the international Slow Food movement's philosophy of Conviviality, in linking their Italian language learning with the rich local Slow Food culture. Under the guidance of Head of Languages, Marietta Haynes, students have been exploring the widely recognised healthy Mediterranean Diet as well as the role of district farmers in producing seasonal, regional and traditional food.



During Languages Week the school canteen has been serving classic Italian fare such as minestrone soup, spaghetti alla napoletana, arancini, zippole, cannoli, Italian biscotti, pizza and gelato. Enhancing the Italian flavour, the canteen area is being transformed into an Italian alfresco courtyard with ornamental olive trees in terracotta pots and colourful geraniums. Students have also worked with their Art Department and Mildura artist in residence, Kerren Miles, to create mosaic murals to brighten up the wall space in the canteen area.

Students in Years 7 to 12 produced mosaic murals around the theme of the 'paddock to the plate' of *Cibo Buono* (good food) and *Buon Appetito!* (enjoying your meal). The murals reflect images of local and traditional Italian produce including grapes, citrus fruit and olives as well as crusty fresh bread and more.

Mrs Hynes commented that "receiving a Languages Partnership Grant from the Ballarat Catholic Education Office allowed us to transform our canteen courtyard area with the creation of two mosaic murals, involving over 200 students of Italian from Years 7 to 12." She added that the students were very excited about the project and really embraced the Slow Food theme. The students worked across curriculum areas through the mosaic artwork they created and developed a deeper understanding of good food and healthy eating. The whole school population learned about the Slow Food Movement's philosophy of having good, clean, fair food and linking with the farmers in our community to provide local, seasonal, regional and traditional food. Junior classes also learned how to order food in Italian at a restaurant or café with students through acting out the roles of waiters and customers. The Year 12 students are learning how to discuss the Slow Food Movement in Italian to prepare their VCE Detailed Study for the Italian Oral Exam.



College Principal, Marg Blythman, was impressed with how the College community developed creative partnership projects while providing students, teachers and artists with diverse and challenging learning experiences. She noted that "the Slow Food theme engaged and inspired our students' appetites whilst the mosaic project stimulated their imaginations and creative potential" and added that "the spectacular murals have come together through the dedication and commitment of our Language Domain staff, in particular, Marietta Haynes. Artist Kerren Miles also worked tirelessly to plan, prepare and develop the mosaic mural wall."

Canteen staff member, Sandra Tiver, was an enthusiastic supporter of the project saying that the assistance of local farmers and producers and authentic recipes provided by Mrs Hynes, enabled them to offer students and staff the opportunity to enjoy a different Italian cuisine each day during Languages Week.

Georgia Smith, a Year 10 student, spoke on behalf of many students in saying how much she enjoyed the experience of sampling classic Italian culture without having to leave the college. She also appreciated the canteen makeover which she described as being "a much more welcoming space for students to enjoy with the murals, terracotta pots, olive trees and geraniums". The St Joseph's mural was funded through a Languages Partnership Grant as part of the CECV 2014-2016 Languages - Finding Your Voice Strategy.

60 Years Ordained



On July 3, a cold, wet and windy Sunday, the tiny church of St Patrick's in Balmoral began the rolling celebrations for Fr Damien Heath's 60 year anniversary. Fr Damien was born in Casterton, one of seven children. He attended Sacred Heart School where he remembers being taught by some extraordinary nuns. He finished his schooling at St Patrick's in Ballarat, studied at Werribee Seminary for eight years and was ordained by Bishop James O'Collins. His very first public Mass was at Cavendish while based in Hamilton under Father Dunworth.

Fr Damien served for 3 years at the Cathedral in Ballarat, followed by 6 years in Colac. Then he travelled to Chile where he spent 6 life changing years. (On one day in Chile, he officiated 9 weddings. On another day he officiated 97 Baptisms!)

Fr Damien went on to lecture in Moral Theology in seminaries in USA, England, Ireland and Spain. After returning to Australia, he was Parish Priest at Bungaree, Red Cliffs and Apollo Bay.

He retired to Coleraine a few years ago, but retirement has not allowed him the luxury of free time. Fr Damien has continued to celebrate Mass with parishioners in Balmoral, Coleraine, Horsham, Tarrayoukan, Edenhope and Casterton, driving kilometres on a Sunday to say Mass, through fog and frost, heatwaves and rainstorms and many, many kangaroos. We're grateful that he does.

We love having him here.

Fr Damien's sermons are a rich experience. We examine gospel readings from ancient and modern viewpoints, topped off with a little philosophy and moral theology. The political hotbed of Jerusalem during the ministry of Jesus becomes alive when Fr Damien breaks open the word.

And on top of that, we just like having him around. We're all glad he's back home in the Western District. We loved having the opportunity to celebrate his anniversary with him. After Mass we had lunch at the Balmoral RSL, sitting around a blazing fire and sharing lots of stories.

Fr Damien once considered studying medicine rather than becoming a priest. Clearly he didn't make his decision based on monetary gain. So many people have benefitted from the path he chose 60 years ago. His warmth, humour and amazing intellect continue to inspire so many of us. Congratulations, Fr Damien.

Louise Le Nay - St Patrick's Balmoral

GODSTART NEWS

Carmel Densley has recently retired from her role as Diocesan GodStart Co-ordinator after twelve years of wonderful service. Carmel has spent many hours travelling, telephoning and emailing all parishes in the diocese, to support and assist with the GodStart program. Over the twelve years, Carmel made contact with every parish, every year.

The GodStart Program assists parishes to keep in touch with families with pre-school children after baptism. The program resources parishes to take an active role in supporting parents in teaching their children about the love of God. The program welcomes parents as important members of the parish community, demonstrating that they belong and can find support and companionship in their parish community. While this is a very brief description of GodStart, each parish can develop the program to fit their own needs.



The Diocese is very grateful to Carmel for her commitment, generosity of time and service to our parish communities. We wish Carmel the very best in her retirement.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is currently undertaking a review of the program in the Diocese. For further information please contact the Pastoral Ministry Office by phone 5337 7159 or email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

L-R: Moira Czurlowski, Carmel, Melissa Keast (Godstart Catholic Care Melbourne) and Val Dulfer

Welcome to the 50th edition of 'Our Diocesan Community'

ODC began in 1988 as a small black and white publication, continuing a strong tradition of a Diocesan print communication which began with the magazine 'Light'. 'Light' was commenced by Bishop James P O'Collins with the drive and enthusiasm of Fr Jim McInerney, later Monsignor McInerney. The first edition appeared in February 1948 with Monsignor McInerney as editor until 1979 when Fr George Pell, now Cardinal Pell, took over the editorship. Fr Pell continued work on 'Light' until 1985 when Fr John McKinnon became editor until the journal's demise in December 1986. 'Light' won several significant awards as a Catholic journal and was an important link for parish communities throughout the diocese. It catered for a wide range of interests including literary and faith matters. Lucille Quinlan and Frank Bongiorno's columns were regular features over the years. In the early 1970s 'Light' was awarded "Best Editorial appearing in a Roman Catholic periodical in Australasia". Another journal, 'A Diocesan Forum' edited by Fr Kevin Murphy appeared from 1972 until 1974 with a particular emphasis on education.

After the closure of 'Light' it was quickly realised that with a diocesan community as widespread and diverse as Ballarat, some form of print communication was essential. A sub-committee of the Diocesan Planning Committee was established with Mr Des Brennan of Buangor as Editorial Coordinator. Under their direction the Diocese commenced publication of a tri-fold newsletter 'Our Diocesan Community' in 1988. Known by the anagram ODC, this soon grew into a four leaf, eight page format. The contribution of all who had contributed in the past, and in particular Mr Des Brennan and Fr Gerry Baldock who ensured the continuance of a diocesan publication, was immeasurable.

During 2001 it was decided to look at ways to revitalise this publication in order to reach people in all parts of the diocese. After a review of ODC by the Diocesan Pastoral Council in 2000, a new Editorial Committee was established and for this new venture, the Council was joined by the Catholic Education Office and the Pastoral Ministry Office to present a revised format as an A4 twelve or sixteen page colour/black and white journal published quarterly.

Sr Anne McMillan rsm, former director of the Pastoral Ministry Office, undertook the task of designing and publishing ODC in this new format, dedicating many hours of her creative talents and skills to ensure a professional and appealing publication. Diocesan communications expanded further in 2006 with the introduction of an e-journal known as eNews and the launch of the diocesan website in 2007, also under the direction of Sr Anne. With the retirement of Sr Anne in February 2013, Jane Collins and Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office now manage the production of ODC three times per year, a fortnightly

eNews and the diocesan website.

Over the years there have been changes to the layout, frequency of publication and the number of pages of ODC. In 2003 publication was changed to three times per year, with an increase in the number of pages. In 2008 pages increased to twenty or twenty-four pages. In 2014 pages increased again to thirty-two pages.

There have been many members of the Editorial Committee since 2002: Fr Gerry Baldock, Juanita Bongiorno, Des Brennan, Kevin Dallinger, Sr Anne McMillan rsm, Allen Moloney, Peter Schreenan, Deneise Walsh, Bill Walsh, Danielle Peters, Carla Woodruff, Fr Gary Jones, Jenny Kingston, Peter Kerwan. Current members are Sr Geraldine Mugavin rsm, Fr John Corrigan, Fiona Tonkin, Julie Boyd, Dr Susan Crowe, Jane Collins, Kate Lawry and Bernadette Lynch. Each member of the Editorial Committee has been able to assist in the development and continued popularity of ODC.

We have been fortunate to receive sponsorship to assist with the cost of producing ODC. Consistent sponsors have been the Catholic Development Fund, Catholic Education Office and parishes of the diocese and in more recent years Australian Catholic University (Aquinas Campus). Catholic Super and Catholic Church Insurances have also sponsored in previous years.

Revolution Print (formerly KingPrint) have been invaluable in the production and printing of ODC for many years. As technology improves, so does the high quality level of service provided in the publishing and delivery of ODC and we appreciate their assistance.

Our unique delivery system of ODC to parishes and schools in the diocese is by the collection of the boxes in the office passage. We are very grateful to those who collect and deliver these boxes, particularly the Catholic Education Office staff.

ODC, eNews and the diocesan website now provide further ways of recognising the importance of communication between the communities of the diocese. The life of the parishes, schools, agencies and communities of the diocese is a rich and varied one and through ODC and the other forms of communication we are all able to share and give thanks for this.

Thank you to all who have taken the time to send in their stories and photos of events in their parish, school or agency. We encourage people to continue to send in their contributions to ensure we spread the good news of the diocese to all in our communities.

Compiled by Julie Boyd from ODC No 1 August 2002, ODC No 24 April 2008 by Michael Taffe, Diocesan Archivist.

Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods.

** Laudato-Si # 23*

Leading from the heart

In 1993, David Beaver took up the position of Director of the Ballarat Diocesan Family Service – a small but effective service offering assistance to families throughout the Diocese with centres in Mildura and Ballarat.

In January 2017, David will retire from his role of CEO of Centacare and Centacare Housing which now has a staff of two hundred offering services throughout Western Victoria.

David has overseen a steady expansion of Centacare over 23 years and guided the organisation into the era of tendering for and delivering government contracts in a wide variety of programs. This had enabled the Diocese through Centacare to respond to the most needy and marginalised.

David has provided outstanding leadership for Centacare. He has built a vision based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching with the aim of creating a just society. His own vision and ability to “lead from the heart” have contributed significantly to creating a life-giving culture throughout the organisation.

David leaves Centacare a professional, well governed, well managed organisation with dedicated staff who are prepared to go the extra mile to assist people to bring about change in their lives.

David has made a huge contribution to the life of the Diocese and established links with welfare agencies throughout Australia. He has earned the respect of his fellow professionals and the gratitude of all those who have worked with him.

Mary Darcy - Centacare Board Member

KU LEUVEN STUDY TOUR

Nine senior leaders from both CEOB and schools of the Diocese joined twenty one others from across the Dioceses of Victoria to participate in the Catholic School Identity - 2016 Study Program at the Catholic University Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium during August and September.

This new study program aims to support these leaders as they engage in the core work of enhancing Catholic identity and school improvement.

Participants were not only greeted with especially good weather but more importantly the opportunity to learn from the leading Catholic minds of the world on the topics of identity and dialogue within the Church and between the Church and culture.

Aside from the academic program, there was opportunities to visit the Catholic Education offices in both Brussels and Paris, as well as a number of schools in Belgium and France. These school visits offered a cautionary tale on the effects of secularisation and its impact on schools' Catholic identity in these countries and the need to prioritise actions that promote and enhance this vital area in our local setting.

John Meneely - Deputy Director of Catholic Education

Celebrating 150 years

Recent 150th celebrations at St Mary's Hamilton gathered past and present parishioners to significant weekend events, highlighting a community spirit that lives on in the parish faithful. Visitors were firstly invited to view a thoroughly researched and beautiful display of parish history, presented by two dedicated members of our church. History tours of significant gravesites at Hamilton's Old Cemetery were also on offer.

Memories of St Mary's parish life were celebrated at a dinner held at Monivae College's Chevalier Centre. Guests attending from interstate, metropolitan and regional areas were thrilled to be so openly welcomed back to their church from childhood years, with one past parishioner quoting "talk about Faith in Action".

Local talent entertained during the evening, along with individual addresses of memorable moments of parish times over past years. Each St Mary's School student, under the tutorage of teacher Ms Shelley Waters, participated in the design of a stunning leadlight display, as a special back drop for the dinner venue.



The following day, Mass was celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird, Fr Patrick Mugavin and Fr Paul Gurry, whose family are an integral part of St Mary's history. There was an impressive gathering at Mass. Scottish and Irish heritage and Religious Orders in the Western District were recognised with young parishioners dressed in period costume selected to represent our ancestors. School children were a focus of the moving ceremony, concluding with an uplifting song of Matthew 22.

Following Mass Bishop Paul blessed a commemorative plaque recently added to the Gothic style church walls, with the inscription reading: We give thanks for the dedication and great service given by so many parishioners since 1866, in meeting the spiritual and pastoral needs of our district.

The Church gathering space then provided the ideal location for a large community lunch, where many had gathered before us, sharing stories and creating a history we are proud to celebrate today amongst the wider community of Hamilton. ERA nurseries of Hamilton generously donated native shrubs for members to plant at home in memory of their families and parish life at St Mary's.

Whilst celebrations were about 150 years since the building of the first part of St Mary's in 1866, extensions had followed in 1900 and 1987. It was evident that many happy memories remain for those who gathered to join us on such a significant occasion.

Anne Slattery - Parish Team Member

Thank you Fr Dan

On July 31, 2016 St Joseph's Parish Timboon marked two special events. After seven years of travelling from Ballarat every fortnight to celebrate Masses in Timboon and Simpson, Fr Dan Arundell bade us farewell.

We were privileged to share his spiritual guidance, humour and dedication to our needs. Whether he was engaging with the children, the ill, the housebound, the elderly or those in between, his gentle manner was always there, be it a sad or happy occasion.



In front of the large congregation Fr Dan was officially farewelled and presented with a gift as a token of our appreciation and grateful thanks for his time and support. It was also a very special day for eleven young parishioners who were confirmed and received their First Eucharist. May they meet other "Fr Dan's" as they journey on. The celebration concluded with lunch in our crowded hall. Fr Dan, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Enjoy many more years of semi-retirement. Go Cats!

George Swierczek - Timboon Parish Secretary
Our Diocesan Community - October 2016

New technology at ACU

Mind-controlled technology that can sense a person's reaction to a critical incident was on show at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) Open Day held in Ballarat on Sunday, August 28.

The new technology is the latest experience on offer to the thousands of Australians who flocked to the University's open days across the country between July and September this year. People who trialled the Neuromedic experience at ACU's Open Day found themselves as the leading paramedic at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. Neuromedic detects the brain's instinctive responses to prompts within the narrative to determine what happens to two injured patients. As users were given options on how to respond, Neuromedic monitored their stress levels to determine how the scenario will play out.

Digital agency Isobar has developed the Neuromedic 'mind-over-matter' interactive simulation for ACU in a first for Australian Universities. ACU Associate Director, Digital Strategy, Cameron McPherson said the Neuromedic game-like experience was a unique way to demonstrate the sort of high-pressure situation paramedics face in the course of their work. "This is a clever and engaging way to experience the sorts of serious situations people might encounter as paramedics or as nurses and other specialists. Neuromedic illustrates how a person's composure and ability to remain calm in this type of scenario could lead to better outcomes for the patients. Our students are trained extensively to deal with anything from emergencies to more routine incidents. ACU's close industry ties and practical experience provides them with essential skills for the workplace," Mr McPherson said.

Neuromedic was just one of a number of activities on offer at Ballarat Open Day where over 1300 prospective students and friends and family explored the University and learned about study options and how ACU can support their career goals. For more information about courses available at ACU visit openday.acu.edu.au.

Gemma Kelly - Marketing Coordinator, ACU Ballarat



St John of God Ballarat Hospital is the first hospital in Victoria to introduce the latest Olympus ENDOALPHA system, installing one of the high-tech digital systems in one of the operating theatres.

The new theatre technology helps improve efficiency and enhance patient outcomes for those undergoing laparoscopic surgery.

With ENDOALPHA, multiple pieces of surgical equipment are integrated into one system and hooked up to a digital home screen, similar to that of a smart phone or tablet.



BALLARAT THEATRE GOES DIGITAL

Through the screen, surgeons and nurses can set-up the equipment for surgery, complete pre and post-surgery checklists and simultaneously control and adjust multiple pieces of equipment, all at the tap of a screen. Part of the new installation was a three dimensional laparoscopy tool which gives surgeons, through the use of special glasses and a laparoscope with a flexible tip, the ability to view the surgical field in three-dimensions as opposed to the traditional two-dimensional view.

St John of God Ballarat Hospital Manager of Perioperative Services, Troy Tregilles said all the available new technology will help to improve safety and efficiency of surgical procedures. "With the introduction of the ENDOALPHA system we've been able to reduce the amount of equipment in the operating room, which in turn reduces the preparation time and the risk of infection," Troy said. "For laparoscopic surgeons the new 3D laparoscopy system gives them a natural depth perception ability which is lost in two-dimensional view. Surgeons are able to work faster and with higher accuracy, which means less time in the operating room for the patient and better quality outcomes," he said.

*Lee-Anne Bellis | Marketing & Public Relations
Manager St John of God Ballarat Hospital*

Pictured: Bariatric surgeon Mr David Deutscher and Olympus' Daniel Hinch with the new 3D endoscopy system.

Anniversary Celebrations

The Bungaree Parish communities of Dunnstown, Clarkes Hill and Bungaree recently celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood of our Parish Priest, Fr Shane Mackinlay, with Mass at St Michael's Church, Bungaree.

Fr Shane undertook Seminary studies at Corpus Christi College, Clayton, from 1983-1991 and was ordained on September 6, 1991 at St Alipius' Church, Ballarat East, after the completion of his Pastoral Year and diaconate at St Joseph's Parish, Warrnambool. Appointments in the diocese following this were as Assistant Priest at Colac and St Patrick's Cathedral, Administrator at Casterton, Parish Priest of Sebastopol, Administrator of Colac, Parish Priest of Bungaree and Visiting Priest for Gordon. Fr Shane has also been Secretary to the Bishop, a member of the College of Consultors, Chair of the Ballarat Clergy Assistance Fund and Ballarat Clergy Support Fund. He has been the Chair of the Bishop's Advisory Council since its inception in 2009 and was the Spokesperson for the Victorian Catholic Church during the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Non-Government Organisations.



In his roles outside the diocese, Fr Shane is Master of Catholic Theological College, University of Divinity but we, at the Bungaree Parish, are very grateful to Fr Shane for his work in our parish as a priest and also as a friend. Amanda Elliott, member of the Parish Leadership Team, welcomed those present to Mass, especially Fr Shane's parents Helen and Malcolm and went on to say: "This morning we gather to celebrate and congratulate Fr Shane on a significant milestone, his Silver Jubilee. We are very grateful and lucky to have such a wonderful priest and person to guide us spiritually and personally on life's journey. We thank Fr Shane for his hard and selfless work and may we enjoy your guidance, care, encouragement and commitment for many years to come."

During his homily, Fr Shane reflected on his twenty-five years as a priest in the Diocese of Ballarat and how he combines his roles with those outside the diocese. Those of us present were pleased to hear that when he returns to Bungaree for his weekend duties, he feels he is "home" and very much part of our community. Fr Shane wore his vestments and used his chalice and paten from his ordination for his Anniversary Mass. At the end of Mass Damian Ryan thanked Fr Shane for his leadership of the parish and the calm manner in which he undertakes his tasks.

Following Mass, lunch was served in the Parish Centre where Fr Shane cut his anniversary cake. There was plenty of food, friends and conversation amongst those present. Many thanks to Amanda Elliott and the Parish Leadership Team for their organisation of this special occasion.

Julie Boyd

On Sunday, August 21, nearly three hundred people from the communities of Emmaus Catholic Primary School Mt Clear, St Alipius Parish Ballarat East and other faith groups from across Ballarat and beyond gathered in Wayaperri - Emmaus for a meal together. Prior to the gathering for lunch many attended Mass at St Peter and Paul, Buninyong. The premise of the gathering was based on a growing movement where small groups of ordinary citizens have banded together to meet, greet and get to know people of other ethnic, faith and cultural backgrounds. The gathering was sensational. The food was superb, the children's presence from Emmaus was a delight, especially the South Street Choirs. However, the highlight of the day was the gathering of people of Christian, Hindi and Muslim faith backgrounds!! Special thanks to Kara Meyer and Anna Sims, wonderfully supported by Jen Graham and Lucy O'Beirne, other representatives of the Community Leadership Team and the many, many other mums who worked tirelessly to make this day a brilliant celebration of our diversity!

Brendan Maher – Principal, Emmaus Catholic Primary School

CULTURAL DIVERSITY



Our Diocesan Community - October 2016



GRADUATE SUPPORT

Graduate teachers from across the Ballarat Diocese gathered for professional learning and formation recently.

Those who are teaching in our Diocesan primary schools for their first year, came together for two days in Halls Gap. Members of the Catholic Education Office staff worked with these teachers in the areas of Religious Education, wellbeing and teaching and learning. The staff helped these teachers, who are starting on this new road in their journey of teaching, to further develop the skills and knowledge they have gained through their initial teacher education.

Theresa Hsieh from the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) informed the group about the processes they must follow and tasks they will need to undertake to gain full registration as teachers in Victoria, over the coming twelve months. This process will be supported by mentors and colleagues in the schools in which the provisionally registered teachers are employed.

The Graduates gathered later in the afternoon of the first day to prepare and then celebrate a liturgy, before a celebratory dinner followed by an evening of fun and games.

Second and Third year graduates gathered a week later in Ararat where they continued their professional learning in teaching and learning, wellbeing and Religious Education. Once again staff from the Catholic Education Office Ballarat were able to offer their knowledge, skills, expertise and experience to these young teachers. The work and support of Allan Hutchison, Margaret McDonald, Susan Rampling, Carmel McCormick, Lesley Price and Jim Waight from CEOB, must be acknowledged at this time.

Dr Susan Crowe, CEO Ballarat

Our Diocesan Community - October 2016

International day of friendship

On the weekend of July 31, as part of the United Nations "International Day of Friendship", Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, East Warrnambool celebrated International Day of Friendship and Cultural Diversity. In these times bringing people together in friendship and harmony is a grand inspiration for us all. It started off as a bright and colourful morning throughout the Church as many of the congregation dressed in their finest cultural garb and costumes. The foyer of the Church was vivid with flags, costumes, music and art work adding warmth and a welcoming feeling. As our parish event followed the successful 'World of Art' exhibition by the school children, we were able to display some of their works on Indigenous Australian Art, Japan and Native American Art.

After Mass about one hundred people took up the opportunity to stay behind and join in sampling the various mouth-watering and delightful foods brought in by parishioners whilst catching up with one another. As well we were treated to a wonderful dance and music performance from the Filipino community that added to the friendly atmosphere. Every region of the world was well represented and everyone mingled and talked about growing up in their home countries, their past life and why they have now come to live in Australia. It was wonderful to see the rapport between cultures.

It was a great day for everyone in sharing and appreciating the various cultures coming together to celebrate the cultural diversity of International Day of Friendship in our parish. This is a day which will be repeated next year going by the response of all who were involved. A big thank you to all who participated in making this a wonderful day of celebration of friendship and cultural diversity.



Dion Bartlett and Paul Torpy



YEAR OF MERCY

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL BALLARAT BY BISHOP PAUL ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016 AT 10.30 AM. ALL WELCOME. REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW MASS.

Our Super Sustainable School



Over the past six years St Joseph's School, Coleraine has designed, built and implemented a whole school sustainability program that involves students, staff and families in a wide range of sustainable practices and activities. Our efforts at school are based on the teachings learnt from 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis' inspiring encyclical on how to care for God's world.

At school, our 'Kitchen Garden' program gives students the chance to grow fruits and vegetables in our orchard and garden before using those ingredients to produce fresh meals in our school kitchen. We have animals such as chooks and sheep that provide us with eggs and fertilizer to use for our garden beds (they also do a great job cleaning up our food scraps!)

We take part in tree planting days, local produce markets and grow succulents for our school fete. Over the past year we have cut back considerably our power, water and paper usage and reduced the amount of wrappers and food waste we bring to school. These measures helped us to secure our first 'Resourcesmart' star.

Our sustainable practices have seen us win local water authority awards and seen our efforts published in the local media. We produced a fresh food recipe book earlier this year and each week, we present an 'Assisi Award' to the student who has demonstrated sustainable awareness in our school. Looking ahead, we have many new initiatives to grow our sustainability program in 2017.

Joshua McElgunn - Principal



DAMASCUS DAY

On Wednesday, September 14, all students and staff celebrated Damascus Day and the Year of Mercy.

Celebrations began with a whole of school Mass, where the theme focussed on the 'Year of Mercy' and 'God's Mercy Endures Forever' from Psalm 136. The gospel that was chosen for the Mass was the Story of The Prodigal Son where the loving father in the story reaches out to his sons with his loving hands in an act of mercy. The Damascus school choir led us beautifully in celebration through song and prayer.

Mass was followed by a Festival of activities where the campus was buzzing with positive energy and excitement. Students took part in an Amazing Race Challenge where they had to visit all the activities including jumping castle, movie mural, rowing challenge, dance off, inflatable twister and much much more.

Students and staff then enjoyed a Performance Showcase of the many musical talents of Damascus students, where students played instruments, sung songs and danced in celebration of Damascus and the Year of Mercy.

The Showcase concluded with an engaging and hilarious Staff Flashmob where up to 15 staff members danced to 'Uptown Funk' – well done to all staff involved, it was great fun.

Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development



Australian Defence Force popular with ACU students

Nursing and paramedicine students at ACU's Ballarat Campus wanting to pursue careers in the Australian Defence Force recently attended a careers information evening with the Australian Defence Force Recruiting team.

Squadron Leader Herron spoke to the students about her experiences working as a Nursing Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force, as an officer in the Australian Defence Force Academy and Aeromedical Evacuations (AME) both international and domestic emergency situations and during the conflict in the Middle East.

The students learned about the benefits of working for the Australian Defence Force, the application process and the medical requirements for roles within the Army, Navy and Airforce.

The students were also introduced to Levi, a 15 month old detector dog in training and his trainer Sargent Skeels. Levi will go on to formal training to become a detector dog to work in a variety of areas such as airports searching luggage for drugs and for potential explosive devices. Hosted by the Paraquinas Society at ACU Ballarat, the evening was a fantastic opportunity for over fifty nursing and paramedicine students to hear directly from members of the Australian Defence Force and ask questions about their career goals.



Gemma Kelly - Marketing Coordinator, Australian Catholic University

THE MELBOURNE ADVENTURE

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." Benjamin Franklin

A highlight for many Year 9 Loreto College Ballarat students is their 'Melbourne Adventure', a three-day experience that supports our girls to 'spread their wings' as they navigate a series of challenges in and around the city. "The Melbourne Adventure provides our girls with the opportunity to learn about large cities and all they have to offer in an independent and purposeful way. They learn valuable skills pertaining to working in teams, decision-making and communication," said Ms Kelli Baird, Year 9 Active Learning Co-ordinator at the College.



The experience forms part of the year-long Year 9 Active Learning Program, which recognises students need to develop an understanding of their own identity and self-worth and knowledge of their personal strengths and interests, as they begin to consider career choices and pathways for their senior years.

"Having the opportunity to go on the Melbourne Adventure was wonderful. It taught us how to use public transport, time management and orientation, but furthermore we learnt how to work as a group," said Year 9 student Lexi Roscoe.

Students developed a hypothesis prior to their adventure, for example 'That street art has a positive impact on Melbourne society', which they then investigated by surveying members of the general public.

"This process built up our self-esteem and courage to approach people on the streets of Melbourne's CBD," Lexi said. "All in all Melbourne was an adventure to not miss - even though by the end my feet hurt outrageously!"

Liz Francis - Loreto College

Five minutes with Fr Kevin Condon OP...

Where were you born? Tell us about your childhood. I was born in the rural parish of Glenroe in County Limerick on January 31, 1932. I was the second eldest of four children. Seamus the eldest, after me came Sean, followed by my sister Mary a few years later. Our parents, James and Mary Anne, were dairy farmers and had to work hard to make the farm productive. (All four of us, now in our eighties, are still alive and well). During the summer holidays we had to work hard to help with all the jobs that needed to be done. We had none of the mod cons that we take for granted today. Life was simple but happy. We attended the local parish primary school, some 3 kilometres walk to and from school every day. I remember my days in primary school as reasonably happy. At the age of 12 my parents sent me to a boarding college in Newbridge, Co Kildare. The College was run by Dominican Fathers. At first, boarding school life was a shock to the system. Being fairly strong and energetic from farm work, I took to the game of rugby (football) like a duck to water, this made life more bearable. My academic record was nothing to write home about but I managed to pass my exams.



You have been ordained sixty years this year. When did you know you wanted to become a priest? When and where were you ordained? It's hard to recall what factors led me to join the Dominican Order. Perhaps, I thought that religious life was better than having to milk cows, morning and evening for the rest of my life!! But I hope my motives were better than that. I presume the Dominican Fathers, who taught me, had some influence and my Uncle Michael, a prominent Dominican in the Irish province guided me to making the decision to join the Order. My years of formation for the priesthood were challenging but once again sport was a life-saver. I was ordained in Dublin on July 8, 1956. I went back to my home parish of Glenroe for my first Mass and my first holiday with my family in seven years.

If you were a colour what would it be? Why? Being Irish and patriotic I have to say GREEN!

What was the best thing about becoming a priest, what was the hardest? The best thing about being a priest is the involvement with people. That was made possible by parish visitation – visiting the Catholic families once a year and being part of their joys and their sorrows. The hardest part of being a priest is being put on a pedestal, the expectations put on you, and being looked up to as if you were a super man. Thank God we have been knocked off the pedestal in recent years and most people see us now as weak human beings like the rest of the human race. My approach has been: "Don't walk ahead of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and be my friend."

If you chose a song which most represented you at this time, what would the song be? Que Sera Sera – whatever will be, will be. Knowing that I am in God's hands and God will look after me.

Where have you been as a priest? What are some of your favourite memories? Challenges? I started my priestly ministry in Ireland. In 1960 I got a letter from my Provincial assigning me to Australia – "on loan for five years." That was fifty-five years ago. I'm still on loan and still belong to the Irish Dominican Province. Sad at leaving my parents, especially my father who was gravely ill, I felt the thrill of excitement at the prospect of a new adventure. Providentially my father died just before I left Ireland for Australia. I started my Australian Ministry in our Dominican parish in Adelaide. In 1964 the Provincial asked me to take over the new Dominican Parish in Canberra (Watson Parish) as Parish Priest. I didn't have a clue how to run a Parish but you quickly learn on the job! For the next thirty-five years I served as Parish Priest in most of our Dominican Parishes in Australia, Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Perth and finally back to Melbourne (East Camberwell Parish) for twelve years. I broke that sequence in 1981 when my mother died and I served in a parish in Seattle for a year. In 2000 I got permission from my Provincial to offer my services to the Melbourne Archdiocese to fill in for Parish Priests who wanted to take sabbatical leave. For the next seven years I served in some twenty parishes around the Archdiocese. That was a wonderful experience. At the end of 2007 the position of Chaplain at Nazareth House, Ballarat became available and I was given the job – on a trial basis for six months. That was nearly nine years ago. Nazareth House is like a mini parish with almost one hundred and fifty residents. I regard it as a great honour to be there for those who are feeling the burden of the years and especially for the dying. My role is not so much what "I do" but just "being there." It is a perfect fit for my declining years.

If you could choose anyone from any time, who would you most like to be in conversation with and why? Pope John XXIII – a humble man who was brave enough to make changes and challenge the "status quo."

Finally, anything else you would like to add? I thank God for the struggles and temptations I have endured over the past sixty years. Pope Francis expresses it beautifully in his Prayer for the Year of Mercy saying we priests "are clothed in weakness." I would like to think that those who approached me over the years "felt sought after, loved, and forgiven by God."

PNG EXPERIENCE



Monivae College Hamilton students returned from their Papua New Guinea Mission Experience greatly enriched by their time with the people of Tapini in the Central Highlands. Tameka Dayalall, Year 11 student, tells of her experience:

On Thursday, June 16, after an intense day of exams, nine of us headed out for the long drive to Melbourne. Waking up at 3:30 am the next morning we boarded our plane to Brisbane, from where we boarded our final flight to Port Moresby. We met our host, Fr Brian at the airport along with two past Monivae students, Johnny and Chris. We piled the luggage and ourselves into the back of a ute and headed off for the drive to the university where we spent our first night in PNG. The next day, we drove out to Tapini through the high mountain roads. It was a terrifying 6-hour trip at 60km/hour in which we were tossed around in the back and almost flying over the edge of the ute. We finally arrived at Tapini, where we were welcomed with dancing and singing by the secondary school students.

The next ten days were filled with adventures as we walked through rainforest mountains to surrounding villages, which were “just around the corner” according to the locals. We spent time at the primary school of Koiava and also our sister school, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, teaching and sharing stories of life in Australia and our culture.

Our time in Tapini quickly came to a close. We held tight to memories we made there, as we packed up for the trip back to Port Moresby. We spent the next two days seeing the sights of Port Moresby such as the water park, the local markets and finally, The Bomana War Memorial. We travelled out to Mainohana High School where we spent time with past Monivae students Nick, Alphonse, Nick and Manase.

PNG is not for the faint hearted but it is an unforgettable and memorable experience. No words or pictures could explain the experience we had.

Our Diocesan Community - October 2016

On Sunday, August 14, nineteen members of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Sunraysia, gathered in the Monaghan Room for their annual Retreat. It was a very fitting venue, named after Fr Frank Monaghan who was a passionate advocate for the work of the Society.

Leo Sheehan, Sunraysia Regional President, welcomed and thanked Sr Rosemary Graham rsm (pictured right below) for agreeing to lead the Retreat. Fittingly in this Year of Mercy, Rosemary chose as her theme “Mercy is an open book; a reflection for the Year of Mercy.”



“A New Day”, a beautiful visual reflection, withdrew us from our busy lives to a more reflective space.

We prayed the Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Mercy followed by a reflection on the image on the Jubilee of Mercy Poster, enabling us to see more clearly that Mercy is relational enabling us to heal, to help and to forgive.

Sr Rosemary led us to reflect on writings from recent Popes, inspirations from the psalms, parables and teachings of Jesus and writings from theologians and spiritual writers to further flesh out exactly what Mercy means for us today.

Mercy is an open book



In response to Pope Francis’ call for us to reflect on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, Rosemary guided us through each linking them with our mission as Vincentians.

A beautiful warm, sunny afternoon enabled a period of reflection outside with an insightful poem by Mary Wickham rsm, entitled “The Door of Mercy”.

We were challenged to articulate what Mercy is and to link our definition with our Vincentian vocation. We were left with a much deeper understanding of Mercy, which will undoubtedly help us to respond more mercifully to those we meet each day.

Sr Patricia Fitzgibbon rsm

WYD 2016



Twenty pilgrims from the Ballarat Diocese participated in the Victorian WYD Pilgrimage to Krakow where two million young Catholics from around the world joined Pope Francis in exploring and celebrating Catholic faith. The pilgrims were from Mildura, Horsham, Portland, Casterton, Warrnambool, Timboon and many of the parishes in the Ballarat city area.

The four Victorian dioceses joined together to go to World Youth Day in Krakow Poland as a whole Victorian Pilgrimage of three hundred and sixteen pilgrims and leaders. The Victoria Pilgrims travelled on four different journeys, all arriving in Krakow for the World Youth Day celebrations July 24 - 31. The four pilgrimages were: Krakow Connect, Poland Encounter, Footsteps of St Paul and John Paul II Trail.

Pilgrims have told family and friends of an amazing and rich range of experiences on their World Youth Day pilgrimage. Pope Francis addressed the pilgrims on a number of occasions, culminating in the Vigil and the World Youth Day Mass. Krakow turned on rain for some events and then the WYD Mass was held under a clear sky and hot sun. The pilgrims walked fifteen kilometres away from Krakow to 'Mercy Field' to join Pope Francis for the Vigil reflections on the Saturday evening. All the pilgrims kept vigil or slept there overnight, out in the field, under the stars, and in the morning participated in the WYD Mass with 1.5 million people and Pope Francis as the celebrant. The post-WYD retreat in the nearby mountains after this amazing experience was a wonderful chance to debrief and reflect and prepare for home.



Below are a few comments from pilgrims. Full stories can be read on e-News, www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



Fr John Corrigan:

By the end of World Youth Day, new and sincere friendships were forged on common experiences and shared faith. As a chaplain, who did not belong to a small group but moved between them, I could observe how important each pilgrim is to God's divine work.

Stacey Atkins:

Throughout the pilgrimage, we were all strengthened in our faith by those that we walked beside. As a leader, and someone who has attended previous WYDs, I was really touched to see the enthusiasm and witness of the pilgrims.

Ali Pickles:

A God moment came from the retreat in Lichen Stary. Not only was this a beautiful place but also I felt so connected. I prayed more than I ever have and was surrounded by like-minded people who helped me grow in myself as a Catholic.

Michaela Corrigan:

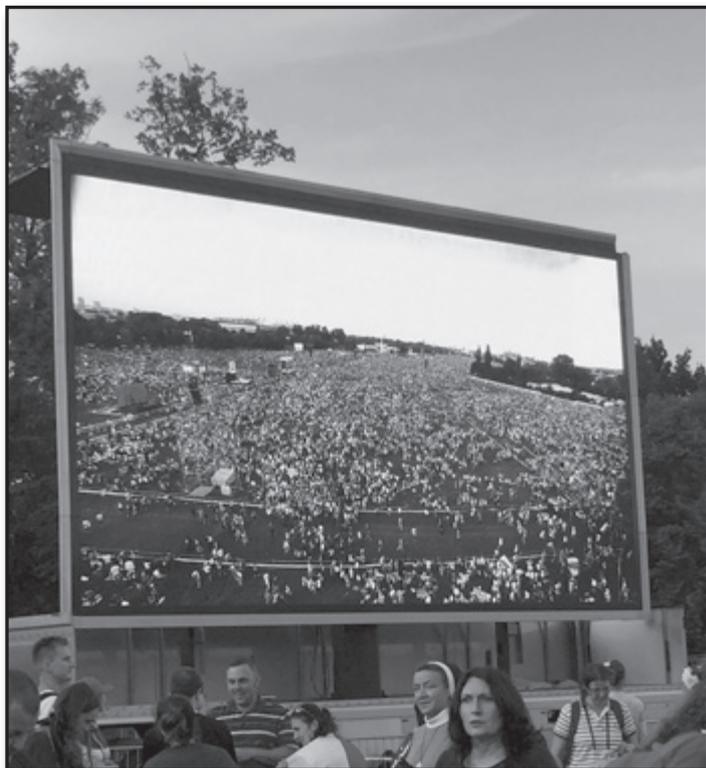
As I prayed I was filled with the most incredible feeling of love, Mary's love for me. Stronger than anything I had ever experienced in my life and with it finally came the joy I had been missing for so long.

Fr James Kerr:

If there was a common theme to their experience it was this; they had had an encounter with Christ. The shape of that experience was unique to each pilgrim. For some they were overwhelmed with joy, surrounded by so many like-minded young pilgrims ready to embrace their faith. For some they were consoled with a deep and profound peace, firm in the knowledge they were known and loved by Christ. For others still, their path was not as easy. For various reasons they might have experienced great difficulties while on the pilgrimage. In that desolation though they were able to find love, and in that love Christ showed his face to them.

Robert James:

World Youth Day is one of those experiences that if you have the opportunity, take it with everything you have. You never know what it may bring to not only your spiritual journey, but your life direction.



For information please contact
Catholic Development Fund,
'Free Post' PO Box 576, Ballarat 3353
Phone: 1800 134 100
Email: cdf@ballarat.catholic.org.au



INVEST IN THE FUTURE

The CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND - DIOCESE OF BALLARAT (CDF) is an integral source of income for the pastoral services offered by the Church across the Diocese. The CDF allocates half of its annual operating surplus to the Diocese for pastoral and welfare work. In addition, the CDF also provides funding for accommodation for retired priests. The CDF enables your investment to combine with those of other parishioners and catholic agencies and assist the Diocese through loans to parishes, schools and other diocesan entities.

From the Archives

In August I attended the annual meeting of diocesan archivists from across Australia. This is held in a different diocese each year and 2016 was Toowoomba's turn. Toowoomba like many of our regional diocese has a new archive which will help ensure good record keeping/archival practices in line with Australian standards once records are no longer current; this over and above their function of preserving historic artefacts.

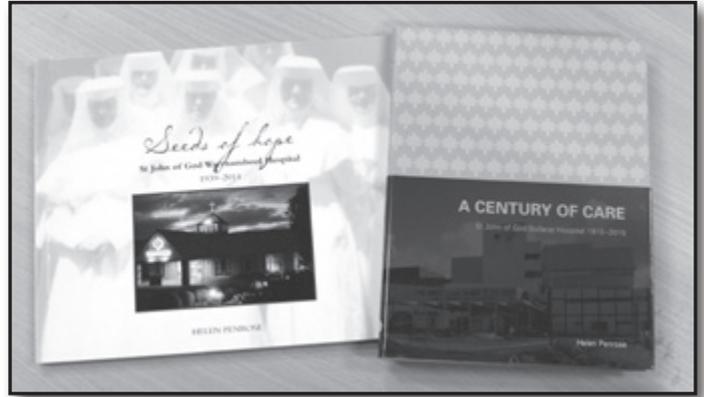
As mentioned in my last ODC article in the April issue there are many records relating to mercy as practiced throughout Western Victoria.

I have previously shared through ODC the uses made of the archives by researchers and I note them to illustrate the role the archive play in the work of the church over and above being a record keeping device and administrative tool. Over the years, many books have been written using the resources provided by the archive and the Diocesan Historical Commission resources. Researchers have used our records for title deed transactions and architectural details, as well as articles written in the diocesan journal 'Light' have also been accessed in piecing together different stories. Many papers, diaries and letters used in various books are preserved in our diocesan archive.

In keeping with this year being a year of Mercy I note two new books written last year that celebrate milestones of our hospitals. They also witness to the great act of Mercy undertaken in the establishment and the work of the St John of God Sisters and the hospitals they established at Ballarat and Warrnambool in our diocese. Helen Penrose,

the author and her research team used the archive in their work and that is duly acknowledged in the books.

Another institution established as an act of Mercy was that of Nazareth House at Ballarat. The archive holds historic minutes of meetings pertaining to this institution and foundational documents between the pioneer Sisters and the Bishop of the Diocese.



All of these resources do not just happen. They have been collected, gathered together and catalogued, so that they can be accessed and used by students, writers and researchers. In this way the church is not only preserving our history and heritage, that of the faith community, but is spreading the good news of the gospel. The archive and historical collection is also a spiritual storehouse which properly managed, provides another way of evangelising.

Michael Taffe - Archivist



My main task was to set up water collection from buildings - trying to source materials was a challenge (no Bunnings close at hand!). Tanks are made by an Australian manufacturer in Bacau 100kms from Dilli. I travelled by bus which took 8 hours. Four tanks were ordered, plus gutterings and fittings. A self propelled mower was donated. I helped the staff assemble it and showed them how to maintain the mower. OH&S issues had to be resolved with the staff. I have a toolmaking trade which was an enormous help. Before any of the work could be done we needed to clear rocks and rubbish and clear up much debris that was on the ground. I had many generous helpers.

My time at Kilbur Domin was wonderful. The management and staff are doing a remarkable job supporting the health of the people. The people themselves were so generous when they have so little. I was there for three months and when my time was up to come home, I was treated to a farewell feast much to my surprise. It was explained to me that the staff would have a good feed that night. Volunteering opens up your mind, but most of all your heart!

Andy Naus

Charlton Action for World Development Group

Charlton Action for World Development Group (AWD) has been active for more than forty years and shows no signs of closing down. The group grew out of an ecumenical small group discussion program, focussing on social justice issues.

Back in the early days there were other AWD groups and the head office was in Sydney. Over the years those groups have closed and we seem to be the only AWD group still in existence. Education and formation was the key stone of AWD and in that, it differed from Community Aid Abroad (CAA) and other aid agencies who were more focussed on working with people on the ground. Charlton AWD decided the latter was something they'd also like to be more involved in. So AWD developed strong links with CAA which is now Oxfam Australia. We supported many of their projects and were fortunate to have their people, who'd been working at the grass roots level in India, Africa and other overseas developing countries, visit Charlton as guest speakers or workshop leaders.

As the years have gone by our small group has forged links with individuals and groups and other aid agencies working in Australia and overseas. Some of our members have visited these projects and brought stories and reports back to the group and so the links are maintained and strengthened. Our aim is twofold - to keep ourselves informed of the issues and needs of people in our Aboriginal communities and those in developing countries and to raise money for development projects. We keep informed by inviting guest speakers to our meetings and keeping abreast with our project people via their regular newsletters, as well as reading pertinent books and viewing DVDs. We've also supported young people who've embarked on an overseas immersion and educational experience. They've always been happy to come back and speak to our group.

We run a big fundraiser each year and as Charlton is fortunate to have a beautiful art deco cinema the event is usually a film fundraiser. We have great support locally and always manage to draw a good crowd. These events have proved to be highly successful both financially and socially. One of our members served as a state councillor with CAA and is part of the Berriwillock Wheat Scheme. This was begun many years ago by his father and a local minister with the intention of donating the proceeds from a crop of wheat to a number of Australian and overseas projects. AWD has been very lucky to share and distribute some of these proceeds. Of course there've been many years when drought or poor years have meant no harvest that year.

Another member is currently working on an agricultural project – Seeds of Hope - in East Timor as well as setting up an eco-tourism business there. He met his wife there so their family have become part of our group and we've been able to link in with his work, learn more about that country, and support his work.

Our group is small but members are passionate to support the needs of those in the world who aren't as fortunate as us. We draw inspiration from Margaret Meade who said 'never think that a small group of thoughtful community citizens cannot change the world– indeed it's the only thing that ever has'.

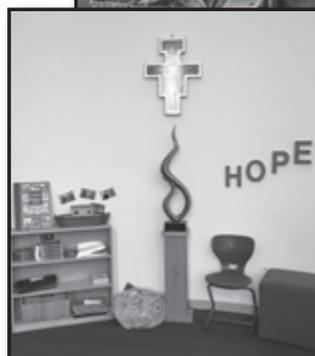
Jo Russell (Hon. Secretary Charlton AWD Group)

'GODLY PLAY'

Recently we visited St Clare's Primary School Thomastown to meet with Religious Education Leader Anna Barber to experience the environment that she has established for the nurturing of 'sacred play'. Anna has created a visually stunning space that is entirely child-centred and dedicated to nurturing children's spirituality. Anna herself, is a remarkable facilitator.

Sacred play or 'Godly Play' is based on a method of sharing scripture and exploring the Judeo-Christian heritage and liturgical traditions in a context that enables students to respond in an open and creative manner. Catholic Education Office Ballarat has encouraged the sharing of scripture in this way for many years. Our visit was to enrich our thinking as we perceive new ways to create sacred spaces within our school communities that support the aims of the Enhancing Catholic Identity Project. How does your school or local parish create a focal point for children to encounter the sacred?

Kate Lawry and Jim Waight RE Education Officers CEOB



A place at the table

The number of Australians aged 65 and over will more than double by the middle of the century. This has been rightly described as 'the great success story of human development'. Increasing numbers of older people will enjoy good health and an active life for many years.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2016–17 is titled '**A place at the Table: Social justice in an ageing society**'. It celebrates the value, dignity and significant contributions of older people to the life of the community. In solidarity with all generations, older people have a rightful place in the heart of community life.

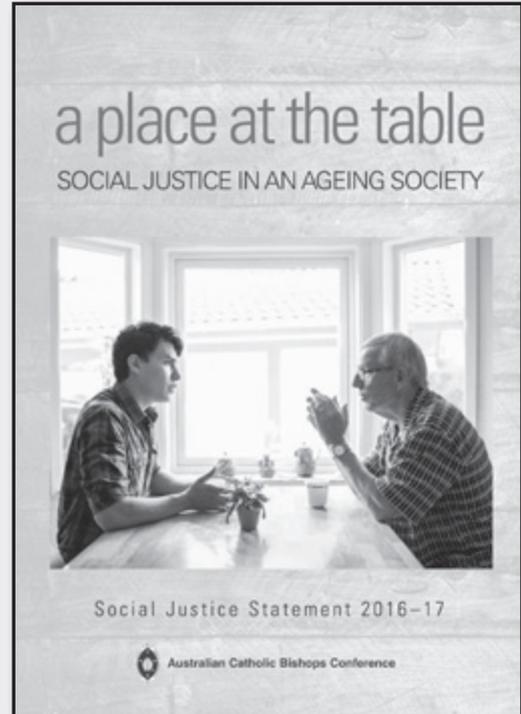
In the Statement, the Bishops confront the utilitarianism in our society that values people only for what they produce and contribute economically and that, at worst, can regard older people as burdensome or dispensable.

In a society in which older people are being asked to work beyond the traditional retirement age, the Bishops call for the benefits of work to be shared equitably. We must be especially aware of the needs of those who enter retirement in poverty or are particularly vulnerable to economic hardship, social isolation or exploitation.

The Bishops consider the circumstances of those who are approaching the end of their lives and warn of the loneliness, ageism and abuse that older people can experience. In particular, the Bishops warn about implications of the current community debate on euthanasia.

The Bishops call for communities of mercy and love – where people reach out and minister to vulnerable older people, where bonds between generations are built up, and where no one is cast as being a burden or as rivals to younger generations.

It is important to remember that the Bishops Statement is for the **WHOLE YEAR (2016/17)** and not only for



Social Justice Sunday which was celebrated on Sunday, September 25. The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is encouraging parish communities to explore ways in which they can respond to this statement over the coming twelve months. Ideas which may be worth thinking about can be found at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services & agencies/social justice statement](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services&agencies/social_justice_statement).

Should any parish require assistance with responding to the Statement or have implementation ideas they would like to share please contact Danielle Peters or Vin Dillon (social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

FR BOB RIP



On September 3, 2016 Fr Bob Markey died peacefully at the age of 89 at Corpus Christi, Clayton where he had spent his final years. Fr Bob moved from his residence at Bannockburn in late 2014. Fr Bob had served in a number of parishes in the Diocese including Warracknabeal, Ararat, Bungaree, Horsham, Linton, Maryborough, Terang, Cororooke, Simpson and Cressy.

Fr Bob was born on October 9, 1926 and ordained in Melbourne on July 27, 1953. He retired in 1996 and celebrated his 60 years of ordination to the priesthood in 2013. Fr Bob's Funeral Mass was held in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat on September 8, 2016 with Bishop Paul Bird as main celebrant and priests of the Diocese concelebrating. Family and friends participated in the Mass.

Fr John McKinnon spoke the homily and said of Fr Bob that "God mattered to him. The Breviary was important, if rubrics were not. People were important. He had an openness to all in need and a disarming simplicity. As I listened to the Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, I thought just how closely Paul's description fitted comfortably with Bob: 'Love is patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful...' A life lived like that has set him up to live contentedly in eternity."

PARTNERS IN LEADERSHIP

In August this year, primary and secondary principals and school leadership teams gathered in St Patrick's Hall Ballarat for the 2016 Ballarat Diocesan School Leadership Colloquium. This was a two-day event. The Colloquium this year explored the theme, Partners in Leadership, Pursuing Fullness of Life. This theme was in reference to our Diocesan Vision for Catholic Education: As partners in Catholic Education and open to God's presence, we pursue fullness of life for all.

The key facilitator for this year's gathering was Dr Leoni Degenhardt, Honorary Fellow, Australian Catholic University and Adjunct Senior Lecturer, University of NSW. Dr Degenhardt is the inaugural Dean of the Association of Independent Schools (AIS) Leadership Centre. This Centre supports current and future school leaders to lead and manage the complexity of contemporary educational environments.

The Colloquium was organised around the themes of the WHAT, the WHY and the HOW of school leadership. Dr Leoni gave research-based presentations around these themes and then invited participants to engage in table activities that provided the opportunity to apply the research to their local context.

Four Diocesan schools also gave presentations around best practice leadership initiatives and strategies that were currently in play in their schools. These presentations were made by teams from Marian College, Ararat, Sacred Heart Primary School Mildura, St James Primary School, Sebastopol and the "Western Trinity" cluster schools – Sacred Heart Primary School, Casterton, St Joseph's Primary School, Coleraine and St Malachy's Primary School, Edenhope.



At the end of the first day, participants gathered in St Patrick's Cathedral for Mass, followed by a social gathering that afforded all the opportunity to catch up, unwind and share some learnings from the day.

A final session of the Colloquium gave schools the opportunity to make links between the speaker's input and schools' presentations and to consider the implications for their own schools. The Colloquium concluded with an address by Ms Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese.

This was the third annual Diocesan Leadership Colloquium with the hope that such a gathering will be a regular event in the Diocesan professional learning calendar well into the future.

Top: Educational Consultants Tony Perkins, Lee Schlooz and Chris Roberts pictured with Dr Leoni Degenhardt
Bottom: Engaging in table activities

Chris Roberts - Educational Consultant, Catholic Education Ballarat

now belonging to the diocese

Bishop Paul Bird is very pleased to announce that Fr Anthony Nagothu (pictured right with Michael Myers) is now incardinated in the Diocese of Ballarat. After serving with the Salesians in India, Fr Anthony came to the Diocese in November 2014 with a view to possibly joining the Ballarat Diocese. Since that time he has served in the Cathedral Parish in Ballarat. Bishop Paul recently approved Fr Anthony's request for incardination. Bishop Paul offered his thanks to all those who have given Fr Anthony such a warm welcome amongst us and those who have helped him to develop the skills needed for ministry in a new culture. Fr Anthony has expressed his gratitude for the welcome and the help he has received. We pray that Christ will continue to guide Fr Anthony in his ministry as a priest of our diocese.



May he rest in peace

Fr Brendan Davey died at Nazareth House on August 9, 2016. Fr Brendan will be remembered throughout the Diocese but mostly in the Stawell and Ararat parishes where he spent much of his life as a priest.

Brendan Davey was born in Ballarat in 1935 and attended St Columba's Primary School in Ballarat North and St Patrick's College, Ballarat (1946-53) where he was a prefect in 1953. After leaving St Patrick's College, Brendan commenced a period of eight years study at the Corpus Christi Seminary. He was ordained at the age of 25 on July 23, 1961 in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. He spent a number of years as assistant priest in the parishes of Swan Hill, Ballarat, Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat North, Warrnambool, as well as Chaplain to St Patrick's College. He became Parish Priest of Stawell in 1975 where he remained for over eleven years before becoming the Parish Priest of Ararat for twenty eight years.

Fr Brendan was also involved at a Diocesan level, as a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission where he served from its formation in 1970 until his retirement in 2014. During his time on the Commission Brendan held the position of Chair and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies. Other Diocesan involvement included Chair of the Diocesan Historical Commission, Director of St Stephen's Guild for Altar Servers, Vocations Director and Diocesan Chaplain for the YCW.

In 2011, Fr Brendan celebrated his Golden Jubilee – 50 years since his Ordination. At the time Fr Brendan said he has enjoyed 50 very happy years, with no regrets about his decision at such a young age. "There are difficult times of course, particularly when you're involved in people's tragedies in their lives, that's not easy, but I certainly haven't regretted it. I've been very happy in the places I've been."

Fr Brendan retired on July 23, 2015 fifty-three years after his ordination. A farewell Mass was held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ararat where more than three hundred and fifty parishioners, friends and family gathered to celebrate his retirement. Fr Brendan relocated back to Ballarat after his retirement where he could better manage his health issues.

Fr Brendan's Funeral Mass was held in St Mary's Parish, Ararat on Wednesday, August 17. Bishop Paul Bird was the main celebrant with Bishop Peter Connors and the priests of the Diocese of Ballarat concelebrating. Family members and friends participated in the Mass. May he rest in peace.



For four years Making a Scene at Christmas has grown and travelled around the Diocese.

Making a Scene at Christmas is a display of over 300 Nativity Sets from over 40 countries. The Nativities range from child-centred (with activities for children to do and take home) to the artistic, thought provoking and challenging.

The nativities are taken from the collections of Fr Andrew Hayes, Fiona Tonkin and Keith Linard who will be present to talk about how they see the Christmas story.

In 2016 the Committee are delighted to take the display

MAKING A SCENE AT CHRISTMAS – 2016

to Mildura from December 9–11. There will be a modified display on the afternoon of December 7 at Robinvale and repeat this on December 12 at St Arnaud and then return for Ballarat from December 14-18 at St Patrick's Hall.

Some exciting elements to look forward to this year include a pregnant Mary made by the widows of the violence in Columbia, a New Zealand Nativity that has a koala in it so Australians will feel at home looking at it, a coin minted during the time the census was called that led Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem and a nativity made from bullet casings from Liberia.

The most beautiful nativities are those that tell a family story and we are hoping the communities we visit will lend their family nativities with the story for the display. If you can help please contact the Cathedral Presbytery Ph: 53312933 (for the Ballarat display) or Sacred Heart Parish Ph: 50212872 (for the Mildura display)

Hoping to see you there.

Fr Andrew Hayes, Anita Houlihan, Bernadette Lynch, Fiona Tonkin, Julie Chandler, Keith Linard & Vin Dillon.
Organising Committee

PROCLAIM 2016

Proclaim 2016 was a conference on the New Evangelisation organised and hosted on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference by the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay. Building on conferences in 2012 and 2014, PROCLAIM 2016 invited participants to discuss, exchange and learn fresh ways in which parishes can become evangelising communities of the twenty-first century, filled with missionary disciples that announce the profound joy and tender mercy of the Gospel.

Taking place in this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, and on the eve of the canonisation of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, PROCLAIM 2016 embraced the challenges from Pope Francis for the joyful and pastoral conversion of our parishes, so that our practices, resources, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world (Evangelii Gaudium 27).

The Ballarat Diocesan Foundation provided sponsorship for people to attend this Conference. Applications were received, which addressed the selection criteria and the following people were awarded the sponsorship:

*Noeline Hogan and Bernadette O'Donnell, Birchip Parish
Joan Bourke and Michael Ryan, Gordon Parish
Ann-Maree Convery, Cororooke Parish
Carolyn Stanhope and Kymhan Watson, Hamilton Parish
Mary Dalgleish and Robert Niehus, Horsham Parish*

Joan Bourke - Moderator, Gordon Parish offers the following report:

Michael Ryan and I were very fortunate to represent the Gordon Parish at the Proclaim 2016 Conference, "On a Mission of Mercy: Evangelising Parishes." The Keynote speakers were Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, Dr Susan Timoney, also from the Archdiocese of Washington, Mr Daniel Ang, Diocese of Broken Bay and



Bishop Hudson from Westminster. They all spoke about the role of a Parish, with many references to Pope Francis and Pope John XXIII. Three of these references that really made an impact to me were:

- *Parish is the Village Fountain (Pope John XXIII)*
- *Oasis of Mercy (Pope Francis)*
- *Local Neighbourhoods of Grace (Bishop Peter Comensoli, Bishop of Broken Bay)*

There was also an emphasis on Parishes being in Maintenance Mode - they need to move onto more of an outreach role. We both attended five very informative and thought provoking workshops and have returned to our Parish with ideas and a new energy to pass on. We thank the Diocese for supporting us to participate in this amazing experience and we would recommend anyone who may have the opportunity to attend a Proclaim Conference in the future to do so.

We also attended three inspiring liturgies, the first celebrated by Bishop Comensoli which was beautiful. The conference was also a great opportunity to meet and network with other parish workers from the Ballarat Diocese. We left the conference feeling tired but energized in what our Parish is doing and what direction we are heading towards, but we could do more.



Back L-R: Berenice Kerr, Elizabeth Dowling, Trudy Kerr
Front L-R: Irene Monigatti, Teresa Mahony, Carmel O'Dwyer, Maree Allen, Patricia Feehan, Carmel Pascoe.

Jubilarians celebrate

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy seven Sisters of Mercy from Community South B celebrated significant jubilees of their religious profession. Sister Elizabeth Dowling celebrated 25 years of profession on January 26; Sisters Trudy Keur and Berenice Kerr celebrated 50 years on January 27 and September 12 respectively and Sisters Irene Monigatti, Maree Allen, Carmel O'Dwyer and Teresa Mahony will celebrate 60 years on December 3.

The community and their guests gathered at the Mercure Conference Centre in Ballarat on September 12 for a combined celebration. Members of the Institute Leadership Team, Bishop

Emeritus Peter Connors, sisters from other Mercy communities and from Parramatta Congregation joined the jubilarians for Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird with Fathers Adrian McInerney, Barry Ryan and Frank Devoy concelebrating. Among the special guests were jubilarians Carmel Pascoe (60 years) from Community South C and Patricia Feehan (50 years) from Community South A. Following an inspiring liturgy accompanied by Roger Hillman and Geoff Martin, all joined for lunch and the traditional cutting of cakes which had been baked and decorated by Angela Bigarelli.

Sr Berenice Kerr rsm - Congregational Leader South B

Farewell to Principals

The end of the school year will see four fine school principals leave their positions in our diocese either to make a transition to retirement or to lead in other ways in Catholic education. We acknowledge their leadership and thank them for their service to school communities and to system leadership in the Diocese of Ballarat.

- Mr Terry Harney retires from principalship of St Thomas' School Terang where he has served since 2002. Prior to that, Terry had six years as a dual principal at St Joseph's Pirron Yallock and St Brendan's Coragulac and two years as solo principal at Pirron Yallock. He has given almost forty years of committed service to Catholic education as a teacher and a leader.

- Mr Chris Pollard leaves principalship at St Michael's School Daylesford to take up an appointment as Deputy Director Teaching and Learning with the Catholic Education Office, Darwin, to commence in 2017. His previous appointments have been in the Darwin and Sandhurst Dioceses.

- Mrs Catherine Harney retires from principalship of St Patrick's School Stawell after four years in the role and after some forty years as a respected teacher and leader in Catholic education in our diocese.

- Mr Joe Caruana completes his relieving appointment at St Aloysius' School Redan and will be making a transition to something else in education.

I have heard it said that without a good principal, you don't have a good school. I know this to be true and so Catholic education in the Diocese of Ballarat is most grateful to Terry, Chris, Kate and Joe for their commitment to the children, staff and families in their care over recent years and for ensuring that their schools worked every day to provide opportunities for students to flourish.



Audrey Brown - Director of Catholic Education

SIENA ON ITS WAY

Siena Catholic Primary School reached another significant milestone when the stage 1 modular building was lifted on to the footings as the Lucas site. The modular building left the Swanbuild yard in Swan Hill about two weeks ahead of schedule although the trip down to Ballarat was not without its challenges. The haulage contractor had to navigate rising flood waters after much of the state was drenched with soaking rains, although after a few detours and some not so friendly 'truck' roads the ten pieces of the building arrived at the Lucas site.

made the job easier as modules were lifted with their 160 tonne crane on to the building footings. After a long day all ten pieces of the building were positioned and the building was bolted together and made water tight.



Contractors then battled the elements after 120ml of rain soaked the Siena site days before the building was to arrive. Local crane operator Advanced Cranes & Rigging

Swanbuild will continue to work on site to finish external cladding, decking and ramps. Internal detailing will also continue over the coming weeks with a view to have the modular building completed by early November.

Site works are scheduled to commence shortly. This will provide the school with all of the in ground service infrastructure as well as fencing, outdoor play areas, play equipment, synthetic grass and paving. Integra will also work in parallel with the site works to complete Eleanor Drive on the north side of the school site.

The Siena school community has a real sense of identity now and will continue to grow over the approaching months. The school has approximately sixty-five students enrolled to commence the 2017 school year with enrolments still open to families. For further information please see <http://www.slucas.catholic.edu.au/>

Brad Carr – Manager Planning, Risk and Infrastructure

Blessing and Opening

The opening of St Joseph's School Charlton's new administration building was held on Friday, August 5. Bishop Paul celebrated Mass with Fr Paul Mercovich, Fr Eugene McKinnon and Fr Peter Jose concelebrating before Bishop Paul blessed and opened the new facility. This refurbishment was the biggest since the school commenced 120 years ago and is a significant enhancement to the school. Frank McGrath, Principal thanked all those involved with the upgrade. After the opening, refreshments were provided and a good time was had by all to celebrate this occasion.

Frank McGrath, Principal



Insightful In-service



Ballarat Diocese Clergy, Parish Leaders and Catholic Education Office staff gathered at a combined In-Service led by world-renowned Jewish scripture scholar Professor Amy-Jill Levine.

Amy-Jill suggests that rather than considering what a passage of scripture means, ask what does it do, how does it move you and what thoughts and feelings are provoked by it.

The discussion around scriptural traditions helped participants move towards a better understanding of their own faith.

Fr John Monaghan said the time together and the scholarship of Amy-Jill was greatly appreciated by all those who attended.

Dr Therese Power rsm visited Emmanuel College Warrnambool recently, speaking with students from Religious Education and Legal Studies classes about her advocacy work with ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) - the peak body for 190 religious orders in Australia, representing 8000 religious sisters, brothers and priests. ACRATH is committed to working together towards the elimination of human trafficking in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and globally.

One of the most important messages to students from Dr Therese is that we can all become advocates. Each of us has a role to play. We thank Dr Therese for her insight into this global issue.

Powerful message to students



An End of an Era Celebration

St Michael's School Springbank will close at the end of the 2016 school year. The community will celebrate the life and times of the school on December 3, 2016 commencing with an afternoon tea at 4.00pm, Mass at 6.30pm, followed by a spit roast tea, meeting old friends, colleagues and dance the night away. A brunch will also be held on Sunday, December 4. Please register your interest to attend one or both events by email to quinlanwater@gmail.com or by message to Margie Quinlan, ph. 0417587235. Please note that you will not be catered for if your name is not on the guest list.



LITURGY FORMATION IN THE PARISHES

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission held Liturgy Formation Sessions in the diocese at Birchip Parish on July 24, Ararat Parish on August 7 and Hamilton Parish on August 21.

Prior to each of these Formation Sessions, Bishop Paul celebrated Mass in the parishes at 10.30am. Birchip Parish held a very well attended inter-parish youth Mass, which was a vibrant celebration enjoyed by all. After Mass the young people were provided with lunch and Bernadette O'Donnell hosted a series of games and quizzes.



The program then commenced with an introduction and launch of the Diocesan Sacramental Program, "Let the Children Come" by Bishop Paul. The following workshops were offered twice and participants were able to attend two of the three:

- Diocesan Sacraments of Initiation Program, "Let the Children Come" presented by Bishop Paul, Jo-anne van der Voort and Eileen Rice.
- Funeral Ministry presented by Fr Gary Jones, Sr Helen Murphy ibvm and Dr Peter Morris.
- Formation for Lectors presented by Dr Susan Crowe.

Parishes represented at these days were Ararat, Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat North, Birchip, Casterton, Charlton, Donald, Gordon, Hamilton, Hopetoun, Horsham, Maryborough, Merbein, Nhill, Portland, Swan Hill, Terang, Timboon, Warrnambool East, Warrnambool West and Wycheproof. Very positive feedback was received from those in attendance, with many people feeling affirmed in the roles they undertake in their parish. Samples of the Sacramental Program and Funeral Ministry resources were available. These and other diocesan liturgical guidelines and polices are available from the diocesan website or the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159. The Diocesan Sacramental Program is available to order through the Pastoral Ministry Office also.

Thank you to the parishes of Birchip, Ararat and Hamilton for hosting these days. The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will continue to offer these workshops throughout the diocese in 2017 - dates and venues to be confirmed.

GREATLY MISSED



Sr Barbara May csb died peacefully on September 22, 2016 at Cabrini Hospital, Malvern. Sr Barbara was in her 56th year of religious profession after joining the Sisters of St Brigid in 1960. She trained at Kildara College in Malvern, then spent five years teaching in Melbourne before moving to Kildare

College in Traralgon. After Traralgon, Sr Barbara moved to Adelaide where she stayed for thirteen years. Following on from Adelaide, Sr Barbara arrived in Maryborough around twenty-six years ago. She taught at Highview College before being appointed as a Pastoral Associate to St Augustine's Parish, Maryborough.

Sr Barbara, whose caring and compassionate nature endeared her to all, was wholly dedicated to her life as a Brigidine. Her involvement in education across Victoria and South Australia showed this dedication as did Sr Barbara's work in pastoral and community ministry.

It was reported in the Maryborough Advertiser, that Sr Barbara "was a tireless worker for the parish, organising children to receive the Sacraments including baptisms, as well as arranging weddings and funerals. Sr Barbara's work wasn't just limited to the church as she was also involved in the community, having served as patron for Relay for Life as well as being a member of Maryborough Probus Club, Maryborough Cemetery Trust, St Vincent de Paul, The Coffee Group, as well as many others, which led her to be awarded Central Goldfields Shire Citizen of the Year in 2014."

Sr Barbara will be greatly missed by her family, her Brigidine Sisters and in Maryborough. Her funeral was held in Maryborough on Tuesday, September 27 at St Augustine's Catholic Church.

The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.

** Laudato-Si' # 23*

St Patrick's College Ballarat MENTal Brekky

The College was delighted to host more than two hundred and twenty guests for the inaugural MENTal Brekky on August 12, aiming to raise funds to support current students from families where someone is suffering mental health issues.

The attendees were especially privileged to hear from guest speaker and 2010 Australian of the Year Professor Patrick McGorry, who spoke about the battle in Australia to acquire significant funding and support to overcome and treat many mental health issues.

The inaugural business breakfast was organised in honour of Old Collegian Chris Yeung (SPC 1976-81) who died in 2015 after battling his own mental health problems. Former classmates of Chris rallied together following his passing to organise the event which they hope will help break down any stigmas surrounding open and frank discussions about men's mental health. One of Chris' best mates from school, Simon Dwyer (SPC 1976-81) delivered an emotional address about their close mateship and how he wishes they had spoken more about the trauma Chris was enduring.

Representatives from dozens of Ballarat businesses contributed generously to the event which was run under the auspices of the St Patrick's College Foundation. Research indicates that around 23% of all children in Australia have a parent who suffers from a mental health disorder.

Mental illness continues to be something that is not discussed openly and readily in society. The MENTal Brekky aimed to address that issue by ensuring Chris' legacy is one that encourages us to acknowledge the impact of mental illness and its impact upon society. In doing so, we hope that men can open up about their experience and share, without prejudice, their journey and hopes for the future.

The College would particularly like to thank the organising committee and the many others who contributed to the success of this event.

Paul Nolan - Director of Community Development



Launch of "From Convent to Country Campus"

On Sunday, August 14 members of the Thomas Carr College community gathered at the Good Samaritan Campus for our annual Mass with the Parish of Cororooke at St Brendan's Church, Coragulac which was celebrated by Bishop Peter Connors.

Following Mass was the official launch of "From Convent to Country Campus: The Story of St Brendan's Convent Coragulac and Thomas Carr College". Bishop Connors officially launched the book with Good Samaritan Sisters Therese Denny, Marie O'Shea and Cecilie Eastaughffe present, along with members of the Cororooke Parish community and staff and students from Thomas Carr College.

"From Convent to Country Campus" written by Mr Larry Burn, College Chaplain and former Director of Catholic Education for the Ballarat Diocese, details the story that eventually led to the Good Samaritan Convent in St Brendan's Parish, Cororooke becoming a campus of Thomas Carr College, Tarneit in 2014.

The convent is an historic building, much loved and treasured by the members of the parish and more widely by many people across the western District. It has been part of the landscape for nearly a century and it has touched the lives of thousands of people, some very deeply, since it was opened in 1923.

"From Convent to Country Campus" is the story of the Good Samaritan Convent written especially for the students of Thomas Carr College who will now become part of its history as they come for their country experience. Copies of the history are available from the College by contacting Mrs Kerrie Deller PA to the Principal on (03) 8734 2444.

Dr Andrew Watson - Principal



