



## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WILCANNIA-FORBES

DIOCESAN CHANCERY  
P.O BOX 775

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Dear Friend of Wilcannia-Forbes,

It's been very exciting to finally have another wonderful Adult Faith resource to offer the wider Church from the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes. This year with *Lessons from the Long Paddock* you will find 4 amazing short film documentaries, based on characters from this Diocese, that point to the incredible courage and resilience of so many of the people of faith out here in rural and remote NSW. One character is a pastoralist from a drought affected remote town in north western NSW, 2 are Aboriginal men from the Bourke region and one is a woman from the northern region of rural NSW.

The quality of the filming is excellent this year. The 4 films and the workshop are a powerful resource that has already been noticed by some in the film production business. ABC Compass used parts of this year's *Lessons from the Long Paddock* material for their Compass story about Lay Ministry out west and ABC Australian Story has commended us for the quality of the production. So, that interest confirms what we had intuited about the material as we were filming, that *Lessons from the Long Paddock* really is beginning to grow a reputation for being an experience worth engaging with.

This year Dr Michele Connolly and Fr Richard Leonard were filmed along with Bishop Columba while they reflected on *Lessons from the Long Paddock* 2018 and their insights add to an excellent offering and create a truly wonderful Adult Formation experience for any one curious about faith and a uniquely Australian spirituality.

As this point, the Sydney Archdiocese has generously advertised *Lessons from the Long Paddock* across the Sydney Archdiocese for us and through Catholic Weekly. We haven't enough funds to advertise. So much of the energy and resources out here and in Chancery have been taken up with providing whatever drought relief can be offered to the many who are suffering after the long dry months past. A little rain recently has offered some hope but the prediction is that this drought will be with us for a long time yet.

The drought draws focus anew on how much the Diocese needs to find ways to become more financially sustainable. The hope and expectation that *Lessons from the Long Paddock* might help our financial situation is even more acute than it was a couple of years ago. With this in mind, please could you let as many people as you can know that *Lessons from the Long Paddock* is now up on our Diocesan website and ready to go!

Please also encourage people to make a donation to the Diocese as they visit the website and enjoy the spiritual resource offered, their help is desperately needed. Spreading the news about *Lessons from the Long Paddock* and our Diocesan website is one really helpful way people from other Dioceses can help those affected here by drought. Bales of hay and boxes of groceries are wonderful, but more than anything people have been greatly comforted by the knowledge that the rest of the Church is thinking of them.

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*Lessons from the Long Paddock* is a gift from the Catholic Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes to all those who have been so generous.

And, if you enjoy this year's offering, please consider being a sponsor next year. Without your help *Lessons from the Long Paddock* just can't happen.

Find a link below to a short promotion video so that you can share it with as many people as you can. Please call me anytime to discuss this year's offering or to hear a little more about hopes for the future for *Lessons from the Long Paddock*.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jvyr9lf28dnu3j1/Lessons%20from%20the%20Long%20Paddock%20Trailer.mp4?dl=0>

Yours in Faith

Kate Englebrecht

Chancellor/Director of Mission

Wilcannia-Forbes

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