

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

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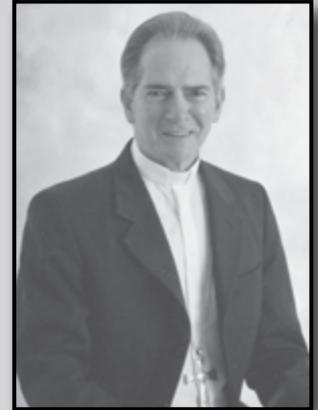
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LISTENING TO CHRIST AND FINDING PEACE

In May this year, students from Loreto College and St Pat's College in Ballarat presented the musical *West Side Story*. The plot was inspired by Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, which featured two young lovers from rival families. *West Side Story* was set in New York in the 1950s and featured two young lovers with links to rival teenage gangs.



I remember seeing a television documentary about the music of *West Side Story*. The documentary showed the composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein working on a recording of the music. *West Side Story* includes some loud music, for example, when the two gangs meet for a fight. There is also some soft music, telling of the tender love between a young man and a young woman. The makers of the documentary took their cameras into the recording studio where the composer was supervising a new recording of the work.

One feature of those recording sessions that I found striking was that Leonard Bernstein spent so much time listening. As he was conducting the music, he was listening to the violins. He was listening to the trumpets. He was listening to the drums. He was listening to the singers. Every note. Every beat. He was listening. Then, after he had conducted the songs over and over to get them just right, he would go to the control room to listen again – to check how the voices and instruments sounded when they were replayed. Leonard Bernstein wanted to make a good recording and for that he had to listen carefully to every sound.

In some ways, we are like the composer-conductor. We might not be writing a musical but we are writing our own real-life drama by the way we live. If this drama is going to turn out for the best, we too need to listen. Our faith tells us that we need to listen particularly to the voice of Christ.

The gospels record an episode in which Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain. The disciples saw Jesus transfigured in glory and they heard a voice from a cloud, saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him." The scene is like the account of the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. On that occasion, according to the Book of Exodus, there were flashes of lightning and the mountain was covered in smoke and God spoke to Moses in a voice of thunder. In the gospel, Jesus' face shines like the sun and his clothes become as white as the light. A cloud covers the disciples with shadow and from the cloud comes the sound of a voice. In the Book of Exodus, God gives commandments to Moses. In the gospel, God gives a commandment to the disciples. It is the commandment to listen to Christ.

When we do take time to listen, we'll find that Christ has a message for us at each stage of our life.

It might be a word of encouragement. We might be feeling downhearted, troubled, anxious. Then Christ's message might be one of reassurance: "Be not afraid. I am with you always."

On the other hand, it might be more a message that challenges us to change. We might be like St Francis Xavier when he was a university student in Paris. At first, his focus was on becoming rich and famous. However, his fellow student, St Ignatius, reminded him of the words of Jesus: "What does it profit anyone if they gain the whole world but lose their own soul?"

Whether we need a message to encourage us or a message to challenge us, Christ has a message to give us. To hear that message, we need to take time to listen. Christ's message might come to us in the words of Scripture that we hear at Mass or in a passage of Scripture that we read by ourselves at home. His message might come in a suggestion from a friend or a comment from a stranger. If we have a listening ear, we'll hear Christ's word and his message will guide us into the way of peace.

In November last year, Pope Francis met with a group of people at the end of a conference in Rome. The Pope invited questions from the audience. One of the questions was about how we can live with serenity and peace even when we have major difficulties in our lives. The questioner referred to the Pope's own ability to stay peaceful even as he faces challenges and tensions. What is the source of his serenity? Pope Francis answered along these lines:

"What is the source of my serenity? What I am living through is a completely new experience for me. In Buenos Aires I was more anxious." (He was referring to his time as bishop in Argentina.) "In those days I felt more tense and worried. Indeed, I was not like I am now. I have had a very particular experience of peace from the moment I was elected. At the moment of the election, I simply said, 'Lord, let's go on!' I felt peace and that peace has never left me. That is why I sleep well. It is a grace of God. I always sleep six hours. And I pray. And peace grows. My peace is a gift from the Lord. Let it not be taken away! I think everyone has to find a source of peace in the Lord's will for them."

Pope Francis embraced his election as the will of God. In the election by the cardinals, he heard the voice of Christ calling him to a new role and he answered, "Lord, let's go on!" He heard the voice of Christ and he responded with trust. From that time he has been blessed with peace, even as he struggles with many problems in the church and in the world. He suggests that each one of us is called to find peace through following what we see as God's will for us.

Of course, what the Lord asks of us is not always easy. Pope Francis knows this well as he seeks to fulfil his calling to serve the whole community of the Church. He has the very demanding vocation of being "servant of the servants of God". What the Lord asks can be quite difficult. But the Lord also gives us the strength we need to do his will.

One of the great early teachers in the Church, St Augustine, said that God does not ask us to do the impossible. God does sometimes ask what is difficult, but God also offers us the help we need to make the difficult possible.

As the drama of our life unfolds, may we take time to listen to the voice of Christ, a voice that can guide us to know God's will. Then, as we embrace God's will, may we be blessed with the great gift of peace.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

ACU BUILDING OFFICIALLY OPENED

The St Brigid Health Sciences Building at Australian Catholic University, Ballarat Campus was officially blessed by the Most Reverend Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and opened on Friday, April 7.



ACU's newest building will primarily cater for the Bachelor of Physiotherapy, which is now being offered at the Aquinas Campus. The building includes specialist physiotherapy laboratories, work spaces for students, tutorial rooms, general learning spaces, simulation rooms, a research lab and an observation room.

The blessing and opening of the building was hosted by ACU Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven AO GCSG. Event attendees included The Hon. Catherine King MP, Federal Member for Ballarat and Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare; Mr Julien O'Connell AM, ACU Pro-Chancellor; Associate Professor Joe Fleming, Aquinas Campus Dean and Professor Michelle Campbell, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences.

*Gemma Kelly
Marketing Coordinator, Marketing & External Relations*

TRIBUTE TO MARK BROMLEY



Twenty-eight years can be considered a long time, as it generally constitutes three quarters of one's life. Mark has been with the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat for just over twenty eight years and announced his retirement as business manager late last year. A tribute event was held on Tuesday, March 28 at the Ballarat Yacht Club where many guests gathered to celebrate Mark's service to the diocese. Fr Justin Driscoll was Master of Ceremonies, with words of acknowledgement from Bishop Paul Bird, Jim Muller (Foundation Chair), Mr Paul Foley (CDF Chair), Anne Eskdale (Bishop's Advisory Council) and Sharyn Simpson (Assistant CDF Manager).

Mark has had a number of roles within that time beginning as Diocesan Accountant, with Jim Ryan as Diocesan Business Manager. In the mid 1990's Mark kept the role of Diocesan Accountant as well as taking up the role of Manager for the Catholic Development Fund. Since August 2006, Mark had been Diocesan Business Manager as well as Manager for the CDF.

Mark has been a long time advocate for the clergy, assisting with the instigation of many benefits and schemes for them. The clergy car scheme has been particularly successful. Mark is also very passionate to ensure that sick and retired clergy are well catered for. He has been a forerunner with options for priests in regards to parish and diocesan business. This will continue as Mark takes on a parish based role to assist priests with the many facets of parish life.

In his role as Diocesan Business Manager Mark sat on a number of boards/commissions which included Bishop's Advisory Council, Diocesan Finance Council, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation, Diocesan Building Commission and Diocesan Risk Management. Mark brought many skills and sound advice to these important functions of the diocese. Mark's efficient leadership and management in all areas of the diocese was to be commended. Bishop Paul said in his acknowledgement of Mark that one of his first impressions of Mark was that he was a person with a talent for planning but also someone who was ready to help in very practical ways.

All of us in the diocese extend our thanks to Mark for his service and tireless work and we wish him every blessing in his continued ministry with the parishes.

Stories to Share at the Table

The Loreto spirit transcends time and distance as twenty Year 11 and 12 Loreto College Ballarat students discovered on the Pilgrimage to Ireland and England in March this year.

The bi-annual experience allows students to learn more about the origins of the Loreto Community and make connections with other Loreto girls. Year Twelve student, Molly O'Neil reflected on the experience. "We... visited Loreto Beaufort and the Loreto spirit was uncanny, the school spirit and the welcoming and friendly girls resembled Ballarat to no end."

It also provides the opportunity for students to follow the footsteps of Loreto founder, Mary Ward, and in particular, the city of York.

"We explored the shambles, the City Wall and the magnificent York Minster. We crossed the road from our hotel to what looked like an average house. It was the Bar Convent, set up by followers of Mary Ward. Inside, they hid from persecution in Protestant England where they educated young women. The chapel inside included priest holes to avoid arrest and prosecutions for practicing Catholics. We also were lucky enough to visit Mary Ward's grave, in a small, quiet church just outside York. Her headstone was mounted to the wall inside the church because her exact place of rest has been lost over the years," reflected Molly.

The Loreto Pilgrimage is an experience of learning, connecting with others and one that creates memories that will be shared at the table for many years to come.



Shona Hendley - Communications Officer

Our Diocesan Community - July 2017

Celebrating three special parishioners

National Volunteer Week, May 8-14, is an annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation's volunteers. According to Volunteering Australia, 5.8 million Australians or 31% of the population volunteer, making an estimated annual contribution of \$290 billion to our economic and social good. Thank you to all our volunteers in parishes, schools and agencies for their invaluable contribution to the Ballarat diocese. Read below about three special parishioners in St Patrick's Parish Gordon.

We are not a unique parish by any means. Given that we do not have a resident parish priest - that could make us a little different, and we are well supported by Frs Gary Jones, Shane Mackinlay and John McKinnon. However, there is one common thread that is present, not just in our little corner of the world, but in all parishes across the huge Diocese of Ballarat and those threads are our wonderful, dedicated and faithful parishioners.



Some time ago at a combined meeting of both the Bungaree and Gordon parish members, those present decided to acknowledge the numerous ministries that are undertaken by individuals, with one ministry to be mentioned each week via the Parish Bulletin. It was not at all surprising that this venture took some 28 weeks in all!

When you single out and name those special people to acknowledge, there is always the chance that someone will be overlooked. For that I will apologise here and now, however, it would be remiss not to mention one or two people of some advanced years who ensure our Gordon parish, and particularly in the Ballan area, runs so smoothly.

Firstly there is Margaret Hillier. Now Margaret is not what we call young, fit and robust – but she is a very special and dedicated parishioner. Margaret is usually the first point of contact on our Funeral Ministry team. She has a wonderfully gentle and caring manner when working with the bereaved families, always making them feel comfortable, guiding and supporting them through their times of grief and loss. She has assisted and contributed to recent RCIA programs in our growing and vibrant parish, again with her gentle, caring nature. Margaret has a wealth of knowledge which she readily shares and is always happy to assist when and wherever she can.

Another active member of our parish community is Lorraine DeSpirt. Lorraine works tirelessly within the St Vincent de Paul team and also has a strong commitment to the Ballan Hostel, regularly taking communion to the residents and sick members of our parish. Lorraine, like Margaret, is always willing to assist when and whenever she can. Lorraine grew up in Ballan, attended school at St Brigid's and was married in St Brigid's Church, so you see her connection with our parish runs very deep.

One more very valuable member is Pat Burvill. Again, Pat is not a young person, but is extremely active in helping with many ministries and is always ready to lend a hand. She has wonderful skills on the catering front, assisting with funerals, the regular Thursday morning prayer group and anything that she is called upon to do. Like Lorraine, Pat has grown up in Ballan, married in St Brigid's Church and is also an integral part of our faith community.

These ladies are just three who have been singled out for appreciation for their dedication and commitment to the life of our parish. Margaret, Lorraine and Pat each take ownership, pride and love in their involvement and enthusiasm to the life of our vibrant parish. With parishioners of these ladies calibre, we are indeed a blessed community.

Lin Bowers



SORRY!

The students of St Alipius Parish School Ballarat East brought Catholic Education Week to a fitting close by recognising National Sorry Day at Eureka Park on Friday, May 26.

The Catholic Education Week theme 'Strive for the Greater Gifts' invites us into a deeper relationship with Australia's First Peoples; these children show us a simple and symbolic way towards recognition and reconciliation.

Eileen Rice - Principal

Optimism, positivity and commitment lead to longstanding and rewarding career



Working at Centacare Ballarat for over twenty-nine years, Jenni Ryan has seen a number of changes across the social welfare sector. In particular her roles in marriage preparation, counselling and in more recent years Pastoral Care in Schools.

Commencing in Centacare's infancy on April 8, 1988 Jenni accepted a role to assist in developing Pre-Marriage Education throughout the Diocese of Ballarat. "I was teaching in Catholic primary schools prior to commencing with Centacare and was approached to investigate the need for parish based pre-marriage education in the Diocese and to train volunteer facilitators. I started from scratch, travelling the Ballarat Diocese with my husband and volunteer Paddy, working with many couples who became volunteer mentors to engaged couples. I was responsible for a large collection of volunteer educators spread throughout the entire diocese, who continued providing support in their parishes for many years," said Jenni.

As a national field Marriage and Relationship education developed, Centacare moved into conducting regional group programs and Jenni was involved in finding and training sessional educators in the delivery of relationship education. "When I first began it was a very low key, volunteer, faith based program," said Jenni.

In 1991, together with experienced educators throughout Australia, Jenni was involved in a process of developing national competences for training Marriage and Relationship educators. This led to the professionalization of the field of Marriage Education. "Centacare Australia then developed its own national education standards and guidelines so agencies were aligned across the country," said Jenni.

In 2008 Jenni moved into a counselling position after undertaking further study and from 2013 Jenni was appointed the Coordinator of Family Support Programs and the School Pastoral Care Program. "Centacare has given me the ability to grow and develop professionally. As the program developed, I was supported in study and moved into different roles and it was fantastic to have the opportunity. Centacare does that really well. Working at Centacare means that I can do work that really makes a difference in people's lives. It is work that can make a contribution in creating positive change for people that can be potentially life changing. Centacare is such a nurturing place and I really want to give back," said Jenni.

Over Jenni's twenty-nine years she has seen the development of the Vision and Mission of the organisation and the evolution of the organisations values statements. "If someone was thinking about beginning a career or working at Centacare I'd tell them that Centacare is an organisation that cares. We offer a huge range of community services and it offers diversity in career options. Staff are well looked after and the organisation places a high value on professionalism and providing the best services for clients," said Jenni.

One of Jenni's best memories of her twenty-nine years at Centacare was in 1997 when ongoing funding was secured to support the pre-marriage and relationship education programs. "We had scraped the barrel for funding trying to get small amounts from different sources to keep the programs running and when we secured significant ongoing funding, it meant that we could really make something of our programs," said Jenni. "Over the twenty-nine years I've witnessed how life can be when relationships don't work well and I have a personal commitment to help building positive relationships. It's very satisfying".

"As a whole workplace it's been absolute fun. I think the friendships I have developed working here feel like solid lifetime friendships. It really has felt like a family."

Jenni's future with Centacare will see her face challenges and opportunities. "I want to continue in the role of Pastoral Care Coordinator. It will be a challenge seeing the end of the state funding for this program, but it could also present an opportunity and I hope that I can be part of whatever those opportunities turn out to be. Centacare has offered me the opportunity to grow professionally and do different things. I've spent nearly half my life working here and it's very significant to me," said Jenni.

Danielle Verdoorn - Marketing & Communications Officer Centacare

GATHERING AT CAVE HILL CREEK

Recently, the Parish of St John the Baptist Beaufort gathered for Mass, a parish picnic and a parish council meeting. Bernadette Franc, Chairperson of the Council offered the following council report:

Firstly, a big thank you to Ange and Tim Chandler and family for the generosity of your beautiful place and space for our Mass and Parish Picnic. Welcome to Ian and Julie, Tim's parents, whose 'brainchild' this concept was a number of years ago. I would also like to thank and welcome Fr Justin, and each and every one of you for your attendance today. We have apologies from Colleen and Gerard Briody, Sandy Watkins and family, Angela Gerrard, Bill Franc, Bill Mulcahy, Tom Franc, Teresa Tiley and family, Roger Collins, Julian Collins and family, Camille Broadbent and family, Ena Frichot, Rita Treacey and the Haywood Family.

I believe as a little community we are doing exceptionally well. We have many jobs that are shared between us all and now is not the time to single people out. However, we find ourselves every Sunday with a clean church which is beautifully decorated with flowers, the altar set up and music ready to go. Our yard is well kept and the entire property maintained. We have a weekly newsletter, readers, Special Ministers, Lay Led Assembly leaders. We all know whose turn it is to do what because we have a well-planned roster, the newspaper is notified of Mass times and the Prayers of the Faithful and the Readings are in the post! We have great access to our Parish Centre for a variety of activities.

Whenever we need to have the church available for special occasions such as funerals and other celebrations, we rally and have flowers at the ready and a clean church and the toilet doors opened! On a monthly basis, we provide prayer sessions for the residents of the Nursing Home and the Hostel. A lot of preparation goes into these sessions and the residents and patients benefit greatly. Every Sunday communion is taken to the Catholic residents of the Nursing Home. Our Sacramental Program is well run and ably supported by a number of our community. Our finances are looked after and kept in check weekly and on a monthly basis. Our Parish Council meets on a monthly basis (for most of the year!) We are a small but effective

team. I thank all members for their contribution.

Youth and young families have been a major focus. This is an area that we, as a parish, identified when we looked at our Looking Forward Goals. This also is an area of our community that Sr Helen has shown a particular interest in, and her work with the young is much appreciated. A special thank you to Sr Helen who has made a big trip from her home, Balranald, just to be here today. A huge effort! Welcome also to Sr Shelia – you are always welcome and thank you for coming.



We are working on other facets of parish life such as the appointment of Sandy Watkins as OH&S/Safeguarding Officer with a review of our OH&S policies to make them more relevant for our community – a work in progress. Support of the Secondary School Chaplaincy Program continues. We have the Parish Mission with Fr Richard Leonard SJ in conjunction with the Linton parish in October, commencing the first weekend after Term 4 begins, with funding from the Ballarat Diocesan Foundation. We plan to celebrate the Feast of St John the Baptist on June 24, proposing a joint gathering with Beaufort Anglican community who share the same patron as we do!

Please accept thanks from all members of the Parish Council for the manner in which you all contribute. We are currently looking for some new members, so if you, or anyone you know, would like to join us, by all means encourage them to contact the parish.



COROROKE COMMISSIONING

On Sunday, April 30 at the 10.00 am Mass in the Cororooke Parish, Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar General commissioned Liz McGuane to be Moderator for the Parish. Ann McCarthy, Jim Finlay, Ann-Maree Convery, Pat O'Shea and Jill O'Dowd were commissioned as members of the Parish Leadership Team and Coordinating Team.

Thanks goes to outgoing Moderator Lucy Darcy and team member Bronwyn Hickman.

Catholic Education Week



Across the Diocese of Ballarat, sixty-four schools educating 18,500 students celebrated Catholic Education Week, May 22-26. Celebrations were launched on Friday, May 19 with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat followed by the annual 30 Years of Service Award Dinner. Fr Justin Driscoll, Fr Peter Sherman and Bishop Paul Bird concelebrated. Following Mass, guests gathered for the Dinner to celebrate and acknowledge staff who have contributed thirty years of service to Catholic Education.

The theme for Catholic Education Week this year was *Strive for the Greater Gifts* (1 Corinthians 12: 31). This theme is based on St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in which he goes on to attest that all that we do must be centred on faith, hope and (particularly) love. In

essence, Catholic schools seek to provide education that is centred on love, which as St Paul reminds us, is patient, kind, honest, gentle and hope-filled; the sort of education that respects every student and stretches them towards constant growth; and the sort of education that says to every child and young person, "you have value and worth and we expect great things for you".

It is hard at the moment not to be caught up in the funding debate surrounding Catholic education and it can be easy to forget why we need to continue to put our case to the Australian Government. It is because in Catholic education we welcome and offer support to all families who desire an education in which we "strive for the greater gifts". That is not something that we want to lose.



The current quantum of and flexibility around system funding in the Diocese of Ballarat allows us to provide fee alleviations for all students in primary schools who hold a Health Care Card and many other families who are experiencing financial strain. It allows us to provide timely support to a new student - even one with very high support needs - moving into a school after census day (the technical cut-off day for school funding). Flexible system funding enables our schools to ensure that every student has every opportunity every day to learn and to grow and to flourish. Such flexibility provides the "level playing field" that our society demands for every child and young person in Catholic education.

Catholic Education Week was a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the contribution that our schools make to their local communities across our diocese. As communities of faith, hope and love, as education providers, as

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MPS062 18/11/17

community hubs, as employers, as active community partners and in the service of parents who all want the best choice for their children, Catholic schools make a measurable contribution to our society. Education, centred on the Good News of Jesus, the love of the human person and hopefulness about the future, is how we "strive for the greater gifts" with our education dollar every day. That is something worth fighting for on every level!

As a Catholic education community, we celebrated with many staff who have clearly been striving for the Greater Gifts in their school communities. Thirty-seven Catholic education staff from across our diocese were recognised for providing thirty years of service to Catholic education. Imagine how many lives they have each touched with their work in Catholic schools!

In addition, we recognised Sr Marion McDonald rsm with a Ballarat Diocesan Schools Advisory Council (BDSAC) Outstanding School Service Award and BDSAC Leadership Awards were presented to acknowledge leaders who had made a particularly significant contribution to Catholic education. In their own way, each one of these leaders has been striving for the Greater Gifts across Catholic education:

- **The Partnership Award** was presented to Mr Josh McElgunn, Mr Evan Wrobel and Mrs Angela Kealy, the 'Western Trinity' St Joseph's Coleraine, Sacred Heart Casterton and St Malachy's Edenhope. These three principals and their schools have forged a partnership to enhance learning outcomes for students across the region. The principals are exploring models of leadership that enable them to share their expertise, grow their leadership capabilities and develop sustainable and complimentary skill sets across the staff of all three schools.
- **The Catholic Leadership Award** was presented to Fr Adrian McInerney for inspirational leadership and witness to God's presence through his role in pastoral leadership and governance of five educational settings in one parish. Most recently, he has been school governing authority of St Alipius' Parish School, co-governor of Emmaus Catholic Primary School, St Francis Xavier Primary School and Damascus College and Approved Provider for St Alipius' Kindergarten, the only Catholic Kindergarten in the Diocese. Fr Adrian was also Chair of the Ballarat Diocesan Schools Board from 2001 to 2011 and Chair of the Ballarat Diocesan Schools Advisory Council in 2012. Brendan Maher, Principal of Emmaus Catholic Primary School said, "Adrian was an exemplary leader in the Ballarat Diocese for forty-seven years and that this award was recognition of Adrian's tireless service to Catholic Education. In the context of the theme, *Strive for the Greater Gifts*, Adrian's gifts of creativity/imagination, oratory, questioning, resilience were the hallmark of his leadership. Adrian was a brilliant model of someone who has shown us through word and action 'a still more excellent way', the next verse from Corinthians."
- **The Fullness of Life Award** was presented to James Laidler, Head of English - Emmanuel College Warrnambool, for leading innovation and student engagement through curriculum development in the English Department and for inspiring students to look beyond themselves. James has organised and run the East Timorese Schoolies Program at the College for the past four years. This program continues to grow and its focus on social justice and global citizenship invites participants to experience life, faith, justice and mission from a new perspective.

With such leaders in our midst, Catholic education in the Diocese of Ballarat is clearly responding to St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in which he goes on to attest that all that we do must be centred on faith, hope and (particularly) love. Celebrating these Greater Gifts during Catholic Education Week was a pleasure indeed.

Audrey Brown - Director



L-R: Josh McElgunn, Angela Kealy, Evan Wrobel, Lee Schlooz.



Top, L-R: Brendan Maher, Fr Adrian McInerney, Fr Peter Sherman



L-R: Peter Morgan, James Laidler, Fr Peter Sherman



Sr Marion McDonald



PARISH VISITATIONS

Finally, on Monday morning, Bishop Paul celebrated the beginning of year Mass at St Augustine's School and spent the rest of the morning visiting each class.

Our parish was very happy to be the "guinea pig" for Bishop Paul's proposed visits to each parish in our diocese and we're thankful to the many who helped make his time among us beneficial and enjoyable for all.

VISITING PORTLAND

Bishop Paul Bird's second formal visitation to parishes for the year was to Portland in April.

Bishop Paul shared a meal in the presbytery with members of the Parish Pastoral Team and members of the Finance Committee, along with their spouses on the Friday evening. He went to Dartmoor and celebrated Masses in Portland followed by morning tea with the parishioners.



Bishop Paul completed an extensive visitation to the aged care facilities and home bound parishioners taking communion and administering the Sacrament of the Sick.

Also during Bishop Paul's visit he spent some time visiting the staff and students at All Saints Parish School. While he was there, Bishop Paul blessed the recently completed Reflection Labyrinth. Constructed by a group of parents and volunteers from the local Alcoa Smelter, the Labyrinth will be used as a place of reflection and prayer and provide opportunities for the students and staff to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Fr Greg Tait and Kerri-Ann O'Keefe



Our Diocesan Community - July 2017

Bishop Paul Bird is making formal Visitations to Parishes this year. Those parishes he wishes to visit are advised in advance. The Visitation will be from Friday through to Monday including meetings with Parish Pastoral Council/Leadership, Parish Priest, other groups of parishioners, visiting sick, celebrating Masses, visiting school(s).

His first visit was to the Maryborough Parish. Fr John Monaghan reflects on this visit:

In late 2016 we received word that Bishop Paul Bird had selected us for formal parish visitation from March 17-20 2017. In preparation for this, Diocesan Business Manager, Mark Bromley, Professional Standards co-ordinator, Michael Myers and Pastoral Services consultant, Amanda Smith visited our parish to liaise with us and prepare comprehensive reports on our pastoral and administrative activities, child safety standards and financial affairs. These reports highlighted areas in which we are doing well and others that we need to address.

Thanks to the luck of the Irish, Bishop Paul arrived on Friday afternoon in time to celebrate St Patrick's Day Mass at St Kevin's Avoca followed by green beer, dinner and a night of raucous Irish fun at Avoca Golf and Bowls Club. Next morning we celebrated Mass at St Mary's Dunolly followed by their normal after-Mass morning tea with lunch then at the Railway Hotel.



Thereafter came our regular Maryborough and Avoca weekend parish Masses which were also followed by a cuppa giving Bishop Paul the chance to chat with many parishioners, followed by lunch at Ripples on the Res with the St Augustine's choir. On Sunday evening our Parish Council and Finance Committee held a combined meeting and meal at the Highland Society. After normal reports and parish business, Bishop Paul shared reflections on our diocese and led us in discussing parish strengths and weaknesses which gives us plenty to follow up at our next meetings.

VISITING ROBINVALE

Our parish communities of St Patrick's Manangatang and St Mary's Robinvale were very much graced by Bishop Paul's parish visitation on the weekend of May 26-29, 2017. We, in turn, would like to think that he, too, was enriched in many ways. Not only did Bishop Paul lead a liturgy in the school where the students were only too happy to dialogue with him, he celebrated all Masses in the district.

Joining with Fr Jim, he was kept busy Saturday morning with a visit to the hospital and Nursing Home, visiting, anointing, blessing and giving Holy Communion to the sick and elderly. On Sunday Bishop Paul enjoyed the country hospitality at Manangatang with a chat, cuppa and sandwich after Mass.

Back in Robinvale for the 11.00am Mass our parishioners, together with the families and students preparing for First Eucharist, enjoyed a luncheon celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. A good number 'hung around' once more to 'meet and greet' Bishop Paul. At least thirty parishioners stayed to watch the movie 'Our Lady of Fatima' and then enjoyed a post-movie cuppa.

Given the large number of different cultural backgrounds in our parish, I'm sure Bishop Paul was enlightened by their personal stories; stories which incorporate the life of us all; our common faith in the knowledge of our need to be in communion with one another and our God.

Fr James McKay ADM, Robinvale



POETRY FOR THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC



St Augustine's Primary School Creswick student Mia Wallis was the winner of the Spirit of Anzac Essay Competition. Her poem remembered her granddad who fought in the Vietnam War. Member for Ripon Louise Stanley presented the award for the Spirit of Anzac Essay Competition to Mia.

Ms Stanley said the competition, open to grade five and grade six primary school students in Ripon, was intended to engage students in a reflection of Anzac Day. "There has been a significant increase in attention and activity around Anzac Day, particularly as we go through the centenary," she said. "This competition encouraged students to reflect on what is a defining part of our nation's history."

"Mia's poem starts by linking herself to her grandfather who fought in Vietnam. She ties it through to why we went to war and talks about both Anzac Day and Remembrance Day. I like that she brought together the various wars Australia has participated in and how it made her feel personally."

Mia said she wrote the poem based on what Anzac Day means to her. "A couple of my friends' relatives went to war like my granddad," she said. "It made me think about how hard it would have been to go to war and not see your family for a couple of years. I feel sad, but proud of the soldiers. Even though they might not have had a choice, they stood up for our country." Mia's poem can be read in the May 15 edition of the Diocesan e-News on the diocesan website.

St Augustine's Primary School Principal Terry Brennan said Creswick has a long history in remembering and honouring the Anzacs. "The kids respond accordingly," he said. "If the kids don't carry on what it is to remember, we will lose all this history."

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier. Text by Rochelle Kirkham and picture by Dylan Burns

Timboon Sacraments

Children from St Joseph's Parish, Timboon celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at the end of April.

They were prepared at home by their parents who presented them to Fr Peter Murnane OP, our visiting priest. May God Bless You All.

Ruth Hoffmann - Sacrament Co-ordinator

Our Diocesan Community - July 2017



Introducing Andrew Jirik, new Diocesan Business Manager

Where did you grow up? Where else have you lived?

Born in Swan Hill I attended St Mary's Primary School. Following two of my brothers I then boarded at St Patrick's College in Ballarat for six years; arguably my most formative. I have many fond memories of my time at St Pat's. Following high-school I moved to Melbourne, but spent a few years in Echuca and Bendigo before returning to Melbourne. Most recently, wanting, maybe needing, a tree-change, the timing was right to return, with (most of) my family, to Ballarat. My eldest son, William had just finished his VCE at St Kevin's College and is spending 2017 working at a prep-school in Cambridge, whilst my twins were about to commence Year 7; so Adam is at St Pat's and Tess is at Loreto. Sue-Ellen, my wife of 26 years has spent all of her career teaching, mostly in the Catholic system, and is currently teaching at Damascus College.

What has been your career progression? *I followed in my father's footsteps and commenced working straight out of high-school for the then State Electricity Commission of Victoria. After its privatisation Sue-Ellen and I moved to Echuca where I worked for the Campaspe Regional Water Authority before it was merged with Coliban Water in Bendigo. Returning to Melbourne I have always worked in "management supporting" finance roles. I worked with Sedgwick Insurance Brokers, Pracom, a telecommunications company, AAMI Insurance and P&O Maritime Services (a role where I got to spend a considerable amount of time in Papua New Guinea). My most recent role before accepting this one was with Wesfarmers, as the Finance Manager to their self-insured workers' compensation function. Academically I have a Bachelor of Accounting, am a Certified Practising Accountant and have a Masters in Taxation.*

If you were a colour what would it be? Why? *Not just the colours, but the sounds and smells of regional and country Victoria. It is the colour of autumn leaves, the sound of a magpie's warble and the smell of, quite simply, clean air can make any day less of a grind.*

Tell us about your family, kids, hobbies... *As mentioned above, I have three children, and like most parents my wife and I spend a lot of time playing "taxi". Until last year, and for the past eight, William through his association with St Kevin's College, was a member of the St Patrick's Cathedral Choir in Melbourne and he was involved in everything St Kevin's had to offer. Adam is our budding sportsman and is currently playing AFL for St Pat's and the East Point Bulldogs here in Ballarat. Adam also plays baseball and has recently transferred to a Geelong based team. Tess is a black-belt in Taekwondo and she is continuing her training here in Ballarat. She is learning the violin and is doing dance, singing and theatre at the Ballarat Centre for Music and the Arts. Sue-Ellen and I have been married for twenty-six years, but we have known each other for thirty years this year. We met playing basketball for Melbourne University, a sport we played for many years. Since moving to Ballarat, with everything no more than a ten-minute drive away, we've enjoyed getting to some shows at Her Majesty's Theatre. There is certainly no shortage of things to do in Ballarat and surrounds.*

How would you describe your management style? How has it changed over time?

I have had a number of roles, in several companies, government and non-government, but it was my time at AAMI insurance that steered me to what is my management style. It was at AAMI that I learnt the power of culture, and how culture can deliver success within an organisation. Most of my roles have been supporting operations and that too has shaped my management style where I'm supportive of what the organisation is trying to do, and not withstanding I am "the accountant" I'll spend the time to get to know the business and what makes the people "doing the doing" tick.

If you chose a song which most represented you at this time, what would the song be? *Ronan Keating, "When you say nothing at all". I like to think I am considered, and if I have nothing to add, I'll say nothing... it doesn't mean I have nothing to add, but it's often that I have nothing more to add (or that I am still listening). Once my mind is made up though, I like to just get the job done, I'm not a procrastinator.*

What perceptions do you have coming in to the Diocese? *It is hard not to answer this question without mentioning the Royal Commission, and with the changing demographic of regional Victoria there are some challenges that have been, are being and will be faced by the Diocese in the coming years. Referring back to my comment above about the power of culture, it is amazing how resilient regional Victoria is and how strong our parishes and communities are. As an accountant I probably look at these challenges through a slightly different lens, and I know I will be able to play my part in navigating the diocese through these, and no doubt, other challenges.*

If you could choose anyone from any time, who would you most like to be in conversation with and why? *This is a tough question as there are so many possibilities. I'm a keen Star Wars fan though, so maybe Mark Hamill, and soon, so I can find out what is going to happen in the next Star Wars movie.*

How have you found the job so far? *The top two things I look for in a role are the organisation's purpose and the role itself, that is, what will I do day-to-day. On this second point the role promised variety, and the job so far has certainly delivered on that. Whilst there are things that need to be done regularly I really don't know what else will come my way, via a phone call, an email or someone dropping into my office... and I'm only into my sixth week. Notwithstanding that my job is now a five-minute drive from home rather than a two-hour door-to-door commute, the bonus has been reconnecting with old school mates, and friends of my extended family network not only here in Ballarat, but across the diocese be it in parishes such as Ararat, Hamilton or Swan Hill.*



GRADUATES URGED TO NEVER STOP LEARNING

More than one hundred and sixty-four students graduated from Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Ballarat campus on Saturday, April 8 at Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat.

Students graduated from Bachelor courses in the Faculty of Education and Arts and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

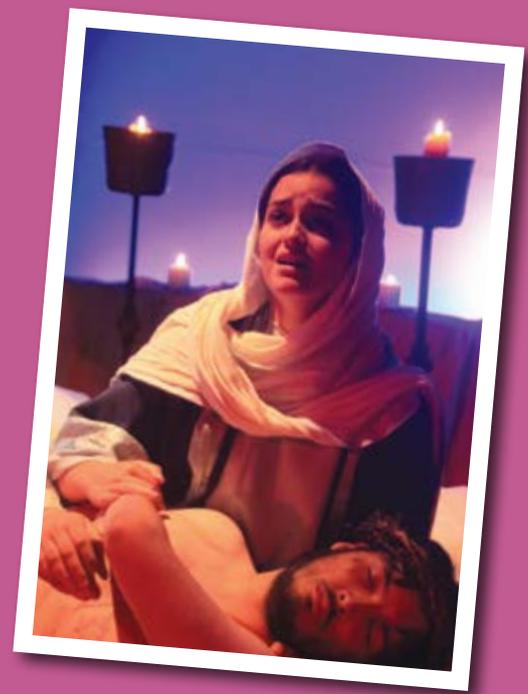
Director of Catholic Education Ballarat Audrey Brown delivered the occasional address to graduands and their families and friends.

Ballarat Campus Dean Associate Professor Joe Fleming said that it was a great privilege to have Ms Brown formally address the graduands as they prepared for careers in education, arts and health. "You see students gathered together and you can imagine their back story, the struggles, the trials and tribulations of juggling, family or work, it's very inspiring," Associate Professor Fleming said.

"The ceremony plays an important role in celebrating the hard work and achievements of so many of the students with the people who matter to them most. It is both humbling and exciting to have played a small part in each student's journey to their chosen profession.

"ACU has been training students from Ballarat and the surrounding region for more than a quarter of a century and many of our graduates remain in the area where they continue to work and give back to the community. We urge all our graduates to never stop learning and to find where they can make the biggest impact and be brave in working to achieve it".

Gemma Kelly - Marketing Coordinator



'The Final Hours'

Every second year Damascus College Ballarat transforms the College campus back to the middle-east of 2000 years ago, to tell the tale of the last few hours of the man we call Jesus.

'The Final Hours' is a College drama production that ran for four shows. It commenced on Tuesday April 11 and concluded on Friday, April 14, involving a cast and crew of over forty students from Years 8-12.

Mr Andrew Seary, Performing Arts Coordinator said that for more than a quarter of a century and through fourteen individual seasons 'The Final Hours' has been presented at the same time of year, with the same words, same subject matter and the same music, and has proudly continued to be one of the College's longest running traditions.

"The production is the proclamation of our identity as a Catholic school by the dramatic retelling of one of the Gospel's central stories and at the same time actively serving our College motto to 'Live by the Light of Christ', he said.

"From its simple beginnings in 1990 when a group of senior drama students at the then St Martin's in the Pines stepped up onto a small wooden platform, this Passion play has grown into a complex and technically challenging theatrical event."

The performance again utilized both interior and exterior locations around the College grounds and involved over forty students in both acting and technical roles. The play showcased not only the talents and skills of these students but the wonderful natural beauty and architecture of the Mount Clear site.

Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development

Australian bishops launch guidelines for celebrating the sacraments with people with disability

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has launched guidelines about the appropriate sacramental preparation for people with disability. The purpose of the guidelines is to address the concerns raised by clergy, pastoral ministers, other concerned Catholics, people with disability, their advocates and their families for greater consistency in pastoral practice in the celebration of the sacraments throughout Australia. The guidelines were launched by Bishop Terry Brady, the Australian Catholic Bishops Delegate for Disability. 'We have addressed the guidelines to families, clergy and parish leaders. They offer guidance to parishes on sacramental preparation and celebration for people with disability and for their families and carers,' Bishop Brady said.

The guidelines are a further contribution to the efforts of the Catholic Church to advocate for ministry to and with people with disability. Prepared by the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life with advice and assistance from the Australian Catholic Disability Council, the guidelines respond to requests for further clarification and guidance about the means for providing fuller access to the sacraments by people with disability. The key principles of the guidelines include: celebration and reception of the sacraments for all, full participation of people with disability and their families in the life of the Church in Australia, access into and within Church buildings, adaptation of programmes, attitudinal change and dispelling myths and misconceptions about disability.

A copy of these guidelines will be sent to all parishes and schools in the diocese. Additional copies may be purchased from the ACBC online shop www.catholic.org.au/shop/acbc-shop.

What a great week we had as a Catholic school recently. Catholic Education Week kicked off this year with a huge honour for our school, being presented with the BDSAC Partnership Award in Ballarat on Friday, May 19 at the 30 Year Service Awards Presentation Night. In front of a large audience of peers and Diocesan leaders our staff, along with our colleagues from St Malachy's Edenhope and St Joseph's Coleraine, were acknowledged for the ground breaking work we have been doing over the past eighteen months to improve educational outcomes in rural schools through our uniquely collaborative and innovative initiatives.

The evening was a wonderful achievement for our teachers, aides, families and students, as our terrific little school communities were congratulated for demonstrating outstanding practice in finding new ways to bring about school improvement in collaboration. We were very humbled to receive the award and remain dedicated in our ongoing commitment to providing quality Catholic education for the families of Casterton and surrounding districts. The three Principals are exploring models of leadership that enables them to share their expertise, grow their leadership capabilities, grow the leadership skills of others and develop sustainable and complementary skill sets across the staff of all three schools. A special thank you goes to the teachers from each school for their ongoing support of the Western Trinity. Thank you for the wonderful support you continue to give us in our work.

On Tuesday, May 23, all students and staff travelled to Edenhope for a Catholic Education Week Liturgy and Indigenous Cultural Day with St Malachy's School Edenhope and St Joseph's School Coleraine. Along with Catholic Education Week, we celebrated National Reconciliation Week.

The excursion was led by Mrs Kealy from St Malachy's Edenhope and the Indigenous Education Team from the

Australian Catholic University. Students and staff prayed and sung together and listened to scripture. Aboriginal students from Coleraine blessed each person at the liturgy with a combination of earthly soils and materials. We sang the Aboriginal Our Father and listened to stories from Aboriginal elders who work for the Australian Catholic University. After the Liturgy, the students completed a footprints art activity and a 'Rainbow Serpent' craft activity, which we have displayed at our school.



On Friday, May 26, we celebrated more of Catholic Education Week by hosting a Cuppa for Cancer - Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. We welcomed over forty parents, grandparents, parishioners and community members for the morning tea. I would like to thank all the parents and staff who made this a successful day. A total of \$324 was raised. We also conducted tours for prospective families during our Open Day. Our Student Leaders proved to be great ambassadors during these tours and I thank them for their enthusiastic help.

Evan Wrobel, Principal, Sacred Heart School Casterton

Our Diocesan Community - July 2017

A Palm Sunday Reflection



Palm Sunday, like me, has many hats. I am a daughter, a mother, a wife, a Christian, a nurse and an activist and acknowledge the struggle of juggling all these hats. I maintain my mental and spiritual health by focusing on the values with which I play out each role rather than the tasks involved. I change hat without changing my values.

Switching from 'work mode' to 'protest mode' is no longer such a big shift. The common value is Justice.

Whether I advocate for the voiceless in the health system or those in the immigration system I can be confident Jesus supports me. Jesus is about Justice.

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. We commemorate Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a humble beast, triumphant, the palm fronds thrown in his path a sign of great respect and homage. Palm Sunday is also about Justice that comes from a non-Christian, non-religious space.

For the past few years I've attended the Walk for Justice for Refugees in Melbourne on Palm Sunday. It is not a coincidence that the walk

occurs on a Holy Day in the Christian calendar but the organising committee and many of the one hundred and forty endorsing organisations would not identify as Christian. We come together calling for an end to the indefinite detention of refugees on Nauru and Manus Island due to our shared value of Justice. I attend the Walk representing Christians, Catholics, Rural Australians for Refugees and Love Makes A Way. Many hats, common values.

This year I attended the prayer service at St Patrick's Cathedral organised by the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum preceding the walk. I found it particularly powerful to share this time with Catholics committed to Justice and prepared to take the message beyond the church walls. The image of Catholics bearing the yellow and white papal flags walking together down Latrobe Street from the Cathedral to join the main walk enriched my soul. Each Palm Sunday as I take part in the Walk for Justice for Refugees I allow myself the fleeting hope that next year we won't need to march. All people will be treated with justice and respect, there will be no more war and displacement.

We know the Crucifixion comes next in Jesus' story. We are also sure of the Resurrection. This year we seek the closure of offshore detention facilities. Next year the specifics may change but the words of Jesus – 'you will always have the poor among you....' Matthew 26:11, reinforce that as Christians there will always be a need for the works of Justice.

So as the incinerated Palms of Palm Sunday 2016 become the Ash of Ash Wednesday 2017, I ponder incorporating the Palm fronds of peace and victory into my search for justice for those arriving on our shores seeking asylum.

Katherine Stewart - Easter 2017

CELEBRATING CONFIRMATION

On Pentecost Sunday, St Brendan's Coragulac welcomed Bishop Paul to confirm eight students in our community.

After six weeks of preparation Jodie, Joe, Tristan, Mitchell, Johnny, Lucas, Andrew and Charlie presented themselves to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Supported by their families, Godparents, sponsors and the community, the children committed themselves more fully to their Catholic faith. On reflection, the children said they felt nervous, excited, proud and very loved and supported. They felt they have learned more about the Holy Spirit and the wonderful gifts they received through confirmation.

After Mass the community gathered with the children and Bishop Paul in the parish hall for morning tea.

Elizabeth McGuane - Moderator, Cororooke Parish

Our Diocesan Community - July 2017





FIVE STAR SCHOOL

After three years of hard work, St Mary's Catholic Primary School Warracknabeal received a Five Star ResourceSmart energy efficiency award on Saturday May 27, 2017. The school has achieved a Five Star status because it has embraced sustainability across several areas including energy and water efficiency, waste reduction and improvements to biodiversity.

On the morning of the celebration we warmly welcomed Ms Audrey Brown, Dr Susan Crowe and Mr Chris Robarts from Catholic Education Office Ballarat, Mr Graeme Massey, Mayor of Warracknabeal, various councillors, Mr Simon Hum, ResourceSmart and Sustainability Victoria Project Officer, principals and staff from the various local schools, Mr Paul Lehmann, Resource Smart Schools Facilitator, Assessor and Regional Coordinator,

Ms La Vergne Lehmann, families, extended families, students, staff and friends. Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Acting Executive Officer, La Vergne Lehmann said that St Mary's was only one of twelve Five Star schools in Western Victoria. St Mary's is also the first school in the state to receive this Award in 2017.

St Mary's received a \$10,000 Energy Efficiency grant in 2014 to start the ResourceSmart journey. The School has since updated our infrastructure to be as environmentally sustainable as possible, adapted the curriculum to include sustainability in the learning activities and empowered the students to drive change within the school environment. St Mary's students said the ResourceSmart program made it possible for them to build a garden and share in the food that is grown.

The school has also saved \$16.79 per student in electricity over the past year. St Mary's rarely pays an energy or water bill because of solar energy generation and the collection of water in our tanks. I believe at St Mary's we have a culture that embraces sustainability. If you asked one of the students they could talk about our worm farm, the chickens, recycling, upcycling and nude food. None of these elements is a focus on any one day. It is an integral part of our everyday living.

Ms Audrey Brown and Dr Susan Crowe both shared some words of praise and encouragement for students, staff and our families. Mr Simon Hum, from Sustainability Victoria presented the Five Star Award to our Year 6 students.

Joy Quarrell - Principal

GETTING TO KNOW OUR GRANDPARENTS!!

The Prep children at St Pius X Primary School, Warrnambool West, have been on a journey throughout the term to discover more about their own family history. They began by taking their grandparents to visit Flagstaff Hill, which is a local maritime village that allows you to experience life from the past. They then invited their grandparents to come to school and help them to construct a replica of our parish church using cardboard and other materials.

The children are also in the process of making a family garden, which will have a flower for each member of their family. They will be able to give their flower pots to their grandparents to show them how special their families are.

And finally they will ask their grandparents to spend a morning at school which will begin with a whole school Mass and will end with a yummy morning tea and a cuppa!! It's been a very busy term but it's such a rewarding experience to have our grandparents, parents or other family members helping us to learn and grow at school.



Lucille Lane - Teacher

Our Diocesan Community - July 2017

THE URSULA FRAYNE WELLBEING CENTRE

St Joseph's College, Mildura's new Wellbeing Centre opened to the students recently. The Ursula Frayne Wellbeing Centre has been developed by the College as a special place where students can seek out information or expert advice, which gives them the ability to talk with a counsellor or psychologist in a friendly environment. The Centre puts a range of comprehensive resources and trained staff within easy reach of every student. Our goal is to support each student to flourish. We refer to flourishing as a combination of 'feeling good and doing good'. Our purpose is to assist students to develop specific skills that assist them to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, enhance personal resilience, promote mindfulness and encourage a healthy lifestyle.



Incorporated as part of the Ursula Frayne Wellbeing Centre is the Raphael Room. Named after Archangel Saint Raphael, the patron of healing, this room has been designed to create a relaxed and comforting space for students to participate in wellbeing activities such as group work and meditation. The room will also be used by wellbeing staff to conduct information/training sessions for staff. From this room there is access to the balcony with an open air space furnished with comfortable wicker furniture.

Our College wellbeing landscape incorporates all aspects of school community life from students' physical, intellectual, moral, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and the development of a safe and supportive environment in which they can learn and strengthen their educational endeavour for the development of the 'whole person'. It is the aim of our College to strengthen our educational community through emphasising the connections between student wellbeing, social emotional learning and curriculum based learning, so that students can be supported and optimal learning outcomes achieved.

Coinciding with the opening of the Centre is the release of our new pamphlet 'Concerned or worried about something at school?' Through teaching these valuable life skills, St Joseph's College provides its students with an increased capacity to learn effectively, as well as offering them a strong foundation on which they can build a successful life. Thank you to all staff who have worked to bring this Centre to fruition.

Marg Blythman - Principal



STUDENTS STRIVE FOR GREATER GIFTS

Rain and wind gave way to perfect Autumn weather on Tuesday May 23, when St Joseph's Primary School Hopetoun hosted St Mary's Warracknabeal, St Patrick's Nhill and St Mary's Sea Lake for Catholic Education Week.

Fr Alex Lim, Hopetoun's new Parish Priest, welcomed some two hundred and forty students plus members of staff at Mass. "Today, we celebrate and remember the contribution of the Catholic School to Australia," he said. "It goes back to the first wave of missionaries who came to our shores centuries ago and who ministered to us and partnered evangelism with education. Since its inception, Our Diocesan Community - July 2017

the Catholic School system never ceases to 'strive for the greater gifts', which are actually the words of St Paul and which are the theme of our celebration today."

Fr Alex noted that our world is becoming more and more secular and materialistic. "The world needs the challenge of love and compassion, which the Gospel abundantly provides – leading us to Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life," he said.

"As we celebrate Catholic Education Week, we acknowledge the contribution of the countless members of the school, staff, the principals and the parents and family members of our students."

Following Fr Alex's address, the students participated in a variety of fun learning activities ranging from relay races to activities where they identified how they could show love for others by following in the footsteps of Jesus, before enjoying lunch together.

"It's wonderful to come together with other Catholic Schools from our cluster to celebrate who we are," said St Joseph's Primary School Principal, Cynthia Maiden. "The students participation in the day was fantastic, they certainly took on the theme for the day and gave their all to Strive for the Greater Gifts and follow in the footsteps of Jesus by displaying friendliness, respect and cooperation throughout the day."

Courtesy of the Hopetoun Courier

NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK 2017

National Families Week 2017 was held from May 15 – May 21, 2017 (coinciding with the United Nations International Day of Families on May 15). The aim of National Families Week is to celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society. The theme 'Stronger Families, Stronger Communities' has been embraced as an enduring theme for National Families Week as it encapsulates the important role families play as the central building block of our communities. Community wellbeing is enhanced by family wellbeing. National Families Week was a time to celebrate the meaning of family and to make the most of family life. It was a time to reflect on the critical role that families play in teaching, supporting and nurturing children, especially as they grow. Each year, over a hundred thousand people and hundreds of organisations celebrate National Families Week – Australia's annual celebration of families.

As part of National Families Week, people from around the diocese offered a reflection on their own families:

SAM BRADY (NANDALY)

G'day, my name is Sam Brady, I am a farmer in the Victorian Mallee, married to my wife Jo. We have six children, three girls and three boys and yes, the Brady Bunch. They are Bridie, Carmen, Joseph, Matt, Mikey and Gabby. All are married and between them, we have thirteen grandchildren and one on the way due in September.



Our family is the strongest and most important part of our lives. We have a strong Christian belief that I believe has helped us through some trying times in the past eight years. Having a very loving and tight family has helped us to get on in life with meaning.

My wife Jo was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma about eight years ago and underwent chemotherapy, had a tumour removed from her spine and underwent stem cell treatment. At the time of being diagnosed, Jo was given three years at most which in itself was a huge shock to us all. This was in May of that year. Jo is now in remission and doing well now with the monthly appointments in Melbourne. That same year in December I was diagnosed with cancer and since have had my left kidney removed, colon part removed, small intestine removed and a big tumour removed from within my stomach. This all happened over six years ago or thereabouts.

Therefore, where I am getting to with this is that without the love and support of a loving family, relatives and friends, life might have been much different.

Our children, without them, well I do not know but they have always been there at every beck and call. Numerous phone calls, visits, food and just a "G'day, how are things going?" Prayers and support from our Catholic Parish, St Mary's Sea Lake, makes life much more brighter when things seem to be struggling.

Jo and I are doing well and as I write now, Jo is cooking scones, cakes, etc for the Biggest Morning Tea to be in the Nandal Hall, a big fundraiser for cancer research.

We both believe strongly in a loving family, close friends and to maintain an outlook on life that help and keep strong families and communities together in good times and hard times.

KATE LAWRY (BALLARAT NORTH)

My family is delicious though the sum of the ingredients for our particular family are not of our choosing. My husband died when the boys were young and this made for a lot of tough times and a different path to growing up than for most of our family and friends, though they were very much there to support us.

In asking my adult children what they think is important about 'family' now, my middle child immediately quipped in with 'They're work Mum!' and I thought how spot on he is. Families are a gift but to be a part of one means you have to work at nurturing it to keep it evolving - encompassing the joys, the ordinariness of most days and moving through the difficulties that being in family necessitates. Pope Francis says, 'That family is the salt of the earth and the light of the world; it is the leaven of society as a whole.' Family for me is about relationship and the well-being of all its members and as such is the building block for being in community. It teaches all members how to love, accept



and enable each other in spite of differences. This is the backbone to learning to be in community, accepting of and working with the strengths and vulnerabilities that are a part of each family member's uniqueness. Encouraging unity is not smooth sailing but if the cornerstone of society is family, then like communities that prosper through healthy dialogue, effort and acceptance of diversity, families require that kind of attention too. They also benefit from a large dose of humour!

Even when we were at our busiest, we made sure that Friday nights were family nights and celebrated the working week's end with homemade pizzas, shiraz and a family movie. Whilst my sons are now in various stages of leaving home, we still cherish an evening like this and commit to it. We relax and laugh, annoy each other, argue and agree about the merits of plot and particularly about 'what Mum doesn't get!' and simply get on with being the flavour of our family.

MICHAEL MCKENZIE (CAMPERDOWN)

I go to bed most nights and follow a simple regime in my mind; one my wife Kim got me doing many years ago and that is thanking the Lord for the three things I am most grateful for that day. More often than not my family is mentioned somewhere in those three things as my reality is they are the centre of my life. My family consists of my wife Kim and my six children; Monique (23), Toby (21), Martinique (18), Demby (16), Madidi (11) and Matea (7) and with a larger family than the average these days and with two children in the workforce, one at University, one in Year 11 at secondary school at Mercy Regional College and two at primary school at St Patrick's Camperdown, there is always something happening.



The theme for National Families Week is "Stronger Families, Stronger Communities", and I could not agree more. As the Principal at St Patrick's School Camperdown, I often tell my staff, families and students that there is nothing more important than family and that the most important of our decisions we make on a daily basis, should revolve around what is best for our families.

So for me, what is our family doing to create a 'stronger family and stronger community.' The important thing for my family is to try to maintain the little things that make us a family. Family meals which we can share together, meaningful communication with those children who are away from home (and those still at home!), regular involvement in activities which we can do together and making or allowing the time required in our busy world to be a family.

By attending to these things, it has allowed our family to be a part of community groups bigger than ourselves. Giving of time to our church, a range of community groups and sporting/dance groups is a part of who we are and a way to continue to build relationships both within our family and with our community.

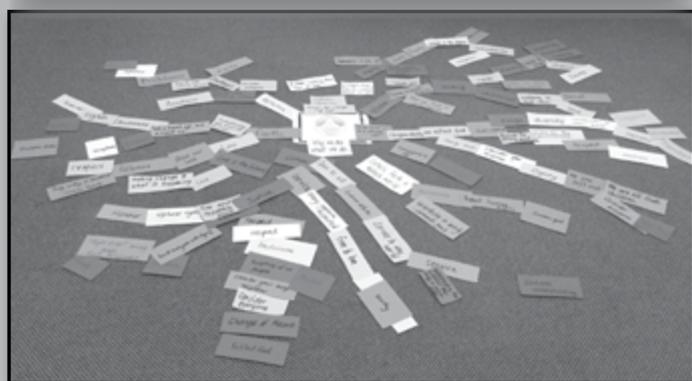
We live in a world where we try to cram things into every minute. This can create a busy lifestyle and with this, a lack of time for the more important things, such as maintaining family. We are like all families and are constantly working hard to maintain our family values on a daily basis.

On reflection, during National Families Week, even though I think about, and am grateful for, so many of the things they do; I know I fall into the trap of taking my family for granted. I don't verbalise my love often enough, I don't let them know that the things that they do on a daily basis make me so proud and at times I put other less important things ahead of my family. It is something that I need to keep working on as a father; however, I also know that my family are also the ones who keep me grounded and bring my focus back to the most important thing - family. For my family I am extremely grateful.

Staff of St Joseph's School Hopetoun recently undertook professional development with Danielle Peters from Ballarat CEO. During this time we unpacked the Catholic Social Teaching principles and discussed ways in which they could be integrated through the school. In order to do this, we needed to determine how each staff member saw the Catholic Identity of the school and extended this to how the community sees the school.

We began by exploring what we do at St Joseph's through the lens of Social Justice. An in-depth discussion around Justice and Charity revealed the majority of our school community initiatives were linked to Charity. As a collective staff, we discussed how we could take it a step further, allowing these initiatives to become acts of Justice, not just Charity. This led to the development of goals outlining the importance of aligning the school initiatives with the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching to provide students with a clear direction and purpose as to why we partake in such events. The expression that stayed in my mind at the completion of the day was 'to follow in the footsteps of Jesus' and how it is integral for students to be further informed about the 'why' an event is happening in our school.

Catholic Social Teaching



MASS AT SOVEREIGN HILL

On Monday, May 22, 2017 Sovereign Hill hosted representatives of eight local Catholic schools who came together to celebrate Catholic Education Week. The congregation gathered outside to witness Bishop Peter Connors raise a flag to signal the beginning of Mass, reenacting the actions of Father Downing (the first resident priest of St Alipius, 1853) who established the



custom of raising a flag with an ecclesiastical cross half an hour before Mass was due to start.



Bishop Peter showed members of the congregation the vestments worn in this era and the custom of the celebrant facing away from the community throughout the Mass and members receiving communion over a rail at the front of the altar. Many of the younger participants were not aware of this practice of times gone by and were most pleased to be able to be a part of reliving history. Bishop Peter recited a prayer in Latin, much to the surprise of the students.

Sovereign Hill welcomed the enthusiastic congregation which included representatives from St Patrick's College, Damascus College, Loreto College, Emmaus Catholic Primary School Mt Clear, St Alipius Primary School Ballarat East, St Columba's Primary School Ballarat North, St Aloysius Primary School Redan and St Patrick's Primary School Ballarat. Sue Crowe, Adam Cameron and a small group of students from St Alipius, dressed in 1850s costume, provided the music and encouraged the singing. Jo-anne Van der Voort (Religious Education Officer) assisted with the preparation of the Mass.

The congregation was reminded that the diggers who flocked to the Ballarat Goldfields came here with hopes and dreams of a better life. Throughout the hard times, their faith and their Church community continued to support and encourage them in good times and bad. Similar to faith communities today supporting the hopes and aspirations of its members.

Annemarie Kierce - Sovereign Hill Education Officer

After eighteen years of faithful service, Sr Marion McDonald rsm has retired from her leadership role of the Merbein Parish Community. In that time she has also been the pastoral leader of our school community, and has become part of the fabric of our school.

On March 30th, 2017 the school community gathered for Mass and morning tea to farewell Sr Marion. After the Mass we had a ceremony where the school library was formally named the Sr Marion Library in her honour.

Below is the tribute that Mr Michael Breewel, our Religious Education Leader, read out at the Mass:

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School has had many influential people come through its doors, but none have had a bigger impact than Sr Marion.

After being the Principal of St Joseph's College from 1993-1997, Sr Marion

was appointed the Parish Leader of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Merbein in 1999. At the time of her appointment, the Parish school had just employed its first lay Principal, Mr Des Lowry and over the next fifteen years, they would form a partnership that would shape our school and take it into the future.

During Sr Marion's time at OLSH, the school has gone through many changes including new buildings, a new playground and basketball court and a new front entrance. She has seen the school gradually grow in numbers over the years and become a place where children are provided with a high quality education that aims at developing the whole child.

Sr Marion has worked with a number of staff members, seventy to be exact, over the years. Sr Marion's constant presence around our school is what we will miss the most. She often enters our classrooms with that beautiful smile on her face and tells the children wonderful stories



about God, faith and her own life experiences. She also enjoys coming into the staffroom and chatting with the staff, often inspiring us with stories of her time in education. Oh, and of course she would never miss an opportunity to remind us all of Essendon's performances.

Our school will not be the same without Sr Marion's presence, but we are also thankful that she chose our school and parish to lead for the past eighteen plus years.

Chris Brouwers – Principal

CWL MEET AT BIRREGURRA

Close to fifty Catholic Women's League members from the southern zone of the Ballarat diocese gathered at Birregurra for their conference. This year the Catholic Women's League in the Ballarat diocese is celebrating its centenary.

Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, JMJ Servant of God, was the first President in the diocese and Birregurra is her birthplace and so it seemed a fitting location in which to hold the conference. In 1917 as President of the Victorian Guild, Dr Mary chaired the meeting of three hundred women in Ballarat to inaugurate the Catholic Social Women's Guild, as it was then known, in the diocese. Amongst special guests attending were Pauline Adams and Sue Connellan, granddaughters of Mary's sister Lucy Connellan and great nieces of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey, pictured with Margaret Rowe, Diocesan President.



The conference was opened by Anne Hughes, Director of Faith and Mission and Learning Area Facilitator Religious Education at Trinity College in Colac. Prior to opening the conference Anne spoke inspiringly on Mary Glowrey's life and made a comparison with Saint Mary of the Cross McKillop, both were faith filled, strong and exemplary women. She also spoke on her role at Trinity College intertwining the CWL theme for this year which is, "What return can I make to the Lord for his goodness to me." Psalm 116

The five zone branches of the Southern Zone then gave brief reports. Members then reassembled at St Peter's Church Birregurra where our Diocesan Chaplain, Fr Wally Tudor celebrated Mass. St Peter's Church, built in 1907, replaced the earlier wooden structure on the same site which the Glowrey family would have attended.

After Mass we lunched at the Royal Mail Hotel, visited the Birregurra Historical Society and then returned to the conference held at the Birregurra Community Centre. Our guest speaker, Robyn Fahy, then spoke on the life and work of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey. Robyn has recently commenced a PhD at Melbourne University exploring Mary Glowrey's legacy. Robyn spoke beautifully to her power point presentation about Dr Sr Mary Glowrey. Robyn explained there are new insights coming from the reading of her letters. A greater appreciation can be gained of the deep faith and trust that Mary had in God. This gave her the strength to do such amazing work in very difficult conditions. Robyn was thanked and received a gift.

Certificates of appreciation were presented by Fr Wally to Nelly Bongers who has served the CWL in Simpson and Colac and also to Helen Watts of Cobden. Beth Hose of Cobden will be presented with her certificate at a later date. Fr Wally congratulated the speakers and thanked Robyn for bringing Mary Glowrey alive to those present as an ordinary woman doing extraordinary things. President of the Colac Branch, Winsome De Jong thanked everyone who made the day such a success. Diocesan President Margaret Rowe announced that the Ballarat Cathedral branch was reforming which is great news! Throughout the day lucky prizes were drawn. Fr Michael O'Toole PP of Colac was thanked for enabling the Tuesday evening presentation at St Mary's Colac and arranging for Robyn to hold presentations at Trinity College, Sacred Heart and St Mary's Primary Schools.

Winsome De Jong - President Colac Branch CWL, Diocesan Committee Member Ballarat Diocese

Clergy Healthcare Network Conference



Once again, I was privileged to attend the annual gathering of Clergy Health and Wellbeing Carers. This year's conference was held in Adelaide and held over three days in March. The conference was well attended with most dioceses represented, including three delegates from New Zealand.

Professional development topics included 'Initiating Difficult Discussions', 'Identifying and Maintaining Professional Boundaries', 'Clergy Health and Wellness: Good Stewardship' and 'The Royal Commission and the Clergy'.

Overall, meeting with my fellow clergy carers again was a wonderfully happy and valuable experience. As one of my colleagues said toward the end of the conference, it was "Like having a blood transfusion. It was rejuvenating and life-giving."

Many thanks to the Archdiocese of Adelaide for their gracious hospitality and a big thank-you must go to Sandi and Brie for all their hard work in putting this year's conference together.

Sonia Walker, Clergy Health and Wellbeing Coordinator

MANAGING AND PLANNING

In December 2016 our Parish Leadership Group initiated the process of establishing a plan to manage the built assets of the Parish across Gordon, Springbank and Ballan. The assets under consideration include three functioning churches, two former convents, one closed school and one former presbytery as well as a vacant block of land.

The main drivers of the need to prepare a plan are the current and anticipated decline in people participating in our parish life, the ongoing strain on parish finances and the desire to invest more of our time, energy and resources into formation activities for all parishioners.

Decisions must be made about what to retain, what to repair and what to let go. Business as usual is not sustainable from any view.

Our parish like many others has a long history of generosity, sacrifice, loyalty, support and faith observance which continues to be reflected in the people and culture of our three parish communities. Many of the original families are still represented in the Parish.

Five meetings have been held to seek feedback from parishioners. It is clear that there is a sadness in the community as well as a realisation that change is inevitable. The older generation has brought great knowledge and wisdom to the discussions. Many have made amazing contributions. Their faith and commitment is powerful.

Our challenge is to respect the past and at the same time manage our inheritance to provide a respectful, supportive faith community in our parish in some form into the future. It must be a parish that is sustainable and that uses its resources wisely.

Michael Ryan - Parish Coordinator, Gordon



Recently, Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP was hosted by the Ballarat Catholic Education Office and the Council of Priests to provide two days of formation regarding the challenges of, and the adventures of, "Touching the Imagination of Youth Through Faith"; "Being a Priest in the 21st Century"; and "Our Conscience."

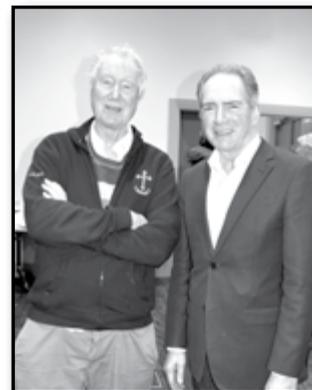
Fr Timothy kept his audience captured through humour, storytelling of real life experiences whilst addressing these topics in a constructive way. Throughout both days, 'listening' was predominant. Listening being an art that requires a person to listen in a profound way whether it be related to students or adults in all areas of life. People need to be listened to, their dreams, hopes, despairs, whatever the situation and to walk with people as being an essential part of one's vocation. That there be no questions barred. However in order to do this, it must be balanced with taking the time to sit in peace, as it is through the quiet and stillness in the peace of Christ that one is able to listen.

challenges and adventures

Challenges he mentioned were sharing the romance of our faith in all its imperfections; finding beauty in our faith and the need to respond to the call to go beyond our comfort zone at all times, our face showing the face of our compassionate God.

The two days allowed for discussion, question and answers. A most informative and inspirational two days.

Sue Searls - Diocesan Director Caritas



Lessons from the Long Paddock



For a number of years now the Broken Bay Institute in partnership with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have delivered e-Conferences to people across Australia and internationally. Since the refurbishment of the Small Hall at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat, we have been able to enjoy watching these on the big screen. We have listened to the knowledge and wisdom of a great range of Theologians and Scripture Scholars including Ballarat's own Doctors Veronica Lawson and Elizabeth Dowling. These have all been excellent, however when I saw on the diocesan website that there was to be another e-Conference this time hosted by the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes, a very large diocese in New South Wales and appropriately called "Lesson's from the Long Paddock" my interest was raised. Yes, there was to be two keynote speakers, their Bishop Most Rev Columba Macbeth-Green and Fr Frank Brennan SJ but also ordinary people from the pews speaking about their spiritual journey in times of blessings and hardships in this land that is their home.

One farmer spoke about his personal challenge of coping with an episode of depression as a result of the hardship inflicted by the years of drought and although of course the bills still have to be paid his priorities have changed. There needs to be time for more than just work and how he now takes pride in producing the best beef and fine wool that he can. A senior Indigenous woman treated us to wonderful old religious songs on her guitar. Somehow the word hymns didn't quite fit as there was more of a Slim Dusty tinge to them. Distance is an enormous challenge in such a diocese. The Bishop spoke about driving up to nine hours to attend a certain liturgical celebration, and how this dictates some pastoral flexibility. The example he gave was he would not expect a couple to travel all that way into the church to be married and then drive all that way back again to have the celebration in the wool shed, be married in the wool shed. He spoke eloquently and humorously about the need to be involved in local ventures outside the walls of the church and the sympathetic response from some fellas in the local pub when one of them asked what he did for a job. We saw another woman from the parish going out to celebrate a "Liturgy of the Word and Communion" with a small group of people in their home. This reminded me of a few years ago when we had made our way up the Birdsville track and I noticed a small sign in the tourist information centre saying there would be a Mass in the community hall that evening. We went along. It was a beautiful Eucharistic experience, the priest had travelled horrendous kilometres and hitched the last leg on the mail plane. This was one of the three Masses for the year. There has been a Catholic community in Birdsville since 1870, a church but never a church building.

Another woman spoke on what is the place of the Church, tradition and community, quoting Isaiah 42 referring to the Suffering Servant, crushed reeds and wavering flames. She spoke about being part of a bigger picture, about Mysticism an expression of the Divine, and being always open to the possibility of a mystical experience. There is a mystical heart in the Christian tradition and the challenge is to explore it. Another speaker drew our attention to the place of silence in the wide brown land, but along with silence how we learn from each other.

I jotted down various phrases during the day, two I love are "Times have changed, peoples' needs haven't" and one so appropriate for our days "Peddle Hope".

Oh and the next e-Conference from Broken Bay Institute looks wonderful. Click onto BBI website to see the great line up of speakers. Save the date, Thursday 10th August and St Patrick's Cathedral Parish small hall is booked for it.

Pauline from the back pew

The Diocese celebrated Mass with Bishop Peter Connors on the occasion of his 30th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination as Bishop on Sunday, May 21 in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Bishop Peter was the main celebrant with Bishop Paul Bird concelebrating. Readers were Isa Connors, Vin Dillon and Sr Denise Desmarchelier ibvm, with the procession of gifts by Bernadette O'Loughlin and Mary Rienets. The music was provided by St Patrick's Cathedral Choir and organist. St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Volunteers did a wonderful job of the decor. Morning tea in the hall was catered by Sally Morris. Congratulations Bishop Peter.

30 Years a Bishop



MOVING FORWARD

The idea of our group Moving Forward in Warrnambool began early in 2014. Following a forum conducted by Professor Caroline Taylor who spoke about the tragic pleas of voices aired to the Royal Commission into institutional sexual abuse of children, we met as a small group to discuss how we might make a constructive response. We have attempted to carry through a program that is available to those gathered into the net of sadness. This includes survivors, families, friends, leaders, all people in our church community.

As a group we acknowledge PAST pain and the gravity of sexual abuse. We pray and work in the PRESENT, in our local Catholic communities, helping to build a faith filled FUTURE.



We selected the ancient symbol of a TRISKELION that gives an image of Trinity and which points to the fundamental energy of forward movement.

Our recent activity centred on a search for a peaceful place and space. We chose to create a Labyrinth, in this case a walkway within the Gathering Space, painted on sheets and focused on our symbol. At each Mass at St Joseph's we spoke of how we are all part of the quest to reconcile the past so we can invest a sense of healing in the future. We called it a simple activity, showed a video to explain the idea of a Labyrinth and issued an invitation to engage in this quiet, prayerful, reflection. We remained for the whole day and saw the response of those who have felt the tragedy of these events. A pointed reminder of this fact was the inclusion of the ribbons we had gathered

from our Loud Fence. We placed these throughout the walkway, along side a display of images and a collage of some of the ribbons. The healing action of this meditation was offered and joined as a special gift to partake and share. Many accepted the invitation, viewing, walking or simply talking together sharing the peaceful gift that was being offered.



Moving Forward meets once a month and we have been working throughout the time of the Royal Commission. Members of our group meet regularly with our Parish Priest and Parish Priest at St Mary's Hamilton, who helped us get started. We gather in each other's homes and this adds to a special quality of sharing.

In conclusion, it is interesting to note there are several like minded groups and while we act independently, it is tantalising to consider the possibility of getting together and sharing further in the future. Ballarat, Moving Towards Justice; Altona, Gathering by the Sea; Geelong, Lifeboat; also Hamilton and Edenhope.



Receiving the Sacraments

On Sunday, May 28 2017, nine children received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist at 10.30am Mass at St Mary's Church Birchip. Children were prepared for the Sacraments by Mrs Belinda Randall and their parents and sponsors. Mrs Bern O'Donnell thanked everyone for their contribution at a morning tea at the Belleville Room after Mass.

A large gathering of family, friends and parishioners celebrated this important and moving ceremony in the faith journey of the young people. Fr Eugene McKinnon, Parish Priest celebrated the Mass. Gabrielle O'Donnell, Eliza Gould, Keira Lowry, Georgia Hogan, Ada Bourke, Allie Knights, Delilah Harris, Harvey Lewis and Harry Cook were the children who received their sacraments.

Maureen Donnellon

A HIGHLIGHT

When I decided to start the process to join the Catholic Church, even though a wholehearted and determined decision, I had no idea what lay ahead of me. As the process unfolded I began to see just how blessed I was to be able to embark on such a spiritual journey. The RCIA Team that I was luckily enough to be placed with, guided me through the months of preparation and gave me so much support and encouragement. Sharing so much of themselves and committing to the process just as much as I had. I had no idea I would not only gain these amazing new friends but would also be given such warm open arms of support.

Naturally a visual person, when I think about this process ... I can't help but think about it in a visual sense; painting a picture in my mind of how I felt on this journey. I won't say they are carrying me, as it was important I walked with my own legs, but I will say they held me close and led me by the hand. I will forever be grateful to these women, for giving their time, their faith and their love for God, so that I may love him too.

The process lead by the beautiful Sr Kathleen Moran, was full of learnings but with no rights or wrongs or any pressure to meet expectation. I felt at ease and comfortable, and looked forward to our weekly session as an opportunity to reflect on my life and think about the future.

The welcoming that I received from the entire Church Community was overwhelming, I have never in my life felt so welcome, and at ease in a new environment. My three little girls and husband attended Mass regularly with me ... and were shown nothing but kindness and acceptance.

The day of my Baptism will forever be a highlight in my life, especially sharing the moment with my three girls who were also baptised alongside me. Taking the step of faith together was important to me and will forever be a memory I cherish deeply. Our Baptism, that was held at the Easter Vigil in Gordon, will be an evening I will never forget, overwhelmed with love and support from the entire Church Community.

I have learnt so much, about God, about the Church, about myself and what it means to have faith. But above all, I have learnt the value of Community and how blessed I am to be part of it. Thank you to everyone who helped me along the way, I could not be happier, with GOD by my side.

Bianca Flint



SLEEP OUT AT ST THOMAS MORE

Recently, fifty-six of our senior students participated in the social justice 'Sleep Out', whereby they heard from various speakers who increased their knowledge without doubt. Fr Justin spoke about the causes and difficulties experienced by those who are homeless and Alan and Frances from St Vincent de Paul focused on their charity's many acts of kindness. Craig Schepis, founder of the Ballarat Soupbus, gave insights about this mobile community bus that provides an after-dark meal service and assistance to Ballarat's disadvantaged. The children ate only plain rice and dry biscuits to experience a taste of a very simplistic meal and potentially became aware of some of the difficulties these people too frequently feel. They gathered up the supply of generously donated toiletry items and made 80+ care packs that will be passed on to St Vinnie's to be distributed to people experiencing hard times and setbacks. Various other activities, discussions and viewing of 'The Blind Side' movie completed their night.

Big thanks to Mrs Mohr for organising this event that deepened their understanding and insight. Thanks also to the many staff members who made themselves available to ensure all went well and may we always give thanks for the work and generosity provided by volunteering personnel.

Patricia Caldwell - St Thomas More Primary School, Alfredton

FINALIST IN AWARDS

St John of God Hospital Ballarat Nurse Manager, Angela Langdon was a finalist in the Nurse or Midwife of the Year Award and 2 West Nursing Unit, a finalist in the Team Excellence Award in the 2017 Hesta National Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

In its 11th year, the annual Awards recognise the outstanding contribution of graduates, individuals and teams for their professionalism, innovation and care across a range of health settings. Both Angela and the 2 West team were recognised for their achievements as articulated in the statements below:

Angela Langdon was nominated for her innovative direction and leadership as a Nurse Unit Manager, which significantly improved staff satisfaction and patient care outcomes within the medical cardiology ward.

2 West Nursing Unit were nominated for establishing evidence-based initiatives that led to the significant improvement in employee satisfaction and patient-care outcomes within the ward.

St John of God Ballarat Hospital's Acting Chief Executive Officer Maria Noonan said they were immensely proud to have two finalists for the HESTA awards. "The awards recognise a commitment to excellence in care. To have both our Nurse Manager Angela Langdon and our Medical Ward nominated, is a reflection of the values and passion they bring into their work place each and every day."

"We are privileged to have such highly skilled and committed nurses working at St John of God Ballarat and are thrilled that they have been listed as finalists in this auspicious award", Maria said.

Congratulations to both Angela Langdon and the 2 West team for their dedication to providing consistent and outstanding patient care, implementing innovative initiatives in clinical practice and providing an environment which nurtures and supports both patients and caregivers.

Lee-Anne Bellis - Marketing and Public Relations Manager

Photo: 2 West Nursing Team



Expanding Nazareth's Community of Care

Following the expansion and construction of a new wing at Nazareth House Ballarat only a few years ago, Nazareth Care has continued its commitment to Ballarat with the completion of ten high quality independent living apartments on the same site in Mill Street Ballarat.

This boutique 'Retirement Village' demonstrates Nazareth Care's ability to respond to local needs. To celebrate this exciting phase in Nazareth Care's rich history in Ballarat a small ceremony was held on Monday, April 10 where retired Bishop Peter Connors blessed the new apartments.

Following was a lovely morning tea reception. Nazareth House Ballarat General Manager Tanya Barun both welcomed and thanked attendees including Bishop Connors, Nazareth House residents, prospective apartment residents, many of the Sisters including Australasian Regional Superior Sr Margaret O'Keefe, Sr Superior Elisapeta Tevaga, Nazareth Care CEO David Cotter (pictured above with Sr Margaret) and representatives of the proud contractor SJ Weir. The quality of the building and SJ Weir's attention to detail was on display for all to see.

The Sisters of Nazareth remain very committed to servicing the Ballarat region and ensuring the sustainability and growth of Nazareth Care Ballarat into the future, via interdenominational communities of care, which offer a range of individualised support for residents. The majority of the apartments have commanding views of the area and are superbly appointed and located on the historic site. Enquiries can be made through Nazareth Care Ballarat.

Tanya Barun - General Manager, Nazareth House Ballarat

PLENARY COUNCIL ON THE AGENDA FOR DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Diocesan Pastoral Council has held two meetings in 2017, the first on April 29 which included new members and the second on June 3. The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) is a group of people from various places around the Diocese of Ballarat whom Bishop Paul has invited to reflect with him on the needs of the diocese. One of the key roles of the DPC is to inform the decision-making process of the Bishop by its consideration of issues raised at the meetings of the Council.

As well as induction and getting to know each other, the members of the DPC in April heard briefings and updates on a range of Diocesan issues. This included the diocese's pastoral planning process *Looking Forward*, and the DPC's relationship with Parish Pastoral Councils (PPC). Tracing the development and establishment of both Diocesan and Parish Pastoral Councils from the documents of the Second Vatican Council, Fr Justin noted that 90% of parishes in the Ballarat diocese have a PPC. Parish Pastoral Councils emerged after Diocesan Pastoral Councils were enabled. Like Diocesan Pastoral Councils, Parish Pastoral Councils:

- investigate the pastoral reality,
- reflect on it, and
- recommend their conclusions to the priest/bishop.

Bishop Paul spoke about the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020. Bishop Paul will be looking to the DPC for their thoughts regarding how the diocese plans and prepares for the Plenary Council. These preparations will commence in 2018 and will encourage involvement amongst a wide range of people in the diocese. A Plenary Council is an opportunity for the Catholic community to proclaim current convictions and its vision for the future of the Church in Australia.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference gives the following information about the Plenary Council:

"A Plenary Council involves the participation of the whole Catholic community. It will provide for representation from among the laity, religious and ordained ministers, together with the bishops.

The preparatory process for a Plenary Council has potential to engage the Church community throughout Australia, including those whose participation in Church life and mission is already significant and others who may feel on the fringes. It will be essential that the preparatory process take place at both diocesan and parish levels, as well as among religious communities and lay movements." The second meeting followed on with this discussion.

The current members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council are Anne Eskdale, Marie Shaddock, Elizabeth Clarke, Paul O'Beirne, Thomas Thukkumury, Pauline Stapleton, Amanda Smith, Fr Justin Driscoll and Bishop Paul Bird. The DPC meets again in August.

Amanda Smith, Pastoral Services Consultant

A deep sense of community and belonging

At a staff liturgy to celebrate Catholic Education Week at Emmanuel College Warrnambool, staff members were asked why they chose to work in Catholic education.

Jacqui Floyd teaches English, Religious Education and Art at Emmanuel as well as being involved in the College Equestrian Team. Her response was:

"Teaching was my second career and my graduate position was Sacred Heart School, Beagle Bay, on the Dampier Peninsula north of Broome, WA. In the following years working and teaching in remote Aboriginal Catholic schools, I met with, lived with and worked with religious, priests and lay people. I was amazed and inspired by many remarkable stories of devotion, sacrifice, personal strength and sense of adventure of these pioneering people. One sister, Sr Bernadette, aged then in her eighties, left Ireland as a novice at sixteen, to a life she could not have imagined in her wildest dreams.

Catholic Education extends into the remotest corners and heart of our country, and alongside classroom education are the Christian values of hope, faith and love. These are witnessed in Mass, choir, celebrations, novenas, rosaries, weddings, baptisms and funerals, providing comfort and guidance in what can sometimes be challenging and confronting circumstances, enhancing a deep sense of community and belonging."

Jean Christie, Director of Marketing

ACU PARAMEDICINE STUDENTS WORK WITH THE CFA

Australian Catholic University paramedicine students came face-to-face with a major vehicle accident recently. Over thirty Bachelor of Nursing/ Bachelor of Paramedicine students were involved in the demonstration as part of their trauma studies.

Held at the Ballarat Fire Station in Barkly Street, the students were taught by CFA volunteers how to work with other emergency services and to be aware of potential dangers including chemicals, airbags, fuel and gas. Paramedicine student society and Paraquinas demonstration organiser, Kimberley Morris-Flynn said it was a useful exercise for the second year students. "It is very patient focused in the classroom. The demonstration showed the physical barriers like doors that don't open or airbags that can still go off," Ms Morris-Flynn said.



Ballarat Fire Brigade captain Mark Cartledge said the demonstration showed the students how to work safely as a team with the other emergency services teams to ensure a better outcome for the patient. He said it was the third time the volunteer brigade held the demonstration, with Ballarat Towing supplying the vehicle.

Gemma Kelly - Marketing Coordinator

St Joseph's Parish Charlton

On the weekend, October 21 and 22, St Joseph's Parish Charlton will be celebrating 120 years of Catholic Education (this is also Charlton Show weekend)

We invite any past pupils and staff to attend our celebrations.

Please contact Anne 0408547973 for further details.

Four St John of God Ballarat Hospital theatre technicians have successfully completed Certificate IV in Operating Theatre Technical Support (HLT47515).

Peri-Operative Services Manager Troy Tregilles said whilst we have had operating theatre technicians train in this hospital before, this is the first time we can recall technicians undertaking a Certificate IV in training. "The course is completed onsite with SWC Training providing the training. The technicians receive a course work book to complete with a SWC assessor visiting monthly to undertake assessments and view progress."

TECHS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE STUDIES

Mentor Paula Glenton said at the completion of Certificate IV, the technicians gained knowledge and experience in the processes of their roles. "Graduates said they learnt about the processes involved in their roles and why, the importance of patient privacy, the role of CSSD in the operating suite and the importance of infection control." Whilst the four technicians undertook training and assessment days, all the technicians rallied and supported them so that they can better themselves in their knowledge and skills to provide optimal patient outcomes during the patient's stay in theatre.

The ease of undertaking the training without having to travel outside Ballarat and the support offered by SWC encouraged more of the technicians to want to undertake training. "The professionalism amongst the technicians has definitely improved during the training process and the assessor frequently commented on the skills and great team work our group of technicians possess," Paula said.

Completing Certificate IV is a mandatory requirement in some of the bigger city hospitals so this course has provided them with future employability and life skills to better their future. There are currently four more technicians being signed up for Certificate IV for 2017.

A further two technicians, Luke Cargill and Hamish Everett are currently undertaking Certificate III in operating theatre technical support.

Lee-Anne Bellis - Marketing and Public Relations Manager



Photo: Kane Crocker (senior technician), Matt Gellert, Nicholas Hynes and Jamie Te Moananui completed their studies in less than a year.

MASS OF THE OILS

On Monday, April 10, the beginning of Holy Week, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat was filled with priests and people from around the Diocese for the Mass of the Oils. This Mass is very special to our Diocese as it is the annual celebration of the Diocesan Church of Ballarat. The gathering celebrates the unity of the Diocese where priests, religious and laity renew their commitment to call to serve in Christ's name as baptised members of his Church and sharers in his mission. The Holy Oils were blessed and consecrated and were distributed to all the communities of our Diocese for the celebration of the Sacraments.

Concelebrants for the Mass were priests celebrating a Jubilee this year: Bishop Peter Connors (30 years a Bishop), Frs Kevin Murphy (60 years) and Gregory Tait (25 years). Fr John McKinnon is also celebrating 60 years a priest but was unable to attend the Mass.



The music was beautifully led by Choir Conductor Dr Susan Crowe, Organist Mr Geoff Martin and choir members from the Cathedral and surrounding parishes. The Cantor for the evening was Chiara Angeli, a member of the YESS Youth Group at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. There are many people involved in the success of this Mass and thanks is extended to those who prepared the oils, participated in the various ministries, collected the Oils for their parishes, the Altar Servers, welcomers, ushers, those responsible for the décor in the Cathedral, Sally Morris for catering and members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.



CONFIRMATION AT ST PIUS'

This year saw eleven children confirmed at St Pius X Warrnambool West during either the Saturday night or Sunday morning Mass. They were well prepared by joining in with a series of family group sessions and by the support of their classroom teachers. The ceremonies were attended by many of their loving families and everyone enjoyed the beautiful singing from the school choir who spent a lot of time with Mr Joe Ewing in rehearsals.

We congratulate all confirmation candidates in taking their next step along their own personal faith journey. May they be blessed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit!!

Lucille Lane

Celebrating 50 Years

The Parish of Gordon recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the profession of Sister of Mercy, Sr Kathleen Moran. Parishioners and Sr Kathleen celebrated with a morning tea and cake after Sunday Mass at Ballan. At the celebration, parishioners were eager to congratulate Sr Kathleen on her milestone and to acknowledge all of the wonderful work and generous support that Sr Kathleen provides to so many people in our local parish community.

In extending thanks to the community, Sr Kathleen shared some memories of her time as a Sister of Mercy and thanked those present for marking the occasion. Sr Kathleen also shared some wonderful photographs of her profession ceremony and other memories.

Catherine Green



APOLOGY

On June 1 at the Aboretum in Canberra, I joined Principals from Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) schools throughout Australia to be a part of the formal apology to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. The apology, delivered by the Executive Director, Dr Wayne Tinsey, was an important moment both in terms of openly and honestly acknowledging this part of our history, and in expressing great remorse for the anguish and pain caused to victims and survivors.

On Tuesday, June 27 at 4.30pm, St Patrick's College Ballarat offered its formal apology in the front gardens of the College.

As the current stewards of this College, we seek to stand together and acknowledge the unfathomable hurt of the past and to chart a new course of hope for the future: to express our sorrow for, and solidarity with, victims and survivors of sexual abuse, their families, and the wider Ballarat community for the damage done by individuals historically connected with the College.

Most significantly, an apology means little without accompanying actions. As a school community, we recognize we are on a long journey towards the hope of healing. We will strive to seek out ways of assisting victims and survivors and their families who have been wounded by abuse and who are in need of our ongoing support and help. We will continue to work hard to reconnect as many past students with the College who desire this. We will be strong advocates for an appropriate and effective redress scheme. We will be a strong voice for, and stand together with, victims and survivors and their families. This is our commitment as a College community.

The formal apology was followed by the official opening of our new Reflective Garden and Monument. This garden is the result of many conversations with members of the College's community, together with victims and survivors. It stands as a permanent, visible and accessible acknowledgement of this part of our history, as well as reminding us into the future that child safety is our most fundamental responsibility as a school.



The apology represents an important and pivotal moment in the history of the College. While we cannot undo the past, we can speak clearly and loudly for the current community and move forward into the future with a determination that things must and will be different.

John Crowley - Headmaster

"Let's take the next steps"



Each year National Reconciliation Week provides numerous opportunities for people to participate in working towards building respectful and just relationships between all Australians. This year's theme Let's Take the Next Steps, highlights the wish of many Australians to be more proactive in learning, sharing and finding a united way forward.

Across Australia communities hosted BBQs, picnics, art shows, story-telling sessions and public forums to increase awareness of the importance of this week. Likewise, politicians, sports teams, celebrities and communities are just a few of the groups who are working to strengthen and build upon a movement which becomes stronger each year.

As part of my role, I try to attend a wide variety of activities to support our schools and communities. On Friday, May 26, I joined in local activities commemorating National Sorry Day, a day which originated 19 years ago, one year after the Bringing Them Home report was released. Whilst

attending a breakfast that morning, I was blessed to hear the personal journeys that other attendees had been on. Their stories were filled with some sadness and some joy, but all were told with purpose – that we as a nation need to learn from the past and move as one into the future. I was lucky enough to participate in three other events that day, all filled with such life-affirming stories.

During National Reconciliation Week itself, I started the week by attending events in the far north of the Ballarat Diocese. Once again I was honoured to hear people not only tell their stories, but also their reflections on what they want for their community, their children and themselves. The rest of the week was spent in a similar fashion, renewing relationships and making new connections.

This year also sees two historically significant milestones – the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and the 25th anniversary of "Mabo Day", when the High Court of Australia overturned the legal principle of 'terra nullius'. These momentous occasions have made a real difference in the lives of many Australians.

Jeanette Morris - Indigenous Education CEOB

WE REMEMBER

Fr Frank Madden - Fr Frank Madden, senior priest of the Diocese, died on April 20, 2017 at St John of God Hospital in Warrnambool. Born in Koroit on November 9, 1926 he was educated at St Columba's School Illowa and Good Samaritan College Koroit. After years of employment at what was then the Camperdown Butter Factory during which he obtained a Diploma in Accountancy, Frank commenced studies for the priesthood at Corpus Christi College Werribee in 1957 (age 31), and was ordained in Ballarat on July 27, 1963. He was appointed Assistant Priest at St Joseph's Warrnambool in January 1964 and served there until May 1968 when he was appointed Assistant Priest at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat where he served until May 1971. Frank was then appointed Administrator of St Aloysius' Redan from May 1971 until April 1976. During this time Frank also served as Vicar General. Following six months sabbatical in India and the United States, Frank served briefly as Administrator of the Parish of Inglewood (October 1976 - January 1977). In January 1977, Frank was appointed to St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat to lead the ministry team which he did until his appointment as Parish Priest of Horsham where he served from June 1982 - April 1997. It was during this time that the award winning Church of Ss Michael and John was built. Frank's final appointment was to Peshurst where he served as Parish Priest from April 5, 1997- September 22, 2011 when Frank retired to Koroit. He continued to offer sacramental ministry to the parish of Mortlake (Caramut) and as a supply priest to the parishes of the southern region.

Fr John Murphy - Fr John Murphy passed away on Sunday, April 30 at Mercy Place, Warrnambool. Fr John had retired from his work at Shamrock House, Crossley in 2010 at the age of 85 which also coincided with Shamrock House closing. Being part of the Salesian Order of Don Bosco, Fr John commenced his profession caring for boys in Orphanages and Boarding schools. The order purchased the Shamrock Hotel in 1970 and converted it into short and long-term accommodation for people who had nowhere to go, catering for up to thirty people at a time

Br Kevin Tuck - Br Kevin died at Nazareth House Ballarat on April 3 and was buried from St Damian's Church Bundoora on Thursday April 6 2017. He was aged 86 years. Born in Warrnambool, he attended the Christian Brothers' School there before joining the Brothers' at Strathfield NSW. He completed his novitiate and teacher training in New South Wales and then returned to Victoria, where he attended the University of Melbourne. He combined full time teaching and sports coaching with evening studies at the University. By his own admission, he was too involved in sport, so he dropped out of University and went to St Patrick's Boarding College at Ballarat for ten years, where he got all the sport he could imagine and more. Br Tuck played a significant role in the life of Trinity College, Colac, from its beginnings in 1967 - 1969, he was the Foundation Principal overseeing not only the building of the school buildings and the teaching, but also the construction of the Christian Brothers' Residence. Amongst his other appointments was Headmaster of St Joseph's College Geelong from 1974 - 1980 and later Deputy Headmaster of St Patrick's College Ballarat. Brother Tuck returned to Colac 1988, remaining there until moving to Nazareth House more recently.

Sr Maureen Connelly rsm - The Funeral Mass for Sr Maureen Connelly rsm was held at St Alipius' Church Ballarat East on Wednesday April 19 following her death on Monday April 10. Sr Maureen was born, raised and educated in Birchip and following years working entered the Sisters of Mercy in Ballarat when she was aged 30. Trained as a teacher, Sr Maureen was part of founding communities of Sisters of Mercy to live at Wendouree and Sebastopol. In addition to teaching she had responsibility for one of the Houses associated with the then Patrician House, a residential facility for students enrolled at Aquinas Teacher's College. She was Principal of St James Parish School Sebastopol from 1983 - 1997. Sr Maureen returned to live at the Mercy Convent in Wendouree where she was engaged in pastoral ministry before moving to the Mercy Centre, Ballarat East in 2010.

Sr Margaret Houlihan rsm - Sr Margraet died on Tuesday, April 11. Her Funeral Mass was held at St Alipius' Church Ballarat East on Friday, April 21. Sr Margaret was remembered for her gift of hospitality which she offered during her days as a teacher of home economics at both Sacred Heart College Ballarat East and St Paul's College Ballarat, during six years as a missionary in Papua New Guinea (1973-1979), as coordinator of Emmaus - the Sisters of Mercy aged care facility in Ballarat East and also in pastoral ministry at Timboon and later in the parish of Mortlake, where she ministered from 2000 until her return to Ballarat East in 2016.

Of Interest



Fr Thomas Frawley died in Inglewood on April 29, 1881, aged 39. Fr Frawley was born in Buttevant, County Cork in Ireland in 1850 and was ordained in Paris in 1875 at the Irish College, then served one year at St Margaret's in Kinning Park, Glasgow. However, he was not in good health and the church moved him to Airdrie, to be closer to the country for his own good. Due to the reformation, he was the first priest to live in Blantyre for over 300 years. He went about raising funds to build a multipurpose building which could be used as a church and a school. In October 1877, there was a terrible mining accident where more than two hundred miners were killed, of which more than half were Catholic. Fr Frawley conducted the Miners funeral and obviously found this very difficult. He moved to Australia in 1880. The mining disaster has been commemorated with stained glass windows in St Joseph's Church, Blantyre recently. It features Fr Frawley blessing miners and a mother and child.

(Ref: The Tablet and <https://www.facebook.com/TheBlantyreProject/posts/944674075592602>)



The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2016/2017 was titled 'A Place at the Table' Social Justice in an Aging Society. It celebrates the value, dignity and significant contributions of older people to the life of the community. In responding to this statement the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission asked the families in our Ballarat Diocesan community to consider whether there might be an extra place at their Christmas dinner table for an elderly relative, friend or neighbour who may otherwise be spending Christmas Day alone. We invite you to extend this thought for the whole year, is there a place at your table, in your home, at a birthday party, any event that might welcome someone who may be experiencing loneliness and isolation. This also ties in with *Amoris Latetitia*, 'The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family'.

Laudato si' – Praise be to you continues to be another inspiration for Our Diocesan Community this year. This Encyclical calls on us to care for creation and take action as we face global environmental degradation. It presents a unique opportunity for the Catholic community to highlight important social and environmental issues, such as fossil fuel consumption and climate change.

Photos:

Front cover: Prayer focus. Back cover: 1. Northern Zone Meeting 2. Bishop Peter with Bishop Paul on the occasion of Bishop Peter's 30th Anniversary Episcopal Ordination 3. Bishop Paul in Robinvale 4. St Mary's Warracknabeal celebrating their five star award

We are the Catholic church of the Ballarat Diocese. We gather in the name of Jesus from the Murray to the Sea in interwoven faith communities. Spirit-filled, we celebrate and share our journey; reaching out to nurture all God's people.

Vision Statement for the Diocese