

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

No. 53 October 2017





TOWARDS 2020

The Catholic Church in Australia has commenced preparations for a Plenary Council to be held in 2020. A Plenary Council provides an occasion for the whole Church to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to our Church at this time. For this to happen, wide consultation of the entire Australian Church will be necessary so that all voices have an opportunity to be heard. Processes that enable all to genuinely listen to each other will also be required. A new relationship of trust and confidence has to be created within the Church in Australia and the wider community.

The last time a Plenary Council was held in Australia was eighty years ago in 1937. At that time those engaged in the Plenary Council were advised to “take care that provision is made for the pastoral needs of the people of God... and to decide what seems opportune for the increase of the faith, the organization of common pastoral actions and the regulation of morals and of common ecclesiastical discipline which is to be observed, promoted and protected.” A Plenary Council has legislative capacity that will be applicable to the Church in Australia.

The idea of having another Plenary Council in Australia has been around for some years. The idea has been given fresh impetus by Pope Francis’ encouragement of a ‘synodal’ style of Church and also by the reflection on the lessons of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The synodal process has three stages – preparation, celebration and implementation. Throughout the preparation stage the Diocese of Ballarat will commence with **Praying towards 2020**. This will take place in the Easter Season of 2018, from April 21 – May 7. Over these weeks, the whole Diocese, its parishes, faith communities, schools, institutions and agencies will be invited to participate in prayer to invoke the Holy Spirit to inspire our preparations for the Plenary Council. Twelve Redemptorist Priests will lead what will be something of a mini mission throughout the Diocese, with four Redemptorists in the northern, central and southern zones of the Diocese for these two weeks.

In the latter part of 2018 and into 2019, there will be gatherings at local and regional levels of the Diocese that will be opportunities for Dialogue towards 2020. Prayer and Dialogue are essential elements in this whole process of preparation for the 2020 Plenary Council. The Diocesan Pastoral Council has begun to consider ways of encouraging Parish Pastoral Councils and local Leadership Teams to plan ways of hosting dialogue sessions with as many as possible. Diocesan Commissions, Councils, Boards and Committees will all have the Plenary Council on their agendas. Catholic Schools, Social Services and Health Care institutions will also be called into this preparatory phase. At a recent gathering in Sydney to start the conversation across the Australian Church towards the 2020 Plenary Council, Good Samaritan Sister Clare Condon expressed her hope that the preparatory processes of the Plenary Council would engage with survivors of sexual abuse by clergy and religious, ordinary faithful Catholics, clergy, Australia’s first peoples, women, young people, those who are served by St Vincent de Paul and Centacare, the homeless, disabled, those living with mental health challenges and those who are marginalised in so many ways. Such engagement would help us become not just a Church for the poor but a Church of the poor.

What is expected throughout all of the stages of the Plenary Council is that it will be messy, at times chaotic, frustrating, confronting, honest, truthful, inspiring, visionary. Proposals might be easy to express but not easy to implement. Throughout the whole journey mutual listening will be required so that everybody learns. This means that the humility to listen, even and perhaps especially to difference, will be asked of all who participate.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane who is chairing the Bishop’s committee for the Plenary Council has likened the journey to the 2020 Plenary Council to the biblical pilgrimage of Abraham, requiring us to leave some things behind, having the courage to let some things go and imagine new ways, allowing ourselves to be led by a God who dislocates. He has said that the journey to the Plenary Council must be the work of the Holy Spirit, it must be an act of faith which is why we will commence our preparations for the 2020 Plenary Council with **Praying towards 2020** in the Easter season of 2018.

*Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar-General
Photo courtesy of the Ballarat Courier*

Everyone has a place at the table

We pray for the people of our nation; that we open our eyes, our minds and our hearts so that we may see that we are all on life’s journey and need each other’s respect and support, whatever stage of life we are at.

Liturgy Formation 2017

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission presented three Liturgy Formation Sessions in the diocese this year and these events were hosted by the parishes of Colac (June 25), Ballarat Cathedral (July 9) and Warrnambool (July 23).

Presenters on these days were members of the Liturgical Commission: Funeral Ministry – Fr Gary Jones and Dr Peter Morris, Diocesan Sacraments of Initiation Program – Bishop Paul Bird, Noeline Hogan and Marie Harney; Formation for Lectors – Dr Susan Crowe and Sr Denise Desmarchelier. Noeline Hogan and Sr Denise were also MCs.

Bishop Paul celebrated Mass in these parishes prior to the sessions beginning. He then welcomed those present with an introduction to Liturgy and gave an overview of the revised Diocesan Sacraments of Initiation Program, "Let the Children Come".

After lunch, there were workshops. All three workshops were well attended and presented at each session.

At the end of the day there was a plenary session with an opportunity for discussion and feedback. The day closed with the Prayer of the Church.

The final Liturgy Formation Session with these topics will be presented in Horsham on February 25, 2018. Registration and information regarding this day is available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Many thanks to all who supported the Liturgical Commission by their attendance at these days and to the presenters at each of these sessions.

Planning for 2018 Liturgy Formation sessions is underway!



L-R: Susan Crowe, Bishop Paul Bird, Noeline Hogan

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OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

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The next ODC will be in March 2018.
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Bishop visits

Bishop Paul made his five-yearly visit to the Bungaree parish from September 8 - September, 11, 2017. This was preceded by visits from diocesan staff who reviewed the parish administration, finances, buildings, child protection and pastoral activity. The reports prepared on each of these areas were not only helpful for informing Bishop Paul and will also be valuable resources for the Parish Leadership Team to use in planning future initiatives.

On Friday afternoon, Bishop Paul visited parishioners who were sick or homebound, meeting with them and celebrating the sacrament of anointing. Saturday coincided with the CHFL football and netball grand finals, so there was no parish activity planned for during the day! That evening, Bishop Paul celebrated Mass at St Michael's, Springbank, which is in the Gordon parish, but is part of the normal Mass schedule that is shared between the Bungaree and Gordon parishes. Despite the end of season celebrations at the local football and netball clubs, a good-sized congregation attended Mass with Bishop Paul and enjoyed the opportunity to meet with him over supper.

On Sunday morning, Bishop Paul celebrated the Mass at St Michael's, Bungaree, with parishioners attending from the other two parish churches: St Brendan's, Dunnstown, and St Peter's, Clarkes Hill. This is quite common in the Bungaree parish as the three churches are quite close to one another. The Mass included preparation for baptism for Thomas Patrick Maher (son of Laura and Danny) and was followed by morning tea in the parish centre.

At lunch time, Bishop Paul met with the Parish Leadership Team over lunch for a wide-ranging and very stimulating conversation that covered the parish's history, its present population and activities and possible future directions.

On Monday morning, Bishop Paul returned to visit the two parish schools, St Brendan's, Dunnstown and St Mary's, Clarkes Hill. At each school he met with parents and children, answered some penetrating questions and shared in a liturgy that had been prepared by the school community.

Finally, over lunch on Monday, Bishop Paul and Fr Shane reviewed the visit and reflected on various insights that had emerged in the preparatory reports and in the four days of the visit itself. The parish is very grateful for the commitment and care shown by Bishop Paul, and to the diocesan staff for giving such time and attention to his visitation.

Fr Shane Mackinlay, Bungaree Parish Priest



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN'S DAY

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day was celebrated on August 4, 2017. The day recognises the gifts and strengths the children from these cultures bring to our communities today.

On this day St Mary's School Donald proudly celebrated its indigenous students - Nullah, Darnell, Zachariah, John and Ethan Clapham and Jaya Stirling. A liturgy of welcome and thanksgiving was celebrated to recognise the special gift of each of these students. A poster celebrating all that is unique and special about Nullah, Darnell, Zachariah, John, Ethan and Jaya was made by the senior students and presented at the liturgy. The Aboriginal 'Our Father' was sung and traditional stories from the Dreamtime were shared.

Maree Hughes - St Mary's Primary School Donald





“WE’VE BEEN IN YOUR SHOES”

Loreto College Ballarat introduced an inspiring careers evening format to the school calendar in July and August this year. Under the theme, "We've Been in Your Shoes", twenty past pupils were invited back to the College to share their study and career stories and wealth of knowledge and advice with current Years 10, 11 and 12 students, who are currently undertaking the daunting task of choosing their study and career paths.

There was an immediate rapport between presenters and audience, based on the fact that the presenters had literally 'been in the shoes' of the current students, having walked the hallways, studied in the classrooms and successfully navigated the same choices and challenges the current students are facing. The past pupils have all gone on to carve successful careers, some in very different areas to what they first thought whilst studying their VCE.

The evenings were a sincere and engaging variation of the traditional careers evening. Both evenings included personal stories, informal 'Q&A style' panel discussion and mentor tables to facilitate personal and group conversations with the students. The twenty past pupils, representing a diverse array of careers, shared invaluable advice with current students and parents who warmly embraced the opportunity to speak one-on-one with each presenter at the mentor tables. Some of the careers represented by past pupils included podiatry, legal, medicine, occupational therapy, police force, media and communications, hair and beauty, hospitality, architecture and design, nursing, paramedicine, psychology and science.

Judy-Ann Quilliam

Director of Marketing, Community Relations and Fundraising



who could you be?



Deciding what to study is a pretty momentous decision. This is the main reason why Australian Catholic University (ACU) runs Open Day — it's everything students need, in one place, to help make their choice. ACU's Ballarat campus threw open its doors to future students on Sunday 27 August 2017. ACU Ballarat Campus Dean Professor Bridget Aitchison said that Open Day gave future students and their families the opportunity to gain a better understanding of ACU. "We had academics, course experts, support staff and admission gurus on-hand and ready to help," she said.

"Students could ask about courses, applications, pathways, scholarships, studying overseas, accommodation, financial support and more. It was also an opportunity to participate in a campus tour, meet current students and course lecturers. ACU offers a friendly, supportive environment for students preparing for careers in schools, hospitals, businesses and a range of other workplaces."

ACU is the university for people who march to the beat of a different drum – a beat that comes from within. People who wanted to make a positive impact through their career of choice were encouraged to come along and learn more about nurses in education, theology, philosophy and health sciences such as nursing, paramedicine and physiotherapy, ACU's connections with industry, university life, scholarships and financial support, overseas study options and different ways of securing a place in courses of choice.

Open Day at ACU's Ballarat Campus was also a fun day out with live entertainment, lots of giveaway goodies and great food.

Gemma Kelly, Marketing and External Relations

ORDINATION CELEBRATIONS



Fr Gregory Tait celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination with a Mass at All Saints Parish Church, Portland, on Sunday, August 27. Participating in the occasion were a number of members of his immediate family, as well as friends from throughout the Diocese and beyond and a church full of parishioners from Portland, Heywood and Dartmoor. Hymns were beautifully led by the All Saints Parish choir accompanied by the church organ. After communion Fr Greg was thanked, on behalf of current and former parishioners, for his role as a servant to many Christian communities, to individuals in times of joy and sorrow and as a guide to those suffering a crisis of faith. Thanks were also expressed to God for his vocation and that of the other priests of the Diocese. He was presented with a gift from all parishioners. Prior to the Dismissal, the choir provided a special 'a capella' rendition of "Dona Nobis Pacem", as an acknowledgement of Fr Greg's particular interest in liturgical music.

Fr Greg was ordained in 1992 on August 28, the Feast of St Augustine of Hippo, whom he adopted as his ordination patron saint. In his homily Fr Greg spoke of the themes which had guided his ministry. He referred to the Gospel of St Matthew (21st Sunday in Ordinary Time) in which Jesus tells Peter that He will give him the keys to the Kingdom of heaven and names him as the rock upon which He will build His church. Fr Greg made the point that the original Greek version of the Gospel used the term "ecclesia", which has since been interpreted in English as referring to "church", but that "ecclesia" in the Gospel usage was more likely to be referring to an assembly of like-minded people, being the Greek word used to refer to the popular assembly of ancient Athens. Church, in this latter sense, really meant the Christian community of believers, rather than a building or an organisational structure. Jesus was, therefore, indicating that he would use Peter as the rock on which He would build His community of like-minded people, or believers.

Fr Greg observed that, in common with other Diocesan priests, he had been continually inspired throughout his priesthood by the members of the various Christian communities, in the Diocese of Ballarat, elsewhere in Australia and overseas, with whom he had been associated. These communities, although differentiated by place, consisted of like-minded people, united by a common faith and purpose.

The very moving communion hymn, "Will you come and follow me", beautifully sung by two leading members of the "Iona (Scotland) Community", John Bell and Graham Maule, perfectly expressed the last of Fr Greg's themes: response to the call of God. This response is one which, as leaders and members of the community of believers, we all make. The fact that the writers of the hymn belong to the current Iona ecumenical community, re-established in 1938, but originally established as an abbey by the great Irish missionary St Columba in 563, served to emphasise the endurance and fidelity of like-minded Christian communities, inspired by their faith and responding to the call of God.

After Mass the congregation gathered in the Bayview College library for lunch. College students and parishioners had very kindly prepared a buffet lunch which was greatly enjoyed by more than eighty of Fr Greg's family, friends and parishioners.

Water Gardens for Science

This year the theme for Science Week was Future Earth. At Emmanuel College Warrnambool, we investigated how aquaponics can be used in sustainable food production. On Monday, August 14, Ben Pohlner from Wannan Water came to Emmanuel. He set up two aquaponics tanks in the MacAuley Learning Resource Centre at lunchtime with the assistance of students. The tanks are water gardens - fish tanks that also grow herbs and sprouts. The fish feed the plants that clean the water with the help of some friendly bacteria. Ben also spoke to the Year 9 Health and Care of Farm Animals and the Certificate II Agriculture

students about how food can be sustainably produced.

On Friday, students in the Year 9 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematic (STEAM) elective participated in a nation wide CSIRO Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) in Schools virtual classroom, joining the live conversation with scientists from around the world via video link. This was followed up by producing and experimenting with some non-Newtonian liquid.

Emmanuel College thanks Science Teachers Association Victoria for their



donation of the two aquaponics tanks and Wannan Water for the goldfish. Thank you to Ben Pohlner, Penny Ryan, Leanne O'Brien, Jed Gleeson, David Beard, Marg Sinnot and Jean Christie for their assistance with the event and the students for their enthusiasm.

Simone Rolfe - Science Coordinator

Our Diocesan Community - October 2017

FOUNDATION NEWS

Recently, the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation held its 31st Annual General Meeting so it is timely to remind parishioners of the purpose of the Foundation and to update the diocese on the activities of the Foundation during 2016.

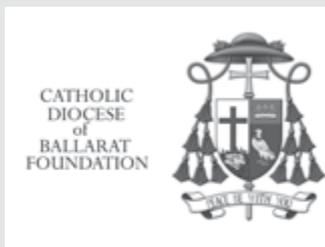
The Foundation was established in 1986 to raise funds to assist the Bishop fund the pastoral needs of the Diocese of Ballarat. Over the last twenty years in particular, there has been a shift in the demographics of our diocese with declining population in many rural areas, population growth in regional towns and a continuing decrease in Mass attendance. Our diocese comprises 51 parishes with 109 church communities within those parishes. We are faced therefore with an increasing challenge to provide services to people within our diocese. The foundation is in its 32nd year of assisting the Bishop in providing these services.

The objectives of the foundation are:

- to financially assist the diocese in its mission to grow Christ's kingdom here on earth;
- to financially assist the charitable works of the diocese; and
- to provide for relief, support and comfort of those suffering from disadvantage within the diocese, inter alia from unemployment, low income, age, physical or mental disability, language difficulties or social or economic isolation.

The Foundation has its own rules, Constitution and Board of Management and operates as a distinct entity from general diocesan finances. It has grown and now holds net assets of \$8.9m. In total \$336,701 was distributed during 2016 to the diocese and through parishes to support activities such as sponsoring representatives attending the World Youth Day in Poland and the Proclaim Conference in Sydney, Merbein Parish Year of Mercy activities and the

Warrnambool caring for the homebound program. The Foundation also supported organisations such as Centacare, the Ballarat Hospice, and St Vincent de Paul's North West Central Council. 2018 will provide the opportunity for parishes and other groups to apply for support for activities geared towards the *Year of Youth* events being planned throughout the Diocese



Applying for a grant:

Parishes and diocesan based groups or organisations are able to apply for a grant year-round. Applications will be considered at the next available Foundation committee meeting (the committee meets four times per year; with the next meeting on December 12). Grants are generally made to assist discrete projects which will contribute to the development or advancement of the Catholic faith in the diocese. Successful applicants will be required to submit an acquittal report at the project's completion.

If you are considering applying for a grant, but would like some assistance, **please contact either Jim Muller, our Foundation Chair (jimuller39@gmail.com) or Andrew Jirik, the Diocesan Business Manager (andrew.jirik@ballarat.catholic.org.au)**, who will assist directly or will arrange for another committee member to be in touch.

Supporting the foundation:

The foundation relies on donations to continue to build its investment reserve to fund its activities. You can assist by making a donation (all donations, regardless of the amount, are gratefully received); through a pledge (individuals or families can choose to commit to a pledge of a chosen amount on a yearly basis or for a set period of time); or a bequest via your will.

KIDS TEACHING KIDS



On August 28, local primary and secondary schools in Warrnambool gathered together at Deakin University Warrnambool for the annual Wannon Water Kids Teaching Kids event, where children organise and run sessions with a focus on sustainability.

St Patrick's Parish Primary School, Port Fairy, have been part of both previous events and this year presented a variety of activities focusing on "Worms in our World", informing the audiences of the significant part worms play in breaking down food waste and eliminating the need for it to go into landfill.



The children created a short movie to educate everyone about the fascination we have for worms at St Pat's. The audience then broke into two groups to play the board game (based on Snakes and Ladders) called 'Worms and Peels' and made a poster of what worms can and can't eat. The groups gathered together at the end to take part in a quiz to see what they had learnt during the session.

We had a wonderful day mixing with children from around our area, learning new things and sharing what we know with others.

Andrea Lane - Sustainability Leader

WENDOUREE VINNIES SHOP BLESSING



There is a new shopping venue in town! Wendouree Vinnies has reopened just west of the old shop in Howitt Street, Wendouree, and is bigger and brighter. Even the stock is colour coordinated!!!

On a cold bleak day on September 12, 2017, a group of around fifty people gathered to witness the Blessing of our newest shop by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. The morning commenced with a smoking ceremony conducted by representatives of the Wadawurrung People. Bishop Paul then blessed the shop, staff, the till, the volunteers and others present, including Deputy Mayor, Mark Harris, the Parliamentary Secretary for Human Services in the Victorian Government, Sharon Knight, St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria President, Michael Liddy and CEO Sue Cattermole.

In attendance were a group of around twenty dedicated volunteers, led by shop manager Darren Phillips, who give their time and talents to provide the community with a place to shop as well as an opportunity for the community to donate quality pre-loved goods. Special mention was made of Barb, Dot and Jean who have been volunteering at Vinnies for over eleven years. The unveiling of the plaque was followed by a sumptuous morning tea and the opportunity to celebrate this wonderful accomplishment.

The funds from this shop will support the work of our local Wendouree Conference, who in the past year have provided over \$119,000 of assistance to the community. This includes over \$90,000 in food vouchers and over \$8,000 in education assistance.

All of this assistance leads directly to helping those within our community who have fallen on hard times or are feeling the financial burden of the rising cost of living. It is our honour to be able to serve the local community in this way and continue the 'good works' that Frédéric Ozanam began in 1833.

Stop Press: The shop actually opened for business the next day and surpassed all statewide opening day sales. Congratulations to the wonderful, hard working team.

Marie O'Brien - North Western Central Council President for the St Vincent de Paul Society of Victoria



Religious Education Leaders Conference

In early August, seventy Religious Education Leaders from across the Diocese gathered in Halls Gap to network and collaborate on the new "Awakenings" Religious Education curriculum presently being rewritten. In many ways the conference was a continuation from a similar gathering last year when these leaders met to be introduced to proposed changes to the curriculum design.

Two particular foci of these days were learning opportunities on the topic of child and youth spirituality and the active collaboration of RELs in developing material for the new curriculum. A special guest during the conference was Fr Kevin Lenehan, who is providing theological support for the project and editing the Awakenings Core Document that anchors curriculum material to the social and faith context in which our schools function today.

John Meneely - Deputy Director of Catholic Education



FAMILY MATTERS

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission (BDSJC) hosted two forums on family called **Family Matters**. Forums were held in Ballarat on June 24 and Warrnambool (pictured left) on July 22 with a number of participants attending each forum to explore the theme of family and strengthening respectful relationships.

The guest speaker, Fr Frank Brennan was extremely engaging and thought provoking. The range of presenters from Centacare, Victoria Police and Lifeline explored the many ways that we can strengthen relationships in our own lives and showed

us the different avenues for support. The workshops covered topics such as *Having the Suicide Conversation, Family Violence, Enriching Family Relationships, Keeping Children the Focus in Blended Families, Building Trust / Listening and Tuning into Kids*.

Each forum was a unique and valuable opportunity to explore this important theme. The participants in the forum were from a variety of backgrounds and family situations and all gained some new insights from the day.

Resource Smart Schools Day

Teachers from Ballarat, Swan Hill, Camperdown and Warracknabeal gathered at Damascus College Ballarat to learn more about the Resource Smart Schools (RSS) Project. Representatives from Government and Catholic schools, as well as staff from Sustainability Victoria, heard from students from St Mary's Warracknabeal (our first 5 star school in the diocese) about the journey undertaken to gain each of those Resource Smart Stars. The students presented a passionate explanation of what they had to do to complete each RSS module, encouraging the teachers present that they would be able to achieve this in their own schools. The students were especially grateful to Paul Lehmann (RSS officer) for the work and encouragement he has given to St Mary's.

The day commenced with a reflection on being called to be "responsible caretakers of all of creation". The ideas in the reflection, coming from *Laudato Si*, were a great way to commence the day as participants enjoyed the view of the Australian bush from the Damascus windows.

Throughout the day we were reminded by each presenter that we must look beyond our own local boundaries as we care for creation through exploring and implementing the Resource Smart Modules of Bio-Diversity, Water, Energy and Waste. We were taken on a walk of the Damascus "Murnong Trail" after a brief explanation by teacher David Neate of the journey taken to develop this trail. The journey included discussions with the local Wadawurrung group, who assisted with the creation of not only the walk, but the booklet explaining the plant and animal life found along the trail.

Other speakers on the day included representatives from various groups who are able to assist schools in their exploration and education in the area of being **resource smart**. For further information on the Resources Smart Schools Project visit the website: <http://www.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au>

We must all respect, care for and share the resources of the earth, which are vital for the common good of people. Care for animals and the environment is a common and universal duty and ecological problems call for a change of mentality and the adoption of new lifestyles

Dr Susan Crowe - Catholic Education, Ballarat





SVDP Festival Mass and Meeting

Sunday, August 6 was a day of celebration for all Vincentians in the North West Central Council (NWCC) for it recognised the commitment to the vision and mission of Frederic Ozanam and the Patron Saint of Charity, St Vincent de Paul. Many attended the Mass on this cold, snowy morning, held at the Church of Immaculate Conception Ararat and celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. He encouraged all present to continue to 'listen to Christ' on the 'Transfiguration of the Lord' and exhorted us to act with courage in our everyday life.

Marie O'Brien, President of the NWCC was officially commissioned. So too were Regional Council Presidents Chris Hogan (Avoca Tyrell), Bill Bourke (Corangamite), Leo Sheehan (Sunraysia) and Conference Presidents Allan West (Ballarat), David Boyes (Wendouree), Chris Nolan (Warrnambool West) and Judith Allan (Stawell).

Long service award recipients:

10 years: Mary McAloon, Francis Stuart and Lorraine Stuart (Ballarat), Maida Gilbert, Bryan Watt and Patricia McConnell (Glenelg), Enid Brasier and Kerry Cameron (Avoca-Tyrrell);

20 years: Allen Moloney (Ballarat), Bill Bourke (Corangamite), Sr Ursula Caine and Sr Angela Caine (Avoca-Tyrrell);

30 years: Marie O'Brien (Corangamite), Anthony Goode (Avoca-Tyrell), Lorraine Dooley and Leo Williams (Glenelg);

40 years: John O'Brien (Corangamite);

50 years: John Foott (Avoca-Tyrrell) and Ben van de Camp (Warrnambool).

Glenelg Regional President, Kevin Wright presented an Emeritus Award to his mentor, Sheena Clancey. The Inaugural Servant Leadership was presented to John O'Brien, who has been actively involved in all levels of leadership both within and beyond the NWCC for the last 40 years. Our guest speakers, Dr Ruth Webber and National President, Graham West, inspired members to remain faithful to Frédéric Ozanam's vision and to look forward to more innovative ways we can build capacity within Conferences and among those we serve.

Marie O'Brien, NWCC President and Danielle Peters, NWCC Development Officer



Gospel Leadership in Times of Chaos

Eleven of us gathered expectantly in St Joseph's Parish Hall Warrnambool for this year's BBI eConference, *Gospel Leadership in Times of Chaos: the Hope of Pope Francis* on August 10. We were intrigued by the diverse line-up of speakers and felt the inclusion of Bob Carr and Paul Kelly gave the eConference an added dimension by acknowledging the Church as part of the wider world – not an isolated institution.

We pondered the question: How do we truly 'live' the Gospel message in today's world? Do we really open our hearts to others, especially those in need? Compared with many in our world we are wealthy and live in relative safety but what about the poor in our own country - the many who now live on the street?

How can we understand what life is like for those who live in constant danger....people living in places like Syria and Afghanistan – or the millions of refugees trying to find a safe haven?

Does intervention by 'Western' nations eg. in Libya and Iraq, actually make things worse rather than better? What is 'our' motive for intervention? Then again, we are selective in our intervening – some countries like South Sudan are left 'to get on with it themselves' with many people starving and suffering and with no hope for the future.

Is much of the suffering in the world caused by the Western world's greed for resources, with little care for the environment of the whole planet?

So many thoughts and we came back constantly to the advice of Pope Francis on the need for 'dialogue, dialogue, dialogue!'

Sr Clare Condon sgs spoke about the rule of St Benedict established 1500 years ago in a world torn apart by 'wars, licentiousness and inhumanity', a rule focused on Gospel values. She finished by speaking about the need for a 'prophetic' person in our time – that 'possibly' Pope Francis may just be that Gospel leader.... 'may his call echo in our lives and may we let the Gospel be our guide'.

A footnote about the eConference: There is always a measure of nervousness as to whether technology will work – and if it does, will it last all day? This year, apart from a slight blip during Professor Faggioli's presentation, all was well. We needed the subtitles but found them difficult to follow and somewhat distracting (following the eConference the transcripts were made available). There was also a small section to the right of the screen with questions and comments being uploaded all the time - that was rather distracting too.

Our group submitted a question concerning South Sudan. Knowing many questions were submitted, we were pleasantly surprised when our question was read out and given to Bob Carr for comment! Overall, the eConference was a positive experience and left us with much to think and 'dialogue' about. We look forward to next year's eConference.

Mary Lancaster - Warrnambool Parish

GENEROUS SPIRIT

St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill recently held the College's annual Hearts and Hands, Compassion and Justice Mass. The generous spirit of the school community was evident, as seven overflowing trolleys of grocery items, winter clothing and blankets were collected for the Society of St Vincent de Paul to distribute to those members of the community in need of some extra support. Jim and Helen Meehan were present and grateful to accept these donations on behalf of the Society.

Poverty in rural areas such as the Swan Hill region is experienced very differently to poverty in major urban centres. The lack of available services, declining work opportunities and the variable nature of the region's income due to weather events such as drought can all compound the effects of poverty. The donations gathered will help to alleviate some of the burden on the families and individuals in the region.

Thank you to everyone for their amazing and heartfelt generosity.

Karen Hocking - Director of Mission



Ask, Seek, Knock: Joyful Encounters of RCIA

On Saturday, August 26 a group from St Patrick's Cathedral Parish travelled to Melbourne and joined over one hundred participants from around the state for the Victorian RCIA Conference, **Ask, Seek, Knock: Joyful Encounters of RCIA**. Hosted by the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation (Archdiocese of Melbourne), we experienced a variety of presenters and workshop leaders.

The first keynote speaker, Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, spoke on the theme of the conference highlighting the voyage that each of us takes on our journey to faith. He reminded us that we are in an era of change and our being in the world at this time of change should be seen as an opportunity, not as a threat.

A variety of workshops covering such topics as: "Attracting Youth to RCIA", "Christian Meditation – RCIA and Prayer", "Forming your RCIA Parish Team", "Discerning a Godparent or Sponsor", "Forming a nurturing RCIA Parish", "Engaging our Priests in RCIA" and others were presented where participants not only heard what was happening in other parishes but shared their own experiences to add to the wisdom of the group.

Fr Rob Galea was our second vibrant keynote speaker encouraging all present to "celebrate the RCIA journey with joy". The day began and ended with prayer led by members of the Office of Evangelisation. Each participant received a candle to take back to their parish as a symbol of sharing the RCIA conference Ask, Seek, Knock experience.

Susan Crowe



CELEBRATING LIKE JESUS

During their investigation of Eucharist this term, the Years 3 and 4 students at St Patrick's Parish School in Port Fairy expanded their understanding through an investigation into the traditional Jewish feast of the Passover and its connections to the Last Supper and to Eucharist.

After studying both Old and New Testament passages of Exodus and the Last Supper, the children discovered what the life of the Jewish people was like under the reign of Pharaoh in Egypt and how they escaped from slavery. The children looked at the symbolic meaning and how this story is still remembered in ceremony through the Passover meal and the Seder Plate. Connections were made with Jesus, as a Jewish man, gathering with his friends on Holy Thursday to celebrate this ritual of the Passover meal.

Like Jesus, the children gathered with their friends to experience the Seder Plate of the Passover Meal. This Seder meal included lamb, bitter herbs, lettuce, horseradish, honey, nuts and apple mix, unleavened bread and salty water. During the meal, the symbolism of the food was discussed and the escape from slavery retold.

Focusing questions included:

What historical bible event is celebrated and remembered at the Passover?

How is the Passover story connected to Jesus and the Last Supper?

What did Jesus do at the Last Supper to change the Passover celebration into something different?

How is what Jesus did at the Last Supper connected to what Fr Bill (Van de Camp) does at Mass when he celebrates the Eucharist with us?

To assess their knowledge and the connections between these ceremonial celebrations, the children will be developing a Triptych Art piece to illustrate events or symbols of the Passover, Last Supper and Eucharist. They used these to record an oral explanation of the connections between them.

Leanne Mahney - Religious Education Leader

Learning about ABORIGINAL LAWS

Foundation to Year Six students at St Patrick's School Nhill recently had the opportunity to learn about Aboriginal laws and culture from Jeanette Morris (Education Officer: Indigenous Education, CEOB). Jeanette spoke to the students from both learning groups about how decisions are made within Aboriginal cultures. She demonstrated this process through the cooking of a meal. Students were involved in the decision making about the kangaroo stew and the damper that was prepared for all to share. While the food was cooking, Jeanette shared Dreaming stories with the students. Students also examined a variety of Aboriginal artefacts and discussed cultural beliefs. One cultural understanding explored was that there are some events in which Jeanette is unable to participate as an Aboriginal woman, whilst Aboriginal men are unable to participate in events which are strictly reserved for women.

The day proved to be a very powerful experience for our students as they gained some understanding of the way Australia's first people work as a society to ensure that everyone is treated equally and with respect. St Patrick's is appreciative of Jeanette's efforts to travel to Nhill to share her knowledge with our community.

St Patrick's Primary School Nhill



VIETNAM VETS DAY 2017

On Friday August 18, Monivae College Hamilton was represented at a memorial service to commemorate the sacrifices and courage of Australian troops who fought in Vietnam, with a focus on the Battle of Long Tan.

Nearly 60,000 Australian men and women served in the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1975, including 521 who lost their lives and more than 3000 who were wounded.

The service also marked the 51st anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. One hundred and five Australians and three New Zealanders fought at Long Tan - one of the war's fiercest battles. Seventeen Australians were killed in action and twenty-five were wounded, one of whom later died of his wounds.

Cpl Erin Munro and Sgt Louis Beaton laid a wreath at the service on behalf of College Principal, Mr McGinnity and the College. Weather conditions were bleak to say the least and these two cadets stood to attention without seemingly a worry for the twenty minute service. Bravo to them!

Capt(AAC) Terry Molan, OIC, Monivae Cadet Unit

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VINE AND BRANCHES YEARNING TO BELONG



The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat was well represented at the recent *Vine and Branches* National Pastoral Leaders and Planners Conference in Melbourne, held September 4-7. In attendance were Fr Paddy Mugavin and parish staff members Noreen McLeish and John Hockey from Hamilton Parish, together with Sr Veronica Lawson who led a workshop and Sr Pam Barlow from the Mercy Sisters, as well as Thomas Thekkumury from the Diocesan Pastoral Council and Amanda Smith, Diocesan Pastoral Services Consultant. There was much discussion amongst the two hundred participants from all around Australia who heard excellent presentations and participated in workshops.

Music and poetry, songs and silence were woven through the conference led by Dr Maeve Louise Heaney, musician, composer and theologian from Australian Catholic University. Dr Heaney joined Dr Richard Gaillardetz from Boston College, social researcher Hugh Mackay, broadcaster Geraldine Doogue and Archbishop Mark Coleridge as keynote speakers.

Richard Gaillardetz gave two sessions, speaking on 'Wrestling with the Church in Times of Scandal: Why belonging to the Church still matters' and 'Pope Francis and the Church of tomorrow'. The fully engaging and passionate but also carefully argued presentations were an outstanding feature of the conference, and Dr Gaillardetz was a great example of a compelling speaker who made you want to know more about the Church and faith.

Geraldine Doogue spoke on 'Living through the Holy Saturday of our Australian Church experience'. She spoke of "the complex virtue of humility." She also elaborated on the idea of doing acts of "high symbolic value."

Hugh Mackay gave a very informative and concise summary of the contemporary faith situation in Australia. He also spoke about young people growing up "in the most dislocated period of our history", of the high rates of depression amongst young people in this country, and of how they are taught to expect happiness yet are more criticized, more "rubbished" than any previous generation.

Maeve Heaney led beautiful opening and closing liturgies, morning prayer each day and music and reflection after each keynote speaker. Throughout the conference, she drew together themes and ideas from those attending into a song of gentle immersion that we all sang.

The workshop presentations ranged across the themes of belonging, planning and engagement. Sr Veronica Lawson's workshop was on the scripture text of the conference title, exploring scripture through ecological eyes. Dr Clare Johnson who directs the new Centre for Liturgy at ACU led an informative workshop on ritual, liturgical celebration and the Eucharist in schools and parishes. Dr Kevin Lenehan's workshop shared insights into Catholic Identity in a Disenchanted World and in the workshop led by Kelly Paget, from Catholic Youth Broken Bay, participants used their phones or tablets to contribute ideas to build an on-screen visual analysis of the key ingredients and also the challenges of school-parish collaboration - a great discussion and a very useful online tool to encourage and record participation.

Archbishop Coleridge's presentation on the final day outlined the process for the 2020 Plenary Conference: "everything is on the table." The final words were liturgical, words of prayer, of looking into ourselves. "Love interrupts and it hurts if you let yourself move with the truth as it cuts in and opens your mind Dancing through our lives ... But to live is to grow in the newness you hold in your hands ... Will you stand for a future unknown?" (ML Heaney).

It is hoped that videos of the keynote addresses will be available online soon – links will be on the Ballarat diocese website. Richard Gaillardetz has also published some very informative books.

Amanda Smith – Pastoral Services Consultant

At this time in Australia, we face a threefold challenge: to work for an inclusive society that brings older people into the heart of the community; to ensure the dignity and care of people who are frail and most vulnerable to neglect or abuse; and to foster solidarity among all generations, recognising the special affinity that exists between young and old.

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council



Developing education at ACU

Fifteen educators from Myanmar are spending five months at Australian Catholic University's (ACU's) Ballarat Campus developing their professional knowledge and networks. The visit, made possible through a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia Awards Fellowship, aims to develop teacher capacity and improve educational outcomes in Asia.

The teachers, who were working with the Monastic Education Development Group in Myanmar, arrived on July 21 and will be studying at the Ballarat Campus in the School of Education from July to December.

ACU Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education and Arts Tania Aspland believes this visit is a wonderful opportunity for the Fellows and the Ballarat Campus. "We are very much looking forward to welcoming these teachers to ACU and supporting their education studies during their stay," she said. "These partnerships are vital to encouraging development and high-quality education opportunities for our international partners and an opportunity for ACU to expand our global network".

Australia Awards are prestigious international Scholarships and Fellowships funded by the Australian Government. Australia Awards Fellowships build capacity and strengthen partnerships between Australian organisations and partner organisations in eligible developing countries in support of key development and foreign affairs priorities. By providing short-term study, research and professional development opportunities in Australia, mid-career professionals and emerging leaders can tap into Australian expertise, gaining valuable skills and knowledge.

An official launch of the Australia Awards Fellowships was held at ACU Ballarat on July 26 where Professor Tania Aspland officially welcomed the Australia Awards Fellows.

Gemma Kelly, Marketing Coordinator - Australian Catholic University

Celebrating NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week 2017 events were held at a number of St John of God hospitals and services, with a focus on celebrating the partnerships we have with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Artworks, special lunches and a smoking ceremony were just some of the events held. The events focused on celebrating the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in line with this year's NAIDOC Week theme – Our Languages Matter.



St John of God Health Care Group Coordinator Social Justice Advocacy Neal Murphy said the celebrations were a part of the organisation's commitment to promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. "In May this year we released a new Reconciliation Action Plan with a vision that each person who identifies as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander should be given the same respect and consideration as others in Australian society, with equal access to employment, health care and education," he said. "We will continue to promote and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the contribution they make to our organisation and society."

In Ballarat representatives from St John of God Hospital, Ballarat Health Services, Central Highlands Primary Care Partnership and Western Victoria Primary Health Network combined to host a NAIDOC week event. The event held in the Gardiner-Pittard foyer of Ballarat Health Services included guest speakers, welcome to country, language mapping activities and information on local sites, didgeridoo playing, local aboriginal dancers and afternoon tea featuring indigenous cuisine.

Lee-Anne Bellis - Marketing and Public Relations Manager

Book Week

Between July 24 – July 28, 2017, St James' School Sebastopol celebrated Book Week with a week-long series of literacy learning experiences and opportunities that inspired, engaged, challenged and deepened our connection to literature. Our community was abuzz with visitors, experts, community members and special guests as we came together to share our love of reading and appreciation for books.

Our children had a visit from a variety of parents, grandparents, parishioners and community members who shared their expertise through the facilitation of literacy based workshops. We made puppets, explored photography and responded to stories through art, book making and cartoon illustrations. We also had a visit from some ACU students who had prepared interactive drama and dance performances based on the Book Week nominated picture story books.

We were also thrilled to have a visit from singer and author Harrison Craig. Harrison was a finalist in the 2013 season of "The Voice" and shared his story of challenge growing up with a stutter. He read his picture story book with us and spent a considerable amount of time walking through our learning spaces, chatting with children, signing autographs and posing for photos.

Our Connecting and Leadership students were excited to prepare a series of literacy based workshops for our Discovery and Exploration



students. Workshops were planned, prepared and run by the students and included bookmark making, illustrating, cooking, plays and drama responses and various painting and craft experiences.

Throughout the week children were immersed in a variety of learning experiences. Tactile book response activities were designed and explored during learning time for all of the six nominated Picture Story books. Our community used the story 'Out' to explore concepts of inclusion and diversity through an online learning module and a range of creative experiences that challenged thinking and utilised children's skills and interests. Other highlights from the week included a Book Fair and visits from a number of parents who prepared their favourite stories to read with groups of children within each learning community.

We had a fantastic week celebrating books and learning from each other.

Carmen Morris - St James' Parish School

YOUNG VINNIE'S GATHERING



On Tuesday, September 19, a group of 12 Young Vinnie's members headed down to Ballarat to participate in the St Vincent de Paul Society - Young Vinnie's Festival Gathering. We learnt about the different services St Vincent de Paul offers to help those who are struggling or who are not as well off as ourselves. We were able to learn from and connect with like-minded students from different Colleges across Western Victoria and gain ideas for future fundraisers and initiatives. The Young Vinnie's members hope to engage more students in our school community, and grow awareness and passion for helping others in our society.

"Inspiration for what other schools do and have done, which encourages us to further promote community involvement" - Jess Pretorius

"It was good to meet up with other schools to see what they do and connect with them" - Kira Guest

"To see how other schools view the ideals of Social Justice was great" - Bella Fort

We would like to thank Mr Butler and Mrs Van Dyk for supporting and guiding us as we focus on Social Justice at St Brigid's College.

Tayla Nagorcka and Mia Panozzo - St Brigid's College Horsham

BAPTISM AT NANDALY



On Sunday, September 10, two important events happened in our parish Mass centre of Nandalay at St Joseph's Church.

The first event was Fr Matthew Thomas saying Mass at St Joseph's for the first time. Fr Matthew has taken on being St Mary's Parish Sea Lake Parish Priest (as well as Swan Hill Parish Priest). With this we welcome Fr Matthew to our parish and wish him the very warmest welcome and may he enjoy his duties in this part of the Mallee.

The second event that happened on this day was Levi George Marshman receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. Levi is the first child for Amanda (nee Hall) and Darren Marshman. Amanda is the daughter of Barb (nee Mitchell) and Chris Hall of Mittyack, and Barb and Chris' first grandchild.

This Baptism had a little bit more significance than usual as Levi had his grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother all present on the day. More to add to the event, Levi's great great grandmother, Mrs Roma Mitchell (nee Cavanagh), was the first baby to be baptised in St Joseph's Church back in 1927.

Levi's father, Darren Marshman, also had on his family side grandparents and great grandfather Mr Gavin Marshman. What a great (excuse the pun!) family gathering indeed. Families from Melbourne, Mildura, Beulah and locally travelled to Nandalay to celebrate the Holy Sacrament of Baptism of Levi George Hall. A lovely midday lunch and refreshments was enjoyed at Chris and Barb's home at Mittyack following the ceremony.

Sam Brady - St Joseph's, Nandalay

Back row: Fr Matthew Thomas, great grandfather Gavin Marshman, grandfather Chris Hall, middle row: great grandfather Joe Mitchell, father Darren Marshman, grandparents Donna and Ian Marshman, front row: Godmother Abby-Rose Carrabot, mother Amanda Marshman, great great grandmother Roma Mitchell, grandmother Barb Hall, Levi George Marshman, great grandmother Joan Mitchell, aunty Hannah Marshman, Godfather Josh Marshman.

LORETO COLLEGE FATHER'S DAY MASS

A special Father's Day Mass was held to celebrate the annual occasion at Loreto College Ballarat on Tuesday, August 29.

Once again this confirms that there is nothing quite like the sound of the Choir and pipe organ performing in the beautiful Loreto Chapel.

A special thanks to Fr Justin Driscoll, Mrs Mandy Carroll, Mrs Marcella Crowley and the Loreto College Senior Liturgical Choir for a very special evening.

Judy-Ann Quilliam - Loreto College



Continuing partnership

On Sunday, August 6, members of the Thomas Carr College community gathered at the Good Samaritan Campus for our annual Mass with the Cororooke Parish at St Brendan's Church, Coragulac. Mass was celebrated by Fr Jude Pirotta mssp, the Canonical Administrator of Thomas Carr College, and the College Choir enhanced the celebration of the Eucharist with their wonderful voices, singing the various parts of the Mass and hymns of praise.

The Mass and lunch provided the opportunity to celebrate the continuing partnership between the Parish and the College.

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

Since 2014 and after extensive renovation, the convent is now the Country Campus of Thomas Carr College located in Tarneit, a south-western suburb of Melbourne. The program operated by the College at the Good Samaritan Campus provides the opportunity for groups of Year 9 students to spend three weeks at the Campus engaging in outdoor education, community services and units of work related life in rural Victoria.

Dr Andrew Watson - Principal



On July 28, St Paul's Primary School in Mildura celebrated NAIDOC Day. Hundreds of students and community members participated in the day. The day began with an acknowledgement of country, liturgy, flag raising and smoking ceremony. Uncle Peter led the community in the smoking ceremony to cleanse and ward off bad spirits, while Uncle Ivan and St Paul's Indigenous students led the prayer and raised the Indigenous flag. It was a deeply moving and spiritual ceremony for all present.



Children from all classes then participated in a range of activities to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The school specifically focused on the cultures of the local Indigenous people, the Latje Latje and Barkindji people and recognized the valuable contributions that they make to our community. Students enjoyed a variety of activities including learning the Wemba Wemba language, Indigenous art and games, a quiz about famous Indigenous Australians, sampling Indigenous food and an incredible Indigenous dance performance by our very own Boomerang Boys.

The students were all able to sample kangaroo tail stew, freshly baked damper, kangaroo sausage, bush tomato relish, bush tomato dip, lemon myrtle butter and quandong jam. The kangaroo tail was a big hit with many of the students.

The day could not have been run without the support of the Indigenous students, their parents, grandparents and friends. Their contributions have enriched the community and St Paul's deeply values their support and their willingness to share and celebrate their culture with us.

Naomi Kennedy - Deputy Principal

Our Diocesan Community - October 2017

Exciting Developments

St Vincent de Paul Society has employed Danielle Peters to fill the new Development Officer role, which supports our North West Central Council (NWCC) members to carry out their various activities in helping those in our community who have fallen on hard times.

Danielle's background in social justice, technology and Catholic education will be drawn upon to enrich the knowledge and skills base of our members who are called upon daily to deal with poverty in its many forms. This presents many challenges in an ever changing world and the need to develop the capacity and resources of our conferences is recognised as paramount. Danielle will play a key role in this activity by ensuring that our members are able to embrace current communications opportunities with resourcing and upskilling. Conflict Management, the impact of drugs on home and centre visitation, understanding the causes and different types of poverty and the most effective ways of helping those in need are some of the training programs that Danielle will be organising. She has been employed for four days a week and will be working closely with the Central Council president and executive, as well as Regional Presidents, in establishing resource networks that will enable conferences to offer the more specific and targeted help often needed for those people living on the margins of our society.

Emma Robertson has been employed part-time as an Administration Assistant to deal with our record keeping and the mountain of paperwork that comes with the impact of more and more government regulations. Her organisational skills are being used to assist us with organising our training programs and to reduce the load on leadership positions within the NWCC.

We welcome both Danielle and Emma to the North West Central Council team. They have temporary accommodation in Dawson House at 15 Dawson Street, Ballarat, until the new complex in the Cathedral Hall office space is completed.

Please contact Danielle on 0428760488 or danielle.peters@svdp-vic.org.au or Emma on 0417615354 or emma.robertson@svdp-vic.org.au, especially if you are interested in learning more about a Conference near you.

Marie O'Brien - NWCC President



"FULLNESS OF LIFE"



On August 24 and 25, all Southern Zone school staff attended a two day conference in Warrnambool titled "Fullness of Life". The conference began with a welcome to country from local indigenous elders, Mr Locky Eccles and Mr Rob Lowe.

Mass was then celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird and many other supporting parish priests from around the diocese. Around 400 people gathered in song and prayer.

Millennials, which was led by Mr Michael McQueen who is a motivational speaker, trends expert and author. He had everyone laughing at different times as they were able to relate to the generation that applied to them.

Over the two days teachers participated in workshops ranging from Arts Therapy, Play Development, Technology Curriculum, Sustainability, Godly Play in Teaching Scripture, Brain Development and more.

There was a communal dinner held in the evening at the City Memorial Bowls Club and the room was abuzz with a lot of chatter as many people throughout the zone all caught up with each other at a social level. The night continued with the merriment of a lot of singing and dancing as Mr Tim Bourke and his fellow musicians helped everyone to party the night away.

The conference then wrapped up on the Friday with the final headline speaker, Mr Dan Petro, who is a behavioural analyst and spoke about classroom behaviour management on a budget. Again another entertaining but provoking look into the future of education.

A huge congratulations was given out to all those people who contributed many hours of their time into the organisation of the event - there are way too many to mention but they know who they are and they should be very proud of how they pulled off a fantastic conference for all!!

Lucille Lane - St Pius X Primary School, Warrnambool West

After Mass the congregation moved down to St Joseph's Primary School Auditorium, where the conference began with a thought provoking but slightly humorous look at the issues surrounding teachers and teaching organisations through the generations - from Gen Y to the current day

SHINE the LIGHT of CHRIST

Delacombe's Lumen Christi School Community undertook a review and renewal process of our Vision and Mission statement this year, as a response to recommendations from our School Review last year.

The process began with a school closure day early in term two led by John Meneely, the Deputy Director of Catholic Education in Ballarat, in which staff unpacked the meaning of the School Vision and discussed what this meant in regard to our Mission. Parents, children and school community members were invited to participate in the process which involved a response to two simple questions, **What is important to us at Lumen Christi? and What do we want for our school?** A small writing team was created, ideas were collated, analysed and finally formulated into our new Vision and Mission statement!



Our renewed Vision and Mission statement was recently re-launched on Lumen Christi Day, which is celebrated each year on August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration. The history of this date is clearly explained in the following excerpt from a letter by Bishop Peter Connors to the founding Principal Fiona Tonkin (March 30, 1988)

"One suggestion I should wish to make, is that you might consider the Feast of the Transfiguration – the 6th of August... Most importantly, it was an occasion when the Divine Light shone through the physical body of Jesus Christ. If I may quote the Gospel of Matthew 17:2 'There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light'... you will find sufficient reason for adopting my suggestion."

Lumen Christi Day is always a wonderful celebration of the life and community of Lumen Christi and this year was no different. Following the launch of the Vision and Mission during Mass with Fr Kevin Maloney, celebrations continued with entertainment by magicians, fun activities, a barbeque lunch, birthday cupcakes for everyone and balloons galore! A wonderful way to celebrate our 27th birthday!

Leonie Leviston - Religious Education Leader

Celebrating Damascus Day

Every year Damascus College Ballarat celebrates its identity by holding 'Damascus Day.' This special day held on September 20 commenced with a whole of school Mass, followed by a full festival of activities for all to enjoy, organized by the Student Representative Council (SRC).

The Damascus Day Mass is one of the major ways in which we show our identity as a College in the Catholic tradition and was celebrated by Fr Justin Driscoll.

This year's festival theme was 'Around the World', where students and staff were invited to dress up in this theme. Students were issued with a passport that indicated all of the continents they needed to visit throughout the festival. There were five continents in total, Asia, Africa, Australia, America and Europe and each hosted a number of exciting activities. Students had to complete at least one activity to get their passport stamped. Once they received five stamps, they could go in the draw to win one of three hampers.

All activities were free and included:

Departure Lounge: Coffee van, chip on a stick, fairy floss, popcorn, donut van, boost van, giant slide, movie in auditorium.

Asia: Damascus mural, relax wellbeing station, food eating record attempt, climbing wall.

Africa: Just Dance, Karaoke Sing Star, Mario Kart, photo booth.

America: How far can you row?, Minute to win it activities, paper plane competition, face paint stall

Australia: Egg/spoon race, sack race, 3 legged race, enviro challenge

Europe: Petting zoo, Zumba, make a balloon animal, footy kicking competition.

Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development

Our Diocesan Community - October 2017





2017 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

From June 11 – June 23 a pilgrimage of twenty-five people from many communities across the Diocese of Ballarat and beyond, including the parishes of Ballarat, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Beaufort, Cororooke, Donald, Edenhope, Gordon, Horsham and Wendouree journeyed to the Holy Land of Jordan and Israel. The experience of being in a group was one of the highlights of the pilgrimage, with the diverse range of people coming together in faith to form a community. While the Victorian winter had arrived, it was early summer in the Middle East. Our arrival and departure was through Amman, in Jordan, where we spent the first days, travelling south to the lost city of Petra then to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. Floating in the salt water followed by a coating of dead sea mud was an amazing experience.

The days in the Holy Land included a visit to the Palestinian-occupied West Bank. A pilgrimage in the Holy Land cannot escape the current political struggles and tensions. While it is confronting for us, the daily reality of life behind the wall of separation is a far greater challenge. The ongoing pursuit of true reconciliation and a just settlement that will lead to peace continues to occupy the hearts and minds of many as they strive for a lasting solution.

The pilgrimage is an experience of faith. John O'Donohue writes that "At its heart, the journey of each life is a pilgrimage, through unforeseen sacred places that enlarge and enrich the soul."

The 2017 pilgrims have said:

"Our fellow pilgrims were a great group of people with whom to share the experience. The Masses at places like Cana, on the boat and in Jerusalem were spiritual highlights of the trip."

"When I am asked how was the Pilgrimage? I answer that it was a wonderful experience, spiritually, personally, historically, archeologically, geographically, politically and socially."

"Mass on the boat on the Lake of Galilee was, for me, the highlight. In fact, on my return I found it a challenge to relate to the Mass venues and I am not quite sure why this was the case. However, I now listen to the Readings and Gospels with different ears!"

"How distressing to witness the conditions under which the Palestinians live, the displacement of their peoples, the enormity of the Wall which divides and the horrors which human beings have seen and are still occurring."

"Jesus wept over Jerusalem and I am still crying for that beautiful city. I can't get the Wall or the soldiers stopping us going to the Dome of the Rock out of my mind, watching the news now means so much more."

"Praying at the Western Wall with other women was very emotional and a special moment for me."

"Every day I think of how lucky we were to have such a diverse group who respected each other and really enjoyed each other's company, as I said it didn't matter where one sat or walked with we were one. Each person looked out for each other."

"Having the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist most days and in some amazing holy places - these were a highlight of the pilgrimage for me, particularly the Eucharist held in the smaller chapels and on the Sea of Galilee."

Another pilgrim wrote "I'm struggling to find the words to express the complexity and the profoundness of this experience of being in this place which is called the Holy Land. This is the land of the historical Jesus of Nazareth, and to visit the biblical place of his birth at Bethlehem and his home town of Nazareth and to then be at Capernaum which is on the Sea of Galilee, the ancient city where the public ministry commenced. It was on the shores of the Sea of Galilee that Jesus called the first disciples and it was there that many of his miracles, such as the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, happened. Celebrating Mass on a boat on the Sea of Galilee brought home to me the proximity of Jesus to the very landscape in which we were celebrating – this was where he was!!"

"In Jerusalem, the Holy City, where for thousands of years the Jews, the People of the first Covenant with God, have been drawn, we have not only walked the Way of the Cross of Jesus but we have also been challenged by the reality of this place being a holy site for the Jewish, Muslim and Christian people."

Fr Justin Driscoll

Formation for Funeral Ministry

During recent years the Diocesan Liturgical Commission has conducted a number of liturgical formation sessions at various locations around the Diocese. These sessions enable formation for those involved in a variety of Parish Ministries to be made aware of the latest liturgical resources and gain further formation in their ministry.

Over the last two years one of the workshops presented, at these formation days, has been Funeral Ministry. The Liturgical Commission has, during the past five years, focused on the preparation of "Guidelines for Pastoral Care and Funeral Ministry", together with a collation of extremely valuable planning sheets and resources. These formation days enabled this information to be disseminated across the Diocese.

Each of the Funeral Ministry sessions has been well attended and it is pleasing to note the number of parishes who have established very capable Funeral Ministry Teams. The participants involved in each workshop were enthusiastic to gain a greater understanding of their funeral ministry role and become aware of the wide range of resources available.

These interactive sessions gave those in attendance an opportunity to share their experiences as well as explore the resources available in the member's section of the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. The website presents sample liturgies for all aspects of Christian burial including Funeral Mass, Funeral Prayer Celebration, Crematorium Prayer Service and Committal as well as sample prayers for the Burial of Ashes. The site contains an explanation of the correct use of the Pall and the flag in addition to very helpful tips for Eulogy writing and the use of Christian symbols in the Funeral Liturgy.

In presenting these workshops Dr Peter Morris and I explained the use of these resources as well as answering participants' questions and addressing their concerns. One issue raised at one of the workshops, which is currently being addressed, is a resource of suitable Scripture Readings for the celebration of a funeral for a young person. This will be added to the website collection in the near future.

At a Catholic funeral the community gathers to say farewell to the person who has died and entrusts that person to God's loving care. With this thought in mind, if your parish has any questions or concerns in regard to Funeral Ministry the Diocesan Liturgical Commission is always available to assist. For access to the members section of the diocesan website, contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 03 53377159.

*Fr Gary Jones PP - Diocesan Liturgical Commission
Photo: www.123rf.com*



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Catholic Social Services Victoria held their annual dinner on Friday, August 4. The dinner was an opportunity for the broader Catholic social services community and those they work with to celebrate their work and to strengthen the links within their community of service. It was also an occasion to honour David Beaver, retired recently after 24 years as CEO of Centacare Ballarat. Sr Joan Healy rsj AM was also awarded with life membership of Catholic Social Services Victoria. Sr Joan has been a leader for more than 50 years in caring for children and families in need.

Fr Frank Brennan, Chief Executive Officer of CSSA, posted the following:

David Beaver has made significant contributions to the Catholic social services ministry in Australia. Additional to his leadership of Centacare Ballarat over a significant twenty-four years, his contributions to the work of CSSA at the national level have been extensive.

David led the national body as Chair in the late 90s and early 2000s during a significant period of our history, both during the growth of the national network and the holding of national employment contracts.

Over many years, David has provided strong engagement with our work on national social services policy development, advocacy and membership operational issues including service delivery, contract management, social service governance and business development.

We are pleased that we will continue to have a connection with David through his recent appointment as a formation facilitator for the new Ministry Leadership Program. This program is creating a new path for the formation of leaders of Catholic social service ministries and through this role, David is able to share his deep spirituality along with his wisdom and experience as a leader.

Reprinted from CSSV newsletter and Fr Frank Brennan's FaceBook post

celebrating 60 years

The Sacred Heart Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society, Casterton, celebrates its 60th anniversary this year. The presence of the society in our small country town is highly valued in the local community.

A group of dedicated volunteers runs a very successful "Vinnies Shop", which has the advantage of being the only Op shop in town. Money raised goes to assist people in need.

Our parish school has a wonderful "Mini-Vinnies" conference, which inspires the school families and staff to support the winter and Christmas Appeal very generously. Each year the Mini-Vinnies hold a sleep-over in the parish hall to raise money to buy Street Swags for homeless people. This initiative has won great support and admiration from people in the town.

The conference is engaged in welfare support in the form of food and fuel vouchers with the occasional request for accommodation. Members make weekly deliveries of food, provided through connections with the Hamilton Uniting Church and from the local bakery, which provides fresh left-over bread. The conference also makes bereavement visits as part of its mission. Whenever there is a death in the community, a visit with a gift of a fruit cake is made. Funeral catering is also provided if requested.

For 60 years, St Vincent de Paul in Casterton have given witness to Jesus' care for people in need. This has been done simply and humbly in the spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and St Vincent de Paul.

Other Conferences recognised for their wonderful service included Donald - 50 years, Warracknabeal - 60 years and Hamilton - 80 years. This is truly a tremendous achievement by all Vincentians past and present.

Frank McInerney - Casterton Conference President



The St Vincent de Paul members provided a BBQ lunch for the students at Sacred Heart Primary School Casterton



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Recent changes in Federal Government regulation has meant that Development Funds such as ours are no longer able to offer accounts to parishioners, students and other lay investors without an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL). After a review in late 2016 the Ballarat CDF Committee assessed that it is not feasible for us to obtain this licence on our own; and on September 7, 2017 the Ballarat CDF ceased to offer these accounts. There is no change to the banking arrangements for our schools, parishes, clergy and religious; these remain to be fully supported by the Ballarat CDF.

The great news for church employees, parishioners and student community is that, in partnership with other CDFs nationally, a new CDF Community Fund was established. We are promoting the CDF Community Fund, managed by the Melbourne CDF, as a way forward for our church employees, parishioners and student community to continue to support the purpose of CDFs (that purpose is to provide a vehicle to harness the financial capabilities of the Catholic Church as a means of promoting the pastoral, financial and educational needs of the respective dioceses). We have recently transferred nearly \$3 million to the CDF Community Fund through the transition of client accounts.

Supporting the CDF Community Fund (and therefore the Ballarat Diocese) is easy; just follow the link to open an account or Term Investment on the new website www.cdfcommunityfund.org.au. All enquiries can be made by calling 1800 134 135 or emailing enquiries@cdfcf.org.au.



Year of youth 2018

- * In the **Year of Youth** we ask the question “How are we as a Church called to serve young people, all young people?”
- * We are also called to bring a **Year of Youth** ‘lens’ to all our activities.
- * Dioceses, parishes, schools and other communities are all asked to incorporate the **Year of Youth** in their planning, and to consider how they might celebrate locally or in conjunction with neighbours.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has designated 2018 as the **Year of Youth** across Australia. This commences at the start of the liturgical year at Advent (December 3, 2017) and concludes on Christ the King (November 25, 2018).

The theme of the Year is **Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy**. A sub-theme is taken from the world-wide General Synod on Youth in Rome 2018: *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*.

Youth Ministry in Australia encompasses the age range 12 - 30 year olds.

Resources in support of the **Year of Youth** from the National Office for Youth will be made available to parishes and others over the coming months and during 2018. There will be online resources and planning tools including, “Planning Handbook: No Young People in my Parish.” A Retreat planning resource will also be available and there will be national retreat opportunities for Youth Leaders. Regular webinars for Youth Ambassadors and Youth Leaders will be convened. Banners, flags and other items will be available for purchase.

A different intercessory Prayer for each week of the year has been prepared for inclusion in local Prayers of the Faithful. The national Prayer for the **Year of Youth** is downloadable from the Ballarat Diocese website/Youth and Young Adult pages: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au These webpages are updated weekly with all the **Year of Youth** and other information.

Year of Youth events are being planned by the Diocese including three major gatherings for Youth and Young Adults, each in a different part of the Diocese.

The first event of the **Year of Youth** is the Australian Catholic Youth Festival being held in Sydney 7-9 December 2017. Around one hundred young people and leaders from all round Ballarat Diocese will be travelling to the Festival to explore their Catholic faith and together to **Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy**.

Amanda Smith - Youth and Young Adult Ministry
youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au
03 5337 7125



Sr Veronica Lawson rsm and David Beaver attend the forum

Bridging the Gap Forum

*With Ballarat soon to become a major centre for refugee resettlement, members of the community have met to discuss ways to help new arrivals in setting down roots. This public forum co-hosted by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council and the City of Ballarat, brought together community members from a range of sectors to promote welcoming, employing and coordinating support for people on the **Safe Haven Enterprise Visa Scheme (SHEV)** and their independence, integration and contribution to the community. It comes as Ballarat could soon see an influx from metropolitan Melbourne of up to 13,000 people on the scheme to study or work. The forum provided information on holistic approaches to refugee integration through addressing health and well being, education and training and employment needs in the Ballarat region.*

The Ballarat Regional Settlement Advocacy Committee has published 10 key action recommendations in response which will be used as a guide to make Ballarat the leading settlement destination for refugees over the next 10 years.

“Some of the biggest issues for people firstly is to find appropriate accommodation and to make sure that they can assist their families to be welcomed into the community,” Wimmera Development Association Chief Executive Officer Ralph Kenyon said. “I think it’s important that local government plays a role but there are a number of other providers who can support employers who are willing to take on migrants and refugees in their workplace.”

Some attendees also shared their personal experiences with the SHEV scheme. Medhi Mohammed, a member of the Pakistani Hazara minority, came to Australia four years ago and was unable to find a job for the first year after moving to Ballarat. “We need to work together to create opportunities and employers need to give them a chance. We face a problem that we won’t get hired because of language, background and a lack of experience,” he said.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier. Text by Anna Evans and photo by Kate Healy

Our Diocesan Community - October 2017

Street Walk for Homelessness



Centacare Homelessness and Advocacy Team and Centacare Board Members marked Homelessness Awareness Week with a 'Street Walk' on Tuesday, August 8. The walk put a spotlight on homelessness and the barriers people face in the Ballarat community. Over 40 people walked from Peplow House to Centacare's Head Office, handing out Winter Resource Packs to those sleeping rough.

Centacare Homelessness and Advocacy Coordinator Emily Heywood said that by taking the message about homelessness to the streets and providing local business and community members with resources on how to assist the homeless, our hope is that those in need get assistance.

"Access to secure and safe housing is one of society's basic human rights. As a community we need to be aware of the circumstances and situations that people find themselves in that lead to homelessness. Many people who are homeless or sleeping rough find themselves in circumstances of domestic violence, financial hardship and the shortage of appropriate, affordable and secure accommodation in the community is a large barrier that these people face."

Centacare Chief Executive Officer Tony Fitzgerald emphasizes the importance of larger picture initiatives that focus on early intervention. "The future of assisting those who are homeless needs to be initiated at a community level with advocacy playing a larger part in looking for innovative homelessness solutions and early intervention programs, while maintaining government stocks of affordable community housing. A greater solution to housing affordability is to increase rental stocks in Ballarat through funding that encourages the community housing sector to invest in affordable housing, removing some of the barriers people face when seeking accommodation," said Tony.

In Australia over 105,237 people are currently experiencing homelessness with 22,773 of these in Victoria. For anyone experiencing homelessness or hardship contact the Centacare Homelessness and Advocacy Support Team on 5337 8999 or drop into the central office at 4-6 Peel Street Ballarat.

Danielle Verdoorn - Marketing & Communications Officer



LUNCH OF LUCK FOR STUDENTS

It was feast or famine for students at Loreto College when more than 1000 students and staff shared a famine lunch to raise awareness of the East Africa food crisis.

Most participants experienced what it was like to not have a nourishing meal as they were randomly given a raffle ticket to be served a first world, second world or third world lunch.

"This is the biggest awareness raising effort that the College has ever held," said Loreto College Faith and Mission Director Mandy Carroll.

"A three course meal was served at a long table set with table cloth, cutlery and juice. A second world lunch included a sandwich served on a paper plate with water nearby, and a third world lunch which the majority of the gathering was given, consisted of rice and a lettuce leaf served sitting on the floor."

Up to 25 million people in East Africa are on the brink of famine as a result of large scale drought, climate change, inflation and conflict in what the UN recently declared as the worst humanitarian crisis since 1945.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Michelle Smith
Photo: Sophie Wheatland, Charlotte Waight and Mia Litras

REST IN PEACE



FR PAUL MERCOVICH: Fr Paul died in Alice Springs on September 22 while on holidays. He had turned eighty in August. The Funeral Mass for Fr Paul was held in St Arnaud on Friday October 13, with the Rite of Committal held at the Ararat Cemetery later that same day. A Vigil Mass was celebrated at St Joseph's Charlton on Thursday October 12. Fr Paul graduated with the Primary Teacher's Certificate from Melbourne Teacher's College. He commenced at Corpus Christi College Werribee in 1962 with his Seminary years firstly at Werribee, followed by Glen Waverly. Fr Paul was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop J.P. O'Collins in Ararat on May 31, 1969. His years of ministry in the Diocese were spent as Assistant Priest at Koroit, Camperdown and Colac before being appointed Administrator of Birregurra. He was the last Parish Priest of the Inglewood Parish before it became part of the Diocese of Sandhurst. Fr Paul spent six months as part of the Cathedral team ministry before being appointed Parish Priest of Ouyen (1978), Charlton (1984), Ballarat East (1987), St Arnaud (1998) and also again of Charlton (2002). Throughout much of the 1980's and 1990's he was the Chair of what was then the Diocesan Education Board.



FR PETER TAFFE: Fr Peter Taffe died on September 2, 2017, aged 79. Ordained a priest in Ballarat on July 27, 1963, Fr Peter served in the parishes of the Diocese as an Assistant Priest before being appointed Administrator of the Parish of Coleraine, later serving as Parish Priest in the parishes of Edenhope, Robinvale, Birchip and Apollo Bay. Fr Peter retired from active parish ministry in 1997. Bishop Paul celebrated the funeral Mass for Fr Peter in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on Friday September 8, with the homily given by Fr Adrian McInerney.



SR AILEEN VEAR CSB: Sr Aileen was professed in the Brigidine Congregation in December 1960. Her ministry included teaching and Principalship in primary schools and Parish Pastoral work in city and rural areas in Victoria. There were also years spent in Adelaide and then to North Harrow in the UK. When Sr Aileen returned from England she was appointed to a leadership role in the Parish of Harrow, here in the Ballarat Diocese, from 1993 -1997. In those days the parish extended to Balmoral and Tarrayoukyan. She found the people very welcoming and friendly. There were about 200 families in the whole parish and the round trip was about 100kms. Three priests supported them in the parish with Masses, reconciliation, weddings and funerals. Pastoral care of the people was Sr Aileen's chief concern and of course the admin side of things. In her time there she enabled the people to lead community prayer and have a concern for and outreach to those less able in the community. She loved the people and enjoyed her time with them. All through her ministry as a Brigidine, Sr Aileen shared the Gospel message of love and service. Her ability to bring people together and empower them to be involved was life giving for them all. Seven years ago Sr Aileen retired to Euroa, her home town, to live there and be pastorally involved in the parish she loved so much. Sadly her health deteriorated with the onset of Parkinson's disease causing her to move to Mary Mackillop residence in Hawthorn for more on-going care and support. She suffered greatly in those years but her great faith and trust in God's goodness sustained her to the end. Aileen died peacefully on July 17, 2017.

Sr Maree Holt csb



SR MARIE FEISS CSB: On July 17, 2017 Sr Marie Feiss, a much loved member of the Brigidine community, Ararat, and recent resident at Mary Mackillop Residence in Hawthorn, passed very peacefully to her eternal reward. Sr Marie had lived in Ararat for the last 14 years and had celebrated her 92nd birthday back in January. Over her long 66 years of profession, Sr Marie worked in a great variety of educational experiences, across the four Dioceses of Victoria and beyond, as classroom teacher then principal - and in those days you were both! Sr Marie's final years were in Ararat where she was 'retired'. However, in this time her creative and artistic gifts had time to flourish. She loved music and was an avid reader and she loved knitting, crocheting, patch working and china painting, producing beautiful pieces of work. Sr Marie delighted to give them to others. Sr Marie's long, full life lived for her God and others was lived with great strength and gentleness and a big smile. She is dearly remembered and will be sadly missed by so many.

Sr Maree Holt csb



SR PAT RYAN RSM: Much loved and esteemed member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, Sr Pat died peacefully at Mercy Place Parkville on July 31, 2017 in the 67th year of her Religious Profession. Pat, throughout her life, was devoted to the Charism of Catherine McAuley, which enabled her to respond to every call presented to her in her religious life and ministry. Pat was loved by all, Sisters, family, colleagues and friends. Sr Pat served in the Ballarat Diocese in Mildura and in the mid-1990's was appointed with Sr Sheila Belleville to the work in the parish of Birchip.

SR IMELDA GALLAGHER RSM: Sr Imelda died peacefully on September 18 at Mercy Place, Warrnambool. She was a loved member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea and a loved daughter of Daniel and Jean, sister of Fr Laurie and Brother Don (CFC) all deceased. Aged 88 years, in her 65th year of her Religious Profession. The funeral Mass for Sr Imelda was held on Friday, September 22 at St Joseph's Warrnambool followed by burial in the Warrnambool cemetery.



Child Protection Week

To show support and commitment to the healing of the community, the Parish of St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat embraced the initiative of the Royal Commission findings and the required "Safeguarding Children Policy".

To mark "Child Protection Week", the Cathedral Parish invited their three parish schools, St Patrick's Parish Primary, St Thomas More Primary School and Siena Catholic Primary, to take part in an awareness activity.

With the theme of 'See Me, Hear Me', students from Foundation to Year 6 were asked to submit a poster showing their understanding of this statement. A particular focus was to be able to give an insight into their own perspective of what safety looks like. A child's viewpoint is entirely different to an adult and the children were able to demonstrate this understanding with their artwork.

As Pope Francis outlined before leading the crowds in the Angelus prayer in March last year, it is important to "Listen: this is the key word. Do not forget, listen to the sick and marginalized, or among families." As a sentry, each of us plays a part in listening to what the children have to say, making sure that every child is safe and protected from abuse and harm.



The children's posters were on display in St Patrick's Cathedral for the duration of Child Protection Week, September 4-10, 2017.

Twenty-seven children from St Patrick's Parish Primary School (pictured top below) were awarded with a 'Certificate of Recognition' for their effort in participating in the 'Child Protection Awareness Program', sixteen children from Siena Catholic Primary School (pictured bottom below) were also awarded with a 'Certificate of Recognition' for their effort as well as twenty-four children from St Thomas More Primary School. Three winners from each school were elected and received a movie voucher courtesy of Regent Cinemas.

Special thanks to Mark Hogbin, Jo Brewer and Rosa Tocchet (School Principals), Anita Houlihan, Jacinta Westbrook and Regent Cinema for extending their valuable support for the success of this awareness program.

Jess Salazar - Cathedral Parish Safeguarding Officer



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION A BEAUTIFUL CELEBRATION

Congratulations to the fifty-three children from Emmaus Primary School and beyond in the St Alipius Parish Ballarat East who received the Sacrament of Confirmation recently. It was a beautiful ceremony and the children were supported by many of their family and friends.

Well done to all who organised this year's Sacramental Program and of course the children and their families for being such a delight to work with in recent months as you have prepared for this special Sacrament.

We look forward to seeing you complete your membership of the Church as you receive your First Eucharist next year!

Brendan Maher - Principal, Emmaus Catholic PS



Eco Time

On July 25, 2017, St Paul's Primary School Mildura Middle Unit visited the Mildura Eco Village to conclude their learning on sustainability and the different ways that they can help the environment. The Mildura Eco Village is a four hectare sustainable living site that includes an Education Centre, Solar Distillation Demonstration site, Community Garden and Eco House.

When the students arrived, they split into three groups and rotated around three different areas of the Village – the landfill site, the Eco House and the Community Garden.

The children were provided with lots-of-hands on opportunities such as locating and identifying different vegetables and herbs, digging for worms and searching for mini beasts in the garden.

In the Eco-House the students learnt about the different energy ratings of appliances in homes as well as practical ways to keep homes warm in winter and cool in summer.

At the landfill, students learnt how rubbish is collected and sorted as well as how much it costs to take different things there.

Thank you to the staff at the Mildura Eco Village for their expertise and enthusiasm.



Vince Muscatello, Principal



The Sisters of St John the Baptist (Baptistine Sisters) have arrived in the Diocese of Ballarat with Frs Peter Hudson and Anthony Nagothu meeting the four sisters at Melbourne airport on September 25. The Sisters stayed with Sr Denise Desmarchelier at the Loreto House in Webster St, Ballarat while they were being inducted into the Diocese. They met Diocesan and Cathedral staff initially and in the following days met with those engaged in pastoral ministries in the Ballarat area including Hospital Pastoral Care staff, University Campus Ministers, Parish Coordinators and Associates.

The Liturgical Commission met with Sr Manuela who is to be the RCIA and sacramental program Resource person for the Diocese. Sr Denise hosted a gathering of the Council for Religious providing an opportunity for them to welcome the Baptistine Sisters. On Friday, September 30, the Sisters moved to Horsham where they will live, with Sr Tirsa ministering as Pastoral Associate. Bishop Paul celebrated the Baptistine's Foundation Mass at Ss Michael and John Church Horsham on Saturday, October 7, where he welcomed the Sisters to the diocese.

Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar-General

L-R: Sr Denise Desmarchelier, Susan Crowe, Sr Rosita, Peter Morris, Sr Tirsa, Noelene Hogan, Fr Justin, Judith O'Sullivan, Sr Manuela and Sr Jesusita

Leonardo's Fantastic Flying Machines

On Friday, July 21, thirty students from St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill in Mrs Maria Salvo's Year 9 Italian and Miss Anna Stewart's Year 9/10 Art Express classes were fortunate to attend the 'Da Vinci Machines' exhibition at the Swan Hill Regional Art Gallery.

Gallery director, Ian Tully, presented an overview of the Renaissance period in Italy and the genius of Leonardo Da Vinci. This was followed by a guided tour around the exhibition. Students were then free to explore the exhibition and encouraged to sketch one of the machines that particularly appealed to them. They were able to interact with some of the machines and compare them to modern day machines.

Both Art and Italian classes also collaborated in an activity based on Leonardo's artwork – *Tempera Painting*. This method uses egg yolk and coloured pigments to create paint. Students enjoyed using this medium of painting and worked together to paint elaborate Renaissance letters.

We were very fortunate to have such a magnificent exhibition tour our region, offering students great opportunities to extend their learning of the Italian language through exploring and learning about Renaissance Italy and the great master, Leonardo Da Vinci. This activity was supported by the Catholic Education Office, Ballarat, through funding from the Languages - Speak Up! Strategy.

Maria Salvo



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL FESTIVAL GATHERING



On Tuesday, September 19, a group of nine Years 9 and 10 girls from Monivae College Hamilton went to St Patrick's College Ballarat with Fr Peter and Mrs Mitchell for the annual Vinnies Schools Festival Gathering. We joined students from St Patrick's College Ballarat, St Brigid's College Horsham, Emmanuel College Warrnambool, Marian College Ararat and Mercy Regional College Camperdown.

Facilitated by Cheyne and Felicity, our passionate presenters from Young Vinnies in Melbourne, the concepts of positivity, connectedness and conversations, reframing situations and making a change for the better were discussed.

We played the Poverty Game which introduced us to the concept that everyone does not have equal opportunities in life, that the circumstances that people find themselves in have a huge impact on their ability to provide food and shelter for themselves or their

families, and that there are a lot of people "doing it tough" in our communities. When other people realise this, and make a contribution to help out, lives can be changed dramatically for the better. Providing opportunities for jobs, stable housing and building confidence all help to build success. Respecting the dignity of others, offering hope and encouraging people to take control of their future are also necessary.

Interacting with other young people who all think the same way, we shared lots of ideas and strategies on how school students can make a difference in their own way in their community from fundraising, to starting conversations with people and listening to their stories, volunteering in Vinnies stores or simply donating items to them. Simply making assumptions by judging someone's appearance, or their homelessness, is not acceptable nor a reliable source of information. We really need to get to know a person and find out what they want, before making decisions that will affect them.

We celebrated Mass with other members of the community, and after lunch joined in groups with students from the other schools to discuss how we could make a change and bring Social Justice to our school and local communities. The girls found it beneficial to meet new people with similar ideas and beliefs and were inspired and enthused to start a Social Justice Group up at Monivae. This was discussed at length on the bus trip home – watch this space. Changes in the world can start small, and that change can start with us.

Peter Hendriks - Chaplain / Co-Director of Faith & Mission

FIVE MINUTES WITH TERRY O'CONNOR PARISHIONER IN TIMBOON

Where were you born? Tell us about your childhood. I was born in Terang. Second of eight children - 5 girls, 3 boys. Went to St Thomas' Terang, before going to Monivae Hamilton for the last 4 years. Dad and Mum milked cows at Boorcan. Great life living in the country, able to go fishing and shooting, and playing football for Glenormiston in the Mount Noorat league. (This roaming of the hills and river flats was to pay big dividends later in life.) It was spoilt only by the fact that those so and so cows had to be milked every day of every year! It was obvious to me (and mum) that my abilities lay away from the cowyard from early on in my life. We wanted for nothing as we grew up (although at the time I thought different!). Monivae was great, there were no cows, plenty of books to read, kids to play footy with and I didn't mind the study either. I was always keen on running too although I never won a race until I was in Year 12. Then I was not beaten, winning in Hamilton and then Ballarat. I still hold race records at Monivae (the fact that I set them in imperial distances and now they race over metrics, certainly helps!!)

Your family is? I am married to Enid (McKinnon) and we live in Timboon. Our four children are Matthew (teacher in Melbourne), Julie (nurse in Melbourne), Maryanne (accountant in Sydney), Erin (mother in Canberra). We have 10 grandchildren ranging from ages 15 to 1.

Tell us your story, where have you been? After schooling in Hamilton, I moved to Melbourne and did four years of study to be a secondary teacher at Rusden. It was here that I became involved with Power House, firstly with football and then with athletics too. It was at this time that I meet a shy country girl at a post-wedding dance in Terang and the rest is history, as they say in the classics. Back in Melbourne my running improved to such an extent that I was selected to run in the Montreal Olympic Trials over 400 metre hurdles. Unfortunately the other bloke (and some mates) were quicker. It was not long after this that I was playing football for Coragulac in the Hampden League when I dropped a chest mark and the shame nearly killed me (well that sounds better than just collapsing on the ground!!). After 6 months in hospital and 6 months in rehabilitation I finally got home to begin the long haul back. I taught at Trinity College in Colac before getting back in the state system and teaching at Belmont High. From there I was appointed to Timboon High, finally retiring in 1987.

Tell us about the moment on the footy field that changed your life? On August 14, 1976 just before half time, I was taking a chest mark on my own and I fell in a coma - a medical mystery. Doctors had no idea why I had collapsed. In fact Enid was told to think about a funeral. I spent the next 2-3 months in the Geelong hospital before going to St Vincent's in Melbourne and then back to Colac. Home for a short period and then 6 months at Glen Waverley Rehabilitation. For a prospective Olympian and fair footballer, it was some fall from grace. Matthew was six months old when it happened and Enid was just pregnant with Julie so you can only imagine the strain she was

under. But I was lucky. 3 F's - Faith, Family and Friends. Enid, my family and her family were always there. The fact that Enid's brother Eugene is a priest was also handy. A few of them (priests) practiced their blessings on me and look, I'm still here!!

Involvement in the Church? My involvement with the Church has been long and involved. At Monivae I was a member of the Legion of Mary. At Colac and Timboon I have been a Reader and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. When I retired from teaching I took on Religious Education classes (Grades 5 and 6) at Timboon Consolidated, from my wife. This continued until the school stopped allowing religion to be taught last year. I love to sing. Now not everyone likes to hear me, but I love to sing - thanks to my mother.

Favourite Book? My greatest joy in my youth was reading. When I went to Monivae, after the first week, I had a nick name "Books". I read two books a day for three years but in HSC I was only able to read one a day. *The 39 Steps* by John Buchan was a great read, *Ring of Bright Waters* by Gavin Maxwell was another great read (thanks, aunty Pat Sargeant), while Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mocking Bird* was also up with the best. I now read authors Alistair MacLean, Michael Connelly and John Grisham.

If you could choose anyone from any time, who would you most like to be in conversation with and why? I would love to converse with two blokes - my father, Leo O'Connor and my father-in-law, Frank McKinnon. They were just great people and both are gone now - but not forgotten. These two were good in themselves and influenced those around them. They lived different lives but had the same object in life, to live God's message.

Who has impacted you most in your life and how? My mother and father have had the greatest influence on my life as they were the first teachers I ever had. They had to work very hard to raise us eight, and we never missed out, looking back. In the early days they milked 40 cows, but by the time I had finished school, the number had risen to 220. We never had a great deal of money as we were growing up, but we never went hungry or missed out on anything important. Mum always said that she and dad would always be there to help us. Events later in my life put them to the test and they came through with flying colours.

Is there anything else you would like us to know? I do enjoy golf these days - any mug can play two handed, but to make it interesting I play one handed. I am much better over summer when the ball rolls well! Just that I am very happy to have reached 64, which proves that doctors don't always know what they are talking about. As my wife has often said, "The years go quick, it's just that some of the days have been very long." All in all, I am fairly happy with my life. I have had some ups and downs, the curves were a bit sharper than most have had to experience. I have been to the top in athletics and I had a lot more to offer in that area but I went to sleep. Everything I have touched since those dark months in hospital has turned to gold. My wife has carried me whenever I came to a stop or even slowed down. My family, her family, friends and relations, I have been extremely lucky. We don't realise just how lucky we are until something goes wrong.

To Love and Serve the Lord

Since I last submitted an entry into ODC, I have been working at archives in Europe, Britain and Canada. Before that, however, on 24 April I attended the ceremony of the presentation of the lions from the Australian War Memorial to the city of Ypres in Belgium. These lions, donated to Australia from the people of Ypres after World War I, are now back at the Menin Gate on loan from Australia until November 2017. The following morning I attended the dawn service at Villers-Bretonneux praying under the leadership of Monsignor Glynn Murphy who spoke and led the prayers.

Many back at home would have seen something of these ceremonies on their televisions and they were both very moving ceremonies. I mention them because two of the key speakers came from the Diocese of Ballarat, Monsignor Glynn Murphy I have mentioned and the other, who spoke most movingly at both ceremonies, was the Honourable Dan Tehan, Minister for Veterans Affairs and MHR for Wannan.

A hundred years ago, this diocese provided several priests to the services as chaplains. One of these priests, Fr Heneghan, is memorialized at Port Fairy. Fr Heneghan was serving as a stretcher-bearer when he was shot and killed on the western front. Listening to Monsignor Glynn it struck me that a Ballarat priest was again 'serving' his country on the western front.

Later in the morning, I took photos of the work of John Grant, an art teacher from Daylesford whose work is in the school at Villers-Bretonneux. The Grant family are still very much part of the Daylesford story and must be proud to maintain his memory.

As I travelled back to my research work after the ceremony, I travelled from Amiens to Brussels with another two Australians also returning after the dawn service. Australians certainly do get around, but more importantly these people have a deep appreciation of debt to those who have gone before and of what a privilege it is to live where and as we do.

As Catholics from this western part of Victoria, we need also to stop and think of how fortunate we are to live where we do. Without being bowed-down with debt to the past, we need to rejoice in the freedom, privileges and faith passed on to us by those who have gone before. It is all too easy to be caught-up in the material culture of our era, or the negativity surrounding us as church due to those we feel have failed us. A vibrant living faith is also in evidence and we need to speak up for this faith, live it and let it be known, as we are invited to through the final admonition of the Mass: 'Go – to love and serve the Lord'.

The experiences I have related are mainly of the present but they are part of our story and a record of our journey of faith just as those incidents of decades gone by are. The archive is a living document just as the church is a living church and the archive will link us to future peoples as we have links with those who have gone before. For us it is through the archive that we will live on in this earthly memory.

In earlier reports, I have mentioned the evangelizing role of the archive. At the September meeting of diocesan archivists from across Australia, we discussed in depth this role of evangelization. The reason for the existence of our church is to evangelize and we need parishes and the faithful to help us fulfill this role by recording our story. This enables future generations to have our witness as to how we spread the message of Christ in our time and how those who went before us fulfilled their mission - To love and serve the Lord.

Michael Taffe (Archivist)



Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Project



Professor Didier Pollefeyt from the Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium visited Victoria in late July as a guest of the Catholic Education Commission Victoria. Professor Pollefeyt is the architect of the Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) Project utilized across all Ballarat Diocesan schools. The project aims to measure the Catholic identity of a school against the pluralizing and often secularizing

culture in which they operate. From this data, schools are able to plan improvement initiatives that enhance Catholic identity through theological, pedagogical and faith-based directions that nurture the students and families in Catholic schools today. Professor Pollefeyt was able to deepen understandings in this area through latest research and draw conclusions from the ever-growing body of data gathered over many years across the four dioceses of Victoria.

John Meneely - Deputy Director of Catholic Education
Photo : CECV



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, or at any event that might welcome someone who may be experience 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: Lumen Christi Primary School Vision and Mission day. Back cover: 1. Bishop Paul's visit to Bungaree 2. Science Day at Emmanuel College Warrnambool 3. Damascus Day Mass 4. Confirmation at St Alipius Parish Ballarat East

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