

CATHOLIC
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BALLARAT



OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

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OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

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The next ODC will be in July 2018.

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Jubilee Reflections: The Adventures of Paul Bird

As editor of *Our Diocesan Community*, Jane Collins has invited me to write some reflections as I celebrate the golden jubilee of my profession as a member of the Redemptorist Congregation. I am very happy to share some memories from these fifty years.



Soon after Jane asked me to write these reflections, I was speaking with a young woman who was about to start university studies in Ballarat. She was excited to be moving into the university world. She was looking forward to this next chapter of her life as a new adventure.

Since I professed my vows as a Redemptorist on February 11, 1968, each chapter of my life has brought new experiences, in many parts of Australia and in many countries around the world. So I have called these reflections "The Adventures of Paul Bird".

My decision to join the Redemptorists had already involved an adventure. It meant leaving family and friends in the industrial suburb of Carrington in Newcastle and moving to the Redemptorist novitiate in the rural setting of Galong, about an hour from Canberra. There I began to live as a novice in a religious community, with a common life of prayer together in the chapel, meals in the refectory, study in the classroom and sport on the oval.

A few days after my profession, I took the train from Galong to Ballarat to become part of what was then a large community in the Redemptorist Monastery in Wendouree. There I had my first four years of seminary studies before moving to Melbourne for three more years of study at Yarra Theological Union.

I was ordained a priest in my home town of Newcastle in 1975. After some months of ministry in Melbourne, including time as chaplain at St Vincent's Hospital, I was on a plane to Perth to take up an appointment with the Redemptorist Community there. Perth became the base for travel throughout Western Australia and the Northern Territory for parish mission programs of prayer and preaching. In 1977, for example, I was involved in a road trip from Perth to Darwin, with parish mission programs in farming and mining towns along the way. 1978 brought a new posting to Sydney, with parish mission programs in the Eastern States.

Then, in 1979, I was asked to do some more study, this time overseas. I went to the Catholic University of America in Washington DC to study liturgy. I arrived while Jimmy Carter was President. It added to the sense of adventure to be living in a city that I associated with world affairs and to have the chance to visit the Congress and the White House. I used to celebrate Sunday morning Masses in the parish of Severna Park in Maryland. I have happy memories of those times, sharing the life of an American parish community. When my studies in Washington were coming to an end, I told the parish priest at Severna Park about my plans to return to Australia, doing some further study on the way. He observed that I would be taking "the scenic route" home.

My journey back to Australia included a three months stay in Paris attending lectures in liturgy at the Catholic Institute. This was another

adventure, living with the Redemptorist community on the Boulevard du Montparnasse, within walking distance of the Catholic Institute and Notre Dame Cathedral.

My return to Australia was a homecoming in a double sense, to my home country and to my hometown, because I was assigned to the Redemptorist community in Newcastle. I took up again my earlier ministry of parish missions, but, with the liturgy studies behind me, I was also involved in seminars on liturgy in various places. Once more, this included some overseas travel, to New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and Samoa. I found my visit to Samoa particularly interesting as I discussed with priests and parishioners there the steps they had taken to adapt the liturgy to Samoan culture.

The next chapter opened in 1987 when I was asked to move to Melbourne to join the team in the Redemptorist publishing community at Majellan House. This was another new field for me, another adventure. As with my earlier moves, the change was made easier with the support of colleagues, in this case, the Redemptorist confreres and the lay staff who formed the Majellan Publications team. I discovered even wider support through our contacts with Redemptorist publishing houses in other countries. These contacts brought further overseas adventures, with the opportunity to attend conferences of people involved in Redemptorist publications around the world. There were conferences in America, England and Brazil.

In 2008, after twenty years in the publishing apostolate, I was elected leader of the Australian province of the Redemptorists. This brought more travels, to Redemptorist communities around Australia, and to New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia, which all had long-standing links with Australia. There were meetings in other countries as well, as we developed cooperation between Redemptorists across national borders. I looked on these opportunities as new adventures, with visits to Rome, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

In 2012, after five years as Redemptorist provincial leader, another unexpected adventure came along – being appointed Bishop of Ballarat. Readers of Our Diocesan Community would be aware of some of the challenges we have faced as a Catholic Community through these years. I am most grateful for the support of so many throughout the diocese who have welcomed me to their parishes and schools and have helped me in this role of being Bishop of Ballarat.

As I celebrate fifty years as a Redemptorist, I look back on many and varied experiences. The young lad from Carrington has had adventures he never dreamed of. I give thanks for the blessings of these years. I look forward to sharing in the adventures of the years ahead.

Bishop Paul Bird CSSR

Catholic Mission visits



Late last year, children from St James in Sebastopol participated in a workshop with Norah McClusky and Sue Searls from Catholic Mission. Norah and Sue shared stories of their experiences working abroad in developing countries where absolute poverty exists. Children prepared and asked complex questions about our call to respond and what it means to reach out to those in need. They reflected on the Scripture passage from John 10 which states 'I come that they may have life, and have it to the full'.

The leaders guided the children in their learning through the use of chants, movement, videos and photos. The discussions that followed provided insight for the children and many came away from the workshop feeling inspired by stories of journey, enabled through a sense of mission and fulfilled by sharing in spiritual growth. Children felt ready to take action on the initiatives they had planned themselves and were inspired to get involved in Catholic Mission's 2017 theme 'Sock it to Poverty' (Socktober).

Rachel Smith, Education Officer - Social Justice

positive behaviour support

On Friday, November 17, St Paul's Primary School, Mildura celebrated their School Wide Positive Behavior Support Launch. The School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) is a framework which provides schools with an approach designed to create a safe and supportive environment for all students.

The day began with students wearing black and yellow to school, in support of the "Bee" theme of "Be Safe, Be Your Best and Be Respectful". Teachers also wore wings, headband antennas and yellow tutus to mark the occasion. Principal Vince Muscatello made an appearance as a 'King Bee' donning a 'Bee Costume' for the day!

During the day, students participated in "bee" type activities such as making honey joys, honey cheerio necklaces, bee based art work and games.

The "Gotcha" Reward Program was explained to the students and they were "caught" following the norms and rewarded with a "gotcha" that not only goes into a raffle, but counts towards earning a reward for each unit and eventually for the whole school a prize.

Although the dressing up and activities were fun, the most important outcome is that students have been introduced to our Behavior Matrix and are engaged in explicit learning in how to "be their best", "be respectful" and "be safe" in different areas of the school.

Vince Muscatello - Principal



MISSION WITH RICHARD LEONARD

The parishes of Beaufort and Linton were very fortunate to have a Mission delivered by Fr Richard Leonard SJ (pictured right with Bernadette Franc). The major focus of his sessions was 'Being a Catholic in the 21st Century'. In each session, he illustrated, from real life experiences, the issues that confront us in the contemporary world. In doing this, he was able to offer practical ways for us to live more deeply our lives of faith.

The Mission was made available to these parishes through the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation Grant for which we are thankful. Members of both parishes met, along with Fr Justin Driscoll, to plan the locations, times and requirements for the event. This was a great opportunity to meet with people from other parishes. Sr Helen Murphy ibvm and Fr Justin liaised with Fr Richard in relation to the finer details of transport and accommodation. This was very much appreciated.

Fr Richard celebrated Masses on the weekend prior to the Mission in three churches in the parishes. In the following three days he shared very insightful sessions in two locations each day. Every day there were strong messages for all, and there were many thoughts, words and prayers that participants could take away for reflection and living. Following one of the sessions in the middle of the day, the participants at Beaufort shared a lunch together with Fr Richard. This was an added highlight.

A very pleasing aspect of the Mission was the attendance of people from other Christian faiths, people from other Catholic Parishes, as well as the intermingling of people from the Linton and Beaufort Parishes. This was facilitated by having the Masses, prayers and reflections at different times and places. If you have the opportunity to hear Fr Richard speak, do not miss out!



Bernadette Franc (Beaufort PPC Chairperson)
Our Diocesan Community - March 2018



ADMIRABLE SERVICE

After 22 years of service to the Ballarat community and Centacare, Trish Nolan has retired from her position as the General Manager of Employment Services.

Known within Centacare for her professionalism, ability to write a great tender, quick wit and flair for fashion, Trish will be sadly missed.

Commencing her Centacare career in July 1996, Trish was employed to start up the Employment Services Stream of the organisation. Under Trish's management five additional staff were hired, doubling Centacare's total staff numbers at that time and commencing service delivery to job seekers.

Over the past 22 years, Trish has tendered for, developed and managed a range of Centacare programs across Ballarat, Mildura, Geelong and Warrnambool. These have included over twelve state and federal government employment programs, youth services and housing services.

Highlights of Trish's career include: Successfully managing Federal Employment Contracts through six Government Department name changes; managing the transition of Peplow House to a Centacare program; managing the introduction of the Webster Street Rooming House; tendering for and developing the Youth Justice programs; and successfully tendering for the Family Relationship Centre programs.

As a valued member of the Centacare Executive Team, Trish has made significant contributions to the development of Centacare's culture, strategic direction and business growth.

In farewelling Trish, Chief Executive Officer Tony Fitzgerald said, "We commend Trish on such an outstanding career, improving the lives of those less fortunate through programs that make a genuine difference to people. Trish has the ability to relate to all people at different stages in their lives and at different organisational levels. The gap that Trish's departure will leave in our organisation will certainly be difficult to fill. We wish her every success and happiness in the future".

BDSAC News

The Ballarat Diocesan Schools Advisory Council (BDSAC) held four meetings in 2017, visiting schools across the Diocese. On most occasions the BDSAC conducted two-day meetings which involved visiting schools in the local region, culminating in a dinner inviting all School Advisory Council members in the area. The schools visited by the BDSAC in 2017 were St Patrick's Primary Stawell, St Mary's Primary Ararat, Marian College Ararat, St Mary's Primary Swan Hill, Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill, St Joseph's Primary Warrnambool, St Pius X Primary West Warrnambool, St Patrick's Primary Port Fairy, St Patrick's Primary Camperdown and Mercy Regional College Camperdown. The BDSAC dinners were held in Ararat, Swan Hill and Port Fairy.

Some of the content discussed at the meetings involved the School Improvement Framework and the Characteristics of Highly Effective Catholic Schools (CHECS). Schools were asked to identify areas they are working on to enhance their school improvement data, as well as commenting on staff formation activities. The BDSAC also ratified a number of policies throughout the year, which were then distributed to schools to be used to support their operational needs and processes.

The school tours enable the BDSAC members to gain a greater understanding of local issues and challenges faced by schools across the diocese. It is pleasing to see schools showcasing their school communities and to see the students being engaged in their work. It is a credit to the school leadership teams that the schools are always well presented and the students readily interact with the BDSAC members during the tours.

In 2018 the BDSAC plans to visit the following schools: Siena Primary School Lucas, OLHC Primary School Wendouree, St Augustine's Primary School Maryborough, St Columba's Primary School Ballarat North, St Patrick's Primary School Nhill, Ss Michael and John's Primary School Horsham, St Brigid's College Horsham, St Mary's Primary School Hamilton, Monivae College Hamilton and Lumen Christi Primary School Delacombe.





Preparing Liturgy: (Part 1)

“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt 18:20)

When preparing a Liturgy, we need to have an understanding of what Liturgy actually is in the life of our Church.

The word Liturgy comes from the Latin *“leitourgi”* meaning public service, from *“leitourgos”* public servant, from *“os”*, *“people”* + *“ergon”* - work. Work on behalf of the people equals service: political, military, public or charity. How is liturgy work of the people? The early centuries of *common era* had more of a Christian climate than we know today – religious service was held for the sake of others. When we look at the understanding of work in this context it is work such as that done by God (calling, welcoming, claiming, gifting, accepting or contrition, offering forgiveness, choosing us for lives of service, healing our wounds) and work done by us (accepting God’s call, thanking, praising, offering, listening, learning, receiving, co-operating with God).

Thus liturgies are the forms of public services officially prescribed by a Church. It is a particular order, or form of public service laid down by a Church and is a formative, communal ritual prayer. Liturgy is ‘work’ as against ‘entertainment’, so we as the Assembly have a role to play. It is not just the responsibility of the Priest as presider, but the responsibility of each of us.

Liturgy is a privileged place of encounter between God and the people of God. It is a sacred encounter through participation in a communal, ritual expression. Liturgy is more than words. Liturgy is a dialogue. A dialogue between God and the people of God. We are transformed by what we do in liturgy, as what we do teaches us what we believe – and what we believe is expressed in the ritual doing of the liturgy. *“...Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations” (SC # 7).*

The Liturgy with which we are most familiar is the Mass and it is often the Sunday Mass, or a Mass to be celebrated within the school context that we are most often asked to prepare. Notice the use of the word prepare rather than plan. There is already a plan or framework for Liturgy:

- We gather
- We hear the Word of God
- We join in a ritual action
- We go to share and live the Word of God

When we gather and stand in the company of those who believe, we bring all that we are. We are enlightened by faith accessible in Scripture, prayer, music, actions and interactions of the liturgy. It is when we enact our Faith. Liturgy is that regular and repeated ritual – and thus symbolic activity of the Body of Christ. It is in the liturgy that Christians learn again and again what it means to be the Body of Christ in the world. It is in the liturgy that we see God’s justice enacted and celebrated and thus sacramentalised. As we gather we portray the interconnectedness of liturgy and life, of liturgy and justice.

What makes good liturgy? To ensure that liturgies are of superior quality and celebrate the love God has for us and we have for God, then liturgical events must:

- Be coherent
- Be meaningful
- Bring the Assembly into worship
- Strengthen our love of God and others.
- Lead the faithful to full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy.

In part two of Preparing Liturgy, we will look at the framework upon which we build our liturgy.

References:

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal
Catechism of the Catholic Church
Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: *Sacrosanctum Concilium*

Dr Susan Crowe, Education Officer: Sustainability, Liturgy and Special Projects

Professional Learning Tour

Teachers from St Mary's School Donald, Mary Hogan and Andrea Molloy-Drum, were fortunate to travel to China on a Professional Learning tour.

The tour was organised by My Education Group, which provides the Chinese language program in our school. The language program is taught weekly via an interactive video conference session with teachers in Beijing, during which the students learn about Chinese language and culture.

The first week was spent in and around the city of Beijing. Highlights included a tour of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, an overnight adventure to the Great Wall, a visit to the Temple of Heaven, an exploration of the Hou Hai Lake District and an afternoon of bargaining at the Hongqiao Pearl Markets. Whilst in Beijing, we visited the offices of My Education Group and met some of the staff with whom we video conference our lessons. A journey on a bullet train took us to a school 300kms from Beijing where we met staff and students, observed classes and even taught an Australian culture lesson in English.



On day eight we arrived in Chengdu and headed straight for the Giant Panda Reserve. Although the crowds were extreme due to a week-long public holiday in China, we were able to see Giant Pandas of all ages, including the Red Panda. We ended our first day with a traditional Sichuan hot pot dinner. The next day, we again battled the crowds and visited the Leshan Giant Buddha which was an impressive sight appreciated by all. An exploration of the town on foot the next morning brought us to the People's Park where we witnessed locals at work and play: dancing, meditating, playing games, sipping tea and enjoying the luscious green space. The trip was a very educational and enjoyable experience which will be remembered for years to come.

Mary Hogan and Andrea Molloy-Drum

ANNUAL GATHERING



Once again a very happy and successful assembly of our Ballarat Diocesan Pastoral Support Group took place at Halls Gap from October 22 – October 24, 2017. The group welcomed some new faces: Carolyn Stanhope from Hamilton, Michael Ryan from Ballan and Sisters Tirsa and Manuela from Horsham. The twenty-three attendees enjoyed the comfort and tranquillity of the Pinnacle Holiday Lodge with our hosts Barry and Mimie.

On Sunday evening we enjoyed a BBQ in the grounds of the Lodge. After being well nourished by the food, drink and company we gathered in the Conference area for our introductory session led by Sr Jacinta Rice csb. Sr Margie Abbott rsm, our guest speaker for this year, introduced herself to the group and whetted our appetite for Monday's presentation. We then made use of the chance for all to introduce or re-introduce ourselves and concluded the evening with reflective prayer.

On Monday we were privileged to have Margie as our guest speaker. Margie held us in awe and wonder as she told us the Universe Story. She engaged us in the complexities of the story through a labyrinth created by her own hands using finger knitting. The labyrinth was studded with cards naming events which took place over billions of years. Margie's enthusiasm for her topic and her use of visual images, drama, poetry, story, music and scripture drew us into the interconnectedness of all that is. Her emphasis on caring for our common home provided for us the link between *Laudato Si* and the Universe Story. Monday evening's meal at the Quarry Restaurant was a true celebration of our time together.

Tuesday morning was a time to make plans for our gathering in 2018. Mary Lancaster agreed to join the executive group of Geraldine Malady, Sr Maree Holt and Clare Arundell. This group will arrange details and the guest speaker for the gathering in 2018. The gathering closed with a prayer where we draw together our new learnings in a spirit of praise, thanksgiving and blessings. We thank our Bishop, Paul Bird and the CDF for supporting us in this venture. Thanks also to Pauline Books and Media for their continued support. We thank God for this time of learning and reflection, a time of appreciation for the interconnectedness of all that is. Where better to gather than in the beauty of Halls Gap!!!

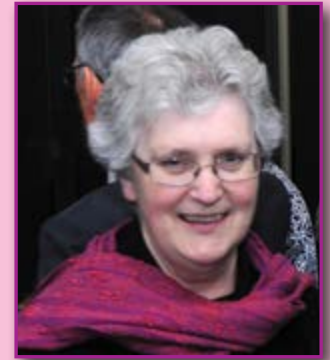
Claire Arundell

THE END OF AN ERA

After fifty-three years dedicated to Catholic education, at the end of last year, Sr Marie Davey retired. Damascus College Ballarat celebrated and acclaimed her work and commitment at a celebration on December 1.

Sr Marie was the Deputy Principal of Damascus College when she retired, and has also been the Principal of Sacred Heart College and a teacher at St Columba's Primary School and Catholic secondary schools in Warracknabeal and St Arnaud.

Sr Marie is the youngest of her family, with five siblings. Her father was a train controller and her mother was a homemaker until she went back to work later in life. "I was born and raised in Ballarat, and my one career has been as a teacher. I enjoyed working with children and studied teaching at Sacred Heart Teachers' College which later became ACU Ballarat Campus," she said.



Sr Marie with Matt Byrne, Tony Haintz and Paul Jans

Upon graduation Sr Marie's first teaching class was Grade 3 at St Columba's in 1965. She then moved on to secondary education in Warracknabeal in 1970. "It is such a long time since I began teaching. I have since taught the children and grandchildren of those that I first taught in those early years."

Sr Marie joined the Sisters of Mercy as a postulant on March 17, 1965 and was professed as a Sister of Mercy on February 10, 1968. "As a teacher, I began as 'Miss Davey' and then became 'Sr Marie' later that year. I fleetingly considered joining a Missionary Order which would have taken me to far off lands, but I decided my calling was to the local area and opted for the Sisters of Mercy, Ballarat East. I have not regretted that decision," she said. The Sisters of

Mercy are a special and unique congregation, as they follow in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley, who founded the Order in Ireland in 1831. The Sisters have the vision to look for what is needed in the world at any time, and to respond to those needs.

"I love working with young people and I hope that I have made a difference in their lives as they have in mine. One of the things that I am most proud of, is the establishment of Damascus College to be the wonderful place that it is today. This wasn't just me of course, but I would like to think I had some influence as we struggled through our early years."

As Sr Marie retires, she shares a piece of advice for students, staff, parents and members of the Damascus community. "Keep putting the best of yourself in to whatever you do. The family and the school have to work together for the sake of the students. I think our Teacher Advisor system gives us a great foundation to do this but it does take commitment from every individual to get the best out of it. Looking back on my life, I have no regrets – I'd do it all again – probably a bit differently, and so better at times, but ultimately I'm happy with my life and comfortable with who I am."

Mr Matthew Byrne, Principal of Damascus College said that the students, staff and wider community wish her the very best in a well earned retirement. It is well known that the Damascus community will miss her energy, commitment, passion and quiet unassuming nature. "Good luck Sr Marie and thank you," he said.

Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development



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Appreciation

On Sunday, November 19, Ss Michael and John's Parish Horsham gave thanks for the work of Sr Jacinta Rice csb with an Appreciation Dinner at the Coughlin Park Community Centre. The dinner acknowledged her retirement from many parish activities, as well as recognising her continued caring and loving presence and ministry in Horsham.

In 2009 Sr Jacinta moved to Horsham as Adult Faith Formation Coordinator, something new for the Parish of Ss Michael and John's, where her ministry was in adult education, music, art, organising and running retreats and prayer sessions. Throughout her life Sr Jacinta has been influenced by the Ignatian spirituality, from the Jesuits, and Celtic influences, stemming from the Brigidine Sisters, the order to which she herself belongs. Many thanks, Sr Jacinta, for your work at St Brigid's College and in the wider Parish.



Peter Gutteridge, Principal – St Brigid's College

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

A large number gathered to celebrate 120 years of Catholic Education at St Joseph's School, Charlton in October 2017. It was held on the same weekend as the Charlton Show.

Sunday's celebrations began with Mass at 8.30am with the church filled to capacity. We were extremely pleased to have Fr Brian Glasheen celebrate Mass assisted by Fr Peter Jose. After Mass people adjourned to the Parish Hall, which was St Joseph's School from 1924 to 1959. There was an extensive display of photographs, newspaper cuttings, school magazines and sports trophies, as well as of the various uniforms worn over the years. The display captured the attention of all.

Many also took the opportunity to tour the current classrooms, the old McAuley classrooms and the new administration area. An extra bonus was the former convent building being open for all to visit. We are extremely grateful to the owners for their generosity.

Frank McGrath, Principal, welcomed all present and hoped they enjoyed the day. He thanked the Committee – Val Bourke, Kath and Michael Bourke, Beth Dillon, Carmel Fitzpatrick, Matt and Elaine Donaldson, Julie McGrath, Margaret McGrath, Eily Rosewall and Anne Kenny. He also thanked the many others who had helped in any way. Frank introduced Sr Margaret Spain, a Sister of Our Lady of the Missions and ex-student, who unveiled the plaque which reads, "This plaque commemorates one hundred and twenty years of Catholic Education in Charlton unveiled on 22nd October, 2017."

A book which details the history of St Joseph's School, compiled by Carolyn Olive and Anne Kenny, was launched by Sr Anne Cossar, a Sister of Mercy and ex-student. The book features numerous newspaper articles, photos, reminiscences and school snippets, which provide a comprehensive and easy to read history.

To conclude the formalities a photo of the entire reunion group, approximately four hundred people, was taken. All were then invited to enjoy a BBQ lunch provided by the Charlton Catholic School Auxiliary. The remainder of the afternoon was spent continuing to renew friendships and remembering stories from our school days. Judging by the remarks made, a successful reunion was enjoyed by all.

Anne Kenny
Photo courtesy of North Central News



RCIA and the Rite of Election 2018

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and it is the process of Initiating new adult members into the Church. RCIC stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. RCIA and RCIC are both processes of individuals growing into and becoming part of the Catholic Church. The process is marked by a series of rites, the second of which is the Rite of Election.

On Saturday, February 17, 2018, parishioners from Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Colac, Gordon, Portland, Redan, Warrnambool and Wendouree gathered in St Patrick's Cathedral for the Rite of Election. An apology was received from Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura.

This Rite marks the conclusion of the period of the Catechumenate and is a doorway to the period of Purification and Enlightenment. Basic to understanding the Rite is the belief that no-one comes to faith, to the Church, to the Sacraments, or even to God without being called by God.

The Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR assisted by the Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Rev Gary Jones. The celebration began with the Liturgy of the Word followed by the presentation of nine Catechumens, together with four catechumens in absentia from Mildura. After being called forward by the Cathedral Administrator, Rev Justin Driscoll, Bishop Paul, speaking in the name of the Church, questioned the preparation, understanding and readiness of the catechumens. Assured of adequate formation Bishop Paul was presented with each Parish Book of names to sign, before being introduced individually to the Catechumens and Godparents. In response to the enrolment of names, Bishop Paul called the catechumens to the Easter Sacraments and declared them members of the Elect

The next group to be presented to Bishop Paul were twenty eight children enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. Four children from St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, eight children from Ballarat East, five from Ballarat North, four from Redan and seven children from Wendouree were named and after personally being greeted by Bishop Paul, were proclaimed members of the Elect.

The final group to be named and presented to Bishop Paul were the five baptised candidates who seek full communion within the Catholic Church, along with one candidate in absentia from Mildura. The candidates proclaimed their intention to spend the weeks of Lent in prayerful preparation for the coming celebration of Easter.

Following the blessing and dismissal, all present joined the Bishop for refreshments in St Patrick's Hall. Throughout the entire celebration there was a great air of anticipation and excitement which engendered a sense of enjoyment for all and provided witness to the work of the Holy Spirit truly alive in our Diocese.

We are blessed to be members of a Parish that lives the Lenten and Easter Season with the Elect. An Easter Vigil

without initiation, a beginning of Lent without the Parish Enrolment of Names, a Lent without a member of the Elect, leaves a void in the Lenten/Easter Journey of the Parish.

In the Liturgy and liturgical catechesis of Lent, the reminder of baptism already received or the preparation for its reception.... renew the entire community along with those being prepared (par 125) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Kay Curran



Top: Bishop Paul, Fr Gary Jones, Sue Crowe
Bottom: Wyatt, Laura and Lexie Parsons, Christine Hall, Colleen Ryrice

JOHN LAING AWARDS 2017

Three school leaders from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat have been officially recognised for their dedication to education and professional learning in the annual John Laing Awards for Professional Development, managed by the Principals Australia Institute.

The John Laing Awards acknowledge principals in every state and territory who demonstrate outstanding leadership in providing professional learning in government, Catholic and independent schools. They celebrate the contribution principals make to support the professional learning and development of teachers and other school leaders.



L-R: Joshua McElgunn, Angela Kealy, Evan Wrobel

Congratulations to Angela Kealy (St Malachy's School, Edenhope), Joshua McElgunn (St Joseph's School, Coleraine) and Evan Wrobel (Sacred Heart School, Casterton). The Victorian Association of Catholic Primary School Principals nominated this group of creative principals who have pioneered a regional, three-school partnership focusing on improving student learning outcomes through a shared approach to staff professional learning.

Joshua, Evan and Angela have established a creative and shared professional learning community among the three schools. The schools educate students from across the Grampians region in North West Victoria. This area of Victoria, with small isolated school populations and the tyranny of distance, present particular professional development challenges for schools.

The principals have forged a partnership to enhance learning by embracing these challenges and ensuring staff have access to high-level support. Using communication technology, video conferencing, pooling of resources, flexible timetables and combined staff planning meetings, the leaders have created vibrant and engaged learning for all. The partnership model has enabled all to share expertise, develop leadership skills and access cutting-edge school improvement strategies. The model builds the capacities and capabilities of all, enhancing long term and sustainable school improvement.

Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education said she was delighted to be at the awards ceremony in Melbourne and to share in the state-wide recognition of the leadership these principals have shown in the professional development of their teachers.

<https://www.pai.edu.au/content/victorian-principals-recognised-2017-john-laing-awards>

Five minutes with Professor Bridget Aitchison....

Where were you born? Tell us about your childhood.

I was born in the United States – in Los Angeles, California. I had an unusual childhood in that my family was involved in the entertainment industry. My mother was an actress, and one of America's first female stand-up comedians, and my father was a writer. I was a professional actress from the age of three until I moved to New Hampshire at 13 to live with my father's family. I was actually adopted



at birth by them but in 2009, after many years of searching, my birth mother found me and we are quite close now. She fell pregnant to a man who had shipped out to fight in Vietnam and she had no way to communicate with him. In those days, single mothers were forced to give their children up so I was put up for adoption. She told me that as a good Catholic, she committed me to God's care. I guess her prayers were

answered! After seven years in New Hampshire, I moved to Australia. My very first visit here, I immediately felt like I had 'come home'. There's no real way to explain it; I had found where I belonged. I finished university at UNSW and did my doctorate in "Transformational Drama: Theatre for Social and Community Change" at the University of Wollongong. I used my earlier experiences as a professional actor and director to work on using drama for youth suicide prevention.

You have been ACU Ballarat Campus Dean for around nine months now. Tell us about your role?

It's a really diverse role that is hard to describe or define. My role is to function as the local representative of the Vice Chancellor/President and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Victoria and to be a liaison between the local campus and the national university. My responsibilities come broadly under the categories of community engagement, staff engagement, strategic planning, campus facilities oversight and fiscal responsibility. At nine months into the role, I am still learning about the role, the national university and the City of Ballarat. I hope to be able to take the training wheels off soon!

If you were a colour what would it be? Why?

The beautiful deep glowing red of a pomegranate seed! Red is one of my favourite colours because there is a fire and vibrancy to it. It is a colour of energy and passion and deep feeling.

What is the best thing about being Campus Dean? What are some of the challenges?

The best thing about being Campus Dean at ACU's Aquinas Campus is the people I get to work with. The staff and faculty here are very special people who are really dedicated to the students. There is a real sense of community and everyone was so warm and welcoming to me. It's the people that make or break a work experience and the people here are fantastic. Some of the challenges come from dealing with the effects of external decisions – such as the current Federal government funding issues we are working through. The other challenge is to create stronger connections between the campus and the community. There is such a rich heritage and history here and the people of Ballarat need to know that this is their campus as much as it is ours. I would love to run more events for the community in the future and have a stronger sense of community connection.

Where have you been previous to this role?

Previous to this role, I worked in the Protestant Higher Education sector. My last two roles were both with Indiana Wesleyan University, the second largest Protestant university in North America. I went over there in 2009 to be Vice President and Dean of their College of Adult and Professional Studies – 12,000 students across 17 education centres and online globally. They ran a very innovative delivery system that enabled working adults to do a degree in almost the same timeframe as attending full-time on campus, while still doing their full-time jobs or raising their families. In 2012, I was asked to take up the role of Vice Chancellor for Asia-Pacific and spearhead their global expansion. The President wanted to create a global university that was not American but rather a consortium of locally managed and governed institutions that were networked together. That was a fascinating challenge for me which I really enjoyed. I led a merger and acquisition of a private provider in Sydney for them as well as started programs and partnerships in Indonesia, Singapore, China and the Philippines. Most importantly, it enabled me to move home to Australia.

What is in the future for ACU Ballarat?

I'm still pretty new here so this is hard to predict. What I do know is that ACU is committed to the ongoing support of the Aquinas Campus and to serving Ballarat and regional Victoria. We will continue to provide students with courses of academic excellence, enhanced by our commitment to Catholic social teaching principles. We will look for new programs of study that serve the wants of students and the needs of regional employers, and we will continue to strengthen our ties to the community.

How do you like Ballarat? What are your thoughts so far?

I love Ballarat! When I was looking to make a change in my life, this opportunity was one of several but I had only been to Ballarat once...for one day over 10 years ago! I felt a definite sense of calling to ACU and to Ballarat though, so I was very excited when I was offered the position. When I moved here in May of last year, I knew I was where God wanted me to be. I settled into living here much faster than I expected to and made some good friends in those early days. Several people who were on facebook groups I belong to, who live here, reached out to me prior to the move and offered friendship and help. What an amazing community!

As a water person, the lake was also a big draw for me. Something about water calms and relaxes me. I'm a scuba diver and a kayaker so water has always been important to me. I often walk the lake, or kayak on it, to rebalance myself. I've even started learning to row...because that seems to be a thing to do here!



If you could choose anyone from any time, who would you most like to be in conversation with and why?

As a career academic with nearly insatiable intellectual curiosity, and as a woman of strong faith, it would be impossible to pick just one person! How about we throw a dinner party? From my theological background, I'd invite Jesus (yes, I realise that is fairly obvious) and St Paul because I have so many questions to ask them both – especially their seemingly differing views on women! From my academic background, I'd love to have Shakespeare at the table just to find out who really wrote all the plays and sonnets – him, Edward de Vere, Sir Francis Bacon, William Stanley or none of the above? Next to him, I'd like to seat a couple of the great Ancient Greek philosophers and playwrights – Aristophanes, Euripedes, Aristotle, Plato, Socrates, and maybe Archimedes or Pythagoras so they can explain algebra to me! Finally, I would round out the dinner party with one or two common, every day, unknown-to-history people from each century of history to talk to us about what life was like for them in their day. I think that would be a dinner party worth attending.

*Photos courtesy of the Ballarat Courier,
Luka Kauzlaric and Lachlan Bence*

Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland, inspire our entire faith community, as we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy in the lives and communities of the People of God.

Taken from Year of Youth 2018 Prayer

LPMP CELEBRATES

Participants in the Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program gathered recently in Ballarat for a Formation and Reflection day, led by Fr Andrew Hayes and Amanda Smith. The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program has now been going for eighteen months and has people participating from across the diocese. While not everyone could be at the gathering, those attending were very pleased to welcome Bishop Paul and join him in congratulating Thomas Thekkumury who was presented with the Ballarat Diocese Certificate in Pastoral Ministry. Thomas is the first person to complete the Certificate program of six online subjects together with participation in reflection and formation gatherings. Thomas is an active member of the Ballarat Cathedral Parish and a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

As well as presenting Thomas with his Diocesan Certificate, Bishop Paul also presented individual subject certificates to others in the group.

Participants in the program study online subjects through the Virtual Learning Community of the University of Dayton USA. Subjects are available in a wide range of areas including Sacraments, Leadership, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Social Justice, RCIA, Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Bereavement Ministry.

In addition to their individual online study, participants are invited by Ballarat Diocese several times a year to gather to engage with different themes related to their involvement in lay ministry, and to share their various experiences. At the recent gathering, discipleship, prayer and the richness of the Eastertime mystery were among the areas explored.

The online part of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program has six study cycles per year. Participants study one subject at a time within a five week long cycle. You do not have to do a subject every cycle and you can start at any point in the year. Full information is on the Ballarat Diocese website.

Congratulations to Thomas and everyone who has completed subject/s.

Amanda Smith, Pastoral Services Consultant & Facilitator, Lay Pastoral Ministry Program



Bishop Paul with Thomas



Value of Justice

Each year, Loreto College celebrates one of the Loreto Values throughout the entire year in prayer, education and action. By the time students graduate, the Loreto Values are deeply instilled in their hearts in the form of the Loreto Spirit, guiding them as they take their place in the world. With these values, Loreto girls carry with them a respect and deep understanding of the individual, and a compassion for the broader and global community.

To commence the 2018 school year, Loreto College held a prayerful and joyous Opening School Mass, celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird on Thursday, February 8. Year 12 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion were commissioned by Bishop Paul during Mass and at the conclusion of Mass all Year 7 students and new students across Years 8 to 12 were welcomed and presented with their House badge. Year 12 students were presented with their Year 12 badge, signifying that whilst some have a formal leadership role, each and every student in Year 12 is a leader; and in keeping with tradition, all new staff to the College were welcomed and presented with a House badge.

Bishop Paul celebrated a Mass that focused on the 2018 value of Justice and the prayers and hymns reflected that virtue, with the beautiful Loreto choir offering hymns that demonstrated the imperative; to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.

Judy-Ann Quilliam, Director of Marketing and Development

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

The 2017 Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) was held in Sydney on December 7-9. ACYF is hosted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The idea of hosting a large national festival grew out of Australia's involvement in World Youth Days and a wish to gather Australia's Catholic youth together. It exists to provide young people with opportunities to explore and deepen their faith, to be empowered to be agents of change in the world today, and to encounter and celebrate the diversity and vitality of Catholic faith in Australia. It also gives the Bishops of Australia the opportunity to hear and meet the young people of Australia. The first Festival was held in Melbourne in 2013 and the second in Adelaide in 2015. Many young people from the Ballarat Diocese, together with Bishop Paul Bird, attended all three events. The festival celebrated the start of the Year of Youth in Australia.



Stories from the ACYF can be read here:

The Bishops of Australia held the first Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne, 2013. The thrilling response from the youth led to the 2015 ACYF which was held in Adelaide and called in a bigger crowd. Last year from December 7-9, the 2017 ACYF was held in Sydney calling in over 19,000 youth from around Australia in celebration and recognition of their faith. The three-day festival was jam packed full of talks, music, laughter, and more.



The first day opened with a plenary session involving two hours of music, prayer and inspiration. The opening 'act' was a beautiful piece celebrating the aboriginal inhabitants of the land and their elders past, present and future. This celebration of diversity and coming together was constant throughout the festival in many ways. In the expo dome each organisation had a stall at which you could find interesting information or do something to help others. The Caritas stall was particularly interesting. They created an interactive village that gave visitors insight into the lives of African people, and into the work that Caritas and its supporters undertake in Africa.

Caritas was not the only organisation present with the aim of inspiring and making a difference. The St Vincent de Paul volunteers were collecting items to put together into packs to hand out to the homeless. These supplies were given by the youth that attended the festival.

Although the days overflowed with activity, on the final day of the festival the afternoon was cleared of talks, concerts and extensive activity as all who attended walked on one of three pilgrimages to the Sydney Domain where, as a collective whole, Mass was celebrated outdoors to end the three-day festival.

This was my second time going to the ACYF and I would encourage anyone and everyone who can to attend the next festival in 2019 in Perth as it is an incredible atmosphere and the people you meet are amazing.

Erin O'Beirne

Spreading Joy – ACYF Style

What an amazing five days it was for a small group from Ouyen, Mildura and Birchip when they joined 19,000 young people exploring and deepening their faith in Sydney. It was a whirlwind experience comprising morning and evening plenaries where drama, catechesis, prayer and of course music were involved. The plenaries formed the pivotal experience of our time around which you could listen to a huge range of excellent speakers, hear musicians share their life stories, talk to a bishop and experience all things Catholic at the Expo.

There were many highlights including praying at Mary MacKillop's tomb, Archbishop Prowse's challenge to be a modern-day Mary receiving a whole-hearted "YES WE





WILL!" in return and 15,000 people standing in a dark stadium with the modern-day candles of their phones aglow while they reconnected themselves to Christ. Most powerful was the silent wonder of over 10,000 teenagers dropping to their knees in Eucharistic Adoration where the beating heart of Jesus held everyone transfixed for twenty minutes. Just as moving was to hear this massive sea of youth chanting "Jesus!! – Who's the best? – Jesus!!" as they flooded down the streets, onto trains and buses.

The fitting and concluding highlight was the jubilant open-air Mass in the Domain, at which Archbishop Fisher aptly concluded with the words of Winston Churchill "This isn't the end, or even the beginning of the end, but it is perhaps the end of the beginning!"

Marie Shaddock, St Joseph's Ouyen

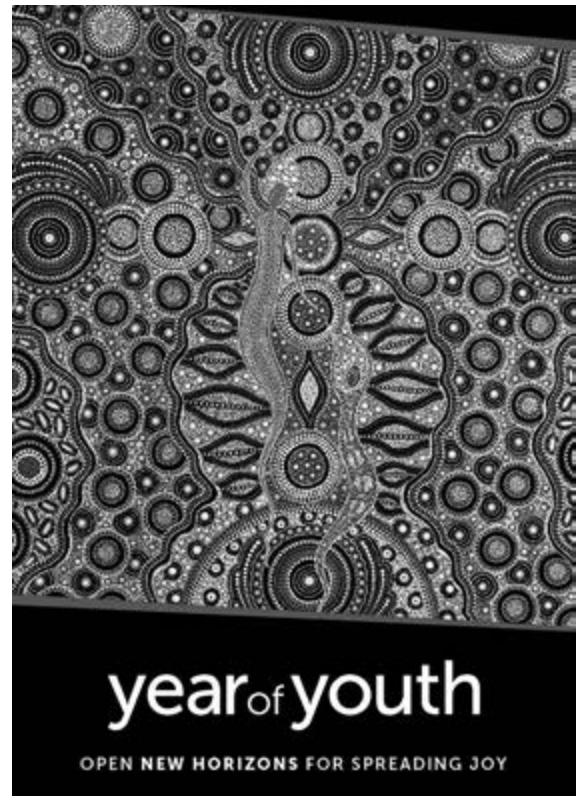
Year of Youth

The Australian Bishops have identified the liturgical year of 2018 as a national Year of Youth. The theme of the Year of Youth is *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. The Year of Youth started joyfully in December with the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

In dioceses around Australia people of all ages are asked to pray the Year of Youth Prayer. 16,000 prayer leaflets featuring a reflection on the Year of Youth image, as well as the prayer itself, have been distributed around the Diocese together with posters of the image. The year of Youth image is titled *Christ our Joy*. "The image tells the story of young people in the current landscape of our Australian Church as they journey toward Christ," said Malcolm Hart, Director of the Australian Catholic Bishop Conference's Office for Youth.

Malcolm also recently congratulated the Diocese after Bishop Paul announced the appointment of Noeline Hogan and Patrick Kennedy to the position of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Project Workers for the Diocese of Ballarat for a term of twelve months. Noeline and Patrick will each work three days per week commencing soon after Easter. The Youth and Young Adult Ministry team, Noeline, Patrick and Amanda Smith, are developing a range of Year of Youth events and initiatives. Parishes are also asked to respond in their own way to the Year of Youth, including through prayer:

***Come Holy Spirit of this Great Southland
Inspire our entire faith community,
As we prayerfully discern new horizons for spreading joy***



Amanda Smith - Youth and Young Adult Ministry

*The Year of Youth image is titled **Christ our Joy** and was painted by artist, Amunda Gorey, in Alice Springs. Ms Gorey's work was noted by the Australian Catholic Youth Council because her use of vibrant colour depicts the youthfulness and the joy that is central to the spiritual focus of the Year of Youth and because of its depth of spirituality.*

***Christ our Joy** is rich in symbolism, tradition and meaning. It depicts the diversity of young people through the use of varied colour, shaped and sized dots. Some are gathered in communities, others more isolated. Some are closer to God or the cross, others further away. The central figures are Jesus and Mary against a cross. They point to the Resurrection as the source of our Joy. Jesus extends a hand toward his mother Mary, and with her to the Church; with his other hand, he points them all to his Father-God.*

<https://youth.catholic.org.au/year-of-youth/image>



DOUBLE DEGREE

Until now, students completing a double degree in nursing and paramedicine at Australian Catholic University have been forced to choose which job they will pursue after graduating. Despite qualifying as both nurses and paramedics, graduates have only been able to complete their transition into one industry.

A new Inter-Professional Graduate Program for Nurse Paramedics launched recently in Ballarat will now allow graduates to work across two workplaces – as a nurse at Ballarat Health Services and as a paramedic with Ambulance Victoria. The program was trialled last year with two graduates and recently expanded to include six new graduates as part of the pilot.

For nurse-paramedic graduates, it opens doors to their chosen career pathway and greater job opportunities across rural and regional Victoria and means they no longer must choose one profession over the other. The project has been a collaboration between Ballarat Health Services, Ambulance Victoria, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, Ambulance Employees Association and the Department of Health and Human Services.

“We have worked for the past 12 months on this project to bring together these two professions and create a 72 week early transition program where graduates are employed in both organisations and rotate through both,” said BHS

Director of Nursing, Education and Practice Development and Nursing Administration, Denielle Beardmore.

If successful, the trial will be widened across the Grampians region. “It allows graduates to care for patients both out of hospital and in hospital, giving them a greater understanding of the health system working together,” said Ambulance Victoria Grampians Region Clinical Manager Grant Hocking. “The program will be evaluated over the next 12 to 18 months with the capacity to offer the program more broadly across Victoria for interested health services.”

Wendouree MP Sharon Knight said the program would help build a higher-skilled workforce that could meet the growing demands of regional communities. “It will help boost the expertise, professionalism and hard work of our health workers ensuring all Victorians can receive high-quality care, when and where they need it,” Ms Knight said.

Ms Beardmore said the new program had benefits for the graduates, both organisations and the community. “It enables us to have a nurse who is very active out there in the community as a paramedic and who has an understanding when they arrive at the emergency department door of being inside as a nurse,” she said.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Michelle Smith

BUNGAREE PARISH MASS AT POOTILLA CEMETERY

Our Parish open air Mass at the Bungaree (Pootilla) Cemetery began with the remarkable sound of the bagpipes on a beautiful warm sunny morning on November 12, 2017. Fr Shane Mackinlay celebrated Mass on the cemetery grounds together with many parishioners, their families and visitors to our Parish.

Over 160 people joined in the Mass for our third year of remembrance for friends and loved ones who have passed away, to coincide with All Souls Day. A lone bagpiper, together with our local singers and guitarists Mary Slater, Majella Muller, Kaylene Rumler and Pat Prendergast, provided beautiful music throughout the Mass.

Members of the congregation were in no hurry to move on as they had the opportunity to enjoy a coffee or milkshake from the coffee van and the opportunity to walk through the cemetery with their families sharing memories of their loved ones. Thank you to Fr Shane for leading us in a special celebration. Come along and join us in November 2018.



Helen Mahar, Parishioner

JUST LEADERSHIP

Caritas Australia runs Just Leadership Days to engage students with social justice issues and to encourage them to be just leaders, in their schools and in their communities, for both local and global change.

At Caritas Australia, it is the belief that modifying structures that cause poverty requires personal transformation first. Just Leadership Days are one of the core education components. The purpose of Just Leadership Days is to enable students to challenge injustices, and to develop the leadership qualities to encourage others to do the same.

<http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/schools/just-leadership-days>

The **Just Leadership Day** held at the MacKillop Room, Ballarat on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 was a wonderful affirmation of our calling in Catholic Schools to be people of justice and mercy. Presenter, Gwen Michener from Caritas Australia, introduced many challenging concepts and schemes for understanding social justice. She also presented significant samples and a range of role models for the students to emulate.

The excellent and innovative Project Compassion materials, including a YouTube based virtual reality video viewer, were introduced with passion. The processes of the organisation were detailed for the attentive participants. A special guest for the day, Mr Janak Prasad Sharma, a regional program manager from Nepal, provided a human face to the work of Caritas in central Asia. Janak explained the particular needs of his people which are, by Australian standards, very basic. He could report that the recovery from the earthquake in 2015 is well underway and that Caritas Projects have made a significant contribution.

The Project Compassion website is a brilliant justice resource as we focus our social concern on the world's poorest this Lent. www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

Tony Haintz – Assistant Principal, Damascus College Ballarat



NEW ERA OF BOARDING

Ballarat's St Patrick's College has welcomed an exciting new era for boarding students with the opening of stage one of a \$7m purpose-built boarding accommodation wing for boys. The three-storey facility is providing state-of-the-art accommodation for boys from Years 7-12, bringing all the College's boarding students together under one roof for the first time in many generations.

St Patrick's Boarding Captain James Richardson, from Rockhampton, said it was great to settle into such amazing facilities. "We've come from two boarding houses but now we're all together it will help create such a stronger community," Richardson said. "It's also so much more spacious – I'm sure all the boys approve. I love boarding. It's always hard leaving family, but the opportunities here are endless

and it really can feel like a continuous sleep-over with your best mates."

Boarders now share rooms in pairs and have access to elite recreational and study areas including a theatre and garden courtyard. Director of Boarding, Mr Mike Silcock said he hoped the new facility would provide a feeling of a home away from home. "All I want is for our boys to have that love of boarding I had – it's why I'm still involved in boarding now. This space enables us to do that," Mr Silcock said.

Stage two of the project involves the construction of a new kitchen and dining room and will be complete by mid-2018.

Paul Nolan

Director of Community Development

R: Year 7 boarders Chan Bar and Khy Jess enjoy their new surroundings.





Preparing the Way

For many years now, a number of the Catholic communities in the diocese have been celebrating Lay Led Assemblies on Sunday, when there has been no priest available to preside. Derrinallum and Lismore Mass Centres have recently moved to regular Sunday Assembly of Word and Communion.

To “prepare the way” Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar General, asked input from the Leaders Group of St Joseph’s Parish, Timboon. Three of us shared our experiences, honed during a decade of leading our Assemblies.

We read our Assembly resources, which come to us from the Pastoral Ministry Office every ten weeks or so or according to the season. It became a mini-workshop as Fr Justin offered formation and suggestions to issues that occasionally arise. A person does not have to do anything that is stressful but with some support and education, this may be overcome. If finding a suitable gospel reflection to read is still wanted at the eleventh hour there is always Desperate Preacher!

The leader’s role and Sunday Assembly of Word and Communion format enables local communities to gather and worship in their own church in the absence of a celebrant for Sunday Mass.

*Annette, Pat and Ruth - St Joseph’s Parish, Timboon
L-R: Annette Vogels and Ruth Hoffman*

YOUTH MASS

It may have been a hot, muggy day in the middle of harvest but that did not dampen the spirits of young families involved in a Youth Mass at St Mary’s Parish, Birchip. This was followed by a morning tea and fundraiser for a children’s centre in Peru.

Children from the Birchip Parish ran the Liturgy and musicians and singers were beautifully led by our musical producer Joan Glen. Modern songs such as ‘One day’ by Matisyahu and ‘Fix You’ by Cold Play were sung along with classics such as ‘If I had a Hammer’ and ‘O Happy Day’. Also, teenager Alexandra Randall played keyboard for ‘Companions on the Journey’ at the Offertory.

The major attraction of the Mass were the fifteen plus 5 – 9 year olds executing a liturgical dance at the processional, followed by Fr Eugene McKinnon. This was choreographed by Karleigh Martin and delighted the congregation no end, setting the scene for an enthusiastic fundraising and morning tea for The Children’s Centre of Yanaoca in Peru.

Over \$600 was raised with lucky dips, nail painting, a ball throwing competition and a golf putting comp. Fr Eugene was banned from the putting comp due to his golfing prowess. However, he was allowed to enter the basketball hoop throwing comp!

The major draw card was the introduction of a Dutch auction. Gifts, toys and lollies were wrapped in newspaper and auctioned by Paul Lowry very enthusiastically with his spotters Roger Lehmann, Maureen Donnellon and Bern O’Donnell. Over \$250 was raised from this activity.

If you have never run a Dutch auction before, have a go. You will find that adults love bidding on random unseen goods!

It was a delightful family day, where new parishioners were able to meet others in our Parish Community and were encouraged to visit us again in the near future.

Noeline Hogan



50 YEARS OF MERCY EDUCATION

On Saturday, October 28, 2017, more than five hundred past students, staff and families of Damascus College and founding Colleges Sacred Heart College, St Paul's Technical College and St Martin's in the Pines gathered to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of Mercy education on the beautiful Damascus site.

The fifty acres of land was bequeathed to the Sisters of Mercy by Miss Alice Fanning upon her death in February 1960, in recognition of the care that she had received from the Sisters. In 1964 it was decided to develop the site for the Senior School of Sacred Heart College, St Martin's in the Pines and the foundation stone was laid in 1966. In 1995 this beautiful site that Alice bequeathed became Damascus College.

Sr Marie Davey said that the planning for the day began as a celebration of a reunion of the students of 1967 – the first St Martin's students – but then we decided there were many more reasons to celebrate and so it developed into a wonderful gathering of people who have been part of the Mercy story. What a great decision! "It was a really happy day that brought together people from across the decades to reminisce together, to be amazed at the changes that have taken place and to enjoy one another's company," she said. Sr Marie retired at the end of 2017, after 53 years in Catholic education, so this event was also a special occasion to recognise her and acclaim all that she has done for Damascus and Sacred Heart College communities.

To commemorate this anniversary, the College also opened and blessed the Commemorative Walk; a 240 metre bush walking track that leads to a Sharing Circle. This track hosts twelve signs in remembrance of those who have gone before us, both living and dead, who form an integral part of our Damascus College story. This is now a place for everyone to enjoy, where we can gather to reflect, learn, listen, grow and share stories and knowledge in a caring, respectful environment.

The celebration included formalities where past student, Dr Sandra Harvey (Class of 1973) spoke of how her Mercy education has shaped her life and Sr Veronica Lawson spoke of how the Sisters of Mercy came to develop our site to the beautiful College we have today. The Damascus College choir sang lovely songs throughout the formal proceedings, including a wonderful rendition of the 'Suscipe' dedicated to the Sisters of Mercy. "It truly was a special occasion where we enjoyed welcoming back past and present students, staff and families to celebrate this fifty year milestone of Mercy education on this site" said Sr Marie.

Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development



L-R: Sr Marie Davey, Fr Adrian McInerney, Matt Byrne, Sr Berenice Kerr



ORDINATION CELEBRATION

Fr Gary Jones celebrated his thirtieth anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood in 2017. Fr Gary was ordained Deacon on April 24, 1987 in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat and was ordained priest of the Ballarat Diocese at Colac in October of the same year. Fr Gary has served the Diocese in the parishes of Colac, Ballarat East, Ararat, Timboon, Terang, Port Fairy, Swan Hill, Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat North, Redan, Sebastopol, Daylesford and Creswick. In addition to his current role as Parish Priest of Creswick and Daylesford, he is Canonical Administrator of the schools at St Patrick's Gordon and St Brigid's Ballan and provides ministry in the Parish of Gordon.

There were a number of celebrations held to acknowledge this occasion. Fr Gary expressed his gratitude to all who have supported him throughout his thirty years of priesthood. In reflecting on these years, Fr Gary highlighted many aspects of his ministry, especially his passion for Catholic Education and the enjoyment he gains from his involvement with the Parish Schools. He is particularly grateful for the support of the dedicated principals, staff and parents of the schools.

Kay Curran



FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS



On October 27, 2017 Trinity College Colac marked Founders' Day in a unique and wonderful way, bringing together members of the school and parish community, past and present in celebration and thanksgiving. Fifty years as Trinity College was a milestone to celebrate. Coinciding with the Jubilee and Founders' Day was the opening of new facilities at Trinity College, the Jubilee Centre for performing arts and the multi-function synthetic oval. Opening these new facilities on Founders' Day brought home to everyone the debt of gratitude we owe to those who came before us with a vision for Catholic secondary education in Colac: the parish, the Mercy Sisters and the Christian Brothers.

Br Clem Barrett cfc, former Principal, shared with Trinity students how valued education is for the students of Sinon school, Arusha in Tanzania, where he has worked for many years. Most of the 1,500 students board at school because their homes, overcrowded mud huts, have no electricity, little furniture and no privacy. With no text books, in classes of 60, students rise at 4.00 am to study before class and study several hours after class.

The Commissioning of Student Leaders ceremony was part of the Founders' Day Prayer Service and was a moving ceremony in which the 2017 leaders inducted the 2018 leaders, through a series of challenging questions in the presence of students, staff and parents. Fr Michael O'Toole and Principal Tim O'Farrell presented them with leadership badges, indicating their particular roles. The 2017 leaders were warmly thanked by the student body as Mr O'Farrell farewelled them with a blessing. The 2018 College leaders led the prayers and readings for the prayer service, establishing themselves as the new leaders of students.

Other activities on Founders' Day included drone footage of a huge number 50 formed on the oval by students and staff – a living symbol of all that has been and is today – and various social justice awareness raising activities. Past students talked to the senior classes about their voluntary work with the Eddie Rice Camps and were delighted with the very positive response, with several students readily committing their time to be part of this social justice initiative.

Founders' Day and the Golden Anniversary of Trinity College, brought together an appreciation of the rich history of the College, a determination to remain committed to compassion, justice, mercy and hospitality through deeds, not words, and an excitement for the possibilities ahead now that the College has such wonderful new facilities.

The first concert in the Jubilee Centre was held on the evening of Saturday, October 28, where Trinity's new grand piano was unveiled and the book outlining the history of Trinity College, *Looking Back* by Helen Paatsch OA, was launched by Richard Riordan MP.

On Sunday, October 29, a Mass focusing on Trinity's Jubilee was celebrated at St Mary's in Colac and was attended by past and present students, parents, friends and visitors. After Mass, Trinity College was opened for the public to view, with luncheon and music provided throughout the day. At the official welcome, guest speakers Terry Mulder MP, Br Clem Barrett and Deputy Principal Mrs Cheryl Pefanis gave unique insights into the history of Trinity College.

Giving



For many people, Christmas is a joyful time of year. However, the sad reality is that 13.3% of Australians are living in poverty. Of these, 731,000 are children who may not have received their Christmas wish. Many St Vincent de Paul Conferences and parishes around the Diocese have a Giving Tree where people are asked to donate toys assisting with the Christmas appeal.

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Mildura asked for toys to be left at the Giving Tree at the back of Sacred Heart Parish Church. Generous donations of toys were added to those received from the students at St Joseph's College and Sacred Heart Primary School. The Mildura St Vincent de Paul Conference therefore had no difficulty providing for the 130 families who requested assistance and were able to share the toys with Conferences in Merbein and Red Cliffs.

Contributions provided by parishioners, families, staff and students of the local schools was very much appreciated.

Sr Patricia Fitzgibbon RSM

Our Diocesan Community - March 2018

CEO NEWS

We are delighted to have a number of new principals commencing in 2018:

- Bill Hill (returning to principalship in the Diocese) - St Mary's School Ararat
- Joe Ewing (for his first year as solo principal) - St Pius X School Warrnambool West
- Leigh Bradshaw (for her first year as solo principal) - Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree
- In a new partnership, Peter Fahey (continuing) and Garth Kydd (commencing) as Co-Principals of St James' School Sebastopol

... and to new principals appointed for the 2018 school year only:

- Catherine Grace - Our Lady Help of Christians School Murtoa
- Cathy Whelan - St Patrick's School Ballarat
- Chris Mitchell - St Mary's F-8 School Robinvale
- Kate Quin and Ginny Gook - St Mary's School Swan Hill
- Narelle Gallagher - Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Merbein
- Shaun Mohr - St Columba's School Ballarat North
- Tony Perkins - Emmaus Catholic Primary School Mount Clear
- Stephen Hill who is Acting Headmaster at St Patrick's College Ballarat whilst John Crowley is on leave in Term 1.

Thanks to outgoing principals:

- Mary Knight (St Mary's F-8 School Robinvale)
- Greg Lane (St Mary's School Swan Hill)
- Mary Frawley (St James School, Sebastopol)
- Peter McElgunn (St Pius X School Warrnambool West)
- Gary Typuszak (Our Lady Help of Christians School Murtoa)
- Brendan Maher (Emmaus Catholic Primary School Mt Clear)
- Chris Brouwers (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Merbein)
- Tom Hogan (St Mary's School Ararat)
- Stephen Russell (Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree)



Our prayers and good wishes are also with Kim Butler (St Columba's School Ballarat North) who is volunteering during 2018 in India and Timor-Leste.

Thanks to departing CEOB colleague Danielle Peters (most recently Education Officer: Social Justice), who left CEOB recently to take up a role with St Vincent De Paul.

LEARNING HUB OPENED



On Friday, November 17, 2017 St Patrick's Primary School Stawell officially opened our new learning hub which features four modern new classrooms, an intervention room, multipurpose hub and new office foyer area.

We welcomed Deputy Premier James Merlino, Minister for Education, who opened our new learning areas with Parish Priest Fr Eric Bryant blessing the new areas. Former Principal Kate Harney spoke of the excitement and planning that had gone into the project and the development of St Patrick's over the years which ensures Catholic Education remains strong in Stawell.

We thank the State Government and Catholic Education Office who both contributed \$500,000 towards the project with St Patrick's Primary school providing the remainder of funds.

Maryanne Comitti - Religious Education Leader

Come Holy Spirit of of Youth, fill the hearts of young people with the hope and love of Jesus Christ.
Enliven our community with the creativity, energy and joy of youth.
Guide us together, as we strive to offer God's mercy to those who feel abandoned or outcast.

Taken from Year of Youth 2018 Prayer

Help at hand for Western Seniors

Margaret Lay was a woman used to doing things for others. The Gordon resident had found her calling in caring for children with disabilities and various volunteering roles until a severe back injury in 2000 turned her world upside down. Suddenly, Margaret became the one who needed care.

"That was the end of everything, my whole life. I had to give up everything and I was a very active person," the 70-year-old said.

Thankfully, Margaret found support in local not-for-profit organisation Villa Maria Catholic Homes (VMCH). She is one of around 170 seniors in Victoria's Western region who receive a Home Care Package (HCP); a government-funded package of care services designed to help seniors live at home for longer.

Cleaning, laundry and companionship support have kept Margaret as independent as possible.

"I'd hate to think what I'd do without the HCP. It's the company, as well as the practical support, that's so important. The carers bring the world to me and encourage me to go out into the world."

Kate Charleson, VMCH Team Leader Western Region, said HCPs were the perfect answer for seniors like Margaret who needed a little extra help to remain living independently at home.

"Most older people want to avoid a move into aged care," Kate said. "We do find many seniors, particularly those living in regional areas, just aren't aware of what support is out there."

For more information on VMCH HCPs, contact our Ballarat office on 5330 3899.



January 22, 2018 was a momentous day in Sunraysia. Sisters of Mercy and parishioners from Merbein, Mildura and Red Cliffs joined together to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Sr Grace Rogers' profession as a Sister of Mercy.



Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Merbein by Fathers Michael McKinnon PP and Patrick Flanagan. The reflection on the readings of the Mass and the impact of seventy years of faithful service to God's people as a Sister of Mercy was delivered by Sr Berenice Kerr, the Community Leader.

A WONDERFUL MILESTONE

During Mass Grace renewed her vows of poverty, chastity and obedience which she first took seventy years ago. Grace was delighted to have her brother, Martin Rogers and her sister Tess Kerr present to celebrate with her and take part in the offertory procession during the Mass.

After Mass, the Mayor of the Mildura Rural City Council, Councillor Mark Eckels, congratulated Grace and expressed his sincere thanks to her for many years of dedicated service in education and pastoral care and expressed the need in our community for many more people of such calibre, dedication and commitment. All then enjoyed the wonderful country hospitality of afternoon tea in the Merbein RSL where the cake was cut, a champagne toast was made and tributes were given to Grace from family and friends.

Berenice Kerr rsm



Memory and Faith

What do we, as a faith community, remember?

Individually most of us remember only those events to which we were witnesses. As a community, however we recall events such as the traditions of St Patrick's Day processions or perhaps the processions of faith such as Christ the King, May Day or Eucharistic gatherings. The younger generation will recall Youth Day 2000 at Sydney. In 40 years who will recall such events and the emotions they drew upon and drew out. Those who wish to reflect on the good these events manifested will search the archive – the memory of the church.

The archive is a record of who we were at different periods in the journey of church. It is a reflection on participation in the life of the church at that time. It is important for the human family to have such recollections but they are to do with the temporal life of the church community, not its spirituality. The archive provides this corporate memory and those who recall school reunions and anniversaries know we need such signposts along the way of life in the temporal sphere.

This year marks 150 years since the laying of the foundation stone of St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat, and the first Mass on this site. Over the next few years we aim to present commemorative exhibits of the contributions

of our multicultural community to the Cathedral Parish and the Diocese.

Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Ballarat in March 1874. The first Catholic Bishop of Victoria, James Alipius Goold, established churches and appointed priests to minister to our people over 175 years ago. Goold, our longest serving Bishop, came to Ballarat to quell passions in Eureka week and later saw Michael O'Connor appointed as our first Bishop.

This diocese has been home to and a formative influence for Australia's first two candidates for sainthood, St Mary of the Cross McKillop and Servant of God, Mary Glowery. The diocese has provided mission priests who have ministered overseas and bishops to lead church communities in Australia and New Zealand.

We need to dip into our collective memory and our common faith, as well as our religious traditions, to take the good news to all. Over the last two years, both state and federal authorities have made in-depth heritage assessments of the archive. The assessors have commended the archival collections of the Ballarat Diocese for their breadth and depth in preserving the history of the diocese that is our common heritage.

Michael Taffe, Archivist

All Saints Outreach Portland

In 2005 members of the All Saints Community saw a need for an Outreach Project to support missionary activities overseas and in the local community. Under the guidance of Fr Michael McKinnon and later with encouragement from Fr Eugene McKinnon, a committee met and instigated the All Saints Outreach Project.

*Since then this small group of enthusiastic and committed volunteers has worked tirelessly for the following missionary activities: **The Shared Table** – a project set up 12 years ago by Fr Michael McKinnon, while he was working in the City of Lima with the Missionary Society of St Columban in a particularly poor Parish, where many of the children went without proper nourishment every day, **Mary Ward International** - Loreto Sisters in Timor Leste educating the children and supporting children and adults, **Salesian Missions Australia** – education and health support to children and adults, **Daughters of the Sacred Heart, South Africa** – finance, health, children's accommodation, developmental projects and education at Bakhita Village & Dwars River, **Fr. Albert Yelds MSC** – financial support at Kiribati, children and family support and MSC seminarians, **Ali Project Northern New Guinea** – finance for building a school, water tanks and school supplies, **Food for Thought Breakfast** in our local schools, **Schoolies with a Cause (Bayview College)** support with books and materials for Vietnam Project, **Welfare for Portland & District Families** – financial and material aid and meat hampers for Christmas to our disadvantaged families in the Portland and district community, and donations of money to the Parish for the **Building Program**.*

A sincere thank you to all the volunteers who work at Outreach. Without your generous support none of these good works would be possible.

Kate Howman & Marg Herbertson

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

How does one celebrate nine Sisters of Mercy and their 500 years (for four, 50 years and for five, 60 years) of service to our wide world in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley?

These Sisters began as Mercies in Ballarat East, Townsville or Melbourne and have 'done their time' in their respective Diocese or beyond.

To celebrate, many Sisters gathered at the 'Mercure Inn' in Ballarat late 2017 for Mass, followed by a meal and of course, some speeches, the cutting of the cakes and much talking.

One cannot celebrate such an event without reflecting on those 50/60 years and all that has happened in our Church and the world in general. From my point of view one thing I can say is 'thank God for Vatican II' and the ongoing challenge to take up the call of 'the signs of the times' in our present world. We have been so blest in the fact that since then there has been a great diversity in the ministries of these Sisters and opportunities to study and travel.

Thanks go to our former Congregations and now our Communities, families and friends for the support, comfort and companionship over these years and we pray a blessing on whatever the future has in store.

Sr Geraldine Mugavin rsm



L-R Kathleen Moran, Nola Morrisy, Cheryl Camp and Geraldine Mugavin (50 years)



L-R Aileen Coghlan, Teresa Monigatti, Anne Lourey and Noelle Russell (absent Anne Arundell) (60 years)



RIP Fr Paul

Fr Paul was Parish Priest in Charlton from 1984 – 1987. He then went to Ballarat East but returned to the area in 1998 as Parish Priest of St Arnaud. In 1999 Administrator of Charlton Parish

was added to his role and in April 2002 he became Parish Priest of Charlton as well as St Arnaud.

During his time in Charlton and St Arnaud there have been many changes. As Chaplain of McAuley College in 1985 and 1986, he was saddened by the closure of the College in 2003. He saw many changes at St Joseph's School Charlton and St Patrick's School St Arnaud. He enjoyed interacting with the students and was involved with school masses,

Catholic Education Week and of course sacramental programs.

Fr Paul was involved in the community and regularly celebrated Mass at the East Wimmera Health Service (Charlton Campus), Kara Court and the Coates Hostel (St Arnaud) for the residents there. He enjoyed following the exploits of both the local football teams and of course had a problem when Charlton played St Arnaud. Fr Paul was held in high regard as a Police Chaplain. Fr Paul enjoyed celebrations in both parishes. He enjoyed travelling and died in Alice Springs while on holiday.

The esteem people held for Fr Paul was shown by the large attendance at the Vigil Mass in Charlton on October 12, 2017 and also his Funeral Mass in St Arnaud on October 13.

Rest in peace, Fr Paul.

Anne Kenny, Charlton Parish

Our Diocesan Community - March 2018

HEART SPIRITUALITY

The founding principle of all MSC schools holds 'teaching through relationships' as a core value. Referred to as 'Heart Spirituality', this gentle MSC spirituality acts as the keystone to the exciting and positive wellbeing programs and partnerships currently taking place at Monivae.

While the College has always had a reputation for 'making a difference in the lives of many young people', Monivae is now recognised as a Regional Lead School in student wellbeing. Over the last few years, both staff and students have participated in a number of Wellbeing and Positive Education courses. Last year they were recognised for their work with students and staff, all undertaking the RRRR Course - Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships.

Monivae has recently been recognised as an Accredited Work Place for Mental Health Training. Last year over thirty Monivae staff gained qualifications in Youth Mental First Aid. Additionally, Pam McLeod, the College Counsellor ran training courses for external teaching staff from several other Secondary schools across the region. The College has also entered into a partnership with Headspace Warrnambool, to support young people and their families in dealing with any emerging mental health problems, family involvement being a key priority in helping a young person get back on track.

This year Monivae leads the way, introducing the Teen Mental Health First Aid Program, into the Year 8 Curriculum. The course takes place as part of the College's MSC IN ACTION Program. Given the statistics surrounding the rise of teenage mental health issues, this initiative has been welcomed by both students and their families. The course gives permission to students to discuss such questions as: What is a healthy mind? What is the relationship between thoughts, feeling, and behaviour? What is it like for me?

Sue McGinnity



RESTORATION AND RENOVATIONS

At St Patrick's Church, Port Fairy, major restoration work has now been completed, taking two years to get to this stage. In what was probably the first major work ever to be completed on the church, we are extremely pleased with the result.

We began the project with a new slate roof, but after removing the old slate it was discovered that the battens also needed replacing – a major undertaking. Tuck pointing the bluestone and repair of the smaller windows were next on the agenda.

The next and most expensive part of the undertaking was the repair of the large windows. The eastern window required the obtaining of new stone from South Australia as, when painted previously, the paint caused the stone surrounds to corrode. The window on the western end, depicting the resurrection, had not been touched since

it was first installed in 1914. It was removed, taken to Melbourne, cleaned and repaired. The result was excellent. New lighting, microphones, sound system and audio visual screens were installed – we have gone 'high tech'.

Outside the Church an area was paved and a seat put in. The Church was then painted which brought this stage of the project to an end. We are looking at renovations to the entrance and tree planting on the northern side.

Stage two is about to begin. Tenders have been received for the addition of a small meeting room with kitchenette, toilets, office and storage room. This will adjoin the church on the southern side.

We are grateful to the hard working Parish Finance and Building Committee, which has overseen the renovations to date.

Jean Fitzgibbon - Port Fairy



STUDENT LEADERS MASS

A tradition that has been an annual feature of College life since Bishop Connors came to Ballarat was held again on February 12 with the Vicar General, Fr Justin Driscoll, celebrating Mass. The student leaders of the Catholic Secondary Colleges in Ballarat, Damascus College, St Patrick's College and Loreto College gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral at the beginning of Lent to acknowledge their role in their colleges.

The ceremony was a simple celebration. Moving from the font, recalling our baptismal commitment in a Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling, to the lectern and the proclamation of God's Word and finally around the altar for Eucharist. The dismissal included a blessing of the Ashes that would be used by the colleges in Ash Wednesday ceremonies the following day.

Project Compassion was launched after communion and before the final blessing with the assistance of local Caritas Director, Sue Searles. Fr Justin joined the students in the garden of the Cathedral for the traditional pancakes, this year cooked by Timor-Leste Immersion helpers.

Damascus College Ballarat



DIFFERENT FAITHS COMING TOGETHER TO WALK IN FRIENDSHIP

Ballarat's annual Friendship Walk encouraged an appreciation for three different faiths and the similarities between them.

People from all backgrounds had the chance to visit three different places of worship, where they could learn about the faith, worship practices and historical significance of the buildings.

These included St Alipius Catholic Church, Ballarat East, the Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, Bakery Hill (the oldest synagogue on mainland Australia) and Ballarat's only Mosque in Canadian.

Ballarat Interfaith Network Chair Margaret Lenan Ellis said travelling between venues by foot offered the chance to make new friends.

"A really important element of it was the friendship, but also shared conversations between people, and cooperation and shared good will between the (religious) leaders," she said. "They (religious leaders) were all so keen to participate and were very cooperative."

"There was also an interest in opening up worship venues to public viewing...because people just wanted to come along to see inside the synagogue or the mosque if they've never been there before."

The walk was on Sunday, November 5, 2017 and hosted by the Ballarat Interfaith Network in partnership with the Jewish Christian Muslim Association. People were welcome to turn up on the day.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier

Text by Siobhan Calafiore and picture by Lachlan Bence



In Ouyen

Every knee shall bend, and all candles bow down! Advent wreaths made by children in Ouyen reflect on the true meaning of Christmas! They also possibly represent how we feel after the event; a little flat.

CONSTRUCTION ON TRACK FOR MERCY PLACE BALLARAT

Work is progressing well and is ahead of schedule for the new Mercy Place Ballarat residential aged home, which is expected to be complete by September 2018. Small household living is at the centre of the Mercy Health model of care and Mercy Place Ballarat will be the first home to be purpose built around this concept. Mercy Place Ballarat will cater for 112 residents in 14 small households. This innovative new approach to aged care will see small households of eight residents living together with a dedicated team of carers. This will provide the opportunity for people to live as independently as possible and to form meaningful relationships with other residents and carers.

“After many years of research and review of caring for older people, and especially those living with dementia, we are providing a model of care built around relationships, personal enablement and choice. This provides people with meaningful and purposeful living and reduces the loneliness, isolation and boredom typically experienced in residential aged care homes,” said Adjunct Professor Stephen Cornelissen, Chief Executive Officer of the Mercy Health Group.

Mercy Place Ballarat will have its own wellness centre, chapel, town hall, a grocery, café, art space, library and wine bar with fireplace. There will also be spaces for visiting health professionals. A large garden, children's playground and outdoor spaces/courtyards will feature throughout the aged care precinct. The local Ballarat community will be welcome to enjoy the shared spaces with residents and friends. “Mercy Health is thrilled to be able to build on the work of the Sisters of Mercy in Ballarat and provide more aged care options for local people from all faith backgrounds,” Adj Prof Cornelissen said.

Construction company H. Troon Pty Ltd is partnering with Mercy Health to bring the small household living concept to life. Mercy Health will soon begin recruiting to fill a wide range of positions at the home. Mercy Health is also taking expressions of interest from those who are thinking about moving into aged care or have a loved one who may require aged care in the future. If you are interested in finding out more about the employment opportunities or the accommodation options at Mercy Place Ballarat, please contact mpballarat@mercy.com.au or call us on (03) 8416 7777.



Sacred Heart Parish Bingo



The conclusion of 2017 saw the ‘end of an era’ in the history of the Sacred Heart Parish Mildura Bingo held by the parish schools, Sacred Heart Primary School, St Paul’s Primary School and St Joseph’s Secondary College. After forty-two years the Sacred Heart Parish Bingo Committee decided that Sacred Heart Bingo would close for business for the final time after the 2017 Christmas Bingo night on Thursday, December 21.

Sacred Heart Bingo was started by our very hard working parishioners forty-two years ago to raise funds to support the costs of running our Catholic Schools. Back when it started Catholic Schools received no government funding from any level. Funding very slowly grew over the years to now, where we receive a significantly higher percentage of funding associated with the school.

In recent years, the money raised from Bingo has allowed our schools to become as well-resourced as they are. However, as the saying goes, ‘all good things must come to an end’ and the viability of the Sacred Heart Parish Bingo has diminished. This is due to a number of factors, the main one being a significant decrease in patronage due to natural attrition. This is a trend we believe will not change.

The Bingo Committee recognise, celebrate and remember the great achievements of Sacred Heart Bingo and those who have worked tirelessly over the years to ensure success. We thank all the past and present families from our school communities who have donated their time during this period. We hope you see the rewards for your labour within the schools. We would especially like to thank Garry Pretty and Donna Lovell for keeping the show going so magnificently for the past seventeen years.

ANDREW CHINN VISIT

On Thursday, October 26, 2017 St Patrick's Primary School Stawell welcomed back the very talented and witty Andrew Chinn. Andrew launched our new school song "Always Faithful" which was written with the collaboration of students, parents, teachers, parishioners and friends of our St Patrick's school community. Andrew taught us some beautiful songs, celebrated the many talents of our children and showed us some groovy moves in preparation for the evening concert. Then it was time for the parish community and families to join us for the fun. The evening started with a concert that had the huge crowd tapping their feet and joining together. The sense of pride for St Patrick's community continued while we ate a delicious spit roast dinner on a beautiful evening with a picnic atmosphere.

On Friday the whole teaching team were able to spend the day with Andrew learning about the use of music in Scripture and Prayer.

Experiences like this provide us with a depth of joy that springs from celebrating faith together.

Maryanne Comitti - Religious Education Leader



Celebrating 60 Years Ordained

On December 21, 2017, the Feast of Christ the King, Fr John McKinnon celebrated the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood (Fr John was ordained in Rome) with the staff and friends of St Mary's Parish Hamilton. The parish marked this significant milestone with speeches, and of course cake. A donation from the parish was made to charity on Fr John's behalf.

Fr John has been 'retired' in Hamilton for the last nine years but leads a very busy life, writing for media, teaching, celebrating Mass for the Hamilton parish, as well as in Ballan once a month, and best of all being our "go to" man when we want some advice or clarification. He is always a mine of well-considered information and we all appreciate his knowledge of, and insight into, the Scriptures.

Fr John is a treasure and we are blessed to have him amongst us.

Noreen McLeish - Hamilton Parish



PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR A JUST FUTURE

Through your generosity during Project Compassion this year, you are empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities.

A Just Future starts with your support! Donate now.

YEAR OF YOUTH 2018



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LEARNING AG

Year 10 Agriculture and Horticulture students at Emmanuel College Warrnambool have been busily working away on some major tasks this year. After some presentations in 2017, the Emmanuel College Agriculture Department decided that our students should be exposed to a farming system that the world will become more reliant on in the future - Aquaponics. The current class of Year 10 students have been researching the requirements of and processes involved with setting up our own Aquaponics system. We have decided on two separate systems about the size of two bath tubs each. At this stage, the class has built the tubs and frame work and are busy fitting the systems that will regulate the water supply between the grow bed and the fish tank. During the term we will cycle the system with pond water to grow essential bacteria and balance the nitrogen levels before introducing the fish. Each system will grow vegetables in the top tanks fed by the waste from approximately 15 rainbow trout living in the tank below. Each set up is a complex ecosystem that relies on plant by-products to feed the fish and fish waste reacting to bacteria to feed the plants.



Another significant task the class is also undertaking is the renovation of the school's pastures. Using borrowed cattle, we are attempting to eat the paddocks down to the ground and then the students will investigate the most appropriate herbicide to apply and then work with a local agronomist to choose the most suitable pasture blend to sow. Pasture renovation is a critical part of a farming business and has many aspects to consider and the Year 10 students will work like our local farmers, with professionals to develop a cost effective plan.

In order to encourage the cows to eat the dry feed this time of year farmers use electric fencing to release small sections of the paddocks at a time - strip grazing. Previously, we have relied on a small solar unit to power our fences and it was inconsistent and unreliable at times. This year Emmanuel College have decided to upgrade the fencing system to a mains powered electric unit. The Year 10 Ag class has been assigned this important task which involved creating a detailed map and description of the existing fences and then researching and costing the most appropriate hardware and materials to connect the fence to a new energiser unit back in the Ag shed. The students in charge of this project have so far chosen their plan of attack well, utilising a lot of existing fencing and installing new underground cables in the same manner any local farmer would. We connected the first of the electric wires to the mains powered energiser and when tested it read over 9000v!

Mr Ben McKenzie - Design & Technology Coordinator

Pictured above: Lachie Walsh connecting the underground cable to the new electric wires



The Opening Mass on Thursday, March 1, 2018 was an opportunity to welcome our new students, staff and families to the St Joseph's College Mildura community. The Year 7 students entered the sacred space following their House Captains and Vice-Captains. There were photos from the recent Year 7 Community Day on the screens

as they entered. Fathers Mick McKinnon and James Kerr from our Sacred Heart Parish were celebrants for the Mass and we thank them for their constant and valuable service to our College.

During the liturgy, our College Leaders (College Captains and Vice-Captains along with the House Captains and Vice-Captains) received their special blazers to acknowledge their leadership roles. These students and those in special leadership roles at both the Enright and Mercy Campuses in the following areas also received their badges: Academic, Sport, Mercy Action Group, the Arts and Liturgy. All Year 12 students also received badges to recognise their special position in the College.

2018 is our Year of Justice and this theme was prevalent throughout the liturgy. We thank all parents, family and friends who attended the liturgy.

Dr Tony Finn - Deputy Principal Community

REFLECTION

"If you want to, you can cure me," said the leper to Jesus as recorded in Mark's Gospel. Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.



I was fortunate to have had a similar experience whilst I was with the Loreto Sisters on their mission in Gari-uai (East Timor) last October. Accompanying Sr Margie Bourke on her weekly pastoral visitation of the sick, elderly and lonely, I felt like Christ as he reached out to God's little people ('the Anawim'). These people had very little in their bamboo huts - no electricity, earthen floors and no running water. As they rarely see a priest, Sr Margie asked me to anoint the people and give them Communion whilst she gave them a simple instruction on the two sacraments.

To my surprise, Sr Margie said the next person you will anoint is a leper. Never having encountered a leper in my priestly life I was quite aware it would be a special experience for the leper as well as for myself.

Sr Margie has a great way with people and put them, and yours truly, at ease as she spoke their language and knew them. I anointed them on the head and their hands as is the custom. However the man with leprosy reached out to my hand which held the holy oil and indicated he wanted the oil, and then I realised he wanted me to anoint his leprosy-affected foot and diminished toes. He has lost the capacity to feel as he walks, so falls and is unsteady on his feet. No wonder he reached out to me to anoint him further. No wonder I unhesitatingly reached out and touched his body. At that moment I felt I truly was God's instrument, unworthy though I am. It reminded me of the Pope reaching out to the marginalised on Holy Thursday when he washed the feet of the sick and the broken. The joy on the face of the man's wife was something I shall never forget. I was blessed. In fact we all were.

That experience brought home to me how important it is to reflect on all our encounters with people and how God uses us to bring his love and care to those in need. Every relationship is important and we need to respond to the presence of God in the other and let them respond to God's presence in us.

Fr Tom Brophy

Above: Tom pictured with Sr Margie

Welcoming Tongan health workers to Ballarat

Three health workers from Vaiola Hospital in Tonga are completing four weeks of training at St John of God Ballarat Hospital as a part of the Tonga Twinning Program. The program, which is run in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Tonga, provides health workers from the Pacific island country with the opportunity to complete placements at the hospital to increase their skills and knowledge.

- Observing the best practice in wound care and adapting this for their hospital
- Learning how to appropriately triage patients

In April, caregivers from St John of God Ballarat Hospital will go to Tonga themselves to see the Vaiola Hospital in action.



St John of God Ballarat Hospital Chief Executive Officer Alex Demidov said the partnership, which has been running since 1992, was a great example of St John of God Health Care improving health services abroad. "The Tonga Twinning Program has made considerable achievements in capacity building in Tongan health care. More than 120 Tongan Ministry of Health employees have experienced placements in Ballarat (four week visits) developing capacity across all aspects of health care and over 120 reciprocal visits (two week duration) have been made to Tonga, 60 by St John of God Ballarat Hospital caregivers over the last 25 years," Mr Demidov said.

In February and March, hospital workers from Vaiola Hospital are spending time in various hospital departments with a focus on:

- Experiencing the catering services working environment with a particular emphasis placed on nutrition in health care

"Donated medical supplies are also a major contribution to this Twinning Program and last financial year we were able to provide two 12 metre containers to Vaiola Hospital filled with equipment and supplies."

Jamie Lovett - SJOG Ballarat

Awakenings 2018



An exciting stage in the development of the Awakenings RE curriculum has been reached this year, with Diocesan schools incorporating new curriculum structures into existing school RE programs. With a multi-strand approach utilising Enduring Understandings and Level Content Descriptors, teachers will be familiarizing themselves with new material and ways of operating in RE.

Fr Kevin Lenehan from the Catholic Theological College is the theological advisor to the project and is presently revising the Awakenings Core Document. This document provides principals, religious education leaders, teachers, parish leaders and parents with an overview of the Religious Education curriculum. It places this curriculum in its Church, educational and social contexts and outlines the curriculum structure and methodology that is followed.

John Meneely - Deputy Director of Catholic Education

Disaster Training

27, 2017. The drama was for a good reason. Final year ACU paramedicine students, police, CFA, SES and ambulance officers responded to the real-world disaster scenario to fine tune their training in the hope they would never actually face the situation that transpired. In the scenario, a driver crashed a car on to the campus then jumped out and started shooting, leaving a hostage trapped in the car. The gunman then ran into a university building, still shooting, leaving dozens of victims injured or dead



A “code black” emergency involving an active shooter, hostage situation, car crash, death, injury and destruction played out at Australian Catholic University’s Ballarat campus on November

“This was our ‘code black’ exercise putting 65 final year paramedicine students in to the real-world pressure cooker of a mass scale casualty event,” said ACU Campus Dean Professor Bridget Aitchison. “Police had to find and take down the active shooter, paramedicine students triaged people hit by the car or shot, the SES moved in to pull apart the crashed car while students stabilised the person still trapped, there were triage centres running indoors and outdoors, and even though it was an exercise the adrenaline was still running,” she said. “One of the interesting things is often when emergency services are training, they are training in isolation,” Professor Aitchison said. “Our students are doing their fourth year of study and they have

done their practical experience when they go out on placement, but nothing really prepares you for a mass casualty or disaster. You don’t know how you will respond until you’re in it, and by doing a simulation that’s as real to life as possible you get to have a first hand experience of what it’s like to be in that pressure cooker.”

The disaster response also allowed students to understand the workings of a mass casualty scene, the chains of command, control and the rapidly-changing situations they could find themselves in. Ms Aitchison said the activity, now in its third year, was evidence of the growing public safety partnership between state and local jurisdictions regarding the response to a threat to community safety. “Ballarat and the surrounding region are well served by multiple agencies with expertise in all matters of policing, disaster relief and healthcare. It is vital for us to build on that expertise and reinforce the ties between each of these vital partners to make sure Ballarat services are well prepared for an emergency that may arise.”

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Michelle Smith and picture by Lachlan Bence.

A life of faith

Sr Marie Kelly ibvm died on October 16, 2017 at the age of 90. The Loreto Chapel was filled to capacity for her Requiem Mass, celebrated by Fr Justin Driscoll. It was a fitting tribute for Sr Marie as we celebrated a life well-lived, a life of faith, truth and service as a dedicated educator. Sr Marie was a wonderful encourager of our students. This summary provides a small insight into her life journey. Sr Marie’s life as a Loreto Sister saw her venture near and far: Toorak 1951-1954, Albert Park

1955, Nedlands, St Therese 1956-1957, Ballarat, Redan 1958-1964, Kirribilli 1965-1967, Marryatville 1968-1971, Blackburn 1972-1974, Nedlands 1975-1978, Assumption Institute 1979, Toorak 1980-1988, Kenya 1989-1992, overseas 1993 (six months), Ecce Homo, Jerusalem, Biblical Studies, Marinella, Eire, Pastoral Studies, Ballarat, Mary’s Mount 1993 (August), Webster St 2012 (September), Nazareth House 2016 (October)

Judith Potter - Principal, Loreto College





The Australian Bishops have identified the liturgical year of 2018 as a national Year of Youth. The theme of the Year of Youth is *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. The Year of Youth invites the church into dialogue about the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the Church and society. It calls for discussion and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of young people in the life of the Church. The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat will be finding many diverse ways to focus on the Year of Youth 2018. We look forward to sharing ideas and plans with you.

The Catholic Church in Australia has commenced preparations for a Plenary Council to be held in 2020. 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.

Photos:

Front cover: St Patrick's College Ballarat, St Patrick's School Stawell, BDSAC Visit, ACYF, Trinity College Colac, St Paul's School Mildura
Back cover: 1. Caritas Just Leadership Day 2. Clergy Retreat 3. Loreto College Ballarat Opening Mass 4. Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

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