

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT

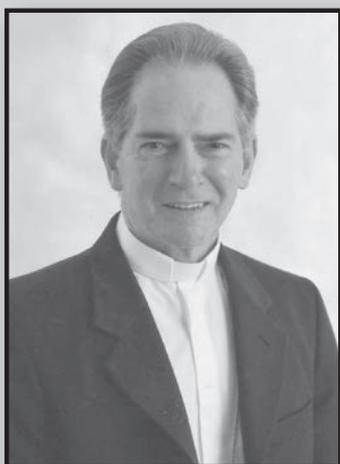


# OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

No. 55 July 2018





## RESPONDING TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Last December the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse issued its final report. As we know, the recommendations of the Commission were made after careful consideration following an inquiry that spanned five years. The recommendations that relate either generally or specifically to the Catholic Church require an active response from our Catholic community throughout Australia and from our diocese of Ballarat.

One of the key actions for us as a diocese will be to sign up to the Commonwealth Redress Scheme, which has just come into effect on July 1. An independent, national redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse was one of the main recommendations of the Royal Commission. It is also an initiative endorsed by survivors, their families and advocates. The Catholic Church has long supported such a scheme. Now that the scheme has become a reality, we are able to join.

It is vital that survivors of institutional sexual abuse have fair and consistent access to financial redress, counselling as needed, and, if they wish, a personal apology for the abuse they have suffered. The Commonwealth redress scheme provides these elements.

Following the Royal Commission Report, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia have set up two groups to take forward the Commission's recommendations.

Catholic Professional Standards is an independent company, with a board of directors comprised of lay men and women. Its role includes establishing national safeguarding standards that provide a framework for all Catholic entities to build child-safe cultures. In addition, this company will monitor how dioceses and religious orders are complying with the standards in practice.

There is also an Implementation Advisory Group, which will advise Catholic entities about implementing the whole range of Commission recommendations, such as those referring to ongoing care for survivors, improved forms of governance of parishes and schools, and the training of Church personnel.

In the diocese of Ballarat, a range of measures is already in place to ensure the safety of children and the ongoing support of survivors of abuse. These include:

- the review, improvement and implementation of child protection policies and procedures across parishes, schools and Catholic agencies;
- the appointment of a diocesan professional standards coordinator;
- the appointment of safeguarding officers for all parishes, schools and agencies;
- the review of past settlements with survivors to ensure the settlements are fair;
- developing a more professional and holistic approach to supporting survivors;
- implementing a school curriculum that seeks to empower children and young people to have a voice in their education and to enhance their personal safety.

The next stage of responding to the findings of the Royal Commission for the diocese of Ballarat will include:

- participation as a diocesan community in an audit by Catholic Professional Standards of how we are implementing the safeguarding standards they have established. This audit is likely to be held before the end of 2018.
- engagement with local survivors and their health professionals, seeking their feedback on how we are responding to the Royal Commission Report recommendations;
- trialling of a new approach to the governance of parish schools;
- continuing to explore ways in which we can provide pastoral and practical assistance to survivors and their families.

While no one can undo past wrongs, we have an opportunity as a Church to demonstrate that we are attentive to the recommendations of the Royal Commission and that we will hold ourselves accountable to the high standards expected by the broader community.

In presenting the final report, the Chair of the Commission said, "the sexual abuse of any child is intolerable in a civilised society" and "we must each resolve that we should do what we can to protect them."

May Christ guide us in our efforts to assist those who have suffered and in the care we provide for children today.

*God bless you all*

*+ Paul Bird CSsR*

*Paul Bird CSsR - Bishop of Ballarat*

# ACU celebrates its latest graduates

Over 4,300 students graduated from Australian Catholic University (ACU) across the country during April and May, ready to enter the workforce. More than one hundred and fifty students graduated from ACU's Ballarat campus at the Ballarat Convention Centre on Saturday, 8 April. Students are graduating from Bachelor courses in the Faculty of Education and Arts and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Ballarat Campus Dean, Professor Bridget Aitchison said that it was a pleasure to have a former ACU graduate, Maria Noonan, Director of Nursing at St John of God Ballarat Hospital, formally address the graduates as they prepared for the next step in their careers in health, education and arts.

*"The pride and self-accomplishment in the student's faces represents why I work in this marvellous industry, educating tomorrow's leaders. You see our students gathered together and you can just imagine their back stories and the challenges of juggling family and/or work commitments that got them to this point today," Professor Aitchison said.*

*"The graduation ceremony is crucial in celebrating all the hard work and personal achievements of so many students with the people who matter to them most and have supported them."*

*"ACU has been educating students in the community and surrounding region for more than twenty-five years. In that time we have finessed our programs to a standard that positively prepares our students for the workforce. We can confidently wish our students all the best with their careers, knowing we have extremely high graduate employment rates."*

Jasmin Zammit - Marketing Coordinator



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Responding to the Royal Commission
- ACU graduates
- Catholic Education Week
- Thomas Groome
- Plenary Council 2020
- Introducing Diocesan Youth Project Workers
- School News
- Thank you and farewell
- Support for students
- SVDP Updates
- News from Centacare
- Celebrating 100 Years Jubilees
- News from the CDF
- Centre of Welcome
- Sacramental Mass at Wycheproof
- Making a difference
- Earthcare
- Building a stronger community
- Getting to know Rachel Smith
- Parish News
- Service and Award
- Great things for me
- Visual Display Guidelines
- New Vicar-General

## OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

A joint publication of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat and the Catholic Education Office of Ballarat.



The Editorial Committee of ODC wishes to thank the many people who have contributed to this issue. We also acknowledge the support through sponsorship of the Ballarat Catholic Development Fund, Catholic Super and Australian Catholic University - Aquinas Campus.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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

The next ODC will be in October 2018.  
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# COME AND SEE

Across the Diocese of Ballarat, sixty-four schools educating 18,333 students celebrated Catholic Education Week, May 21-25. Celebrations were launched on Friday, May 18 with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Following Mass, guests gathered for the Dinner in St Patrick's Hall to celebrate and acknowledge staff who have contributed thirty years of service to Catholic Education.

Preempting the Year of Youth and the Synod on Vocational Discernment, Pope Francis draws on Jesus' call to his disciples in an open letter to the young people of the world: *I would remind you of the words that Jesus once said to the disciples who asked him: "Teacher [...] where are you staying?" He replied, "Come and see" (Jn 1:38). Jesus looks at you and invites you to go with him ... have you noticed this look towards you? Have you heard this voice? Have you felt this urge to undertake this journey? I am sure that, despite the noise and confusion seemingly prevalent in the world, this call continues to resonate in the depths of your heart so as to open it to joy in its fullness.* In light of the Pope's words, the theme for Catholic Education Week 2018 was **Come and See**. This theme draws on John 1: 38-39, which invites all to a journey of faith with the promise of joy in its fullness.



A feature of this week was having Professor Thomas Groome in the diocese. Tom presented an all day workshop for Catholic school staff on Monday, May 21 to over six hundred educators who gathered in Ballarat to learn from him. After so many years of reading and reflecting on his books and exploring the movements of his Shared Christian Praxis with students and colleagues, it was a joy to be in the presence of such a leader and teacher. In addition to this workshop, Tom also held a session on Friday, May 25 for school leaders and clergy, as well as a session on Saturday, May 26 for parishes and clergy.

Catholic Education Week offers a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the contribution that our schools make to their local communities across our diocese. As communities of faith, hope and love, as education providers, as community hubs, as employers, as active community partners and in the service of parents who all want the best choice for their children, Catholic schools make a measurable contribution to our society.

*Audrey Brown - Director of Catholic Education*

## Network Day at the HCSN



*This year the Hampden Catholic Schools Network (HCSN) celebrated Catholic Education Week with a Network Day on May 25. On this day, traditionally the students from St Patrick's Camperdown, St Colman's Mortlake and St Thomas's Terang attend another school to meet children from the other HCSN schools who are in the same year. The aim of Network Day is to see old friends and to make new ones! The majority of the students will eventually attend Mercy Regional College, so the day also begins the transition process for all students from Foundation to Year 6. The motto this year was "COME AND SEE" and it was very appropriate because we all had the chance to come and see the other schools.*

*The Foundation and Year 1/2s students went to St Patrick's where they made St Colman's and St Thomas' students feel welcome. They learnt about following the example of Jesus. Each student made a fish and together they made a large art piece showing Jesus and his disciples in a boat. Everyone also made a footprint and lay them in the footsteps of Jesus.*

*The Year 3/4s students met at St Colman's and were made very welcome. The students were told which groups and what activities they were going to be doing throughout the day. The activities were team building games, craft, drawing and a religion based reading activity.*

*The students from Year 5/6s were busy at St Thomas's. In the morning there was a prayer to welcome all the students before they split into groups. Yellow group had physical education, blue group created their own story treehouse, red group had a competition to see who could build the tallest pipe cleaner tower, whilst green group had a competition to see who could make the longest paper chain. Afterwards, all of the groups changed activities. At lunch there were games of footy, chasey, basketball, netball and more.*

*Everyone left to go home with a smile on their faces, all having had lots of fun and hopefully making at least one new friend! We celebrate this every year AND IT'S SOOO MUCH FUN!!!!!!*

*Isobel Marwood, Remy Gaut and Holly Rickard  
Grade 5 students at St Patrick's Camperdown*

*Our Diocesan Community - July 2018*

# The Southwest Network Schools celebrate

Primary students from St Malachy's Edenhope, St Joseph's Peshurst, St Mary's Hamilton, Sacred Heart Casterton, St Joseph's Coleraine and secondary students from Monivae College Hamilton journeyed to All Saints Primary School in Portland for a network Mass celebrated by Fr Gregory Tait.

To emphasise the theme of "Come and See", the students took selfies with oversized sunglasses to make a display around a large creation cross. Each school had students involved in the Mass and the All Saints band performed for the final hymn. After Mass the two hundred students played a series of games and enjoyed a sausage sizzle. It was a great opportunity to celebrate Catholic Education as a network and make new friends.

Olga Lyons - Principal, All Saints Primary School, Portland



## ST ALIPIUS PARISH CLUSTER DAY

In recognising and celebrating our 2018 Catholic Education Week theme 'Come and See', over one thousand children from our three primary schools (Emmaus Catholic Primary School Mt Clear, St Alipius Parish School Ballarat East, St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballarat East) came together for a day of celebration and fun through prayer, song, socialisation and a shared meal.

Staff from the three schools worked tirelessly to ensure that a positive experience and fun day celebrating our Catholicity was created for all. Our Foundation students spent the day at the Inclusive Playground in Victoria Park. There was much excitement around the park as students saw 'kinder friends' for the first time since starting school.

The Year One and Two students were hosted by St Francis Xavier Primary School. Here they all enjoyed a range of fun activities and wonderful hospitality.

St Alipius Parish School hosted the Year Three and Four cohort. Their day began with activities and morning tea, before a walk and more fun at Eureka Park.

Mt Clear also experienced the excitement buzz, with the Year Five and Six students celebrating their day at Emmaus Catholic Primary School.

Each group participated in a beautiful liturgy led by three talented teachers within our parish – Adam Cameron, Geoff Martin and Peter Mullane. This travelling band visited all four sites and led our students in prayer and song with the theme being 'Come and See'.

What a fabulous way to celebrate our core commonality - Catholic Education. We're already excited for Catholic Education Week 2019!



Caitee Carter - St Alipius Parish Primary School

# THOMAS GROOME IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAY, IT'S ABOUT THE QUESTIONS YOU ASK!

During May, Professor Thomas Groome was in the Ballarat Diocese to present workshops for Catholic school staff, school leaders, clergy and parish communities. He presented an all day workshop "Education From and For Faith – Jesus, Tradition and a Life in Faith" for Catholic school staff on May 21, as well as a session on May 25 for school leaders and clergy and a session on May 26 "New Evangelisation - Planting Seeds through Family and Parish" for parishes and clergy.

Listening to Professor Groome I was reminded first and foremost that I am a 'Catholic school' teacher and, particularly, a 'Catholic' teacher. Sitting amongst some six hundred other teachers I acknowledged once more that there is a reason I feel at home in a Catholic school. Professor Groome spoke of the importance of two life postures: immanence (for ones self) and transcendence (with purpose and meaning in community with God's love as a free gift). In Catholic schools, where some students are Catholic and some are not, the main points are that 'we' as a school represent the Christian faith, and that we can celebrate the transcendent aspects of life as we engage in discussion with our students.

If we focus on the 'transcendent' in this way, then we understand that in our schools we have the most wonderful concept on which to base our teaching and relationships with children, and that above all, God's love invites us to have a loving life and God's justice invites us to do works of justice.

During the day, Thomas Groome reminded us that the youth of today have the deepest desire for service, justice, friendship, to be loved and to communicate. If I walk into my classroom knowing this is what they need and want, our conversation about faith, community and life can begin with this end in mind.

I was also reminded about the way Jesus taught: by sharing stories, by asking questions and by making sure that the marginalised feel at home in this challenging subject called Religious Education. We know that today not many families discuss religion at home, or if they do, perhaps not in a positive or hope filled light. Thomas Groome challenged every one of the teachers present to understand and appreciate this and therefore to "favour the ones who need the favour most."

During the day, it became apparent to me that Thomas Groome was not only speaking of the Religious Education teacher or the classroom, but of the whole school community. This means everyone within our school community, students, families, support staff and teachers, should be part of the story. He commented that 'Mercy is the heartbeat of the Gospels' and therefore should drive our schools in action, decision making, discipline and naturally relationships with our students.

In the Gospels, Jesus asked three hundred questions of those around him. During our very fulfilling day with Thomas Groome we were all asked to consider the questions we could ask our students as a way of engaging in dialogue with them – not just planning what we intend to 'say' to them when we enter the classroom.

This above all has recharged my planning and teaching. I begin planning the lesson by writing the questions I can ask the students as a way of engaging them and of helping them to formulate their own opinions and understanding of life, belief and community.

*Jo-Anne Saunders, Mercy Regional College*



## OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE



Georgia Cann, Thomas Groome, Paul Ryan, Rachel Smith

*Following the highly engaging and hugely successful professional development day recently, Thomas Groome along with colleague Paul Ryan visited Emmaus Catholic Primary School, Mt Clear. Thomas toured the learning spaces and engaged in conversation with children about their faith and their learning. He learned how Emmaus placed Jesus at the centre of the learning philosophy and how the Emmaus story guides the life of the school and the wider school community. Thomas's interactions with students was inspiring*

*as he blessed them and inquired about their names and their lives, showing a deep sense of wanting to connect with the children.*

*The teachers of Emmaus were deeply grateful for Thomas's visit and they enjoyed the opportunity to share the school of which they are so proud. Although the learning practice at Emmaus has always included Shared Christian Praxis, this special connection with Thomas Groome is a new relationship and one to be celebrated!*

Rachel Smith - Emmaus Teacher  
Our Diocesan Community - July 2018

## Introducing the Diocese's new Youth & Young Adult Ministry Project Workers

2018 is the Year of Youth in the Australian Catholic Church and the Ballarat Diocese has employed two Youth and Young Adult Project Workers for twelve months. Noeline Hogan and Patrick Kennedy have both been appointed in a part-time job-share position through to Easter next year, each working three days a week.

Patrick and Noeline are looking forward to supporting and encouraging the faith journeys of youth and young adults in the Diocese. Their work is project-based, and they will be working with Amanda Smith, Pastoral Services Consultant and Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator. Their projects will include three *Year of Youth* day-long Festivals in different parts of the diocese, a number of social and discussion gatherings, developing resources for parishes including music ministry resources, facilitating communication and networking among youth and young adults, and specific projects with a number of parishes. Echoing the theme of this *Year of Youth*, their focus will be to *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*.

Patrick Kennedy is an Australian-American, born in New Hampshire, USA and raised in Ballarat as a teenager. Patrick went to Ballarat Grammar in secondary school before studying a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and a Diploma of Languages (Mandarin) at the University of Melbourne. Baptised a Catholic, he reconnected with the Catholic faith as a young adult and was confirmed. He continues to explore his faith deeply. He has worked as a volunteer with Jesuit Social Services and in sports training

with young people, including those with special needs.

Noeline Hogan is a parishioner from St Mary's in Birchip. A mother to four children, she has been actively involved in parish activities for a number of years, and when the local Catholic school

closed down she was involved in developing a successful after school Religious Education class. Noeline has also been the instigator of Birchip's popular youth Masses including an inter-parish Mass and activities that included participants from five parishes. She is studying with the Diocesan Lay Pastoral Ministry Program focusing on Youth Ministry. She is also a recent member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

Both Noeline and Patrick are delighted to be part of Ballarat Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

The Diocesan website Youth and Young Adult Ministry pages have contact details and information on projects and activities and is updated weekly.

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)



## ST JOSEPH THE WORKER FEAST DAY MASS AND ACTIVITIES



*St Joseph the Worker Mass, celebrated with the St Joseph College Mildura community on May 1 by Fr James Kerr, recognises the works and efforts of St Joseph as a father and as a worker. St Joseph the Worker Mass is not only about St Joseph but is also about celebrating the importance of work to the whole person.*

*Students sang 'Great In Power' during the Entrance Procession with Xavier House students presenting a variety of tools and equipment associated with St Joseph the Carpenter.*



*During the Mass, Fr James reminded us that St Joseph represented family values and personal integrity, both of which are also Mercy values. In addition, he asked us to apply the values of Hospitality, Justice and Fairness in our everyday actions and thoughts. Students read from St Paul's letter to the Colossians and lead the Prayers of the Faithful. The Mass concluded with the song 'Go out Go out' performed beautifully by VCE Music students.*

*There was a buzz of excitement at the Mercy Campus the following day, with over forty stalls of activities and food at the St Joseph the Worker Feast Day. Students made milkshakes, hotdogs, nachos, created stencil tattoos, held jelly eating competitions and found time to have pictures taken in the photo booth.*

*The very entertaining Carpenter's Classic concert followed, with over fifteen acts giving the judging panel much to contemplate. There was a tie for first place, with Khadeja Mapapalangi's fine voice and the Year 12 mash-up providing plenty of crowd entertainment. Students and staff worked well together to make these days a wonderful success.*

Sophie Cook - College Development Officer

# THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

On Sunday, April 8, a Morning Tea was held to farewell Sr Helen Murphy ibvm from St John the Baptist Parish, Beaufort. Bishop Peter Connors celebrated Mass for a large congregation and he acknowledged the important role Sr Helen has performed over the past four years.

Sr Helen was thanked for her far-reaching expertise throughout her time in Beaufort. It was noted that Sr Helen has had a particular focus on the youth, young children and their families. This was clearly evident by the number of young people in attendance.

A most important ministry for Sr Helen whilst with us in Beaufort was supporting families at significant times in their lives such as baptisms, weddings, illness and funerals.

Sr Helen was also recognised for her visitation to the hospital and hostel for prayer services, as well as being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for these services. Mention was also made of her contribution to liturgies in every way possible, every week.

During her time in Beaufort, Sr Helen has served on the Parish Council. She has been involved on Diocesan committees and represented the Beaufort Catholic community at Bendigo Bank Grant meetings and the High School Chaplaincy Program 'thank you' events.

Sr Helen will be greatly missed and is welcome back at any time for a visit. She was presented with a lovely bunch of flowers, some perfume and a glazed pot for her new residence.

In responding Sr Helen spoke eloquently about the importance of everyone contributing to the overall ministry of our community. She spoke about the fact that no matter what people do, it is recognised and valued.

Bernadette Franc



## Support for Students



students living in the Ainaro district who are interested in studying a health related discipline in Dili.

Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Health Group are a group of health professionals committed to supporting the provision of health care in Timor Leste, through awarding scholarships to disadvantaged Timorese

The scholarship covers the costs associated with study and a small living allowance to support living in Dili. For these students, an opportunity to acquire a professional qualification will potentially transform their lives and also their families. Currently the group are supporting three students. Two are studying nursing and one is studying pharmacy.

Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Health Group fits under the umbrella of the Ballarat City Friendship relationship with Ainaro district, Timor Leste. If you would like to assist in supporting Timorese tertiary students studying in Dili, Timor Leste please contact Barry Flynn, m) 0409 458 053 or e) [bfahg1992@gmail.com](mailto:bfahg1992@gmail.com)

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# Delivery of Additional Employment Services



Success in two new employment tenders for Centacare Ballarat will see the organisation expand its service delivery into Disability Employment and the Federal Governments Parents Next program from July 1, 2018.

Centacare Chief Executive Officer, Tony Fitzgerald, believes these new funding opportunities will provide stronger supports and opportunities for those with a disability and for parents returning to the workforce after raising children. "Centacare services are embedded in the Ballarat community and we feel strongly that achieving this funding is recognition of our performance and of our experience in helping those with complex needs into employment. We hope that we can build on our community links and work with both participants

and local business to build a stronger and more inclusive Ballarat. 'Our coordinated whole of agency approach' will allow us to listen to participants' needs and provide additional referrals and supports where needed," said Tony.

Under the Disability Employment Grant, Centacare will deliver Employment Support Services (ESS). ESS assists job seekers with a permanent disability to find work and, if they need, with ongoing support in the workplace. Employment support is provided for at least 52 weeks.

*The Parents Next Program* assists parents who have been caring for their children and are now ready to return to the workforce. It helps parents to plan and prepare for employment when their youngest child reaches school age. The program assists them to identify education and employment goals and then works with them to reach these goals.

*Danielle Verdoorn, Marketing & Communications Officer*

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

*Cororooke parish - including the communities of St Brendan's Coragulac and St Joseph's Pirron Yallock - has just celebrated 100 years since the community became a parish. Originally part of the Colac parish, in January 1918 the discussion was held and a decision made that St Brendan's would become its own parish. Fr Tom McCarthy was appointed the first Parish Priest. In 1985, St Joseph's Pirron Yallock community became part of what was named the Cororooke Parish.*

*The last resident Parish Priest was Fr Bill O'Halloran. In 1995 Sr Margaret Carmody sgs was appointed our Parish Administrator and prepared us well so that when she finished her time in 2008, we were ably led by a leadership team made up of dedicated parishioners. This team has always been and is still supported by the parish community to ensure that we remain a vital catholic community.*

*More than one hundred people gathered at St Brendan's on Sunday, May 20 at 10.00am to celebrate this 100 year anniversary and welcome its future leaders. Bishop Paul Bird celebrated Mass, assisted by visiting priest Fr John Boyd-Turner. Bishop Paul commissioned the new parish Leadership Team. These are Maureen Finn - Moderator, Ann McCarthy, Anne-Maree Convery, Pat O'Shea, Michelle Carmody and Jill O'Dowd.*



*After Mass everyone gathered in the parish hall for lunch and a catch up. It was wonderful to welcome back past parishioners, students of St Brendan's primary and secondary school and Sisters of the Good Samaritan, who have had an eighty year association with St Brendan's school and parish. During the weeks before the anniversary, the Grade 5 and 6 students worked hard to produce a time line and history of St Brendan's Parish which was displayed in the hall and created great interest. Long time member of the parish, Keith Lenehan, and St Brendan's school student, Cooper Robb, cut the first pieces of a beautiful celebratory cake made and decorated by young parishioner Ruby O'Dowd.*

*We are very grateful for Bishop Paul, the Ballarat Diocese and our visiting priests for their support of the Cororooke parish. We are also very blessed to have so many within our community who are so willing to participate and contribute in so many ways to keep our communities active and vital. The centenary was a wonderful opportunity to gather to celebrate our past and give us hope as we go forward into the future.*

*Elizabeth McGuane*



# Plenary Council 2020

Many of you would be aware that the Catholic Church in Australia is holding a Plenary Council in 2020 about the future of the Catholic Church. What are we called to do? Who are we called to be? How do we need to change? The last time the Catholic Church in Australia held a Plenary Council was in 1937 and obviously much has changed. There are many reasons for having a Plenary Council for the Catholic Church in Australia: Pope Francis has invited the local church to dialogue; the contemporary society of Australia has changed significantly and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has been a significant and influential event that requires deep consideration and response. It is being held in 2020 in order to give the Catholic community in Australia time to listen, dialogue and discern with one another and, guided by the Holy Spirit, about the future, the role and relevance of the Catholic Church in Australia. The Plenary Council will be held in two sessions. The first will be held in October 2020 and the second session will be held in mid-2021 (possibly in May). The Council will be held in two sessions in order to enable deeper discernment, further learning, dialogue and listening where it may be needed and to write or rewrite anything in response to the dialogue of the first session.

The agenda for the first session of the Council will be formed in response to the dialogue and listening process that will happen during 2018-19. After an open and inclusive process of listening, dialogue, prayer and discernment, the Council agenda will be formed in late 2019 and early 2020.

The delegates to the Council sessions are leaders with particular roles in our local churches. Those who must be called to the Council include: All diocesan Archbishops and Bishops; All auxiliary Bishops; Other titular Bishops who have been given special functions in Australia, either by the Apostolic See or by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference; All Vicar Generals; All Episcopal Vicars; Some Superiors and Congregational Leaders of religious orders; and some rectors of seminaries in Australia. Those who may be called to the Council include: Lay people; Clergy;

Retired Bishops living in Australia at the time of the Council. More information and resources can be found at <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

The Ballarat Diocese commenced its preparation for the Plenary Council with "Praying towards 2020" missions led by Redemptorists, invited by Bishop Paul. These were held over several weeks, from April 20 until May 6, when the whole Diocese, its parishes, faith communities, schools, institutions and agencies were invited to participate in prayer. Bishop Paul in welcoming the Redemptorists said that "'Praying towards 2020' will be the first step for our diocese in the journey towards the council and that the diocese would like to provide its people with an opportunity to make their contribution to the council through a combination of prayer and dialogue. People in our local parish communities will have the chance to come together to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to reflect on how we might grow in our faith and hope and love as a Christian community, and to consider how we might share that faith and hope and love with other Australians."

## LISTENING TO WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING

Some forty people from Ballarat and district gathered in the Mackillop Room on Wednesday, May 2 to learn about the Plenary Council 2020. Fr Justin Driscoll welcomed the group and led the opening prayer. During the gathering a suggestion was made that we should record our discussions and report on them so here are a few recollections. Fr John Hill CSsR provided a brief explanation of the process involved, the powers of the Council to legislate for the Church in Australia, the composition of the Council, its governing authority and the relative voting rights of the participants. The Bishops will have a deliberative vote while other participants including vicar generals, heads of religious and laity, will have a consultative vote. Fr Hill invited us to listen to the Spirit by listening to one another in this process of renewing the Church in our Country. He also drew our attention to the information available on the Plenary Council Website ([plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)).

The last Plenary Council in Australia was in 1937 so we have no clear blue print for the processes, although the Council has considerable power to enact change. Fr Hill also spoke about Vatican II and how both the French and German Churches drove the changes then. The discussion that followed generated a sense of urgency and a yearning for dramatic change so that we might become a more inclusive, less authoritarian Church that prioritises compassion and justice.

There were pleas in the small groups and in the feedback:

- to dismantle the present authoritarian structures of the church;
- to eliminate clericalism;
- to engage the leadership of the laity;
- to recognise the disjunction between the gospel message and the exclusion of women from leadership and decision making;
- to find ways of listening to the disaffected;

- to take seriously “the cry of the earth”;
- to replace “Voting” at the Council with a discerning and consensus building process and articulation of a vision to be implemented;
- to recognise and affirm the potential of Catholic schools to be church;
- to broaden the eligibility for priestly ordination or as one person in our group asked “Why Priests” with reference to the book by Garry Wills;
- to encourage people to enter a spiritual experience, especially as a dimension of Sunday Liturgy;
- to document all such gatherings so that nothing might be lost as we have been told that nothing is off the table.

Lay Leadership of future gatherings might be a way of beginning the process of moving towards a more inclusive expression of the Church as the People of God.

*Pauline Stapleton*



## EVERYTHING IS ON THE TABLE

*From April 28 to May 6, Ss Michael and John Parish Horsham held the mission in the lead up to the Plenary Council 2020. We welcomed Fr Pat Corbett CSsR and Deacon Joseph Hieu into our Parish. On the weekend of April 28/29 they celebrated Masses in Horsham and Murtoa.*

*Monday, April 30, began with Mass at 9.30am which was followed by a talk from both Fr Pat and Deacon Hieu. Later that day they went to Ss Michael & John’s Primary School to chat with the students and staff. In the evening they travelled with Fr Peter Hudson to Rupanyup to join in a Home Mass and tea with the locals. Tuesday, May 1 began much the same as Monday with Mass and a cuppa in the church. During the day they saw students and staff at St Brigid’s College. About forty people attended the night session in the Parish Hall and much discussion took place. Wednesday, May 2 saw the parish say goodbye to Deacon Hieu as he left for Mildura. A visit to the sick in the parish took place during the day and that evening Fr Pat travelled with Fr Peter to the Murtoa School Centre for Mass, talk and a shared tea. On Thursday, May 3 a visit to Our Lady Help of Christians School in Murtoa followed the morning ritual of Mass and a cuppa. In the evening they visited Dimboola where they celebrated Mass and a shared tea followed with the locals afterwards. An Anointing Mass was held on Friday, May 4 and Fr Pat asked people to come and wash their eyes and be anointed while the hymn ‘Open My Eyes’ was played. Friday afternoon saw Fr Pat in Nhill with a Mass and*

a talk. On Saturday, May 5 Mass was held and this followed with reconciliation. Afterwards Fr Pat met with the Indian and Filipino families of our parish over lunch. On Sunday, May 6 Fr Pat held Mass in Horsham, followed by lunch in the Parish Centre for question time and further discussion.

Fr Pat thanked Bishop Paul for starting the discussion and added that now the process has started it was up to the bishops to continue the conversation. Fr Pat congratulated the Parish on its liturgy, commenting that it was well run and people were happy to be involved.

Participants in the discussion raised a number of issues of concern. These included the drifting away of young people from the Church and the importance of reaching out to them; the general sense of anxiety about the uncertainties of the world we live in; the need for ordinary Catholics to be involved in the decision making of the church and to be actually heard; the need to be inclusive and welcoming towards newcomers to the church; the need to revisit the role of priests and their mission in the church; and the importance of clear channels of communication between the bishops and the people.

The Parish thanked Fr Pat for all of his efforts over the week and hopes that by 2020 the Spirit has moved in all of us.

Anita Masiero

## PRE-PLenary MISSION IN SOUTHERN ZONE

As a preamble to the Pentecostal launch of the Australian Plenary Council 2020, parishioners from the Southern Zone Ministry District welcomed visiting Redemptorists – fondly referred to as “The Reds” - led by Fr Bill Goldman, to the region during late April and early May.

The once severe notion of ‘fire and brimstone’ missions was quickly expelled as the visitors, with their many stories on life, family, travel and culture, were cheerfully greeted and gathered into Parish life and community.

By way of further introduction and journeying toward the Plenary Council 2020, the Redemptorists celebrated Parish Masses, inviting the way of the Spirit into our lives and fostering a deeper understanding through prayer, discernment and reflection. Video presentations and “mini-mission” open forum nights were also utilised.

The “mini-mission” nights provided opportunities for our community to unite together, to discuss, listen to, reconcile and integrate the needs and concerns of our

parishes. As scribes jotted down our responses during the hour of dialogue and exchange, we gave each topic thorough attention in the understand that ‘no topic was off the table’.

While these pre-plenary dialogue sessions are still very much in their infancy, it was agreed that the mission nights provided a valued opportunity for many to express their thoughts and feelings on a wide range of topics associated with the Church in Australia. They allowed us to achieve a sense of validation, unity and purpose.

We may not know where we are going or what is in store for us as the body of the Church in Australia however, as an act of faith, discernment and resolution we eagerly anticipate and prepare for what the future will bring with the Australian Plenary Council 2020.

It is with great pleasure that we thank the visiting Redemptorist priests and deacon for their time, direction and support. We look forward to planning and preparing our next Parish dialogue and discernment sessions.

Kathleen Card, Pastoral Associate, St Joseph’s Parish Warrnambool



## Mother’s Day at St Alipius

This year at St Alipius Ballarat East the strengths and sufferings of Mothers past and present, especially those whose children suffered abuse, were acknowledged in a special way. The day also coincided with the third anniversary of the Loud Fence message: “No More Silence”.

It was Liturgy at its best, led sensitively by Fr Peter Sherman. The children had made vibrant flowers to decorate the church, and also sang happy music to lift the spirits. This was also a gathering of the wounded; the voices of women seeking light. Marg Ridsdale and Karen Davies led the Prayers of the Faithful, inspired by survivors. We thanked God for the leadership of the school staff, and for the innocence of the school children whose presence lifted the sadness of many.

After Mass people moved to the hall for a cuppa and a chat - a welcome gathering place on a late autumn Ballarat morning. We at St Alipius stand with these women and so many others who, with silent tears have borne injustice and loneliness with such heroism. For them, the journey continues. They are our strength and our song. Many thanks to all of the planning group and those who contributed beautiful flowers and prayers.

# DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



## HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day was celebrated at St Paul's in Mildura. The day focused on inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Harmony day is important as almost fifty percent of Australians were born overseas or have a parent who was. People from more than two hundred countries make up the Australian community and three hundred languages are spoken in homes throughout Australia.

St Paul's is a culturally diverse community with students from many nations. This diversity brings a richness to our everyday lives and enhances our community in countless ways. Harmony Day celebrated and acknowledged this rich cultural diversity in our own community.

The students at St Paul's were invited to wear to school the Harmony Day colours of orange and yellow, or could choose to wear their traditional dress. The day was planned and run by the Student Representative Council and the Student Leaders. Activities included the students engaging in lessons about inclusiveness and cultural diversity in their classrooms, a recess food stall and an afternoon liturgy.



To celebrate Harmony Day the students from the Student Representative Council organised a food stall which sold foods from around the world. They provided a variety of foods from Tonga, Pakistan, Samoa, Israel, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Afghanistan, India and China. We ended the day with a short liturgical celebration. During the liturgy students in traditional dress were invited to join in a parade for the whole school to see.

Overall, it was a wonderful day organised by the student body for the school community to highlight the richness that cultural diversity brings.

*Naomi Kennedy – Deputy Principal*

Our Diocesan Community - July 2018



*On the Feast of The Epiphany, January 16, 1958, of the sixteen Good Samaritan Sisters who were professed at Pennant Hills, NSW, five were past pupils of St Brendan's Coragulac. Dorothy McKay [Corunnun] entered on January 6, Myra Gleeson [Orford], Stella Gleeson [Coragulac] and Teresa Lanigan [Port Fairy] entered on March 19 and Margaret Malone [Cororoake] entered on July 2, all in 1955.*

*In the novitiate we were known as The Handmaids of Mary, Queen of The World because at this time, this feast had just been promulgated. We consider ourselves quite special because Hiro Kageyama [professed as Sr Maria Regina] came to join us, being the first Good Samaritan postulant from Japan.*

*Though we have lived in the different states of Queensland, NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, the bonds of friendship from our novitiate days remain strong. We all qualified as teachers and for many years, this was our main ministry. With Mary as our model and following the Rule of St Benedict, we listen to the Spirit calling us to act boldly and courageously, to create a more just and peaceful world.*

*Late last year, we returned to our former novitiate at Pennant Hills for three nights and many memories were recalled, lots of photos were seen and hosts of stories were told.*

Sr Stella Gleeson sgs

(B) Srs Dorothy McKay, Margaret Malone, Myra Gleeson  
(F) Teresa Lanigan, Stella Gleeson

# Catholic Development Fund News

In late 2017, as a consequence of Federal Government legislative changes, forty-five years after it was established, the Ballarat Catholic Development Fund closed its doors to its lay supporters. Many found this to be a disappointing time for the Diocese (as did we); these supporters understood what the CDF was about and were saddened by their reduced ability to support it.

Lay customers especially provided that local connection between their parishes and the CDF delivering on its purpose, which is “to maximise the use of resources within the Catholic community to promote the pastoral and educational needs of the Ballarat Diocese”. Ultimately this purpose assists the Diocese as a whole delivering on the mission of the Church.

Some of our former lay customers did elect to transfer their funds to the new CDF Community Fund established and managed by the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Whilst the benefit to our diocese is not the same, it is an opportunity for lay members of many dioceses to continue to support the CDF purpose. More information can be found on their website [www.cdfcommunityfund.org.au](http://www.cdfcommunityfund.org.au).

Another consequence of losing lay customers was losing the avenue our annual report provided to communicate tangibly with our many supporters and indeed the broader diocesan community, hence this message in *Our Diocesan Community*. The 2017 annual report is available on the diocesan website, but below are some extracts, as well as some commentary, facts and figures about the CDF.

So firstly, a big thank-you to all those former customers who supported the CDF across the years. As Bishop Paul articulates in his Forward to the 2017 Annual Report, “The CDF is a key player in capital works projects throughout our diocese – works for the good of parishes and schools all across the western half of Victoria. I thank all those who have made deposits in our Catholic Development Fund. By making these deposits, they have provided a pool of resources from which parishes and schools and agencies can draw in order to finance new buildings and other vital projects for communities large and small”.

Over the past 10 years alone, the CDF has supported your schools and your parishes, by providing loans of \$111m. Notwithstanding the challenges faced by the CDF, including a continued environment of low interest rates, it was again in a position to distribute \$1m to the Diocese in 2017. Over the past ten years the CDF has distributed almost \$9m to the Diocese to assist with funding its activities.

The CDF finished the year with assets of \$155m. Prudentially, policies of the Committee of Management determine that the CDF maintain capital of at least 9.0% of its assets. The level of capital as at 31 December 2017 was 11.4% (2016, 9.8%) and that the CDF should maintain liquidity of at least 25.0% of deposits. The level of liquidity as at 31 December 2017 was 58.8% (2016, 72.1%).



Whilst the CDF finished the year with assets of \$155m, this was \$12m lower than where it finished 2016, primarily due to the before-mentioned changes in government regulation. But what is also having an increasing impact on CDFs across the country, not just here in the Diocese of Ballarat, is the “corporatisation” of religious based organisations who have traditionally banked with a CDF.

There is little the CDF movement collectively cannot offer that a ‘big-four’ bank can. In fact, we can offer a level of service that a big-four bank cannot match. Notwithstanding that CDFs have supported these organisations over many years, increasingly we are seeing, in some pockets, a move away from CDFs nationally with an indifference to the purpose of the CDFs, which is fundamentally “for Catholics to work together to deliver on the mission of the church”, a purpose which is, ironically, not dissimilar to the mission of these organisations themselves.

As commented above, funds provided as a distribution to the Diocese assist with funding the activities it undertakes. These include:

- Seminarian support and the ongoing formation of our clergy;
- Ongoing Faith Formation for Adults and Young Adults;
- Councils and Commissions including the Diocesan Women’s Council and Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Social Justice Commission, Catholic Earthcare Ballarat and St. Vincent De Paul (through direct financial support via the Diocesan Foundation);
- Liturgical and Sacramental information for the Diocese especially through its schools, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, the RCIA, Vocations Committee, and the Historical Commission.
- Communications such as the Diocesan e-News, information for parishes, this magazine, *Our Diocesan Community* and our website, [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)
- Our Professional Standards office and consultative panel, and the Diocesan Finance Office (which heavily supports our fifty-one parishes and our active and retired clergy).

The products and services the CDF offers include:

- Financial services and facilities including: BPay, credit/debit cards, merchant transaction processing via EFTPOS terminals; cheque accounts, direct credits/debits and bank guarantees;
- The convenience of CDF Online, which is available 24/7, allows customers to process payroll, make creditor payments, and access their statements;
- Transactional and investment accounts for our parishes, our fifty-three primary and eleven secondary schools

as well as diocesan agencies, offering competitive interest rates and support to assist with signatory changes, bank traces, cash withdrawals (through NAB) and stop-cheques; and

- Loans for parish related initiatives, primary and secondary schools projects (including technology related loans) and, new this year, to assist with the construction of a catholic hospital.

I'll end this communication with an extract from our Chairman's report from the 2017 Annual Report. "[I] acknowledge the support and loyalty that the Fund [receives] from the clergy, parishes, schools and colleges throughout the Diocese of Ballarat... The [CDF] is acutely aware it can only achieve any financial success from the loyalty and support of all sectors of the Diocese."

*Andrew Jirik - CDF Manager*

## CENTRE OF WELCOME

*What a delight to see the former Convent of Mercy/Sacred Heart College, Ballarat East come to life as 'a welcome centre'!*

*The Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc's Vision and Mission Statement calls upon it 'to actively promote and develop goodwill, understanding and harmony within our culturally diverse community'. The Council is now occupying a section of the convent as 'their hub' – a place where people can gather for many reasons – meetings, parties, exhibitions, markets, entertainment and what many people like to participate in, a tour of the section of the property available to the BRMC.*

*Recently I was privileged to participate in a meal and conversation with a group of about twenty-five young people of various cultural backgrounds – all architects and doing further study in the area of architecture at several Universities around Australia. I understand they had been invited by the BRMC to participate in conversation as to 'what they would dream' for the building/hub, giving them the opportunity to put theory and practice together. Part of their interest was 'the story' of the building during the time of the Sisters who lived and worked there and beyond, and the life of the school and boarders.*

*The meal took me back to the vast differences between this group and the foods they were eating, and the room which, in a former life, was the Sisters' dining room. I could not make sitting on the floor my choice, yet I did enjoy the meal from a chair! This meal was prepared by the mother of one of the group - rice, vegetables and Halal meat. The student herself is Syrian, and when she has finished her course has to return to Syria.*

*I left the group amazed at its diversity and at their interest in our history. I'm also excited for those participants in the BRMC Inc as they dream their dream to welcome all of us into their world.*

*Geraldine Mugavin rsm*



## Welcoming Emma to Candidacy

L to R: Joan Doyle RSM, Emma Llewellyn, Berenice Kerr RSM and Eveline Crotty RSM

Our Diocesan Community - July 2018

Earlier this year around fifty Sisters of Mercy gathered in the Mercy Centre chapel at Ballarat for Emma Llewellyn's Entrance to Candidacy Ritual. Berenice Kerr RSM, Community Leader South B, welcomed all present on this joyful occasion.

During the ritual Emma received a small cross from Institute Leader Eveline Crotty RSM.

Liz Dowling RSM, who will be Emma's companion in community, gave her the keys to their home and Kathy Ryan RSM, who will be Co-ordinator of the Candidacy program, presented Emma with the Constitutions of the Institute.

Emma, who was joined by members of her family at the ritual, gave a lovely reflection on the Gospel reading she had chosen and Kerry Thomas RSM who has been her mentor during her Enquiry Stage for two years read the Prayers of the Faithful. The ritual was followed by a traditional Mercy cup of tea. Congratulations Emma!

*Joan Doyle rsm, Director of Initial Formation*  
<http://institute.mercy.org.au/welcoming-emma-to-candidacy/>

# COME & SEE

Catholic Education Week 2018 was proudly celebrated through the theme, 'Come and See'. Schools are rapidly changing with the times. This change has had an exciting and engaging impact on education and on how schools invite people to come, see and experience education. Within the contemporary education environment, 'come and see', involves forming and nurturing education partnerships on a range of levels. 'Come and see' resonates at the heart of a Loreto education, as every week of the year members and supporters of the Loreto community are invited beyond the historic fence to experience a Loreto education and hear the unique stories of the College.

On a traditional platform, throughout Catholic Education Week, Loreto College Ballarat and St Patrick's College Ballarat welcomed all to come and see a showcase of extraordinary depth of future talent in their annual co-production of 'Beauty and the Beast'. Performed in the Loreto Abbey Theatre within the beautiful Mary's Mount Centre, students and staff combined traditional music and stage craft with state-of-the-art facilities to present this classic tale for all to enjoy. A highlight on the annual calendar, and the result of a wonderful collaboration of schools, 'Beauty and the Beast' was yet another wonderful production.

On an innovative platform, Loreto College has changed the face of what you see in the traditional school magazine. Loreto College's Verity magazine balances tradition and innovation, embracing print, digital and video technology within a bi-annual coffee table style and digital publication. The publication aligns and communicates the school mission, education, events and objectives, and facilitates greater connection, celebration and communication with the entire school community on a range of beautifully presented, interactive mediums.

'Come and see' is also about experience, and it is not just what you see, but what you experience when you visit Loreto College. In the spirit of the Loreto founder Mary Ward, who encouraged us to "be such as we appear and appear such as we are", Loreto girls past and present are nurtured by the perpetual Loreto Mission, Values and our very own, Loreto Spirit.

To this day, the Loreto Mission and Values (Felicity, Sincerity, Verity, Justice and Freedom) remain the pillars at the heart of a Loreto education. More than just words, it is how the girls engage with these values and bring them to life that nurtures the Loreto Spirit: a spirit enriched by the many and varied traditions. In the words of current Loreto students, "the Loreto Spirit means a shared journey in a caring, fun and active community where every person matters. It means genuine friendship, encouragement, engagement, empowerment, compassion and grace."

Come and see Loreto College, tours are held every month of the school term, or by appointment. Please visit the website for more information.

*Judy-Ann Quilliam - Director of Marketing and Development*



## Sacramental Mass at Wycheproof

On April 8 2018, St Michael's Catholic Church Wycheproof was the setting for a special Mass celebrated by Fr Eugene McKinnon, during which Grace McKersie and Harry Rawson received First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

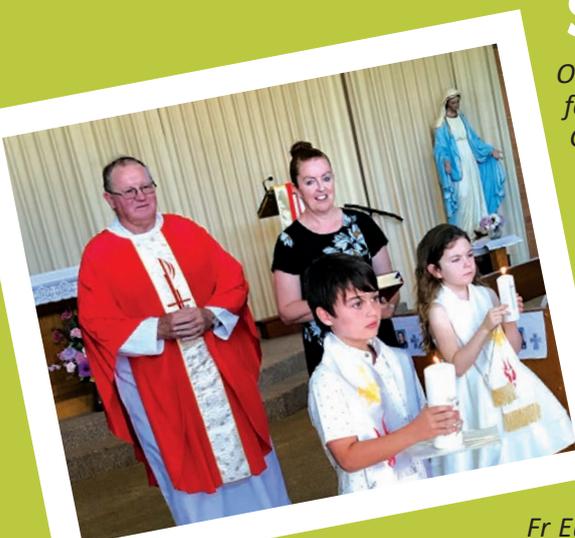
Abby MacDonald welcomed the candidates, their families and all the congregation as they joined in the sacramental celebration. Grace and Harry carried out their parts very well under the guidance of Fr Eugene and Mrs Joan MacDonald, who prepared the children.

Live music added to the occasion with Isabelle Mulquiny on the organ, Andrew Mens on clarinet, Cameron Mens and Xavier McKersie on guitar.

Grace and Harry and family greatly appreciated the support given by Fr Eugene, Joan MacDonald and everyone who assisted in marking this event as a special one in their faith journey. Morning tea in the meeting room followed after Mass, when more photos were taken.

Maureen McKersie, Wycheproof Parish

Fr Eugene McKinnon, Christine McKersie, Harry Rawson, Grace McKersie





## STUDENTS VOLUNTEER

More than thirty Damascus College Ballarat students studying VCAL volunteered their time on Thursday 24 – Friday 25 May at the Cobden Fire Relief, as part of the BlazeAid organisation. BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families in rural Australia after natural disasters, such as fires and floods. Working alongside families, they help to rebuild fences and other structures that have been destroyed or damaged, as well as cleaning farm properties.

The South West region of Victoria was affected by fires on St Patrick's Day this year, and the students chose to volunteer in this way as part of their Religious Education Social Justice Unit – Pay it forward.

Year 11 student Celeste Towers said that the students really wanted to help people in need within the local community, and chose to support the BlazeAid organisation as they do

such great work in assisting families that have lost a lot of their land in natural disasters. "Farmers are the primary suppliers of food, and without farmers, we don't eat, and food is a requirement for survival," she said.

The students stayed in the area overnight to help BlazeAid re-build fencing. They also donated perishable goods to the families affected by the fires. "Getting involved with BlazeAid enriched us as students in so many ways; it helped us to develop our Christian beliefs and values, to learn empathy, build strength and character, assisted in developing our work skills in a different environment and enabled us to face the reality of seeing people who have lost everything," said Celeste. "We really looked forward to helping the community and we gained a greater appreciation for what we have and the opportunities we are given."

Sarah Boswell, Leader of School Development

## TURNING 30

A full day of celebrations marked the 30th Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop College, Swan Hill on Wednesday, May 23, 2018. Our school sprang from the Catholic Primary School, St Mary's, in the 1980's but it wasn't until 1988 that the school was officially registered as MacKillop College. It was in this year that the first Year 12 students completed their VCE examinations. The school has come a long way since the first Year 12 students graduated. Through the tireless dedication and commitment of the staff, in partnership with parents and the whole community, each student who chooses to enrol at St Mary MacKillop College has the opportunity to grow, learn and flourish.

The celebrations began with the annual Catholic Education Swan Hill Mass celebrated by Fr Matthew Thomas. It was wonderful to see so many past parents and family members in attendance. The secondary students then set up a carnival at St Mary's Primary School, with twenty activity stations. Over the day, MacKillop students ran the activity stations for St Mary's Swan Hill and St Mary's Sea Lake primary school students. They also participated in stations when not running an activity. A wonderful day was had by all, with many fun activities organised such as jumping castles, a climbing wall, face painting, a mini disco and slime making. What a fantastic way of celebrating thirty years of Catholic secondary education in Swan Hill!

Emma Webb



# Making a difference



Maia Murphy, a Grade 4 student at St Thomas More School in Alfredton has brought a new meaning this year to “seeing a need and doing something about it”.

We launched Project Compassion 2018 by watching a video on the Caritas Website about Janaki. A young woman from Nepal, Janaki went through training to make clothing for her village. My Grade 3 and 4 students sat stunned that someone so young would have to own their own business, but one thing that resounded was that Janaki was paying for her siblings to go to school. Following the video, we made posters about how much money it costs to send a young person to school in Nepal. Maia Murphy in Grade 4 was very interested. Little did I know that she would go home and ask her mum for \$14 to help a child in Nepal go to school.

It is so heart warming to hear that students go home and discuss important issues with their parents, so it was wonderful when Maia’s mother Gemma came to speak to me a couple of days later. Maia, a talented drawer, had asked if she could create and sell t-shirts to raise as much money as she could to then donate to the Project Compassion appeal this year. Her goal was \$1000, and her mum was more than happy to encourage her daughter to achieve such an admirable goal.

Maia focused on two designs, a pink unicorn and a pineapple. A classmate’s dad helped to tidy up images to be screened onto white t-shirts, which Maia proceeded to sell for \$25 each. The t-shirts became very popular among her peers. Many teachers at St Thomas More School were more than happy to get on board with such a worthwhile cause.

All money raised so far has been donated to Nepalese children via Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion. She continues to sell her shirts via Facebook and has started a donations page on the Caritas website in order to help more children.

Maia has reached her goal and warmed many hearts in our school community this year during Lent. She has shown that one person really can make a difference.

If you would like to buy one of Maia’s t-shirts, visit her MM Project Compassion page on Facebook.

*Lauren Tyler - St Thomas More Classroom Teacher*

*The young have joined the young-at-heart at Mercy Place Warrnambool, with students aged three to four from the Good Start Kinder Preschool visiting the local aged care home once a month as part of an intergenerational program.*

*In a program designed to benefit participants young and old, the students sing songs, play games and share activities with residents at the home’s memory support unit.*

*Mercy Place Warrnambool Service Manager Helen Farnsworth said intergenerational activities promote respect, acceptance and social inclusion, and give residents the opportunity to connect with younger members of the community.*

*“Our residents love this program; it brings them great pleasure. They have many great stories and life experiences to share and the joy of sharing with children inspires a new level of engagement that carries over to their daily activities,” Mrs Farnsworth said.*

## WHEN BRIDGING THE AGE DIVIDE IS CHILD’S PLAY



*“There’s plenty of big smiles from both the children and the residents when the activities begin. Despite a significant age gap of often more than 90 years, our residents have formed great bonds and friendships with their younger counterparts. The experience is part of a strong*

*intergenerational ethos we aim to foster within the home, connecting residents to a younger generation often of similar age to their grandchildren.”*

*The intergenerational program, which has been underway since June 2017, also has a positive effect on the children, giving them opportunities to engage with and to perform for a generation with whom they may otherwise have limited contact.*

*“These intergenerational experiences also help in developing the children’s social, emotional, cognitive and language skills,” Mrs Farnsworth said. “We are always looking for ways to make our activities more innovative and to connect with the Warrnambool community.”*

*Mercy Place Warrnambool is a facility run by Mercy Health, a ministry of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISM PNG).*

First printed in Just Mercy  
Kasey McCulloch - Media Manager  
Our Diocesan Community - July 2018

# EARTHCARE June 18 - Anniversary of *Laudato Si'*

The Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) founding Board President, Amy Woolam Echeverria, visited Australia recently and spoke on the establishment, growth and work of the GCCM. Amy is also the International Coordinator for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) for the Missionary Society of St Columban (Columban Missionaries). The talk, held at the Mercy Hub Carlton on May 14, was attended by two members of the Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese group, Kate Lawry and Sandra Dillon.

GCCM was launched in January 2015, with just twenty partner groups, its founding document being *Laudato Si'*, the encyclical on climate change and ecology. There are now over seven hundred organisations, parishes and groups as members internationally. The movement works within the Catholic Church to promote key global moments for action, empowers grassroots action through programs and other tools and shares resources and information for climate justice.

In order to bring the encyclical to life, GCCM engages the community in the three dimensions of the climate crisis:

- the spiritual dimension, through ecological conversion, and through formulating events that gather people together. An example of this is the 22nd Earth Day,

which promotes the Season of Creation (September 1 - October 4), publicises events and makes liturgical and spiritual resources available.

- the lifestyle dimension, which encourages lifestyle changes, in harmony with creation, particularly the divestment from fossil fuels, and
- the public policy dimension, which raises voices in the public sphere calling for bold climate policies, and amplifying the *Laudato Si'* message in the media.

Pope Francis is at the forefront of this radical call to action. As recently as June 9, he told participants attending a Vatican conference dedicated to the need for a transition to clean energy, including the senior executives of ExxonMobil, Eni, BP, Royal Dutch Shell, Equinor and Pemex, that climate change was a challenge of “epochal proportions”, and that the world needs to come up with an energy mix that combats pollution, eliminates poverty and promotes social justice.

Sandra Dillon

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-06/pope-oil-gas-executives-vatican-conference-energy-transition.html>  
[http://www.mercyinternational.ie/news\\_centre/view\\_article.cfm?id=2968](http://www.mercyinternational.ie/news_centre/view_article.cfm?id=2968)

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global>

## World Earth Day

*Twenty members from the Mildura/Irymple/Red Cliffs/Merbein parishes gathered at the Wentworth Angling Club for a World Earth reflection retreat on Saturday, April 21. The day was facilitated by Fr Peter Wood msc and Sr Helen Nolen rsm.*

*What better place could you be in to reflect on the issues regarding World Earth, than in bright sunshine on the banks of the Murray River. The day was divided into three sessions led by Fr Peter, each containing group input, personal reflection and the sharing of insights. Session one centered on the wonder of God around us in the many and varied forms of life, session two delved into Incarnation and session three discussed key statements from Pope Francis's Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.*

*In session three the groups were invited to read ten key statements from the Pope's document and reflect on a few before sharing in an open forum facilitated by Sr Helen. Conclusions arising from the final discussion included:*

- *Climate change has grave implications.*
- *The earth is getting warmer.*
- *Rich countries continue to exploit and undermine the economies of poor nations.*
- *Christians need to rethink their understanding of Scripture.*
- *Access to safe, drinkable water must be ensured for all people.*
- *Technocratic domination leads to the destruction of nature and exploitation of people.*
- *Population control by itself does not address the problems of the poor.*

*The group concluded that it was important for individuals to act. Activities could include gathering signatures for a petition to be forwarded to Bishop Paul Bird seeking support for World Earth initiatives; refusing to purchase goods packed in non-recyclable plastic; avoiding the use of cotton buds; using recycle bins for all forms of plastic that does not return to its original shape after being crunched up into a ball; supporting Coles and Woolworths by using their recycle bins; use cloth or paper shopping bags; recycling batteries and printer cartridges; being water conscious and limiting its use; and finally supporting our school policies regarding the creation of a better world for the future.*





On Thursday, May 24, St Patrick's Catholic Primary School Stawell celebrated Catholic Education Week, with an invitation for our community to 'Come and See'.

Jim Waight from the Catholic Education Office worked with our teachers and students during their Religious Education lessons by conducting Godly Play sessions. During this time Educational Consultant, Tony Dalton, in partnership with teachers, conducted Guided Learning Walks throughout the school.

## ENGAGING FAMILIES IN THE LEARNING OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

These Guided Learning Walks involved community conversations and provided an opportunity for families to be engaged in their children's learning. Due to the high interest from families, two separate learning walks were conducted. The first Learning Walk looked at a religion lesson with Godly Play and the second Learning Walk looked at religion through an inquiry lens. Learning walks give the community time to engage in conversations around the current learning that is observed within the classroom. Following the Learning Walk, further conversations take place where additional questions are asked and knowledge of the Religious Education approach is deepened.

Parent/community engagement and learning was clearly evident with comments such as, 'every child was listened to', 'the children were so engaged', 'it was very respectful', 'different learning activities were provided', 'children were able to abstract ideas with different understandings'.

Our 'Come and See' Learning Walks highlighted the current teaching approaches to Religious Education and the diversity of learning that takes place in Catholic schools every day. The feedback from families who participated in the Guided Learning Walks was very positive with words such as 'inclusive', 'welcoming', 'more than just signs and symbols', 'engaging'.

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Stawell we strive to be transparent, inclusive and welcoming in partnership with our families.

*Elizabeth McIntrye - Principal*

## BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

*An innovative new community engagement program at St Patrick's College Ballarat is sending hundreds of Year 9 students out of the classroom and into the wider community on a volunteer basis. Each week the boys can be seen hard at work on the land, in the schools, in community kitchens or even at the animal welfare centre, contributing their time and efforts to the greater community good.*

*The Year 9 Community Service Program was introduced in Term 1 and is the brainchild of Director of the Middle School, Mr Michael Busscher. His aim was to ensure the College's 233 Year 9 students had the opportunity to become heavily involved in a community project by undertaking various forms of volunteer work throughout the year.*

*Mr Busscher said it was hoped that such a program would instil in students an ongoing passion for community service. "Our boys will be working hand-in-hand throughout the year with organisations such as the City of Ballarat Animal Shelter, United Way Ballarat, Child and Family Services, local primary schools, Ballarat Specialist School, PINARC and the Ballarat Woodworkers Guild and will be involved in a range of projects such as gardening and tree planting, providing classroom support, cleaning and maintenance and so on," Mr Busscher said.*

*"One of our key projects will be teaching our boys how to cook healthy and nutritious meals which will then be donated through the Ballarat Soup Van. We hope people in the Ballarat community can assist us with this by donating raw ingredients for our boys to cook. Many Ballarat organisations including MaxiFoods, Ryans IGA, Peaches Fruit Market and the Butchers Club at the Delacombe Town Centre are generously assisting us, but we'd like Ballarat families to also contribute. Any food donations can be dropped at St Patrick's College front reception and our boys will convert them into delicious meals for Ballarat's homeless."*

*"It is hoped that by being involved in such a program our Year 9 students will develop a passion for community service and that these experiences will further assist us in raising these fine boys to the status of great men."*

Paul Nolan, Director of Community Development

Photo: Kacee Kirwan-Hamilton prepares some chicken soup for distribution to the Ballarat Soup Kitchen to help feed the homeless people in Ballarat.



# YOUTH MASS AND FORMATION DAY

Recently, St Mary's Parish Church Community Birchip played host to Bishop Paul who was visiting as part of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Formation sessions.

The morning began with Bishop Paul and Fr Eugene McKinnon concelebrating a children's Mass which showcased children from the area taking on roles in the liturgy. Sr Manuela Cabigas, the Diocesan RCIA and Sacramental Facilitator and member of the Liturgical Commission, was present for moral support on the day. The music of the Mass was enjoyable with upbeat and reflective songs of praise beautifully produced by Joan Glen with her small choir.

A morning tea was on offer after Mass thanks to the co-ordination from Dianne Lehmann and the members of the St Mary's Ladies Committee. Bishop Paul and Sr Manuela were able to meet and greet parishioners whilst children and adults alike were able to enjoy catching up with each other. The Formation Q & A session was led by Bishop Paul in a round table format with around twenty attendees

from several parishes. The Bishop initiated questions to create conversation amongst those present. The subjects he chose were symbols in the liturgy such as the sign of the cross, genuflecting and the sign of peace. Bishop Paul went on to give us a brief history of these customs. The use of visual display systems in a liturgical celebration was the other discussion topic. Dialogue was plentiful with some interesting observations from those present. Mention was made about how being involved in Lay Led Assemblies has taught those involved to become more knowledgeable about scripture and the running of the liturgy.

Finally, Bishop Paul explained about the Diocesan Resource Centre in Lyons Street South, Ballarat and brought along some of the items it has available to borrow. Many people were surprised to hear this and were keen to borrow a book that would normally be impossible to source in mainstream libraries or too expensive to buy. Many thanks to Joanne van der Voort for organising the resources to be on show for participants on the day.

Noeline Hogan



## Girls Day Out continues with support

Women residing in Supported Residential Accommodation (SRS) and boarding homes across Ballarat have been given the opportunity to socialise, network and build longstanding friendships with funding from the Ballarat Bishop's Charitable Fund, which supports Centacare to deliver the Girls Day Out events.

Earlier this month over eighteen women attended A Girls Day Out at the Ballarat Wildlife Park. Homelessness Support and Advocacy Services Coordinator, Donna Bogdanovski, spoke of the great benefits such an outing provided for these women. "These days out provide women who may feel isolated with relief and a positive opportunity to engage with the community, develop friendships with other women in similar circumstances and build long lasting memories and bonds. This program quite simply provides empowerment by breaking down the barriers and giving women with physical and mental health barriers an opportunity to be included," said Donna.

Participants on the day spoke highly of being able to learn about and watch the animals, have a day out and make new friends. Many of the women described the day positively commenting it was "great", "made me feel good" and "I enjoyed being out with others." Centacare will look to continue this activity into the future.



Danielle Verdoorn, Marketing & Communications Officer  
Photo by Pixor [Public domain] from Wikimedia Commons

## Introducing Rachel Smith Education Officer: Social Justice

**Where did you grow up? Where else have you lived?** I grew up in Enfield with my family of 7! I lived in Hamilton when I was a baby and then in Ballarat for around 10 years.

**What has been your career progression?** When I finished secondary school at Damascus College I had no real sense of what I wanted to do with my life. I was not committed to school life or study during my teenage years and so I barely passed VCE and certainly did not get any university offers. I was 17 and working a couple of part time jobs. I applied for a full time traineeship as an integration aide and it did not take me long to realise I loved learning and working with children so I applied for a teaching degree at ACU during a mid year intake and to my surprise I got in! After I graduated from teaching (2002) I taught at St Mary's in Ararat for 2 years, St James' the Apostle in Hoppers Crossing, St Augustine's in Creswick for 2 years and St James' Sebastopol for 11 years. I am now teaching at Emmaus Catholic Primary School in Mt Clear and I think it is an amazing school. I work in partnership with Geoff Martin (who I attended kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and university with) in the REL role and I teach a Year 1 and 2 group. My daughters Maggie and May attend Emmaus too and I feel it is such a blessing to be there with them! I also work as the Social Justice Education Officer for Catholic Education Office. Over the years I have worked in many diverse roles and feel they have all been life giving in some way, even when they have been really hard.

**If you were a colour what would it be? Why?** I would be white because I want to bring light to the world and to the lives of others. There is a lot of darkness and oppression in our world these days but there is also a lot of light. If we look for light in others we see it and we get to share it! I also think white invites color and provides a platform for the other colors to shine on – which might be the teacher and mother coming out in me.

**You have completed a doctorate/thesis? What is it about?** The title of my thesis is 'Parenting Programs, Play and Intergenerational Poverty'. My work focused on collecting the voices of parents who experience intergenerational poverty. I collected their views on parenting, play and parenting programs as these views were missing from current academic literature. After finding out the lived experience for these parents, I designed a course according to the criteria the parents described and the trial of this course achieved 100% attendance and clinically significant changes in the parent child relationship. The course is called 'Parents Play'. Once Parents Play was successful, I trained professionals in Australia and overseas in implementing Parents Play in their hospitals, community health organisations and private practices. The roll out of Parents Play was successful and is still being utilised today. Important information about the barriers to implementation within organisations were also collected and analysed in light of the question 'how do we engage parents who experience intergenerational poverty?'

Essentially I have contributed original knowledge to the field, represented the views of vulnerable parents and provided something tangible to engage parents with their children and to belong to a community. It is this belongingness that has the potential to change the course of people's lives.

Throughout my candidature I had one paper published in a high impact journal and I currently have two other papers to redraft but I am having a break from writing for now!

**What is your role in the Diocese?** I am the Social Justice Education Officer for the Catholic Education Office, Ballarat. My role is about developing and sustaining communication channels with and between primary and secondary schools in our diocese. I work to build social justice networks and to connect our students with people and organisations that work on social justice initiatives in our diocese and beyond. I am currently working on building online resources for teachers to access in the near future. A part of my role is fulfilling the role of Executive Member on the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission (BDSJC) which is a wonderful team to work with and is lead by our wonderful Bishop, Paul Bird. The Commission is a group of 13 dedicated individuals who work together to action and live out social justice initiatives, providing support and advocacy to many groups.

**If you chose a song which most represented you at this time, what would the song be?** Frank Sinatra's 'That's Life!' Probably because life is unpredictable and I, like others, experience the natural ebb and flow of life, the wonderment and mystery of life itself, trials and triumphs, joys and challenges. I think we always feel there is so much more we need to achieve, particularly in the pursuit of a just world. Frank Sinatra talks about the fine old world that will keep spinning around, and my Year 1 and 2 students have been reflecting on the wonder of creation which reminds me of this song. My grandfather passed away recently and he taught me about just going with it and having gratitude for life itself. I think this song is about that message.

**What issues of Social Justice do you think needs addressing urgently?** There are so many to name – the refugee crisis, new regulations around detention centre visitation, climate change, intergenerational poverty in Australia, absolute poverty in developing countries and civil unrest in other nations. At the heart of all of the issues is human fault – we fail to love one another. If we could recognise the image and likeness of God in one another, we could solve all of these issues very easily. Sometimes we think it takes a lot of effort to solve the world's problems but a simple act of love can have a triumphant ripple effect and change the course of life. Mother Teresa inspired me when she said 'When we judge people, we have no time



to love them'. We must not judge others but see ourselves in their shoes. Love, I believe, is a verb.

**What was the last book you read?** I have just finished reading Thomas Groome's 'Will there be faith', because he just visited our diocese and I met him. We use his work widely at Emmaus. I am also reading Jacqui Lambie's 'Rebel with a Cause', which is quite a contrast but I feel she knows something about faith. I am reading Margaret Wheatley's 'Leadership and the new science' because I find her inspiring and Christ like in her message. I am reading Better Homes and Gardens Magazines and Apples for Jam cookbook. I have difficulty committing to one book.

**If you could choose anyone from any time, who would you most like to be in conversation with and why?** I would like to meet Mother Teresa because she was such a beautiful person who changed so many lives. A good friend of mine from Emmaus, Doris, told me about the movie 'The Letters' and I found it moving on a number of levels. She saw herself as an instrument and dedicated her life to the salvation of others. I would like to be as amazing as her, so to talk with her would help me to know how to be.

## Feast of St Peter Chanel

The Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 29 was also the Feast of St Peter Chanel, National Patron of Tonga and beloved Saint across the whole Oceanic Region. Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church Mildura with Samoans and Fijians also present in the congregation.

The whole sanctuary was decorated with beautiful tapa - the traditional barkcloth made on islands of the Pacific. Members of the Tongan Community, who led the singing, were also dressed in their finest.

Fr Peter Wood MSC was celebrant for the Eucharist. He spoke of his experience in the seminary in Fiji, told the brief story of Peter Chanel, a French priest, and related how the blood of martyrs has contributed to the growth of Christianity on the island of Futuna, spreading from there to many communities in the Pacific.

*Sr Helen Nolen rsm*



Praying before the icon of Saint Peter Chanel



## IRISH EXHIBITION

On the weekend of April 14 and 15, the Ballarat Diocesan Archive held its first exhibition in around twenty years. Almost two hundred people filed through to view 'The Irish as Represented in the Archive'. The display highlighted artefacts that reflected Irish influence, including the foundational books from the Ballarat Hibernian Society 1868 (an Irish Catholic fraternal organization). Vestments in elaborate brocade with satin panels of embroidered shamrocks and Illuminated Addresses with Celtic motifs in gold raised many exclamations of pleasure.

The Hibernian regalia and records, combined with a map of Ireland with family names and 1916 Irish newspapers, linked many visitors with memories of their fathers and grandparents. The exhibition followed on from an assessment team's work on the collection which was made possible by two grants, the National Library Community Heritage Grant and the State Government Heritage grants in 2016-2017. Their work opened up the full extent of the richness and worth of this collection.

Thanks to the many volunteers who made this exhibition come to life, including parishes who promoted it on their bulletins and Fr Justin Driscoll who promoted it at the Cathedral Masses on the day. Federation University was responsible for its promotion in Melbourne and thanks also to the Ballarat City Library for loan items. Only by support of parishes, groups and individuals across the diocese for this valuable resource, can we preserve our stories on which to build our future.

Michael Taffe – Diocesan Archivist

# service and award

As a part of Catholic Education Week, we celebrated with the many staff who opened their hearts to joy in its fullness in their school communities. Twenty-six Catholic education staff from across our diocese were recognised for providing thirty years of service to Catholic education. Imagine how many lives they have each touched with their work in Catholic schools! I was delighted to be part of the Catholic Education Week celebration on Friday, May 18 where I was in the privileged position of reflecting on my thirty years of service in Catholic Education.

I was also honoured to be in the company of our three Ballarat Diocese School Advisory Council Catholic Education Week Awards recipients. The three Diocesan Leadership Awards seek to recognise leadership that reflects one or more aspects of the Diocesan Education Vision: As partners in Catholic education and open to God's presence, we pursue fullness of life for all.

- The Partnership Award was presented to Breeana Wade, Assistant Principal, St Joseph's PS, Red Cliffs. Breeana is the creator and developer of a digital version of the Professional Learning Communities Health Check (the Common Formative Assessment Tasks Data Collection tool). This provides an online platform, within which schools can collaborate and track the health of their PLC. It significantly enhances the process of the PLC health check and provides opportunities for school leaders to collaborate.
- The Catholic Leadership Award was presented to Jean Christie, Director of Marketing, Emmanuel College Warrnambool for leadership that provides active witness to God's presence in the education, parish and/or diocesan community and that enhances the education community's Catholic identity. Jean's work as Director of Marketing has been vital to Emmanuel College since 2008, allowing the establishment of a strong College brand and shaping and influencing the public perception and identity of the College within the local and broader communities. Jean is a strong advocate for minority groups, an active supporter of the Performing Arts, a talented visual designer, a contributor to the social capital of the College and a great connector for colleagues, students, alumni and the broader community.
- The Fullness of Life Award was presented to Tania Bruckner, Director of Professional Practice, Mercy Regional College, Camperdown. Tania has played a major role in articulating where the teaching and learning priorities of Mercy Regional College need to go. In collaboration with colleagues, Tania developed and implemented a comprehensive model of teacher appraisal and feedback for Mercy College - Supporting Excellence in Learning and Teaching (SELT). This has brought about a tightened focus with respect to learning and teaching, increased collaboration amongst peers, greater capacity across the whole staff and improved engagement with parents around student learning.

As schools invited communities to "Come and See" what Catholic schools had to offer during Catholic Education Week, my hope is that you continue to experience a joy in your ministry and a sense of satisfaction that you have answered the call to serve in Catholic education. What else could be more important?

*Audrey Brown - Director of Catholic Education*

## 30 Years Service to Catholic Education - 2018 Recipients

Chris Brouwers	St Paul's PS, Mildura
Audrey Brown	Catholic Education Office, Ballarat
Michael Busscher	St Patrick's College, Ballarat
Leanne Carpenter	Mercy Regional College, Camperdown
Mandy Carroll	Loreto College, Ballarat
Jean Christie	Emmanuel College, Warrnambool
Nicola Crawford	Monivae College, Hamilton
Barbara Croft	St Mary's PS, Swan Hill
Leonie Darken	St Patrick's College, Ballarat
Janice Divola	St Joseph's PS, Red Cliffs
Peter Fotheringham	Monivae College, Hamilton
Clare Fuller	St Columba's PS, Ballarat North
Judith Gustus	St Patrick's PS, Ballarat
Sandra Harvey	Catholic Education Office, Ballarat
Bernadette Luckman	St Francis Xavier PS, Ballarat East
Linda McDonald	Loreto College, Ballarat
John McGlashan	St Joseph's College, Mildura
Peter Mullane	St Francis Xavier PS, Ballarat East
Ian Stowe	Loreto College, Ballarat
Joanne Wheelahan	St Thomas More PS, Alfredton
Leslie Butler	St Brigid's College, Horsham
Maureen Gstrein	St Thomas' PS, Terang
John Healy	St Mary's PS, Hamilton
Gerard Nicholls	St Brigid's College, Horsham
Michael Owen	Emmanuel College, Warrnambool
Lesa Thornton	Mercy Regional College, Camperdown



1. 2018 Recipients
2. Jean Christie and Peter Morgan
3. Darren Egberts and Tania Bruckner
4. Leigh Mitchell and Breeana Wade

# Mass at Sovereign Hill

*"Come and See" was the theme of Mass on the goldfields of Sovereign Hill on Monday, May 28, 2018. The congregation, made up of nine representatives of local Catholic schools, gathered outside the goldfields Church to witness Fr Tom Brophy raise a flag to signal the beginning of Mass, continuing the custom of raising a flag with an ecclesiastical cross half an hour before Mass was due to start.*



*The congregation was reminded that the diggers who flocked to the Ballarat Goldfields came with hopes and dreams of a better life and that many were united in their faith to help them with the difficult times experienced. Learning of the Latin Mass, the vestments worn by priests and some of the treasures and practices of the past, students were able to learn so much of the history of the Catholic faith tradition, while engaging meaningfully with others from Catholic schools and Sovereign Hill and enjoying Fr Tom's stories!*

*However, the highlight of the day was the Ballarat Diocesan Schools Advisory Council (BDSAC) Award for Outstanding Service to Catholic Education presented by Audrey Brown to Annemarie Kierce at the conclusion of Mass. Newly retired but returning for the Mass, Annemarie was taken completely by surprise by the award, while the congregation was delighted! Estimating that Annemarie taught close to 400,000 students across her twenty-three years at Sovereign Hill, it was her partnering between Sovereign Hill Education with Catholic Education Ballarat that Audrey Brown particularly acknowledged. A few highlights of Annemarie's work at Sovereign Hill included a deep commitment to Catholic Education, her ability to develop special relationships with all Catholic schools visiting Sovereign Hill, making them feel especially welcomed as part of the Sovereign Hill family, developing and running a special education program called "Our Catholic Church," which celebrated the contribution of Catholics on the goldfields and conducted specific programs for St Patrick's College on prominent Catholics in Victoria's history and implementing the celebration of Catholic Education week at Sovereign Hill, including the hosting of an annual Mass for local schools.*

*As a quiet, caring and humble person, Annemarie never sought the limelight, but worked tirelessly and reliably for others. She will be greatly missed and we wish her a wonderful retirement!*

*Jo-anne van der Voort, Education Officer, Catholic Education Office, Ballarat*



beds. Ian presented us with valuable information around the growing media differences, flow rate adjustments, fish and plant health tips and tips for power outages. Next stop was Lazlow's incredible system using wicker beds and constant flooding as opposed to Ian's and our own self draining system. The students were able to see a different style of aquaponics and also a different philosophy to running the system. Lazlow used homemade maggot traps and pond algae systems to supply his own fish food and also used meat from his chicken farming hobby as bait in the maggot traps and to feed the trout! This system was highly self-reliant and cost effective giving us ideas for future expansion of our own system.

After lunch we headed off to the Ballarat Hatchery where Frank and Brian gave us a full run down of their program from harvesting and fertilising the fish eggs to hatching the alvin, feeding the fry and separating the fingerlings. Commencing in the late 1800's, the Ballarat Hatchery has a long history and is an important part of Ballarat, supplying 6000 trout per year to Lake Wendouree and tens of thousands of trout to destinations all over Australia.

All up, the trip was a great success and has complemented and enhanced the College's new venture into the exciting world of aquaponics!

*Ben McKenzie, Design Technology Coordinator*

On Thursday, April 19, students from Emmanuel College Warrnambool's Year 10 Agriculture and Horticulture class travelled to Ballarat to inspect two long standing Aquaponics systems and to collect rainbow trout for their own system back at Emmanuel College.

First stop was a visit to a keen Ballarat Permaculture Guild member's private Aquaponics system. Ian walked the students through his own medium scale system which included a 9000ltr set up running approximately twenty bathtub sized grow beds, along with ten large IBC grow

# GREAT THINGS FOR ME

The existence and vitality of the church in this diocese across the decades can be measured in the youth of the day. The Ballarat Catholic Young Men's Society (CYMS) was formed in 1892. From that organisation, Prime Ministers Scullin and Curtin learned and developed their debating, social justice and leadership skills before going on to lead the nation. The CYMS had spread throughout the diocese by the time of World War II.



By the 1940s the National Catholic Girls Movement (NCGM) and the Young Christian Workers (YCW), into which the NCGM eventually merged, were attracting the youth of the diocese and working at the parish level. Meetings, activities and publications promoted the work of these young people across Western Victoria.

The YCW fostered activities across the diocese including the foundation of building societies, some records of which are in the diocesan archive. Many of today's leaders across the diocese trace their social development to their youth and involvement in these church activities early in their formation.

The first Ballarat Diocesan Young Catholic Students (YCS) Conference report in 1969 tells us that there were five hundred and eighty five students involved across ten parishes in the diocese. Outside of the YCS two hundred students at Port Fairy were involved in discussion groups, one hundred and twenty at Koroit and forty – fifty at Camperdown involved in Christian Formation groups. In the 1980s the Diocesan Youth Ministry team took up the role of directing youth activities around the diocese.

The Catholic Church across this diocese owes its vitality and survival to the commitment of the young people across Western Victoria. The archive preserves much of the history of these developments in minutes, correspondence and publications. They exist not simply to preserve memory but to use that memory to inspire us into the future. These records demonstrate how young people have contributed much of what is best in our church today; through them great things have been done for the church and the wider community.

As the theme of the next World Youth Day proclaims, "The Mighty One has done great things for me, holy is his name" (Lk 1:49), we pray for our youth and focus on them for this *Year of Youth*.

Michael Taffe - Archivist  
Photo: Ballarat CYMS group 1933

## Visual Display Guidelines

*The Diocesan Liturgical Commission has recently published the revised "Guidelines for Use of Visual Display Systems in Liturgy." These guidelines provide information on the installation and use of visual display systems in our churches.*

*The guidelines will assist those preparing slideshows for liturgical celebrations. Visual displays needs to be a secondary, rather than a primary focus, in a liturgical space. The focus must remain on the mysteries that are celebrated at the altar, with visual displays supporting worship when required.*

*Bishop Paul launched these guidelines at a Liturgy Formation Day held in Birchip on May 27, further launches will take place at the next formation days in Ararat on June 24 and Hamilton on July 29. Workshops will be offered to assist with the implementation of these*

*guidelines, "In many of our Ballarat diocesan churches, we are fortunate to have visual display systems. However, as with anything new being added to something very old, we sometimes need to explore how to meld the two together and ensure that those gathered in prayer are able to participate fully, consciously and actively in the liturgy being celebrated." For more information on these days go to the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or contact the Pastoral Ministry Office, ph. 5337 7159.*

*Copies of the guidelines have been distributed to all parishes and schools in the diocese. Further copies can be downloaded from the members section of the diocesan website or print copies are available from the Pastoral Ministry Office or email [liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au).*

# Loreto Sisters Jubilees

At this year's Mary Ward Week celebrations, Loreto Sisters sang the following words:

*We are many parts, we are all one body;  
and the gifts we have, we are given to share ...*

Across 2018 the Loreto family here in Australia and South East Asia celebrate the gifts shared in love by eight jubilarians who have served God, the IBVM and all creation for almost half a millennium in total! The following Sisters have been part of the Ballarat Diocese over their years of ministry:

**Maria Bongiorno ibvm** - After a rich career in primary education Maria undertook further studies in spirituality and adult formation here and in the US. She has worked and continues working in areas of initial formation within the IBVM and with other religious congregations. Maria held the position of Director of the Institute for Mission for nine years which included adult pastoral formation, and worked with the ongoing formation of the clergy in the Parramatta Diocese. Her leadership, faith and gifts now find expression as a member of the Province Leadership Team, Community Leader at Kirribilli and in her support of the staff and students at Loreto Kirribilli. She is sustained by her passion for, and interest in, the Leaders of our Loreto Schools.

**Margie Bourke ibvm** - Margie's IBVM story has taken her to the Kimberley, Peru and now Timor Leste where she has worked in parish sacramental, primary school and community development programmes and has taught English to refugees and migrants. Margie's ministry in Timor involves visiting parishioners, especially the

elderly housebound, to distribute communion, engage in conversation and assist with practical needs as they arise.

**Margaret Sculley ibvm** - Marg is a one-eyed Geelong supporter who has exercised a range of leadership roles across Loreto primary schools and the Province. Recently Marg's community members celebrated her unstinting fidelity to, and support of, frail members of the Province and her commitment to community and Province leadership across many years. Marg sees this time of jubilee as an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings she has enjoyed as a daughter of Mary Ward with deep gratitude and is looking forward to participating in a sabbatical programme at Baulkham Hills.

**Bernadette Ziesing ibvm** - Bernadette's role in Loreto education and a multitude of activities since 'retiring' revolves around an abiding love for 'disadvantaged and disillusioned young people.' This passion has seen Bernadette commit to programmes in various Youth Training Centres, Flexi-Schools, a Diocesan AIDS Centre and various youth, spirituality and homework programmes across a number of states. By all accounts Adelaide's Flexicentre, which supports young people recently released from detention and in other difficult circumstances, will simply not allow Bernadette to retire!

The Loreto family rejoices with these Mary Ward women as they further God's reign of faith, hope and love in our day. As the Melbourne Jubilee hymn echoed – May the Spirit of love make us one indeed! We thank you for your faithfulness and love!

Text and photos courtesy of Loreto Australia and South East Asia – [loreto.org.au](http://loreto.org.au)



On Sunday, April 22 members of the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Sunraysia Regional Council met at the Sunraysia Regional Assistance Centre for their Festival Meeting. After an enjoyable lunch and catch-up with friends we gathered in the Meeting Room to gain information about the Headspace facility in Mildura. We were fortunate to have as our presenter Mr Matt Spencer, who is the Community Engagement and Group Program Co-ordinator with Headspace Mildura.

Matt reminded us that Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12 – 25 year olds, as set up by the government in 2006. As well as showing slides of the Headspace facility in Mildura, Matt also showed slides and videos of the involvement of Headspace personnel with students in Sunraysia Schools and elsewhere.

Different aspects of mental health were covered together with referral information. The session was enriched by questions from the floor and printed material left by Matt that will help us to recognise and respond to Mental Health issues for all ages.

## FESTIVAL MEETING



Patricia - Sunraysia Assistance Centre

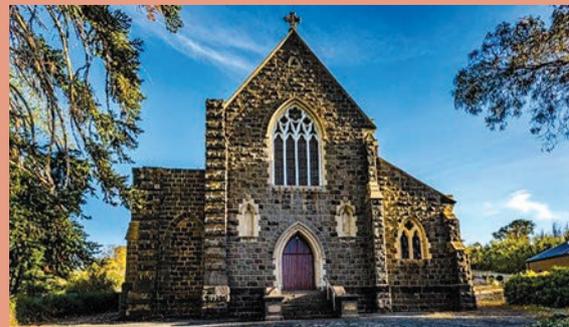
# CLUNES FAREWELL

On Sunday, May 29, 2018 we were delighted with the crowd that attended the afternoon event to wish farewell to the Harmonium organ and acknowledge the closure of St Thomas Aquinas Church Clunes. Fr Gary Jones, Parish Priest, welcomed the crowd and thanked them for coming. The number of people that attended was many more than we expected and many were former Clunes residents. Also people from other denominational churches in the area came along to support and share with us in the event. To have Mary (Power) Lo Lacono play the organ again was very special - she first played that organ when she was fourteen years old and continued to play that organ for the next fifty years. We also had Anne Marie Culvenor play. Judy Houston (an organiser for Organs in the Goldfields) gave a short talk about the organ, and Meg Barry who grew up in Ullina and attended St Thomas Aquinas Church with her family for many years, gave a wonderful talk on her memories of attending church there.

We then went to the Warehouse Gallery for afternoon tea, where Fr Gary thanked the museum for accepting our offer of the organ. All former parishioners then cut the beautifully decorated cake which had a replica of the church made into the icing.

The organ is now in its new home at The Clunes Museum. We would like to thank everyone who attended, and also the people who helped in so many ways to make this day very special for the St Thomas Aquinas Community.

Leah Monaghan - Parish Secretary



## SUPPORT HUB OPENED



On Saturday, April 14, the Galilee Centre and Amelie Ozanam Vincentian Support Hub Ballarat was opened by Fr Justin Driscoll, Kevin McMahon, St Vincent de Paul Society State President and Marie O'Brien, the North West Central Council President. The Hub is a visible example of our Society and Church working together, to provide support to our hard working North West Central Council members and volunteers in their invaluable service to the poor.

The day commenced with Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by Fr Justin Driscoll. Prior to the official opening he presented a fascinating history of the Catholic Church in Ballarat and the building of St Patrick's Hall in which the Amelie Ozanam Vincentian Support

Hub within the Galilee Centre is situated. Allen Moloney, a member of the Ballarat Cathedral Conference read the welcome to country. Marie O'Brien explained the rationale for the Hub and why it is named after Amelie Ozanam, wife of Frederic.

The Hub consists of a meeting room for the members and an Administration Centre for staff and members. Following the opening, guests toured the new facility and Graham Trethowan conducted an informative tour of the adjacent Ballarat Assistance Centre.

Other guests included Deputy State President Michael Quinn, Margaret Gearon, State Youth Representative Rebecca Cassar, CEO Sue Cattermole, NWCC Regional Presidents and many St Vincent de Paul members. This new facility is a tribute to those who support our Vincentians to do their work.

Helen Meade - NWCC Secretary

## “ONE MILLION STARS TO END VIOLENCE”

Artist Maryann Talia Pau is responsible for the project which she started in response to a local tragedy whilst living in Melbourne. She wanted to find a way of bringing people together to support each other, not only in times of crisis but every day. She set a symbolic goal of weaving one million stars as a symbol of light and love and invited people around the world to join her.

Students from St Mary's School Donald in Grades 4, 5 and 6 (2017) joined in this amazing project and contributed two hundred beautifully folded stars. Stars were collected from over fifteen countries including Samoa, Cook Islands, Canada, England, Kenya, Barbados, Fiji, New Zealand, Japan, USA, Malaysia, Scotland, Tonga, Nigeria and Australia. The temporary public art installation was displayed as part of Brisbane's Festival 2018 during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The artist stated that 'The One Million Stars' installation, presented by the Museum of Brisbane, would mean many things for different people but her personal hope is that the installation allows men, women and children, regardless of race, gender, culture or belief, feel as though they are part of a community and of a world that cares.

She hopes that the completion of one million stars shows just how much we can achieve when we work together to

create change and that it inspires a sense of hope, pride and belonging in our communities.

St Mary's students, who folded their stars with so much enthusiasm, hope that the installation has sent a lasting message to the thousands of people who visited the art work, to always love and care for each other! Senior Class teacher, Mrs Hogan, was lucky enough to visit the display while in Brisbane over the holidays and can attest to the beauty and solidarity generated by the ONE MILLION STARS.

What an amazing experience and opportunity to be involved in such a special project and to help spread Talia Pau's message worldwide!

Mary Hogan - Religious Education Leader,  
St Mary's Primary School, Donald



## JOY SPREADING IN BALLARAT

*There was a gathering of young adults in Ballarat recently for the first of the Joy Spreading events. A Year of Youth initiative, Joy Spreading is an opportunity for young adults to talk and socialise in a friendly and informal environment.*

*The fire was on in the comfortable private space at Ballarat's Lakeview Hotel with food and refreshments available where we gathered. Each Joy Spreading will have a speaker to start the conversation. Our first speaker Amanda Smith from Ballarat Diocese Pastoral Services spoke on 'Being Catholic, a multiple choice banquet', highlighting the many opportunities offered by Catholic tradition and thought, while acknowledging the challenges of our current context. After this presentation there was a short Q&A as a group. Everyone then continued with wider conversation and socialising. Discussions were lively as people talked with new and continuing friends on a wide range of topics, with lots of laughter and connections made. Thanks to all who came and made it a wonderful evening.*

*The theme of the Year of Youth is Opening New Horizons for Spreading Joy! The next Joy Spreading event hosted by Ballarat Youth and Young Adult Ministry is on Friday, July 27 at the Lakeview. Information on all our events is on the Youth and Young Adult pages [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)*

Patrick Kennedy, Youth and Young Adult Ministry Project Worker





- to provide relief, support and comfort for those suffering from disadvantage within the Diocese, including unemployment, low income, age, physical or mental disability, language difficulties or social or economic isolation.

The Foundation has its own rules, constitution and board of management, and operates as a distinct entity from general diocesan finances. It has grown and now holds net assets of \$9.7m. In total \$330,300 was distributed during 2017 to the Diocese and through parishes to support activities such as: the Holiday program run by the Wendouree West Exodus Community; the One Humanity Shower Bus Project; men's mental health via the Chris Yeung fund; sponsorship of the cost of buses to get the Diocese's youth to the 2017 Youth Festival in Sydney; and support for organ scholarships at St Joseph's Parish in Warrnambool. The Foundation also again supported St Vincent de Paul during 2017 by funding, in part, the establishment of their new office and development centre for the North West Central Council (located at St Patrick's Hall in Ballarat), and assisting with the cost of an after school tutoring program for low income families (run out of St Joseph's Parish in Warrnambool).

#### Supporting the Foundation:

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

The Foundation held its 32nd Annual General Meeting in June 2018, so it is timely to update the diocese on the activities of the Foundation during 2017.

The Foundation was established in 1986 to raise funds to assist the Bishop fund the pastoral needs of the Diocese of Ballarat. Over the last twenty years in particular there has been a shift in the demographics of our diocese with declining population in many rural areas, population growth in regional towns, and a continuing decrease in Mass attendance.

Our diocese comprises 51 parishes with 109 church communities within those parishes. We are faced therefore with an increasing challenge to provide services to people within our Diocese. The Foundation is in its 33rd year of assisting the Bishop in providing these services.

The objectives of the Foundation are:

- to financially assist the Diocese in its mission to grow Christ's kingdom here on earth;
- to financially assist the charitable works of the Diocese;

## CELEBRATING THE CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP

*On Sunday May 5, members of the Thomas Carr College Tarneit community gathered at the Good Samaritan Campus for our annual Mass with the Cororooke Parish at St Brendan's Church, Coragulac. Mass was celebrated by Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, a world-renowned Scripture Scholar. The College Choir enhanced the celebration of the Eucharist by their wonderful voices singing the various parts of the Mass and hymns of praise. The Mass and lunch provided the opportunity to celebrate the continuing partnership between the Parish and the College. During the Mass Fr Brendan's homily not only reflected beautifully on the Gospel reading but paid tribute to the local parish community.*



*Members of the community inspected the Good Samaritan Campus and the day also provided the opportunity for members of the College community to inspect St Brendan's Presbytery, which the College has recently taken over as it continues to develop the site. Thomas Carr College will now refurbish this wonderful old residence to provide for additional staff accommodation.*

*The Good Samaritan Convent is an historic building which has served and continues to serve the Catholic community. It is much loved and treasured by the members of the parish and more widely by many people across the Western District. It has been part of the landscape for nearly a century and it has touched the lives of thousands of people, some very deeply, since it was opened in 1923.*

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

Dr Andrew Watson - Principal  
Our Diocesan Community - July 2018



## **BDPF FUNERAL FUND INC.**

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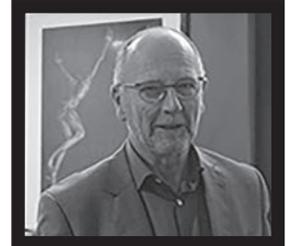
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## *New Vicar-General*

Bishop Paul Bird announced the new Vicar General for the Diocese of Ballarat. In announcing it, Bishop Paul said the following:

Earlier in the year I noted that Fr Justin Driscoll would soon be coming to the end of his five-year term as Vicar General and I invited suggestions as to who might be suitable candidates for this role for the years ahead.

I am pleased to announce that the new Vicar General is Fr Kevin Maloney.



I am most grateful to Fr Kevin for accepting the appointment in addition to his duties as parish priest of Redan and Sebastopol.

I am also most grateful to Fr Justin for the wonderful service he has given as Vicar General over the past five years and for his readiness to continue till a new person could take up this responsibility.

As I thank Fr Justin for his service and welcome Fr Kevin as the new Vicar-General, I pray for blessings on you all in all the services you provide throughout our diocese.

*God bless you all,  
Bishop Paul Bird*

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL VISIT**

Students from St Mary's School Ararat in Grades 5/6 recently welcomed Marilyn and Derek from the Ararat St Vincent de Paul Society. They spoke to students about their experience as volunteers with St Vincent de Paul and the help they provide to many individuals and families in need.

Five fast facts about the St Vincent de Paul Society in Ararat:

- Vinnie's work with multiple groups across the Ararat community including the Salvation Army, Church of Christ, Uniting Church and Anglican Church.
- Vinnie's volunteers visit the sick, the elderly and the lonely, offer assistance and emergency relief for people who are sick, have lost their jobs, or have become homeless.
- Vinnie's see on average twenty-five families per week seeking assistance.
- Vinnie's helps people in need by offering them a "hand up" to get their life back on track.
- Vinnie's changes lives everyday!





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 the Plenary Council to be held in 2020. 'Praying towards 2020' missions in April/May were the first step for our diocese in the journey towards the council. People in our local parish communities will continue to have the chance to come together to pray and reflect on the Church in the diocese and in Australia.

**Photos:**

*Front cover: Beauty and the Beast Loreto College and St Patrick's College Ballarat, St Mary Mackillop College Swan Hill, Thomas Groome and Bishop Paul Bird, Mass at Sovereign Hill, Mildura World Earth Day Gathering, St Alipius Parish Cluster Schools. Back cover: 1. HSCN Network Day 2. Fr Tom Brophy celebrating Mass at Sovereign Hill 3. St Joseph's College Mildura Feast Day Mass 4. Damascus College Ballarat BlazeAid*

We are the Catholic church of the Ballarat Diocese. We gather in the name of Jesus from the Murray to the Sea