

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT



# OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

No. 56 October 2018



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### OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

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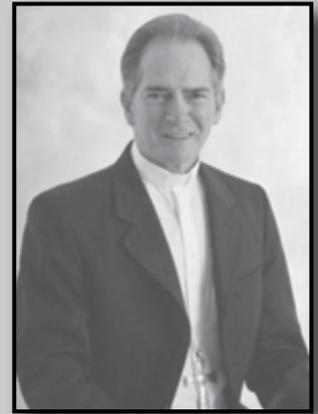
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# A Place to Call Home

## A Home for Everyone

On a wintry afternoon in August this year, a group of people walked through the streets of Ballarat to raise awareness of homelessness. They were members of the staff of Centacare, the social services agency of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. They carried boxes filled with beanies, hand warmers, socks and blankets and distributed these to local businesses. People in those businesses could then distribute the items to people they met who were struggling to cope with the winter cold. The Centacare staff also gave out cards with information about support services that can help the homeless in various ways.



Sad to say, homelessness is an issue that weighs upon many people in our community. Centacare's walk was one way of drawing attention to the problem and offering some practical assistance to people in need. Centacare's efforts are a local response to what is a national issue. The social justice statement published this year by the Australian Catholic Bishops is about homelessness and makes it clear that this is an issue that needs attention in communities all around the country.

The title of the bishops' statement is *A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land*. The challenge is great. The 2016 Census showed that there are over 116,000 people in Australia who are homeless – up from 102,000 in 2011. That number includes not only people who are on the streets or sleeping rough, but also those who are “couch surfing”, living in boarding houses or emergency accommodation, or staying in severely overcrowded dwellings. The housing crisis is not confined to the big cities. Rural and remote areas are affected too, including places throughout our diocese of Ballarat.

There is a drastic shortage of community and social housing. Centacare Ballarat and similar agencies around the country provide practical help through emergency housing and long term affordable rental accommodation. However, Commonwealth Government research shows that Australia needs more than 270,000 extra affordable homes for low-income households. Currently there are almost 39,000 people on community housing waiting lists and more than 150,000 people on the waiting lists for state-owned social housing.

The bishops' social justice statement highlights housing as a basic human right, upheld in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, as well as by the teachings of the Church.

Pope Francis has spoken strongly about the need to address the issue of homelessness. In his 2013 message “The Joy of the Gospel”, he challenged ways of thinking that pay great attention to movements in the stock market while paying little attention to the plight of those who lack even essential care. “How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points?”

In such messages, Pope Francis has called us to compassion for those in need. He has also given a lead in practice in the services he

has introduced to help the homeless in Rome. The bishops' statement recalls some of the steps Pope Francis has taken. "When he arrived in Rome as Pope, he was struck by the situation of the people living on the city's streets – many of them desperate asylum seekers and economic migrants. He set up a dormitory, showers and a barber near St Peter's Basilica. He has distributed hundreds of sleeping bags to the homeless on the streets of Rome. The Pope also opened the Lavanderia de Papa Francesco (Pope Francis Laundry), free for those who need it and intended as 'a place and a service to give concrete form to charity to restore dignity to so many people who are our brothers and sisters and who are called, with us, to build a city we can trust'."

Such practical services for the homeless recognise the dignity of each person and address some of their basic needs. We might be able to help, for example, by giving some of our time or financial assistance to the St Vincent de Paul Society or other organisations that assist the homeless. We might also be able to encourage governments and other groups to provide more housing so that people do have homes to go to. Everyone deserves a place to call home.

### **A Safe Home**

Everyone also deserves a home that is safe. Sadly, one of the main reasons that people seek housing assistance is because of domestic violence. A report from the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare tells us that over 40 per cent of people seeking crisis support have experienced violence in the home. These are predominantly women and children. For families escaping domestic violence, there is an acute lack of safe and affordable housing. This is a tragedy. It is also a tragedy that they had to leave their homes in the first place. They have been compelled to leave the home they had because that home was not safe.

In 2016, following two international conferences on the family, Pope Francis published a document called "The Joy of Love". He reflected on some of the virtues that promote true love in the family, virtues such as patience and kindness and forgiveness. At the same time, Pope Francis warned against a false idea of patience that would tolerate aggression. "Being patient does not mean letting ourselves be constantly mistreated, tolerating physical aggression or allowing other people to use us." He wrote clearly against domestic violence. "We must always say 'no' to violence in the home." It is right that everyone should have a place to call home, and that should not be a place of violence but of safety.

### **A Safe Church and a Safe Society**

We might also reflect on how our Church community and our whole society should be a safe home for us all. Particularly through the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we are painfully aware that many organisations, including our Church, have failed to keep children safe. These failures were acknowledged in a national apology delivered by the Prime Minister in the Australian Parliament on October 22. The gathering in Canberra was particularly a day for survivors and their families and supporters. I hope the apology will bring a sense of national support to survivors. I also share the government's hope that the apology will raise awareness in the community about the lifelong impact of abuse and help protect future generations of children. In his address at the final hearing, the Chair of the Royal 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."

As we seek to foster a truly civilised society, may we do what we can to provide a home for each person and a home that is secure. May our Church community and our whole Australian society be places where everyone can feel at home and be safe.

*Bishop Paul Bird CSSR*

## **TIMBOON PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

*Children from St Joseph's Parish Timboon celebrated their sacraments with Fr Neville Stanislaus. They commenced the Sacrament program early in 2017 and completed it with Confirmation and Eucharist on July 29, 2018. Congratulations to their parents who prepared them. Grateful thanks to Elizabeth, Catherine and Cherolyn who supported them alongside me and the welcoming parish community on this special day. Thanks to Lyn for the lovely flowers which brightened up the church.*

Ruth Hoffmann, Parish Sacrament Co-ordinator

Pictured: Lachlan Douglas, Josh Foster, Fr Neville, Tom Ryan and Zack Smith



# Year of Youth

## CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS' YOUTH FESTIVAL

To celebrate the Year of Youth, the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB) planned and hosted a Youth Festival for students in the secondary Colleges across the diocese. The theme for the day was 'Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young people, faith and vocational discernment' which is also the theme for the Year of Youth across Australia.

Students from the secondary schools across the Diocese of Ballarat gathered at Federation University - Mt Helen Campus to celebrate together. At first there was a little hesitancy among students but with encouragement from, and interaction with, the two MCs for the day, Jarryd Atkinson and Jordan Hodge, inhibitions were soon broken down and a great sense of joy and energy was created among the participants. Jarryd and Jordan continued to share their joy throughout the day as they worked with students in the workshops.

The day began with an Acknowledgment of Country which was beautifully led by students from all the participating secondary colleges, especially Damascus College Ballarat, Loreto College Ballarat and St Patrick's College Ballarat.

The key presenter of the day was Genevieve Bryant who brought the 'sound of joy' to the festival. She shared story and song about her own faith journey and how she came to be doing the work that she does across Australia. Genevieve and her band also led all the music throughout the day for our prayer and concluding Liturgy. Singers and musicians from among the students were invited to work with Genevieve and the band to lead the music in the concluding Liturgy.



Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to participate in three rounds of workshops. These workshops encompassed a range of areas connected to the theme for the day. Workshops were led by Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Youth Mission Team, Passionist Youth Team and Vinnies Youth. Fr Matthew Thomas spoke about the joy of his vocation and Fr Andrew Hayes shared the joy of sharing faith with the Muslim people of his town. Rachel Smith, Social Justice Education Officer with CEOB, had students working on Social Justice projects to take back to their schools. Josh Angrisano shared his Hip Hop skills to communicate the joy of his faith and Sam Clear spoke of the joy he experienced from walking around the world to promote peace and unity.

During the day, all participants and presenters had the opportunity to gather in prayer led by Fr Andrew with the music by Genevieve. The theme for the prayer was 'The Gifts of the Spirit'. Students were invited to reflect upon the gifts they needed for themselves and their world.

The day concluded with Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird assisted by Fr Rupert Bowd and Fr Matthew Thomas. It was a joy-filled celebration and a fitting way to finish the day.

The day was a success because of the support that was received from the Catholic Education Office, schools, students, teachers, principals and the priests of our parishes. The sharing of talents and skills was greatly appreciated. It was a day of great joy and it was a privilege to be a part of it.

# Joy+ Warrnambool

The recent Joy+ Festival held at Warrnambool West on September 2 was a great success, with participants and presenters alike coming away from the day with a deep sense of joy! There was amazing music from Genevieve Bryant, powerful story-telling and witness from Josh Angrisano, opportunities for conversation with Bishop Paul, a prayer trail and Mass featuring those young people who came with their guitars and voices. A big thank you to the parish community of St Pius X Warrnambool West for allowing us to use their church facilities and to participate in the afternoon service.



The next Joy+ Festival will be held on Sunday, November 25 at St Patrick's Hall and Cathedral in Ballarat. Genevieve Bryant and Bishop Paul will be returning as presenters and will be joined by Sam Clear and Sr Elizabeth Young. More worship, food, friends and joy to be had! Information can be found on the Diocesan website under the Youth & Young Adult Ministry page.



## JOY SPREADING BALLARAT

*Joy Spreading gatherings have been held in Ballarat bimonthly as part of a Year of Youth initiative. They provide an opportunity for young Catholic adults (18-30 yo) to hear a speaker and engage in sharing ideas and views in an informal and friendly environment. Guest presenters so far have included Amanda Smith, Pastoral Services Consultant of the Ballarat Diocese, missionary and author Sam Clear and the Deputy Principal of St Pius X Warrnambool, Stacey Atkins.*

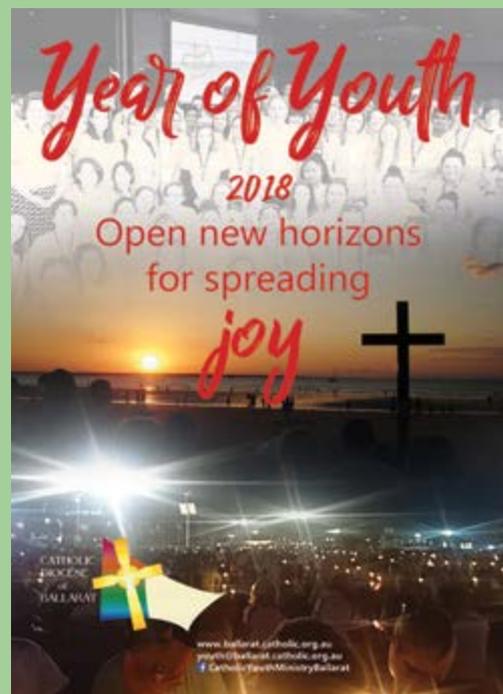
*Sam's visit to Ballarat on July 27 brought a very interesting conversation to the Lake View Hotel, centred on the need for greater Christian unity and on living out your faith in a wider context. He spoke passionately about the many adventures he has had on the way and ample questions were asked afterwards. Stacey's presentation on September 14 was similarly engaging, sharing with us her experience both in mission-work in Myanmar and the many World Youth Day trips she has attended. It was great to see a mixture of familiar and new faces at the events!*

*All young adults are welcome to the last Joy Spreading for the year on December 7 to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Office with guest presenter Fr Justin Driscoll. More information can be found on the Diocesan website under the Youth & Young Adult Ministry page.*

“Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy” is the theme of the Year of Youth in the Australian Catholic Church and inspired by this theme, Ballarat Diocese Youth & Young Adult Ministry has developed a range of faith projects to engage young people. Projects include social media networking, music ministry, video resources, festivals and gatherings and liaison with parishes.

Stage one of the Music Ministry project is complete and available on the diocesan website. A wide range of contemporary Catholic music for use in gatherings, worship and Mass is presented in easy-to-use lists. Performers/composers include Fr Rob Galea, Steve Angrisano and Matt Maher. These lists give you all the details about each song, including availability through One License, the parish licensing system. If you don't know about One License, please contact your Parish Priest or Secretary for more information. More lists and other resources will be added over coming months.

The Ballarat Diocese Youth and Young Adult Ministry team is Project Workers Noeline Hogan and Patrick Kennedy and Co-ordinator Amanda Smith. You can contact us at [youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au) ph. 5337 7125. There is also plenty of information on the Youth and Young Adult Ministry pages on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)



## Preparing Liturgy: (Part 2)

In part one of *Preparing Liturgy*, I explored the meaning of Liturgy and why we come together to celebrate. In parts two and three I plan to look at the ELEMENTS of the MASS and the importance of preparing each aspect in consultation with the presiding priest.

The opening song or gathering hymn is chosen, both for its lyrics which bring us together and for its 'singability', to encourage all members of the congregation to join in the singing as a sign that we come together as one community. **The Entrance Procession** with Presider and Ministers is not the reason for the hymn as many think, so the hymn that has been chosen should be sung in its entirety. If it is a long hymn then the Priest and those in procession might wait before they begin processing, so that choir and congregation can finish the gathering hymn.

The first part of our celebration is the **Introductory Rites**, which remind us that we are one family, united in Christ. The Rites are made up of:

The Sign of the Cross – acknowledging that we are in the presence of God in and through Christ

The Greeting – where the people are greeted by the Priest (The Lord be with you) and where the people, as part of our "full, conscious and active participation", respond (And with your Spirit).

The Penitential Act - where we are reminded that as human beings we are always in need of God's loving forgiveness as through sin we have damaged our relationship with God and with others.

The Gloria - which gives those assembled the opportunity to praise God. This ancient song of praise is omitted during Advent and Lent.

The Opening Prayer or Collect - where the prayers of the Assembly are 'collected' and laid before our God.

**The Liturgy of the Word** (readings from Scripture) is the time in the Mass where all aspects are proclaimed from the Ambo (the Table of the Word) or Lectern. We hear the Good News of our salvation. All liturgical celebrations will have Scriptural readings and at a Sunday celebration the composition will usually be:

The First Reading from the Old Testament (or during Easter Season from the Acts of the Apostles). The Old Testament or Hebrew Scripture readings are part of the Christian Bible and contain the account of God's self revelation to the Jewish people and of his special relationship with them.

The Responsorial Psalm, taken from Old Testament Book of Psalms, is especially chosen to match the Reading. The Psalm should be sung with verses being proclaimed by a Cantor and the Assembly responding in the antiphon.

The Second Reading from New Testament is usually one of the Epistles or letters from the Apostles. They were written to encourage the early Christians to keep living as Jesus wanted them to live. Through these Epistles, the Good News was spread in the early Church.

The Gospel Acclamation, the Alleluia, should be sung as we praise and welcome the Word of God. ("Alleluia" is not used during Lent, but another form of acclamation should be sung).



The Gospel, from one of the four Gospels, is proclaimed by the priest and tells us about the life and teachings of Jesus.

The Homily is an important part of the Liturgy of the Word as the priest, through his reflections, helps us connect our daily living with the Scripture we have heard.

The Creed is our profession of Faith. All the Assembly respond to what we have heard about the life of Christ and the life of the early Church by proclaiming together the most important beliefs of Christians contained in the Creed.

The Prayer of the Faithful, sometimes called the General Intercessions, is the time when we pray for the needs of the Church, the world and local communities. The response to each prayer from the Assembly is usually, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Each of these elements of the Liturgy of the Word should be followed by a time of silence and reflection.

In part three of *Preparing Liturgy*, we will continue to look at the framework upon which we build our liturgy, transitioning from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

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

# BISHOP PAUL comes to BEAUFORT



On the weekend of July 20 - 22 the community of St John the Baptist Beaufort welcomed Bishop Paul Bird for his Parish Visit. This commenced with Bishop Paul and Fr Sajan Mathew celebrating Mass at Langi Kal Kal on the Friday evening. This was a fruitful experience for all concerned.

Bishop Paul celebrated our regular 8.30am Mass on Sunday, July 22. Despite the fact that we had a number of locals away, Mass was well-attended, as was the morning tea afterwards. This was an excellent opportunity for us to meet and chat with Bishop Paul.

Later that day, we had a special gathering of our youth to celebrate the Year of Youth at a local level. Part of this event was conducted in the church, where the young folk heard a brief history of our church from Maurice Barwick. This was both informative and thought-provoking. Local youth, Rohan Gerrard, spoke of his visit to Sydney in 2017 to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Bishop Paul also spoke of his journey in the priesthood.

A delicious meal, generously provided by parishioners, was shared with Bishop Paul and participants. After the meal Patrick Kennedy, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Project Worker, spoke of opportunities for our youth at a diocesan level. He was joined by local, Bianca Gerrard, who is a Youth Leader for YESS (Youth Every Second Sunday) which meets every second Sunday at the Cathedral in Ballarat.

We look forward to Bishop Paul completing his Parish Visit later in the year where he will meet with residents and patients at the Beaufort Hostel and Nursing Home, as well as attend our monthly Parish Council meeting.

*Bernadette Franc – Chairperson, St John the Baptist Beaufort Parish Council*

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT

*On August 17, Damascus College Ballarat held its annual faith development day for all staff members. The facilitator for the day was renowned Jesuit Fr Richard Leonard. He has degrees in arts and education, as well as a Master's degree in theology. Fr Richard completed graduate studies at the London Film School and has a PhD from the University of Melbourne. He directs the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting, is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University and author of many books.*

*Fr Richard was returning for a third visit to Damascus College, this time addressing the challenging topic, "What are we doing on earth for Christ's sake?" This workshop looked at the pivotal question of mission and identity for a Catholic School: How can we unashamedly promote religious belief, Christian faith and an active membership of the Catholic Church in a world that increasingly says we are nuts to believe anything other than that which we can see and hear and test, that all religious collectives are deluded and the Catholic Church is particularly open to criticism.*

*Starting with a profile of religious affiliation in Australia, Fr Richard challenged the popular wisdom that religion is not a significant player in the lives of Australians. He challenged some of the commentary that tends to denigrate all religious thinking as ill-conceived and the charge that religion is the cause of all war. Turning to stories of ordinary people who became extraordinary examples of saintly lives, Fr Richard showed that belief in Jesus and working with compassion for peace and justice remains a mighty powerful way to live an authentic life that makes a difference.*



Tony Haintz – Assistant Principal



# GRADUATE PROGRAM

*The Graduate Teacher Induction program is a three year integrated program designed to support graduate induction in the Ballarat Diocese and the teaching profession, within the particular context of working in the ministry of Catholic Education. The program reflects the partnership between the Catholic Education Office and schools, who together support the formation and professional growth of graduates as they journey in their profession and respond to their vocational call in this vital ministry of the Catholic Church. The following reflections are contributed by graduate teachers involved in the Religious Education component of these days.*

On Tuesday, July 31, first-year graduate teachers from the Diocese of Ballarat took part in their second professional development session. Over the course of two days, the teachers gathered in Halls Gap to discuss and explore experiences, strengths, challenges and Religious Education. During day one, Allan Hutchison led the teachers on a path of mindfulness, encouraging them to step back from the classroom itself and take the time to think about ways to lower personal stress and improve effective communication. The teachers worked cohesively to share possible solutions to resolve stress, drawing on their own methods and those shared on the day. Further discussion revolved around building good relationships with students, colleagues and parents. The following day Kate Lawry, Jo-anne van der Voort and Susan Crowe led the graduates on a journey of prayer, both personal and related to the classroom setting. In doing so, our understandings of prayer was strengthened through engaging in conversations with God and others. Flowing on from prayer, the participants engaged in a workshop based around the pedagogy of Shared Christian Praxis and the new Awakenings program. They discussed how life experiences and the Catholic faith tradition come together to recontextualise the Christian story. As a conclusion to the day, Fr Andrew Hayes joined everyone for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, to which each graduate brought their new-found and strengthened understandings of the Mass. Overall, the gathering gave new teachers the opportunity to analyse their experiences, reflect on their learnings and appreciate the continuous support of others, during their teaching journey.

*Jessica van Gaans - First Year Graduate Teacher*

*On Wednesday, August 8 a group of second and third year graduate teachers from across the Ballarat Diocese met for their second professional learning session of the year. We attended three sessions over the course of the day, facilitated by John Meneely, Jo-anne van der Voort, Kate Lawry and Susan Crowe. The graduate teachers find these sessions an excellent opportunity to network with their colleagues and share their teaching reflections. At the first session of the day, "Attending to the Teacher Within" John Meneely discussed the relationship between our intellectual, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. A key insight taken from his session was the importance of our mission as educators. During the middle session, we were taken through the history and development of the Mass through the ages. We learnt about the importance of active participation during the Mass and of modelling this positive and engaged behaviour to our students. A phrase that was discussed and practised was, "the Lord be with you" bringing new understandings for all of us.*

*In the final session of the day, graduate teachers were given a refresher session on Professor Thomas Groome's pedagogy of "Shared Christian Praxis", incorporating Dr Margaret Carswell's "Composite Model" as a way to teach scripture. A key learning from this session was the importance of contextualising scripture. Preparing children appropriately provides them with the best opportunity to access the text with a deeper and more meaningful understanding. As Graduate teachers, we very much look forward to these professional learning sessions as a way to come together and celebrate our strengths, learn from our colleagues and enhance our teaching.*

Matthew Manzl, Rose Russell and Emma Hancock, 2nd and 3rd Year Graduate Teachers



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During 2017-18 Centacare was successful in tendering for two new programs - Disability Employment Services (DES) and Parents Next. These two programs complement all the services that Centacare delivers as an organisation. The following is an overview of each program.

### **ParentsNext Overview – Locations in Mildura, Swan Hill, Horsham, Ballarat, Maryborough and Daylesford**

For many parents, particularly women, caring for young children means large breaks from the paid workforce. People can gain valuable new skills and social networks through parenting, but they also risk losing work specific skills and the confidence to enter paid employment. For parents already receiving a government income support, this can increase the risk of long-term welfare dependency. With approximately 96 percent of ParentsNext participants expected to be women, including around 10,000 indigenous women, the program will complement a range of other Australian Government initiatives designed to increase female participation in the workforce.

ParentsNext is a pre-employment program to provide early intervention assistance to parents with young children. As a ParentsNext provider, we will help parents to identify their education and employment goals and refer them to local activities and service providers who will help them achieve these goals. Parents will participate in activities related to their needs and family circumstances. Participation in ParentsNext will help parents gain confidence and feel empowered to develop the skills to engage in paid work - appropriate skills that are right for them and their families when the time is right.

The three board objectives of ParentsNext are to:

- Target early intervention assistance to parents at risk of long-term welfare dependency;
- Help parents identify and reach their education and employment goals through participation in activities;
- Connect parents to local services that can help them to prepare for employment.

### **DES Overview – Locations in Ballarat, Daylesford and Avoca**

Disability Employment Services (DES) provides a suite of employment services to people with disability, injury or health conditions who are looking for ongoing employment in the open labour market. The services provided include assistance with job search, resumé preparation, support for education and training, as well as wage subsidies and employer engagement. These supports should be tailored to each individual and are aimed at helping them into long-term, sustainable work. Participating in DES also satisfies mutual obligation requirements for people on some types of income support who are required to actively look for work in order to receive their payments. DES also assists in boosting the productive capacity of the workforce, addressing skills shortages and better meeting the needs of employers. Emphasis is placed on building local linkages with employers and enhancing employer engagement to meet employer needs and achieve sustainable employment outcomes for participants. Services are demand driven – that is, every eligible job seeker with disability will have access to employment services. Servicing and funding are dependent on the program type and on the level of disadvantage of the job seeker.

There are two separate programs within DES:

- DES-Disability Management Service (DMS): Provides services to eligible job seekers with disability, injury or health condition who need assistance to find a job and occasional support in the workplace to keep a job.
- DES-Employment Support Service (ESS): Provides assistance to eligible job seekers with permanent disability to find a job and who need regular, ongoing support in the workplace to keep a job.

At Centacare we are only contracted to supply services in the DES – ESS program.

*Debbie Mannix - Executive Assistant to the CEO Tony Fitzgerald*



## **FIRST EUCHARIST**

*Congratulations to the children who received the Sacrament of First Eucharist on Sunday, August 12. Fr Bill van de Camp led a wonderful celebration at Infant Jesus Church Koroit, followed by morning tea in St Patrick's School Hall. Thank you to all involved in preparing the children for the reception of their final Sacrament of Initiation.*

*A huge thank you to the Year 3 parents for their generous donations of food for the morning tea after Mass. Much appreciation to Leah Brown and Jenny Phillips for co-ordinating the preparation and to Leah and Emma Arthur for their presence on the day.*

Jenny Auld – St Patrick's School Koroit





*St Joseph's School Hopetoun teacher, Nicki Dalton, recently joined refugees by participating in the Ration Challenge. For an entire week, Nicki lived on the same rations that a Syrian refugee lives on for one week. Nicki's Ration Challenge pack included 420g of rice, 170g lentils, 85g dried chick peas, 125g tinned sardines, 400g tinned kidney beans and 300ml vegetable oil. In addition to this Nicki also received 2 food coupons. These were representative of the coupons many refugees are given by the UN or other organisations that can be exchanged in local shops for essential staple foods, such as rice and flour. Nicki received sponsorship from family, friends and members of the school community for taking part in the challenge. This money supports the access of refugees to food, medication and education.*

*"Participating in this challenge provided me with an incredible insight into the life of a refugee," said Nicki. "I elected to complete this challenge knowing very well I was only going to live on small rations for the week. However, the reality is that refugees do not have this choice. Pope Francis made the claim that food wastage is like stealing from the poor. I can admit that during the challenge not a single piece of rice was wasted from my plate; any burnt food was scraped from the side of the pot and added to the meal and my awareness of what others live through every day was increased."*

*Nicki succeeded in meeting her sponsorship goal of \$500, raising \$620 in total. The organising agency, Act for Peace (the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia), raised \$2,664,015 in total this year, which is enough to feed 10,246 refugees for a whole year. A terrific effort indeed by all who took part!*

Cynthia Maiden, Principal

Photo: Grades 3-6 teacher Nicki Dalton joining her students for a simple lunch of rice and beans during the Ration Challenge

## Celebrating 40 years

The parishioners from St Aloysius Redan and St James Sebastopol gathered on Saturday, August 4 with Fr Kevin Maloney to celebrate his forty years in the priesthood. Following is an address made on the occasion by Bernadette Lynch:

Before we recognise Kevin as a priest, we need to remember first and foremost he is a man, made in the image and likeness of God. He is a son, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, work colleague and friend. He has been an assistant priest, parish priest and most recently Vicar General.

When speaking to people about Kevin, the facts and figures, times and dates, parishes and presbyteries were of little relevance. The diocese will have data and spreadsheets documenting this information. When speaking to people in preparation for this celebration, they only wanted to speak about the kind of person Kevin is.

A man of great compassion, he listens with a caring nature. He supports people in sorrow and rejoices with people in times of joy. He is welcoming and gives people opportunities to use their gifts and talents within the parishes. He is a good teacher in the ways of faith. He has a great sense of humour. He is known for his flair in the kitchen, and as a great cook and host.

He did not want a fuss but the parishioners would not let this important milestone in his life go unnoticed. It is great that we have gathered here as parishioners from both St Aloysius and St James and along with staff from his three schools, St Aloysius Primary, St James' Primary and Lumen Christi Primary. This gathering shows the respect that all have for Kevin. To finish with a quote from a former colleague of Kevin's: he is 'a man with a touch of class'. Congratulations Kevin.



## JJAMM WEEK AND THE FEAST DAY OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

In the week August 6 – 10 St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill celebrated JJAMM Week and the feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. What a fabulous week of celebrations! JJAMM stands for Julian, Joseph and Mary MacKillop: Julian Tenison Woods, who helped to found the Josephite order, Joseph for the Josephite sisters and Mary MacKillop for our founding saint.

St Mary MacKillop was a woman who taught us that there is so much to be grateful for and during the week we saw this in action! The Op Shop day was a success with Year 12 students and some staff invited to go shopping at one of the outreach shops before parading their “wears” on Tuesday. These clothes were then donated back to the store. Wednesday included hot jam donuts at recess and our beautiful Feast Day Mass at midday. Fr Matt Thomas celebrated Mass with us and held a Q & A during the homily! He had movie vouchers as prizes! Thursday was the annual Staff vs Students netball match where the students proved way too good and were victorious! Friday was the day of the Walkathon. A new Walkathon track was used this year. It is such a wonderful way to finish off JJAMM Week celebrations. Thank you to all the organisers and participants.

*Alison Wright – Director of Mission*



## South West Victoria Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Centre What it offers...



*Diversity is part of the CPE experience. Embracing diversity provides us with a greater understanding of God and helps us gain the ability to listen to those we minister to with less bias and prejudice.*

*We share responsibility for transparency and accountability in pastoral care, as we view these with the different lenses of our experiences. What one participant is blind to, another offers insight into. A defensive response can be softened as we gain understanding of the origin of such defensiveness. Our ego can be replaced with a humble heart and a lack of confidence can be exchanged with the courage to take risks. All of these developments provide quality pastoral care where those being cared for are a priority.*

*Group members responsible for group formation create collaborative opportunities. A greater understanding of the human condition through knowledge of the social sciences is partnered with the richness of reflecting theologically. Theological reflection helps us gain an awareness of the presence of Christ in our ability to treat the other with respect and dignity. This is a vital part of the formation of ministry contributing to the life of Christian community.*

*Understanding the value of supervision comes as our ministry matures. Our isolation is overcome when we meet with peers who understand and experience similar challenges. Topics on loneliness, pastoral identity, ongoing personal and professional development, holding onto our calling in baptism and vocation and sustaining our ministry are among some of the important areas for discussion and exploration in a faith context through the ministry of supervision.*

*Accountability, transparency and inclusivity underpin professional standards for CPE and its supervisors under the governance of the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria. This peak body provides accreditation and certification. The University of Divinity, should one enrol in theological studies including CPE, also partners the Centre.*

*Contact Bernadette Wurlod on 0417 573 258 or email [bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au](mailto:bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au) for information about the 2019 program.*

*The 2018 CPE group from L-R: Fr Neville Stanislaus (Parish Priest St Patricks Parish Camperdown.) Ruth Payne (St Paul's Anglican Parish Camperdown), Kerry Joyce (St John of God Hospital Geelong), Bernadette Wurlod (Clinical Pastoral Supervisor & CPE Centre Director), Liz Toms (Mercy Place Aged Care Warrnambool)*

# GATHERING ON THE PLENARY COUNCIL

Late in July, approximately ninety people from a number of parishes in the Diocese met in Ballarat for a gathering regarding the Plenary Council.



Three visiting speakers, Peter Wilkinson, Maria George and Peter Johnstone, lay people from a Melbourne based group "Catholics for Renewal", gave input and led discussion.

Peter Wilkinson spoke on the technicalities related to the term "Plenary" which means we are one Catholic Church in Australia in union with Rome. He spoke of the meaning of Plenary and the structure, saying there are five Provinces made up of Dioceses. With approval by the Pope, this Plenary Council binds all the dioceses in Australia and is called to look at the church in Australia. The culture in which we have to proclaim the Gospel is very different from what it was twenty or thirty years ago.

Maria George spoke about her role as a Pastoral Associate working in a number of Melbourne Parishes including Elwood and St Kilda West. She is extremely well qualified to speak on the position of Pastoral Associates in the Church, having fulfilled various roles at parish level including teaching catechesis and leading music and liturgy teams. She has a degree in Theology and a Masters in Faith leadership. Maria said that thirty years ago the Church in Melbourne was flourishing, now it is embattled. She emphasised the role of women and the need for gender balance in the Church ministry. The place of the Pastoral Associates in the Church is crucial for the Church to move forward. She indicated that there has been a change in Pastoral Associates' place in leadership

and collaboration with priests in parish development and within parish clusters, whereby presently there seems to be more focus on priests. Women can and should share leadership, and they need to claim their place in the Church. Maria pointed out that Pastoral Associates have paid their own formation costs, had regular supervision and professional development and yet they have no security of employment even though much is expected of Lay Parish Leaders. A question that could be asked is whether a Diocese pay for Pastoral Associates training and for their services?

Peter Johnstone spoke of the need for the Church leadership to take account of church governance that needs to be more inclusive and transparent. He emphasised that we all need to have a sense of the faith of the faithful. It is OUR faith therefore we should accept that responsibility and support each other. We are not sufficiently reminded by our leadership of our responsibility to build up the Body of Christ. Peter said the Plenary Council must not be an excuse for delay. People have been silenced for so long they have lost the skills of gathering, listening and building up the community together. He asked how do we reach out to the disengaged? Do we need to get people back to the Church, or do we need to bring Church to the people? He spoke of the need for every Diocese to form a Diocesan Pastoral Council so there can be real input from lay people on the governance of the church. All people need to be asked their views; even to the point of a process for the appointment of the Bishop of a Diocese and questions like what are the needs in leadership in our diocese? What strategies and systems need to be put in place? Companies put out annual reports. Church leaders also need to be accountable, inclusive and transparent. Without an effective Diocesan Pastoral Council there is danger that a leader might see no need to listen to the people.

*Sr Kathleen Moran rsm and Frank Sheehan*

*What a fabulous day St Patrick's School Nhill had recently as the students and staff celebrated their Term 3 Integrated Studies learning. We had so much support from members of the local Philippine and Karen communities and we are eternally grateful to these groups for contributing to our Cultural Day. Our day began with some typical Australian sports. Students then sang the National Anthem and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which we now live. Plot and Harmony gave an amazing presentation about Paris, based on a book they had studied with Mrs Creek. We all now know a little bit more about some of the amazing landmarks in Paris. The next hour was spent painting boomerangs and cooking a variety of scones to celebrate elements of Australia's history. After recess we were entertained by members of Nhill's Philippine community. They performed a 'bird dance' and sang some songs and their national costumes were bright and colourful and amazingly detailed. We shared some traditional Philippine food with our visitors before trying some German food made by Amanda Schubert. Students then watched a video of New Zealand dancers with poi balls before attempting to make their own poi balls and use them to dance a traditional New Zealand dance. Making the poi balls was challenging as it involved plaiting to make the 'rope' for the balls. Following a delicious lunch of Karen and New Zealand food the students learnt how to throw boomerangs thanks to the generosity of Graeme Creek. We finished the day with an amazing Black Forest cake (German heritage) prepared by Amanda Schubert. A huge thank you to the staff who put so much effort into planning the day and preparing food for the students to try. It was fantastic to see the students get into the spirit of the day by dressing in the national costumes of other countries. A great day was had by all!*



Kathryn Bendall - Principal

Our Diocesan Community - October 2018

# GRANDPARENTS DAY

Students had the chance to see first-hand items from up to 100 years ago during a Grandparents and Special Friends Day held on August 27 at St Mary's School, Warracknabeal. The school invited Grandparents and Special Friends, asking them to bring items from their childhood.

Grandparents brought a huge range of items to the school to share with the children and it was clear that they had put much thought into them. A miniature statue of St Therese stored in a tiny tin was one item that was over 100 years old, while another grandparent had a biscuit tin with a revolving insert, which was also believed to be a century old. Yet another grandparent showed a fossil of a shell which he had found embedded in a limestone brick.

Other items shared with students included a newspaper showing the astronauts who landed on the moon in 1969, a transistor radio, a wireless radio, record player and records, cassette player and cassettes, butter churn, meat mincer, typewriter, a telegram, encyclopedia, books of school readers which grandparents explained were the only books they had to read at school for a year, an old builders plane, sheep drenching cones, one and two cent coins, one and two dollar notes and pound notes from before 1952.

The oldest person attending was a 98 year old great grandmother who explained to one group of students how she had attended a one-teacher school at Sheep Hills when she was young. Other grandparents spoke of their days attending the one-teacher school at Lah. The visit helped students picture items from the past, which complemented the students' studies of the history of Australia in *Inquiry*. The day also featured a liturgy service celebrating grandparents and finished with morning tea.

Joy Quarrell – Principal



Top: Charlie and his grandfather Leo  
Bottom: Maggie and her grandmother Beverly



## Leuven Learning

"12" Catholic educators from Catholic schools across the Diocese of Ballarat ventured off to Belgium on a Saturday evening recently, excited and open to learning. Once in Leuven we discovered we were also working with a team of another "12" from the Melbourne Archdiocese and a further three from Sale and Sandhurst Dioceses.

Since 2006 Katholieke University Leuven, the oldest Catholic university in the world, has been partnering with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria in a project to enhance the Catholic identity of our schools. This year, diocesan education leaders have been inspired and challenged during daily university lectures with renowned theologians and visits to Catholic schools in Belgium and the Netherlands. We have had an opportunity to study, discuss our learning, reflect, analyse data and deepen our understanding of the effects of a pluralising culture on faith and identity. Shared times of prayer, reflection and Eucharist have complemented the formal study and professional dialogue.

Examining the effects of modern culture and learning from the Belgian experience allows us to plan more strategically and effectively to enhance the Catholic identity of our schools now and in the future. We seek to ensure that the rich treasures of our Catholic faith continue to speak to the context of children and young people in our schools as they have done for past generations.

Bernadette Lynch

Top: Back: Torie Waight, Leonie Leviston, Donna Bryce, Bernadette Lynch, Sonia Turner, Audrey Brown. Front: Fr Peter Sherman, Bernadette Luckman, Fr Andrew Hayes, Ethan Corfee, Darren Egberts, Chris Roberts Bottom: Mass at Crypt of Father Damien of Molokai

## Celebrating 40th Anniversary of Priesthood

On Sunday, August 12, 2018 the Parishes of Terang and Mortlake gathered with Fr Gerry Prunty to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination, which took place at St Alipius Church in Ballarat East on August 18, 1978. Along with parishioners from Terang and Mortlake were family members, people from our local communities and other parishes where Fr Gerry has served.



The celebration began with Mass in St Thomas' Church, where at the conclusion Justin Staunton passed on congratulations and thanks on behalf of all gathered. Marie Ewing sang a song that she had written for Fr Gerry's special occasion, "The boy from Clarendon".

The gathering moved to the Terang/Mortlake Football Netball Clubrooms for a light luncheon (it was anything but light!!), which was prepared by our parishioners and attended by a crowd of two hundred people. Noel Smith spoke on behalf of Mortlake. Ben van de Camp, Terang, spoke of Fr Gerry's many great attributes and reflected

on how much of a positive influence he is on our schools and parishes, and how lucky we are to have him as our Parish Priest. Fr Gerry's sister Bernadette spoke on behalf of the Prunty family, filling in many events from his early days, the Seminary days and the many family get-togethers over the years.

Fr Gerry responded with some stories of encounters with people along the way in different parishes over 40 years – Mildura, Colac and Portland as an Assistant Priest and then Parish Priest of Birchip, Merbein, Maryborough, Apollo Bay, Ballarat North, Wendouree, Terang and Mortlake. He thanked all who put so much work into the lead-up to the celebration and to those who helped on the day. Fr Gerry cut a cake, which was made by Anne Blacker and everyone continued to celebrate the occasion of the 40th anniversary of ordination of "The boy from Clarendon".



Clare Payne, Mortlake & Terang Parishes

## SACRAMENTAL RETREAT DAY

*The children from the Bungaree Parish participated in a Retreat Day recently, to build on their preparation and help them deepen their understanding to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. This year there were five children from St Brendan's School Dunnstown and two children from St Mary's School Clarkes Hill. In most years, some of the children from the parish participating in this day also come from non-parish schools.*

*Sue Prendergast, Religious Education Leader at the Bungaree Parish Schools and Fr Shane Mackinlay led the day. It was a lovely day beginning with prayer, where the children went outside and found something in nature that appealed to them. As each child placed their seed, flower, bud, weed or leaves on the prayer cloth, each expressed how they liked the pretty colour, the complex patterns or the fact that something so small could grow into a huge tree. This was a perfect opportunity to learn more about Wonder and Awe, the gift that helps us stop and appreciate the many beautiful things around us, recognising God at work.*



*In the sharing of the children's workbooks that they have been working on with their families over the past six weeks and in the reading of two stories, 'Desmond and the Very Mean Word' and 'Seeds of Change', the children explored the many gifts that we have - gifts such as courage, respect, being inclusive, kindness, generosity, wisdom, right judgement, reverence, gentleness and more. They were asked to think of a gift that they felt they had, then consider a gift that they would like to strengthen. They were encouraged to pray that the Holy Spirit would help strengthen the gifts they have and help them to use their gifts in the best way possible. After reading the Parable of the Sower, the children were asked to consider: What is God's message to us? What are we called upon to do as people who believe in God? How would someone else know that we were people who were members of God's family?*

*As part of preparing for the Sacrament of First Eucharist, the children all brought an ingredient that was placed on the table and shared in a Subway style lunch. Together we all gathered at the table, listened to one another, ate together and then went out to play, to be the best person we could be. Just like the Eucharist! Our day concluded with a practice in the church where Fr Shane showed the children the Easter candle, which would be used to light their own baptism candles. The children practised receiving the bread and wine and learnt the importance of being reverent when they receive Jesus in Holy Communion.*

*The Retreat Day is a great opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of the sacraments but also for them to ask questions, see parts of the church up close and then ask more questions. Fr Shane was very busy providing answers for their curious minds!*

Sue Prendergast, Religious Education Leader  
Our Diocesan Community - October 2018

# PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



Public speaking is something that can be quite daunting for students. Much work is done within the English classes at Monivae College Hamilton to prepare students for this most important skill. Increasingly, student voice is being heard as an important factor in students learning, their safety and even in such forums as the Plenary Council. Students need the skills to be able to communicate their ideas with an audience.

The Hamilton Lions Club Youth of the Year Competition gives students the opportunity to shape their leadership and develop their public speaking skills. Students prepare a 5-minute speech of their choice and then they are given two impromptu topics to discuss in a two minute speech. Monivae Year 10 students, Chelsea Storer and Alyssa Neeson (pictured), were keen participants in this year's competition. Chelsea was the winner of Youth of the Year and Alyssa was a creditable third placing. Chelsea's moving speech was on the topic of inadequate government support for home carers and drew on her personal experience. Her speech was greeted with much applause, with not a dry eye in the room. Chelsea now proceeds to the next level of competition in the zone final in early 2019.

*Jill Whiting - Director of Development & Marketing*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE FOCUS

*In July, two members of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission (BDSJC) attended the ACSJC Annual Social Justice Conference in Sydney. Anthea Hinchey (Chair) and Rachel Smith (Executive Officer) attended the conference on behalf of the BDSJC. The conference provided opportunities for the BDSJC members to network with other social justice groups and to learn from the presenters at the conference. The conference was hosted by John Ferguson (ACSJC) and was held at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney.*



*The conference focused on the Social Justice Statement of 2018-19, homelessness, asylum seekers, anti-slavery, international developments and networking. Presenters included Fr Frank Brennan SJ (Catholic Social Services Australia), Felicity Reynolds (Mercy Foundation), May Lam (Australian Catholic Housing Alliance), Carolina Gottardo (Jesuit Refugee Service Australia), John McCarthy QC (Sydney Archdiocesan Anti-Slavery Taskforce). The 2018-2019 Social Justice statement was unpacked and reflected upon in the context of the parable of The Good Samaritan, a story recognised in both the Christian and secular world for its message of love; reaching out, offering practical and unconditional assistance to another in need – and in doing so, recognising the human dignity of another. The Statement recognises that housing is a fundamental human right and challenges us as a faith community to reach out to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. What comes through clearly is that a person who is rough sleeping, or in insecure housing, should not be dismissed as agents of their own circumstance. Poverty, economic instability, exclusion and a national housing shortfall are all societal factors that make this an injustice for which we are all accountable. Importantly, the Statement also makes clear that homelessness is not a problem that is insurmountable. Through advocacy, support and change, there is no reason why a home cannot be made for everyone in our land.*

*This Statement is an informed and practical response to the growing crisis of homelessness in Australia and it challenges us to respond like the Good Samaritan. The statement will be used to inspire and drive the work of the BDSJC in the coming months. It can be accessed through parishes, or can be accessed online at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)*

Anthea Hinchey, Chair and Rachel Smith, Executive Officer – Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission



## ACU OPEN DAY

Registering to attend the Australian Catholic University (ACU) Open Day gave new students the opportunity to win a cash prize of \$5,000 towards a study trip to Rome. Ruan Sweeney, now a first year Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Paramedicine student, was the 2017 recipient of the Open Day study trip prize. Ruan said that receiving the phone call that announced he was the winner was one of the best things that has ever happened to him. "I was completely speechless. I felt so lucky and grateful to be given the opportunity to receive this prize from ACU," Ruan said. "I plan on using the money towards my studies within the next two to three years of my degree, depending on when my subject requirements line up with what is available at the Rome Campus."

The same opportunity awaits one lucky person who registered for the 2018 ACU Open Day in Ballarat on Sunday, August 26. The winner is still to be announced. Open Day gives students and their families the chance to ask questions, get advice and gain a better understanding of what ACU can offer. Visitors were able to take a tour of the Aquinas Campus in Ballarat, discuss study options with experts, talk to academics and current students and get a sense of what their future might be like at the University.

ACU students enjoy a competitive edge when it comes to entering the job market, with almost 93 per cent of ACU graduates being employed within four months of graduation\*.

Campus Dean Professor Bridget Aitchison said that choosing to go to university was a momentous decision and attending an Open Day and seeing in person what was on offer at the campus helped with the decision-making process. "ACU offers so much more than simply a place to study. Our students come to us from a variety of backgrounds and they leave us with a combination of professional skills and personal aptitude that will have a genuine impact throughout their lives and their careers. Employers value their ability to think critically and apply ethical principles to their work."

People who wanted to have a positive impact through their career of choice were encouraged to come along and learn more about:

- ACU's courses in education and arts; business; law; theology; philosophy; and health sciences such as nursing and midwifery, paramedicine and public health
- ACU's connections with industry
- University life
- Scholarships and financial support
- Community Achiever Program
- Overseas study options
- Different ways of securing a place in courses of choice
- Winning \$5,000 for an ACU study trip to Rome

Open Day at ACU's Ballarat Campus was also a fun day out with live entertainment, lots of goodies given away and great food. Things to do at Open Day included viewing a show, grabbing a bite to eat, exploring the campus, finding freebies and chatting to our experts: current students, past students and staff were on hand to answer all your questions.

Jasmin Zammit - Marketing Coordinator

\* Overall employment rate, Federal Government's Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS), 2017



## BUNGAREE PARISH SCHOOLS VISUAL ARTS NIGHTS

St Brendan's Primary School, Dunnstown and St Mary's Primary School, Clarkes Hill recently hosted their Visual Arts Night (Art Show). The children and staff have collected and collated all the wonderful art work the children had completed throughout the year. The collection and displays were impressive



and the children were very excited to show and talk about their creative works with parents, grandparents and other visitors. The night was a celebration of the learning that has taken place in all year levels in the area of Visual Arts. Next year the focus will be on dance and we will host a bush dance.

Shelley Ryan, Acting Principal  
Our Diocesan Community - October 2018

# GB DAY AND THE LORETO SPIRIT

Mother Gonzaga Barry and her companions travelled to Ballarat, founding the first Loreto school in Australia in 1875. Mother Gonzaga and the founding Sisters worked with diligence, perseverance and service to bring what she described as a 'Sensible School for Girls' to life. In the "Eucalyptus Blossoms" (December 1890), Mother Gonzaga described this as a "kind of university for the education of women ... Within the walls of this woman's university room might be found a school of art, a school of music, an astronomical observatory, a chemical laboratory, a library, a museum and gymnasium. The college grounds laid out in lawns and gardens would afford scope for the study of botany; whilst a small dairy and poultry farm would be an excellent practicing school for the students of domestic economy. Thus our sensible school would eventually develop into a truly comprehensive university worthy of a great country and its women." (Mary Ryllis Clark: "Loreto in Australia").

One hundred and forty-three years later we see Mother Gonzaga's vision of a 'Sensible School for Girls' fulfilled, flourishing and ever-changing according to contemporary times. GB Day (Gonzaga Barry Day) is our opportunity to express our gratitude for all that has been gifted to us, fulfil the Mission of the school through active support of those in need in the broader Ballarat community and share the

Loreto Spirit. The events of the day are coordinated by the Student Senate and include a day of celebration with a fancy dress theme and parade, fundraising stalls and activities. There is also a Senate presentation, including the annual student senate GB Day video which celebrates all that is Loreto College Ballarat. The students run a series of stalls and make a massive collective donation of protein rich foods and warm clothing. The bulk of these donations go directly to St Vincent de Paul and Anglicare Ballarat.

This year, Pauline Prebble from Anglicare came to speak at the school liturgy. Pauline is in charge of both the new Shower Bus and the Anglicare Breakfast program. Pauline offered many stories about the way in which the dignity of those seeking help from Anglicare is preserved. Throughout the liturgy students hung stars of gratitude around the walls of the gymnasium, reiterating how grateful we are for all that we have in life, love and education.

The theme for 2018 was "Out of this World!" GB Day was yet another display of the inimitable Loreto Spirit and the Loreto Family in all its colourful and creative splendour.

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



## ST ALOYSIUS SCHOOL REDAN CELEBRATES THEIR FEAST DAY

June 21 marked the feast day of St Aloysius Gonzaga, patron saint of St Aloysius Redan. St Aloysius was an Italian aristocrat who became a member of the Society of Jesus. At a young age and while a student at the Roman College, he died caring for the victims of an epidemic. He was beatified in 1605 and canonized in 1726. This year's celebrations commenced with a whole school Mass led by Parish Priest, Fr Kevin Maloney. In keeping with St Aloysius' Italian heritage, students then celebrated his feast day with a pizza lunch and a special Italian performance called the "Time warp" put on by Spectacular Spettacolo.

In the afternoon, some amazing performances were presented by students. The Foundation children sang beautifully, Grade 1/2 students danced and moved with great energy to a fun song called "Gioca Jouer" and the Grade 3/4 children performed a rap song in Italian, showing the great skills they have been learned this semester. Finally, a group of our Grade 6 children performed "Cenerentola" (Cinderella) and showed the whole school what excellence in Italian looks like. It was a great day, with lots of fun, laughter and Italian speaking. A wonderful community celebration.



Michael Kennedy, Principal



## Three New Parishes

*Our Ballarat diocese now has three new parishes – formed by joining groups of neighbouring parishes that have already been working together and sharing a parish priest. The new parishes are Saint Mary MacKillop Parish, Western Border; Holy Family Parish, Northeast Mallee; and Mary Glowrey Parish, East Wimmera.*

*The Western Border parish covers Casterton, Coleraine, Edenhope, Hamilton and Harrow. The Northeast Mallee parish covers Swan Hill, Sea Lake and the northern part of Quambatook parish. The East Wimmera parish covers Birchip, Charlton, Donald, St Arnaud, Wycheproof and the southern part of Quambatook parish.*

*The formation of these new parishes is the fruit of several years of consultation, including the 'Looking Forward' gatherings that have been held since 2014. The detailed proposals for the new parishes developed through discussions among priests and parishioners over the past few months and were endorsed by the Council of Priests at their meeting on June 19. I confirmed the formation of the new parishes on July 1.*

*These new arrangements will make it easier for the local communities to share the tasks involved in pastoral care and parish administration and will give the priests more time for pastoral and sacramental ministry.*

*The priests who have been caring for these regions will continue to do so. I have appointed Fr Patrick Mugavin as Parish Priest of the Western Border parish, with Fr John Corrigan as Assistant Priest. Fr Matthew Thomas is Parish Priest of the Northeast Mallee parish. Fr Eugene McKinnon is Parish Priest of the East Wimmera parish, with Fr Peter Jose as Assistant Priest.*

*I thank all the parishioners, parish staff and priests who have been involved in the consultation and planning. I pray that the formation of these new parishes will bring new blessings for our local communities. May we continue our journey of faith with confidence in Christ who has promised to be with us always.*

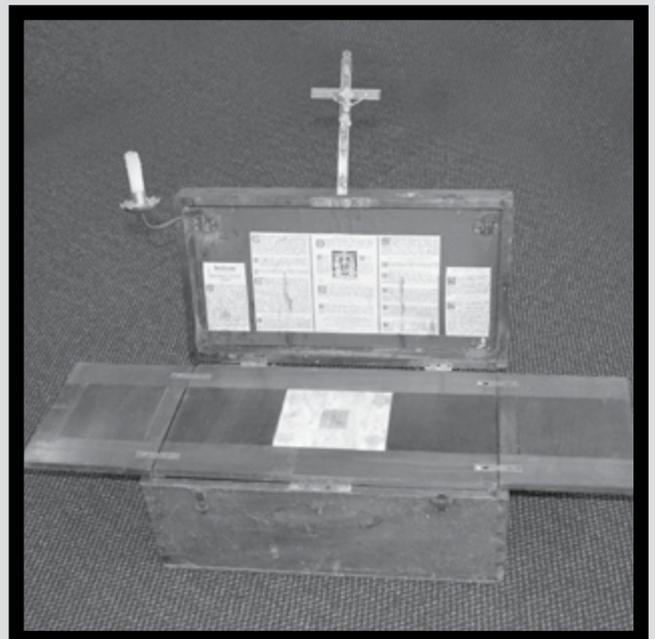
*Paul Bird CSsR  
Bishop of Ballarat*

## A New Springtime

Spring is a time of renewal and this year Australians particularly remember the momentous event 100 years ago that signalled the end of the Great War. Many will be attending services to mark the signing of the armistice on Remembrance Day, November 11. What is always striking about the Great War is the number of young, often very young, Australians who volunteered to serve. Monsignor Glynn Murphy from this diocese today serves our armed forces. This is where his vocation has led, just as it did many before him.

He follows in the footsteps of men like Mons H. Nolan, Mons J. McInerney, Fr Laurie Gallagher, Fr Vin Ryan and others back to World War I Chaplains, Fr E. Goidenach and Fr W. Neeson-Close to name a few. Their youthful commitment and the service they gave as they matured into their roles immediately after the war is often forgotten. Many remember them as older priests but these were once bright-eyed young men looking forward and desiring to serve. Theirs is a record of service, sacrifice, faith and the high ideals of youth, principals indicative of their early years which still sustain those who serve today.

They answered the call.



*Michael Taffe - Diocesan Archivist*

*Pictured is an example of the field altars used by our chaplains. Fr Goidenach, who served at Gallipoli, was awarded the Military Cross and is still remembered fondly in Ararat where he is buried. The altar may have been his or Fr Tom Wood who served at Hopetoun, also a Chaplain.*

# 2018 COLLOQUIUM: WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE ARE TOGETHER

*"... I can do things you cannot; you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." Mother Teresa of Calcutta.*

From May 31 - June 1, approximately one hundred and twenty educators, including priests and system leaders, gathered at the Mercure in Ballarat to participate in the 2018 Colloquium, hosted by Catholic Education Ballarat. The title of the Colloquium was *Who we are and who we are together. How might we be as partners, as we endeavour to achieve fullness of life for all?*

Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Ballarat, opened the Colloquium with a session called: *Context and Updates .... How did we come to this place and time? Weaving the threads of National, State and Diocesan educational agendas*, Audrey provided participants with the opportunity to reflect on the priorities and realities of the past few years. The current work on School Governance and the development of partnerships and networks across the Diocese were also highlighted.

The first workshop of the Colloquium, *Being researchful in our own contexts, learning from our research partners*, provided participants with the opportunity to complete a pre-investigation based on their leadership experiences within the Diocese. During the discussion, participants had the opportunity to explore existing leadership models which may be relevant to our Diocese.

The second workshop, *Partnering: A system way of being, working and learning with and from each other* began the exploration of what it might mean to be partners in our education system. Participants read the article based on Tennyson's (2011) work, "Leaders as Partners". Participants then had the opportunity to discuss the key partnering principles: equity of voice; mutual benefit; and transparency.

The third workshop: *Surfacing our hopes, dreams and fears* was an opportunity to voice aspirations and concerns as we move into partnership relationships across the Diocese. The workshop then centered on some of the issues that the system might need to attend to and commit to in the future.

The final workshop, *How will we learn and work together as a system?* provided the occasion to track the strengths and development of partnering. During the workshop activities, there was time for collaboration, individual reflection and whole group sharing and exploration.

It is planned to continue the discussions held during the Colloquium in further meetings in our various zones over the next six months. These discussions, deliberations and decisions will then inform the system goals as the next strategic plan is developed.

*Sandra Harvey – CEO Assistant Director : System Improvement*

## Proclaim 2018

*The Proclaim Conference 2018, held in Brisbane from July 12 – 14, was a great success. Attended by more than six hundred people from all across Australia and internationally, it was an extraordinary learning experience to assist us in facilitating the renewal of parishes. We were also welcomed to join in the journey of the Plenary Council.*

*Key areas of discussion focused around the themes of Belonging, Leadership, Evangelisation and of course Youth. Each day was filled with outstanding keynote speakers such as Cardinal John Dew from N.Z., Ron Huntley from Divine Renovation Ministry Canada and Lana Turvey-Collins, Plenary Council Facilitator and Karolina Gunsser, Citipointe Church Community Leader from Australia.*

*An innovation of this conference was the Facilitated Conversation Sessions where participants were able to break into small groups to discuss, at a grass roots level, what the challenges, strengths and possibilities were of each theme. These groups were a great success in that they allowed the 'local wisdom' of those on the ground to flow and merge, turning what can sometimes become an overly abstract discussion into a legitimate "tool" to take back to parishes. Our challenge now (and always) is to become real "proclaimers", and not walk five hundred miles, but "get out of the boat" and make real disciples.*

Marie Shaddock, Ouyen Parish

*From left (back): Thomas Thukkumury, Jess Salazar, Jamin Howman, Ann-Maree Convery, Sandra Dillon, (front) Susan Crowe, Amanda Smith, Marie Shaddock.*



# Selamat Hari Merdeka!

St Patrick's Primary School Ballarat recently celebrated Indonesian Independence Day with music, games and a fashion parade all organised by Bu Emma Ferguson.

On August 17, the whole school joined in a raft of exciting activities including playing the traditional Indonesian angklung, a bamboo instrument especially carved to resonate at varying pitches. Students in all classes were involved in challenges such as a rice cracker eating competition and making colourful decorations.

A strong connection was made on the day between St Patrick's and members of the newly formed Ballarat Region Indonesian Community (BRIC) who demonstrated musical instruments, toys and traditional games such as congklak, a game requiring great patience played between two people on an elaborate board with pebbles, seeds or shells depending on what is locally available.

A sea of Indonesian flags provided the backdrop for the vibrant fashion parade where students dressed in splendid traditional costumes from different Indonesian islands. Among the islands vividly represented were Bali, Kalimantan, Sumatra, Madura and Java.

Staff were treated to an Indonesian smorgasbord for lunch with Nasi Goreng, Sambal Chicken and Mie Goreng followed by treats for those staff who were adventurous enough to try their Indonesian language skills. The Acting Principal, Ms Cathy Whelan, starred by accurately identifying the appropriate greetings for different times of the day.

An even more spectacular day is planned for next year!

Bernadette Brouwers, Languages Coach, Catholic Education Ballarat



## LUMEN CHRISTI DAY

A great day of celebration! Lumen Christi day is one where we celebrate all the good things that happen at

Lumen Christi Primary School Delacombe, where children, staff and parents enjoy time together. We commenced our day with a beautiful prayer where we inducted our new Mini Vinnies and prayed that we continue to be people of Good Works.

There were sustainability activities for all students. There was tree planting which included the Grade 5-6 students planting trees across the back of the school. Thank you to the Ballarat City Council, Fifteen Trees and ResourceSmart Schools for their donations of trees and grasses. Students calculated their footprint on the earth, made bird feeders and bamboo teepees to name a few of the experiences.

We enjoyed a performance of Sleeping Beauty and the squeals of laughter from the Activity Centre were delightful evidence of the children's enjoyment. A huge thank you also to our Parents & Friends who organised a cake and lollies for the children. After all, it was Lumen Christi's 28th birthday.

Murray Macdonald - Principal

## Feast Day Celebrated

June 24, 2018 was the Feast Day of St John the Baptist and Srs Manuela and Tirsia renewed their religious vows on this day, as all the Sisters of St John the Baptist are required to do. Sr Manuela is the RCIA and Sacramental Program Resource person for the Diocese and Sr Tirsia ministers as Pastoral Associate in the Horsham Parish. Following Mass, the Filipino community and parishioners moved to the Parish Centre to join in a cuppa and a shared meal. As the day also coincided with Fr Peter Hudson's 73rd birthday, the Sisters turned this into a surprise celebration for Fr Peter.



The Filipino community sang and danced for Fr Peter and during the singing of "Happy Birthday" everyone

gave him a yellow flower, as is the custom in the Philippines. A wonderful meal was shared with a mixture of Filipino and Australian food.

This was the blending of two cultures and made for a very joyous occasion for Sr Manuela, Sr Tirsia and Fr Peter.

Anita Masiero - Parish Secretary

Our Diocesan Community - October 2018

# ST MARY'S SEA LAKE CELEBRATES



St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake celebrated sixty years of education in conjunction with the blessing of their refurbished learning space earlier in the year. Bishop Paul Bird and Fr Matthew Thomas celebrated Mass with the school and parish community. It was a truly wonderful celebration with all students participating in the Mass. The Captains of the school extended a warm welcome to all students and families, parishioners and friends who gathered. They gave thanks for all who were present and for all those who have contributed to the life and success of St Mary's school throughout its sixty year history.

The School Captains reflected on Fr Gerald Payne and those who had a vision for a catholic school in the community. They remembered all those who gave their labour, their gifts and their time to build the school. They remembered the Parish Priests, Sisters of St Joseph, teaching staff, School Advisory Council members and Parents and Friends Committee members who had stepped forward throughout the last sixty years to provide governance, leadership, advice and support.

After Mass the newly refurbished learning space was blessed by Bishop Paul and then dinner was shared. A birthday cake was cut by all students. Mrs Kate Nunn, Principal, spoke about the history of the school and highlighted some of its important moments.

Kate said that St Mary's was characterised by its strong sense of community and tradition. The parents work hard to support all endeavours so that the students are provided with all they need to receive the best education possible. The staff is a close knit team who work collaboratively and extremely hard to make the school a special place to be, in which everyone is nurtured, loved and valued, to enable every child to become the best for the world.



Kate concluded with, "I am extremely privileged and honoured to have been a past student, a past teacher and now the Principal of this school. For forty-two years I have been connected to the school and I thank God every day for this honour. I am so fortunate to work in and with this incredible school community and I sincerely thank everyone who has been part of this sixty year journey."

*Kate Nunn – Principal*

*Left: Children cutting cake*

*Right: Fr Matt Thomas, Bishop Paul, Kate Nunn*

## Award Winning Video

*A short video explaining what it means to be a great man at St Patrick's College has won a major international award for excellence in marketing. The two-minute video which was produced by Ballarat company Mass Motion, in collaboration with the school, was recognised as the best marketing video for any independent school or university in Australia and New Zealand at the bi-annual Educate Plus conference held in Auckland recently.*

*The video was produced following a 12-month consultation process which aimed to clearly define the St Patrick's College vision of "raising fine boys to the status of great men" St Patrick's College Director of Community Development Paul Nolan said the consultation process involved many hours of in-depth communication with parents, staff, Old Collegians and most importantly students, aimed at clearly identifying what it means to be a great man. "The students clearly owned this project and eventually produced five words which they saw as key to being a great man – aspiration, hope, respect, honour and compassion," Mr Nolan said. The St Patrick's College video was shortlisted as a finalist alongside entries from New South Wales Knox Grammar, Tasmania's Hutchins School and the Woodleigh School from the Mornington Peninsula.*

*In announcing St Patrick's College as the winner, judges said the video "hit all touch points". "It was emotive, honest and engaging covering a range of students and ending metaphorically with the words of an old scholar," the judges noted. "Those behind the making of this video truly must be applauded for turning a potentially extremely damaging time around in a way that has again returned the trust and confidence in a fine school."*

*The winning video can be seen at this link: <https://youtu.be/7duDVvUXIbk>*

*Paul Nolan - Director of Community Development*

# ResourceSmart SCHOOLS PRINCIPAL LUNCH

*Andrea Lane (Sustainability Leader) and Sue Paulka (Principal) from St Patrick's Parish Primary School in Port Fairy recently gave a presentation at the inaugural ResourceSmart Schools Principals' Lunch at the Community Centre in Port Fairy. This event was hosted by James McLennan from The Farmer's Place. Andrea and Sue spoke to the group about St Patrick's involvement in the ResourceSmart program, which the school first became a member of in 2008.*

*During that ten year journey, the school has been able to improve their practices in the ResourceSmart module areas of Waste, Water, Energy and Bio-Diversity through such initiatives as waste-free lunches, adjusted play break times, regular monitoring of data including water, gas and electricity usage, use of colour-coded bins, planting of native trees, preference for ordering recycled school supplies, reusable containers for canteen orders and participation in environmental initiatives. St Patrick's has achieved 4 star ResourceSmart status and is just awaiting the approval of their final 5th star. The school's involvement in ResourceSmart has also increased their opportunities for educating their students and school community about stewardship of our earth and our role in this.*

*Other speakers on the day included representatives from Sustainability Victoria, Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group and Peshurst Primary School and the audience included representatives from other district schools, the Moyne Shire, Warrnambool City Council and Wannon Water.*

Sue Paulka – Principal, St Patrick's Parish Primary School Port Fairy



*L-R: James McLennan (Facilitator, The Farmer's Place), Andrea Lane (Sustainability Leader, St Patrick's Port Fairy), Sue Paulka (Principal, St Patrick's Port Fairy), Joe Ewing (Principal, St Pius X Warrnambool), Adele Webster (Sustainability Leader, St Pius X Warrnambool)*

On July 20, the Honourable Dan Tehan, Member for Wannon, opened the Brigidine Centre at Marian College Ararat. The Brigidine Centre was formerly St Mary's Hall, the first portion of the brick school being erected in 1864 to ease overcrowding in the wooden schoolrooms.



The refurbished St Mary's Hall, incorporating and honouring the historic significance of this building for our rich heritage, provides students with an essential learning hub, consisting of four new classrooms, open learning area, offices, meeting spaces and bathrooms.

## BRIGIDINE CENTRE OPENED

With a generous federal government grant of \$1.6M, the additional classrooms and facilities enable Marian College to provide a dedicated space for Year 7 students as they enter secondary education. The Positive Education Program, *The Oak Program*, reflects the strong Brigidine tradition of the College, recognising our strengths of character as well as preparing students with life skills such as grit, optimism, resilience, engagement and mindfulness.

In 1888, five Brigidine Sisters journeyed from Abbeyleix in Ireland to begin the long and steadfast tradition of educating children in Ararat. Mother Gertrude Kelly, Mother Cecilia Synnott and Sisters Josephine Clancy, Paul Barron and Malachy Byrne founded the Brigidine Sisters in Ararat, building the convent and school which is Marian College today.

The Brigidine Convent initially operated as a primary school until 1954 when it became known as Marian School. Primary education was moved to St Mary's Primary School and Marian College began secondary education in 1965.

Marian College hosted boarders until 1980 when the convent was converted into a school building and the Brigidine sisters moved to the present convent.

*Donna Wood - Promotions and Community Liaison*



## Introducing Marie O'Brien, St Vincent de Paul NWCC President

**Family? Where did you grow up? Where are you now?** I was raised in Melbourne. I moved to Terang to take up a teaching position, met John, married him and moved to Cobden where I have lived for forty-seven years. We have two wonderful children and four beautiful grandchildren.

**How long have you been involved with Vinnies? What have been your roles?** I have been with the Society of St Vincent de Paul for over thirty years and have been a member of three different conferences. I have held the position of Conference and Regional President as well as secretary and president of North West Central Council (NWCC). I have been on the State Overseas Development Committee and through that role have been to the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Fiji, Cambodia, Laos and France. I currently serve on the State Council.

**If you were a colour what would it be? Why?** Blue. **Why?** A blue sky is uplifting; the blue sea is powerful and restful.

**As President of St Vincent de Paul NWCC, what do you do?** I meet many committed members who inspire me to better things. I try to make sure that all those who take on leadership positions are well resourced. I get to surround myself with talented people who help me form a team. Now that I have wonderful staff support I am able to think of and propose ideas such as Tertiary Scholarships, decentralisation of member support, accommodation for country people accompanying family patients to the Melbourne hospitals, ways of addressing rural disadvantage and building a strong relationship with our diocese and other care organisations. I sit on State Council and, like my husband John before me, I make sure that rural needs are forefront in decision making.

**If you chose a song which most represented you at this time, what would the song be?** Little boxes by Malvina Reynolds.

**Tell us about the changes that you have seen over the years of Vinnies' involvement in the community?** When I joined SVDP the organization was breaking away from a secret society image and was being thrust into a world of increasing governance. The growth of Soup Vans, the divestment from Aged Care, the re emphasis on homelessness through Vincentcare, the adoption of special works such as Assistance Centres, breakfast clubs and education programs has meant that we are looking at various ways to respond to the needs of the marginalized in our communities. Our core work is still home visitation which enables us to walk on a journey with our friends in need and tailor programs that hopefully extend more than a Hand Out but a Hand Up.

**What was the last book you read?** Non-Fiction: *The Answer* by Lindsay Tighe. Fiction: *Little Coffee shop in Kabul*.

**Vinnies makes a difference in the community, tell us how from your perspective?** SVDP enables those who believe in faith in action to gather, pray, socialize, see the face of Christ in the poor and make a material difference to families in need. Members know that they are part of a world-wide organisation that values the teachings of Jesus Christ and in many ways reflects the teachings of Pope Francis. A community can only be stronger for the presence of our Society.

**If you could choose anyone from any time, who would you most like to be in conversation with and why?** Jesus Christ: the most influential leader of all time.

**Anything else you'd like to add.....** We are looking out for new members who believe in living their faith through action. We present an opportunity to contribute talents and skills to a welcoming Society that has a preferential option for the poor and disadvantaged. There are many conferences throughout the diocese that would welcome new members with computer, secretarial, financial counselling, advocacy and great listening skills. We would like to enhance our relationship with the education and welfare community so would also encourage serving and retired workers in these professions to come and join us and help us with our mission.



### HELPING DROUGHT STRICKEN FARMERS

*The children of St Augustine's Parish Primary School in Creswick showed up in their finest farming costumes recently to help farmers who are feeling the pressure of drought. A group of caring pupils organised a dress-up day with a gold coin donation to raise money to go towards the fundraising effort for drought stricken farmers. Filled with activities throughout the day and a lunchtime sausage sizzle, the school was able to raise a whopping \$820 dollars.*

*"We saw what was happening on the news and we thought we want to do something to help them," Sam Crilly, one of the students who organised the fundraising, said. "We asked our Principal, Terry Brennan, if we could do it and he said yes." All of this took place during the school's St Augustine's Day celebrations. Having the youth of Ballarat work so positively to support our farmers in need is such an encouraging sign for the future generations of regional Victorians.*

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Ben Hopkins and photo by Lachlan Bence

# PLENARY COUNCIL GATHERINGS



Pope Francis has given his approval for the Catholic Church to hold the first Plenary Council – the most significant national gathering that can be held – in Australia in more than 80 years, the last one held was in 1937.

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

Recently, there were gatherings throughout the Diocese that provided opportunities to look at Listening and Dialogue towards 2020. Prayer and Dialogue are essential elements in this whole process of preparation for the 2020 Plenary Council. Representatives from Parishes, School communities, Catholic organisations and all others interested, were invited to attend one of the gatherings which were held in Warrnambool, Ballarat, Horsham and Mildura.

The gatherings were an opportunity to hear from and meet Ms Lana Turvey-Collins, Facilitator of the Australian Plenary Council 2020 Preparation Team. Lana gave insights into the process of the Listening and Dialogue Encounter phase that is now open to hear the voices of all who wish to respond. The Listening and Dialogue part of the preparations for the Plenary Council offer an opportunity for individuals and groups to have their voices directly heard by the Plenary Council prior to the Council's agenda

being developed. This Listening and Dialogue phase of preparation is open until Ash Wednesday 2019. These are the questions you are asked to consider and respond to:

1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church you would like to share?

Parishes and other groups in the diocese, large or small, are encouraged to gather to listen, talk and respond. A group does not need to develop a single response. All responses can be submitted, all voices are welcome.

Lana also talked about the overall three year process of preparing for the Plenary Council 2020 and answered questions. After the Listening and Dialogue phase, up until October 2020 there is the dialogue and discernment stage where themes from all submissions will emerge to make-up the agenda of the Plenary Council. In October 2020 the Plenary Council will meet for eight days, where around three hundred delegates, made up of one hundred clerical, one hundred religious and one hundred lay people, will look at these themes and discern what the future of the church in Australia will look like. Following this, the implementation phase will begin.

Plenary information is available on [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)



*Fr Kevin Maloney, Vicar General*

## Bishop visits OLHC Murtoa



*Bishop Paul Bird celebrated Mass at St Mary's Church Murtoa on Sunday, August 26 and followed this with a visit to Our Lady Help of Christians School on August 27, accompanied by Fr Peter Hudson. Bishop Paul spent time touring the school and speaking with the students as well as answering many of their questions.*

*This was followed by a staff shared lunch before Bishop Paul departed. Parishioners also joined the school community for the shared lunch. This was a very special visit for us and we were very thankful that Bishop Paul was able to spend time with us.*

Cathy Grace, Principal

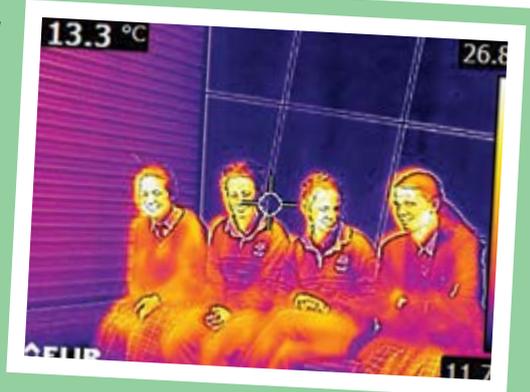
# FIND THE HEAT THIEF AT EMMANUEL

Students at Emmanuel College Warrnambool were challenged to look for the heat thief at the College. Sometimes in Warrnambool it feels like the wind is coming straight from Antarctica! The College has grown significantly over the past 145 years and the buildings have been added to and remodelled as needed. The College uses a lot of energy to heat the buildings to make it comfortable for learning.

The College's National Science Week activity was designed to encourage students to look for where the school buildings were losing heat to the environment and to challenge students to find practical solutions to the worst site of heat loss. All twelve hundred Emmanuel boys and girls were invited to participate. We received funding for a thermal camera which enabled us to test locations around our school where heat was escaping.

"Looking for the Heat Thief" was relevant to the Science Week theme, 'Game Changers and Change Makers'. We hope that using the thermal camera helped students visualise heat loss in their own environment and changed how they think about their environment.

Simone Rolfe, Science Coordinator



## PORT FAIRY UPDATES

### 'Let's Get Moving' Health & Wellbeing Day

On Friday, September 7, the children of St Patrick's Parish Primary School in Port Fairy put away their pencils and books to spend a day focussing on their physical and mental wellbeing. The children, in their mixed aged house groups, rotated through four activities - running at Russell Clarke Reserve, yoga and mindful breathing, Zumba dancing and skipping. The day culminated in a 'Jump Rope for Heart' performance by students and teachers in their respective house groups - Winnen, Samaritan, MacKillop and Polding. The children agreed that it was an exhausting but incredibly fun day.



residents. We enjoyed washing anything with wheels - including scooters, walkers and wheelchairs! A cool drink

Our Diocesan Community - October 2018

and a chat with our friends ended the morning happily. We also accepted generous support from the Moyneyana mates with donations of \$100 given towards Farmers Drought Assistance. Great job, Vinnies! You are living the school motto "Give Yourself to Goodness." Further visits this year with our Moyneyana mates include a Christmas craft morning, hosting a visit to St Patrick's for a garden party in the passive area of the playground and a Christmas visit to share carols and Christmas cheer. We are looking forward to many good times ahead!

### Taiko Drumming

On Friday, August 24, we welcomed Kiyomi Calwell from Tyke Oh Japanese Drumming to St Patrick's. She provided instruction on how to play the Japanese drums, how to hold the bachi (sticks) and how to hold your body when playing.



Taiko have a long history in Japan and are still used for festivals and other celebrations. The children all look a little serious in the photos as Kiyomi was quite strict and they had to listen to her instructions very carefully. Kiyomi brought several traditional taiko as well as some she had made out of rubbish bins. Everybody had the chance to try playing both to see and feel the difference. Some of the teachers took up the challenge to practise their percussion skills and they were fabulous!

Janine Moloney, Administration Officer

# Christmas in August at ACU

*Making a Scene at Christmas* started early this year with a three day visit to Australian Catholic University. The display of one hundred and fifty nativities was enjoyed by Fourth Year Religious Education students, staff and other students.

Many of the nativities have interesting stories around their construction. One nativity was made by an Islamic woman in a Refugee Camp, another was made in a Buddhist workshop in Cambodia by men stricken by polio or injured by land mines, and one is made from potato chip packets. Each provides a source of much needed income for the poorest people.

A highlight of this year's display was a Roman coin with a star clearly seen on it. According to some scholars, in 6 BCE, there was an alignment of planets in the constellation of Aries. This was so impressive that coins were issued with this image for over two hundred years. It is thought that this alignment could have been the Star of Bethlehem as seen by the Magi referred to in the Gospel of Matthew.



After visiting Canberra last year, this year *Making a Scene at Christmas* will be visiting Colac from November 29 – December 2, and Hamilton from December 13 – December 16.

Fiona Tonkin  
Making a Scene at Christmas Committee



## OPENING AND BLESSING

On Tuesday, August 8, St Michael's School Daylesford celebrated the official opening of their new refurbishment. Bishop Paul Bird and Fr Gary Jones led us in prayer as we came together to recognise all the effort that has gone into the new building works. Senator Jane Hume, representing the Minister for Education and Training the Hon Simon Birmingham, also attended and gave an address before unveiling our plaque. To conclude the ceremony, Bishop Paul Bird blessed the new space.

The official guests were treated to a tour by senior students and enjoyed a light lunch. It was a special occasion to recognise the school community, who contributed half of the money needed for the project, as well as the organisations that supported us in gaining new administration, staff and learning areas - a wonderful result.

Ethan Corfee -Principal

## Damascus Day 2018



Damascus College Ballarat students from all year levels took their outfits back through time to celebrate the school's 24th annual Damascus Day. Students dressed up in outfits from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s, while getting involved in lots of activities throughout the school, which were organised and run by the students.

The school's Development Officer Korina Hegert felt as though the day had been a rousing success. "It is a reverent start to the day with the Mass and then the celebration continues, having the students get dressed up and enjoying all the activities, is great to see," said Mrs Hegert.

Students also feel as though the day provides an opportunity to wind down during a stressful school period. "I think Damascus Day is really helpful. This time of year can be pretty full on with assignments and exams, so having a day where we can relax and dress-up is great," said Year 11 student Matt Payne.

The event acts as a transitional day, as the school announced its 2019 school captains.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Ben Hopkins and photo by Kate Healy

# HORSHAM BRIGIDINE CENTENARY IN 2020

Staff members across St Brigid's College, Ss Michael & John's Primary School Horsham and Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Murtoa have come together to form a committee to begin planning the Horsham Brigidine Centenary for 2020 - Celebrating 100 years of Education by the Brigidine Sisters in Horsham.



Celebrations are proposed to take place across the long weekend in June 2020 and we hope to bring back former students, teachers, staff and their families and provide them with an opportunity to come together and reconnect.

The committee hope celebrating on the long weekend will give people that extra time to catch-up with their past classmates and will be more accommodating for those who have to travel long distances. Each of the three schools will be open for tours. If you would like to be updated on the Horsham Brigidine Centenary, please forward your name, the name of the school/s you attended (and years) with your contact details to 100@stbc.vic.edu.au

Rhiannon Abernethy - School Development Officer

## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2018

### FRANK SHEEHAN OAM

Frank Sheehan spent more than a decade in the public eye as a Labor MP, but his service to the community runs much deeper than that. Mr Sheehan, 80, has been honoured as an Order of Australia Medalist (OAM) for his decades of service to the Ballarat community.



The former mechanic served as the Labor member for Ballarat South from 1982-92 under the Cain and Kirner Labor state governments. Mr Sheehan said he always had politics at his heart even though it took him three attempts to win his seat in parliament. "I'd always been interested in the community and the possibility of politics being an area where you can help out people with their various needs and concerns," he said.

One of his proudest political moments was being involved in the creation of work place laws. "I had many cases of people coming to me with work injuries," he said. "Worksafe and Workcover compensation never existed at the time and there was some legislation in the early days of the Cain government that addressed all those issues."

After losing the seat which is now Buninyong in 1992, Mr Sheehan continued his service at the Overseas Service Bureau which now is known as Australian Volunteers International. In more recent times, he was a founding member of Moving Towards Justice which provides support for abuse victims. He was involved in the program from 2012-16 and still helps collect hampers for victims at Christmas.

Mr Sheehan said he wished to thank the support of his wife Rosalie and four children Jane, Michael, Roseanne and Katrina. "Some people must think I'm worthy of it, otherwise they wouldn't have nominated me," he said.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier  
Text by Greg Gliddon and photo by Luka Kauzlaric

### DONALD MOSS OAM

Throughout his career, Donald Moss has watched regional medicine evolve, and had a hand in establishing Ballarat as a training post for future doctors. It was during a surgical training rotation in Ballarat during the 1970s that Mr Moss found a speciality in urology, the study of the urinary tract and the male reproductive system. So enamoured with the work under Ballarat urologist Ken Neerhut, after completing study in Adelaide and the United States, he returned to Ballarat in 1977 to begin his long career.

Mr Moss was the Head of Urology at Ballarat Base Hospital from 1985 until 2008, and lectured in urology at the University of Melbourne for 39 years until 2016. He was "lucky to start practice in a time of great change" in his field, as new endoscopic techniques and reconstructive surgery allowed him to assist a wider range of patients.



"To return someone with lifelong incontinence to a life with restored dignity via continence is hugely satisfying and gave me much pleasure."

Mr Moss has received a Medal of the Order of Australia at the 2018 Queen's Birthday Honours. He said urology has a "tradition of teaching the next generation" and he had a hand in establishing Ballarat as a post for urology trainees. Following the creation of Ballarat Urology, and time as the President of Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand, Mr Moss' dedication to improving health continued into retirement. "After retirement I was able to continue teaching on Pacific Aid trips to nearby countries such as PNG, Tonga, Timor Leste," he said. "The surgeons working there have become friends and are to be admired for their work in sub-standard facilities. Recognition by the OAM award is humbling, but a nice acknowledgement of the development of a surgical specialty in a regional area."

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier  
Text by Ashleigh McMillan

# Mercy Place Ballarat

Mercy Place Ballarat was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on September 25 in a ceremony attended by Institute Councillor, Elizabeth Moloney RSM, Community Leader Berenice Kerr RSM and local sisters and friends. It is Mercy Health's first purpose-built home around a new community-centred approach to aged care. The new facility is on a historic site of the Sisters of Mercy, as it was previously the location of Sacred Heart College, Ballarat East, which was founded in 1881.

Community Leader, Berenice Kerr RSM said that this is a dream come true. "It was about six years ago that I said to Stephen Cornelissen, 'I want a Mercy Place Ballarat' and here it is. It is so wonderful to have a place where our Sisters and the aged can come for their retirement, where they can be welcomed, where they can flourish." The home welcomed its first residents on September 3, with ten Sisters taking up residence with other new residents.

Mercy Health Group Chief Executive Officer Adjunct Professor Stephen Cornelissen says Mercy Place Ballarat provides the local community with an alternative to traditional aged care. "Mercy Health strongly believes that people, no matter what stage in life they are at, need to be connected to the community to flourish," Prof Cornelissen says. "The small households at Mercy Place Ballarat are designed to promote meaningful living and alleviate the loneliness, isolation and boredom that people living in aged care can often feel."

Mercy Place Ballarat is made up of fourteen small households. Each household caters for eight residents and has its own front door entry, kitchen, living area and outdoor space. Residents retain as much independence as they want, including choosing the time they wake up and helping plan the weekly menu for their household. Mercy Place Ballarat also has spaces available for visiting health professionals, a children's playground and a large garden. The Ballarat community is encouraged to enjoy all of these communal spaces with residents and their families.

*John Rochester, ISMAPNG Communications Manager*



## NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

*St Paul's Primary School Mildura had a fantastic NAIDOC day celebration on Friday, July 27. The day began with an Opening Liturgy organised by Mr Chris Browers, Religious Education Leader, which included a Smoking Ceremony performed by Will Hannah.*

*The students enjoyed a variety of activities including making and eating Johnny Cakes, making indigenous style lanterns, playing indigenous games and listening to our guest speaker Will Hannah speak about the indigenous culture. The day ended with an assembly where we were entertained by our Indigenous boys and girls dance groups.*

*A big thank you to Nathan Yates who taught and performed with the boys and to Taya Philps who danced with the girls. Thank you also to Aunty Belinda and the Clontarf students who helped Carl with the Johnny Cake making, to Stanley Ward who provided us with a large pot of Kangaroo Stew for the students to enjoy and to all others who were involved on the day.*

*Our rich community involvement is what makes our NAIDOC celebrations so great.*

Naomi Kennedy - Deputy Principal



# NULLAWIL CELEBRATES



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Nullawil, celebrated its 90th anniversary on Sunday, July 8. What a great celebration it was, with over one hundred people attending the Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird and Fr Ed Moloney. Past members returned along with current parishioners, community members and many from the surrounding district. Denis Ryan welcomed guests to the Mass and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land. He also acknowledged the early Mallee settlers for establishing small communities like Nullawil. He thanked Bishop Paul Bird and former parish priest Ed Moloney for celebrating the Mass and Joan Glenn for playing the organ with some old time hymns. Children took part in the service offering Prayers of the Faithful and being part of the Offertory Procession. Readings were proclaimed by Robert James and Amy Smith.

Joan Smith introduced several people carrying objects symbolising a ninety year faith journey. The land this church was built on was donated by James Bartram, a Methodist. To represent this his grand-daughter, Lois Bartram, carried a jar of soil from the church grounds. It is also an important symbol of the interfaith connections that have been forged over the years. Nowadays we attend one another's churches, have had many ecumenical services and Lois has for many years organised joint children's services. Ted Ryan carried a bookstand which was used on the altar for years with a Latin volume on it representing the history of the Catholic Church.

Until the early 60s, Mass was celebrated in Latin. The first wedding in the Church was between Frances Forrester and Gorrie Schifferle. Veronica Doran, nee Forrester, presented a photo of the couple from their wedding day. For many years Mrs Margaret Forrester instructed children in their faith. Two former pupils of hers, Simone Fawcett and Melissa Gilchrist, carried a catechism and also one of her teaching aids, (a large wall hanging with flip over pages, with prayers and religious pictures on it). The Catholic Women's Social Guild, later the Catholic Women's League was represented with Denise Hogan carrying a banner from when Nullawil hosted a CWL conference and also a container of medals of Mary the mother of Jesus, which are pinned on all mothers at Mass on Mother's Day.

The Sacraments are an integral part of our faith journey. Kaylene James carried a copy of "Let the Children Come" which she used for many years to guide children of St Joseph's through their first Confirmation and Eucharist, following in the footsteps of Mrs Forrester. With her was Rhett Hogan bringing forward a communion plate and sacramental stole. Finally Jenna Hogan carried her grandfather Leo's rosary beads. Many rosaries would have been said on these beads – the older parishioners had a great devotion to praying the Rosary.

In his homily Bishop Paul Bird said the anniversary was an occasion to give thanks for many blessings. It is an opportunity to give thanks for faith throughout the years and to remember all those who have been baptised, married, confirmed, buried and attended Sunday Mass in the church. He reminded us that on July 7, 1928, sliced bread was being sold for the first time in Missouri, USA. The church is a sign of continuing faith and perseverance. Sometimes, we can "take things for granted", rather than "take things with gratitude". The celebration is about 90 years of God's work in people's lives through their joys and sorrows. He concluded giving a blessing to the community of Nullawil.

The Mass was followed by a luncheon at the Auchmore Historical Museum, with the opportunity to reminisce and enjoy past friendships. The Nullawil Netball ladies provided soup, savouries, sandwiches and an assortment of home cooked cakes and slices. Historical members provided guests with a tour of the museum and items were performed during the afternoon.

*Joan Smith and Wendy Watts*

# Happy Birthday Mary!

Recently, St Mary's Primary School Students in Donald had a fantastic time celebrating the birthday of Our Blessed Lady. Mary is the patron of the school and her birthday was marked in a number of special ways.

To commence the celebrations, the school community gathered for Mass with Fr Eugene McKinnon. During the Mass Grade 4 student, Cameron Belleville, received the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time, witnessed by his fellow students.

In addition parishioners, John and Maureen Howley, received a special blessing as they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary – a mighty effort. School leaders Finn Molloy Drum and Chloe Livingston presented the Howleys with a card signed by the students and a small bouquet of flowers.

At the end of Mass each student was presented with a blessed medal of Mary and Baby Jesus as a special memento to mark the occasion.

Following the Mass students gathered to celebrate, each receiving a birthday cupcake! Students rotated through a set of party games – musical chairs, pass the parcel and some balloon games - which proved a challenge in windy weather. An enjoyable morning was had by all and it was especially nice to have some parishioners in the school to enjoy morning tea with us and to celebrate Cam's first Eucharist. Happy Birthday Mary!

*Mary Hogan, St Mary's School Donald*

*Top: Musical Chairs*

*Bottom: Fr Eugene and Cameron*



## BISHOP PAUL VISITS ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE



On Friday, August 24, Bishop Paul Bird made his way to Horsham for an official visit to St Brigid's College. Prior to recess Bishop Paul, joined by Fr Peter Hudson, celebrated a liturgy with our Young Vinnies group, met with Principal Peter Gutteridge, spoke with the Religious Education team, experienced a tour of the school and visited classrooms to speak briefly with students.

At recess Bishop Paul joined staff for a delicious morning tea followed by a 'question and answer session' with the Year 11 students, where they discussed many aspects of both Bishop Paul's life and the role of the Catholic Church in today's society.

Bishop Paul enjoyed the day and the great spirit shown among both the staff and students of St Brigid's College.

*Rhiannon Abernethy  
School Development Officer*

*Top: Bishop Paul with the Young Vinnies Group*

*Bottom: Peter Gutteridge, Bishop Paul and Fr Peter Hudson*



## Entrusting the Stewardship of Land

On Monday, August 13, Marian College Ararat celebrated transferring the stewardship of the land on which the College stands from the Brigidine Sisters to the new governance of Kildare Ministries.

From its inception in 1888, the Brigidine Sisters have governed the development of Marian College Ararat and been responsible for the property. As part of the change over to the governance to Kildare Ministries, we celebrated this auspicious occasion with many of the Brigidine Sisters and Trustees of Kildare Ministries.

The handover ritual commemorates the Marian College story, the pioneering nuns after whom our new Houses are named, and the generosity of the Parish Priests serving in Ararat at the time. Our story reflects the emergence of the township of Ararat as gold was discovered and farming was established. It celebrates the many Brigidine Sisters who have lived and served in Ararat and who had an active hand in the expansion and progress of Marian College. A commemorative plaque was unveiled marking the commissioning.

We welcomed back many Brigidine Sisters and past Principals as well as teachers who have been a part of the College over the years. We celebrated the rich Brigidine tradition which has underpinned the strength of the College. Our motto of Strength and Gentleness reflects the journey that Marian College has enjoyed for the past 130 years.

*Donna Wood - Promotions and Community Liaison*

## SAM CLEAR IN BIRCHIP



*St Mary's Parish Birchip recently played host to adventurer and author Sam Clear.*

*Former VFL footballer and Gillette Cup cricketer, Sam engaged his Birchip audience with tales of adversity and danger as he trekked through the Americas, Siberia, across Europe to the western most point of Spain with the aim of knocking on every church door he passed, regardless of its denomination, asking each parish to pray for Christian unity.*

*Sam's journey covered twenty countries across four continents. He encountered many hazards along the way. He faced snakes and pumas, was bitten by a scorpion, chased by wild dogs, held at gunpoint, robbed at knife point, beaten up at the side of the road, hospitalised many times and endured extreme temperatures from -33C to 47C.*

*Relying completely on the generosity of others for food, water and a bed for the night, he was often hungry or thirsty. At the same time Sam says he was "always overwhelmed by the beauty and love and the generosity of spirit of the ordinary people of the world".*

*Although he has never previously visited Birchip, Sam Clear has an affiliation with the Mallee. His grandparents lived in Beulah, which is a neighbouring town to Birchip, and he has cousins who are still farming in the region. Chris Phelan and his brother Rob and their families were delighted to catch-up with Sam over the weekend.*

*Sam's visit was made possible by a grant from The George Gould Community Trust which was put into place by the late George Gould to fund projects for youth in the Birchip Community. George's legacy is a testament to his Christian faith and his vision for the future of St Mary's Parish.*

Noeline Hogan





The Australian Bishops identified the liturgical year of 2018 as a national Year of Youth with the theme *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's focus for the Year of Youth 2018 includes Joy+ festivals and Joy Spreading gatherings.

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 for *Listening and Dialogue* encounters and to pray and reflect on the Church in the diocese and in Australia.

**Photos:**

Front cover: CEO Youth Festival, ACU Open Day, Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill, St Mary's School Donald, St Patrick's School Port Fairy, Teacher Graduate Program

Back cover: 1. OLHC Primary School Murtoa 2. Joy+ Festival Warrnambool 3. St Aloysius Redan Feast Day 4. Teacher Graduate Program

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

Vision Statement for the Diocese