

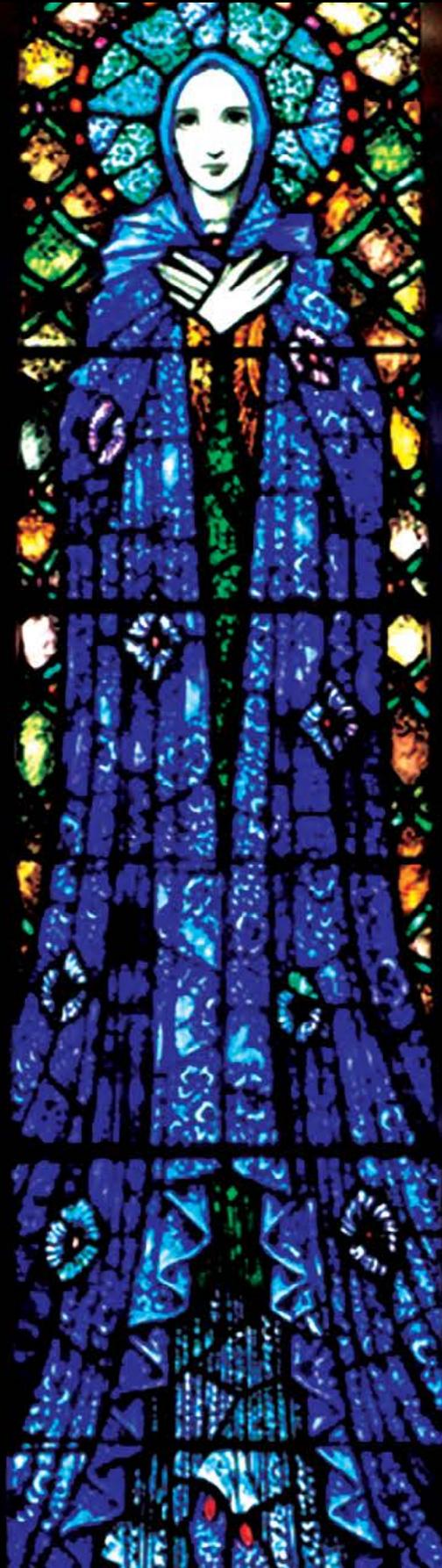
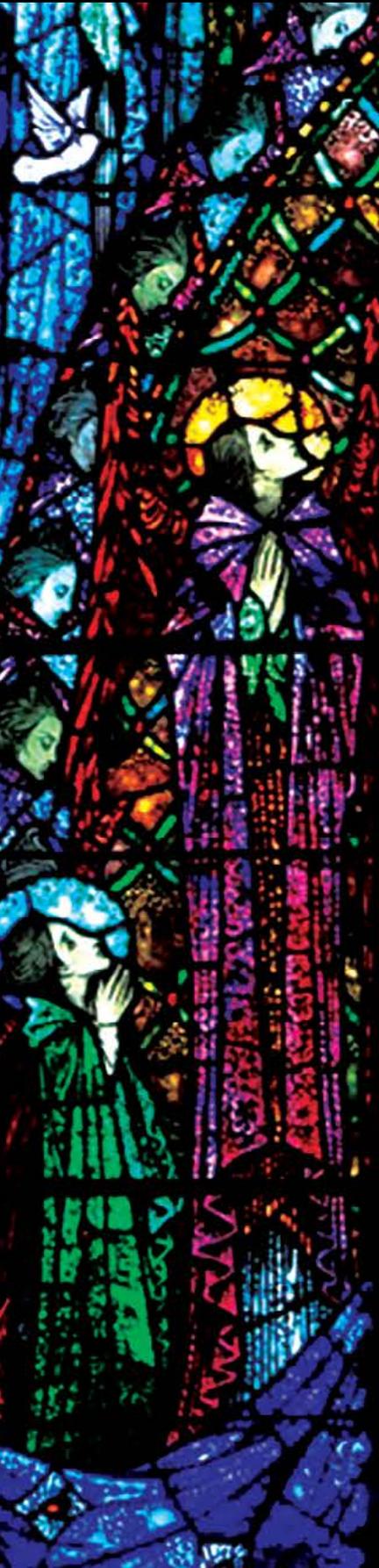
CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT



# OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

No. 59 October 2019



# BISHOP PAUL'S VISIT TO ROME

I would like to share some news of my visit to Rome. In company with the other Australian bishops, I was there for what is called a Visit *Ad Limina Apostolorum*. This is a pilgrimage that bishops from each country make to Rome to visit the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul and to meet with the Pope and those who assist the Pope in his care for the Church throughout the world.

There were thirty-eight bishops altogether in our group. Most of us stayed at Domus Australia, a small hotel that has been set up particularly for Australian pilgrims to Rome. Those bishops who could not be accommodated at Domus Australia stayed at a hotel nearby.

The *Ad Limina* program began on the morning of Monday, June 24. After an early breakfast, we left Domus Australia in small buses at 6.30 am to travel through the Roman traffic to St Peter's Basilica. There we were guided to an area for vesting before processing down to the crypt to celebrate Mass near the tomb of St Peter, which is directly underneath the main altar of the basilica. Bishops are ordained to be successors of the apostles and I found it a moving experience to concelebrate Mass with the bishops of Australia at the tomb of St Peter, called by Christ from his fishing nets to be a leader among the apostles.

After the Mass, we were free to wander around St Peter's Basilica for an hour or so before gathering at the bronze door that leads to the apostolic palace where we were to meet with Pope Francis. We passed by numerous Swiss guards and through a number of formal rooms. At 10.30 we were invited to move into the room where the Pope was waiting to greet us. Pope Francis welcomed each bishop individually. We then sat in an oval-shaped arrangement of chairs. The Pope said a few words of welcome in English. After that, he spoke in Italian, the Australian bishops spoke in English, with a priest from South Africa translating. I was sitting just a few metres from the Pope. It was an absorbing conversation that lasted two and a half hours.

The first question was about the roles of lay people, priests and bishops in the Church community. Pope Francis has spoken often of the value of all the members of the community walking together, with each one contributing their own gifts. In this regard, we spoke about the Plenary Council that is planned for Australia in 2020 and the meetings we have had already in preparation for this Council. There have been gatherings in parishes all around the country, reflecting on the question, "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Already 220,000 people have shared their views in writing, either individually or as members of groups. Pope Francis encouraged us to continue this sharing of our faith.



I was the second of the bishops to make a comment. I referred to a photo I had seen of Pope Francis from a general audience a few days beforehand. The photo showed Pope Francis reaching out to a child in the crowd and the child reaching out to the Pope. I thanked Pope Francis for the example he has given of reaching out to people, including children. I said that in my diocese of Ballarat, sadly, we have had a bitter history of abuse of children, but we have been doing what we can to care for those who have suffered abuse and also to keep children safe today. I asked the Pope to pray with us for all those who have suffered – those who have suffered abuse directly, and those who have suffered indirectly – their families and in fact the whole community.

In responding, Pope Francis spoke about his reaching out to the child in the crowd. He said that he tries to reach out particularly to children and the elderly because these two groups are often overlooked. When he spoke about child abuse, Pope Francis seemed very sad. He referred to the meeting that he had called in February of presidents of bishops' conferences from around the world. Through that meeting he wanted to highlight the need to care for children. This is a serious duty in the Church and in every society around the world.

In our long conversation with Pope Francis, we covered many topics. For example, bishops from the north of Australia raised the issue of the special needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. They spoke of the efforts being made to provide education and health care but they noted that much still needs to be done.

Some of the bishops look after Eastern Rite Catholics in Australia. These have close links with Eastern Rite Catholic communities in the Middle East. These bishops highlighted the fact that many people in the Middle East have been driven from their homes by war or persecution. The bishops said that it was an encouragement to these people when the Pope spoke publicly about their situation and when he urged the international community to help them in their time of suffering.

Some bishops noted the growing number of people in Australia who refer to themselves as having no religion. Pope Francis emphasised the importance of witnessing to the Christian faith by the way we live, as well as by the words we say. He said that if we truly live in a Christian way, this can prompt people to ask about Christ. Then we have an opportunity to speak with them about Christ in response to their questions.

When it does come to sharing our faith in words, Pope Francis emphasised the importance of the homily. He acknowledged that priests can sometimes be very busy. However, he said that it is important that priests (and bishops!) make it a priority to prepare their homilies well. They do this by coming to know the Scriptures and coming to know their people, so that they are able to link the message of the Scriptures with people's lives. He recommended that homilies be brief and that they include a key idea and a vivid image.

These were some of the topics we discussed as we shared with the Pope until nearly 1 pm. At that point, there were some photos of the whole group, before the meeting ended with Pope Francis saying farewell to each bishop.



As far as meetings went, the time with Pope Francis was the highlight of our visit. However, the week also included numerous interesting meetings with members of various Vatican departments. I will mention just a few.

Late on the Monday afternoon, we visited the office of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. This is a Vatican commission with a focus on promoting the protection of children around the world. One of the projects of the commission is to gather information about the steps being taken in various countries to respond to those who have suffered abuse and the steps being taken to keep children safe today. The commission is collecting this information and will share it with people around the world to help people in all countries improve their care for children. The members of the commission

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 All contributions to ODC may be forwarded to:  
 OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY,  
 PO Box 576, Ballarat 3353.  
 Phone: (03) 5337 7179  
 Email: [odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
 Web: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

acknowledged the steps that have been taken in Australia over many years. They said that what has been done in Australia could give a lead to other countries.

One of the departments I visited the next day was the Pontifical Council for Culture. This is a council that seeks to promote links between the message of Christ and the many aspects of human culture, such as art, music, sport, and, today, social media.

Another department has the task of “promoting integral human development”. This includes a wide range of areas – education about principles of social justice, assistance to migrants and refugees, care for the environment, help for people suffering because of war or natural disasters.



The meetings with Vatican departments highlighted for me the breadth of issues that the Church is engaged in around the world.

The other key element of our week was the celebration of Mass in the main Roman churches – at the tomb of St Paul in the basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, in the basilica of Saint Mary Major (built in the fifth century, soon after the Council of Ephesus declared Mary to be “Mother of God”), and the basilica of St John Lateran, which is the Pope’s cathedral.

The week came to a fine conclusion with another visit to St Peter’s on the morning of Saturday, June 29, when we were able to concelebrate with Pope Francis for the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. At that Mass, as on many occasions throughout the week, I offered a prayer for all the people of our diocese of Ballarat.

Now that I am back home, I offer a prayer of thanks for the blessings of my time to Rome. As I travel around the diocese, I hope that I will be able to share something of the encouragement that I found in those days.

*+ Paul Bird CSsR*

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

## 2019 STUDY TOUR

*The 2019 inaugural New Caledonia Study Tour for Mercy Regional College Camperdown was a great success. The French-speaking gem of the South Pacific lived up to everyone’s expectation of French language, culture and snorkeling with the sea turtles. Ten French students from Years 9 to 11 spent eight days in New Caledonia during the Term 2 break. The students travelling from Year 11 were Jordan Gray, Hayley Wason, Tess Lourey, Will Elliot and Oliver Wright; from Year 10, Tom Wright and Isabella Finney; and from Year 9, Hayley Hewitt, Will Kealley and Skye Baran. They were accompanied by teachers Mme Chamon Vogels and Mme Saggi Macleod. All students were fantastically well behaved, excellent representatives of our school abroad and were proactive in getting the most out of the trip, having many new cultural and linguistic experiences and making many new friendships, all with a great deal of fun. For their accompanying teachers they were a delight to be with, full of joie de vivre and always ready for new adventures.*



*Despite leaving at 6.45 am in the pitch dark from school on the first Monday of the school holidays, the tour got off to a good start. After the bus ride to Melbourne airport, we met our representative from GET Educational Tours and progressed smoothly through both check-in and customs, ready to board our Air Calin flight to Noumea. Three hours later we landed at Tontua Airport. Another bus drive and we checked into the Hotel Novvata at Anse Vata, had a quick swim and then headed out to have dinner. This was the end of an exciting but tiring day one. During days two to five, the students participated in French language classes at CREIPAC Language School Noumea, which is located on the grounds of New Caledonia’s first and biggest penal colony. Our students had two mornings of classes from 8.30 -11.30, as well as one full day of classes and a final day of cultural activities. The lessons were very engaging – the students played games, performed charades, acted, sang and learnt words and expressions that they could use at the market, when speaking with their host families or while shopping. For our last day at CREIPAC we went to the local Port Moselle market to purchase fresh food items for the Bougna - a traditional meat and yam feast that the students*

helped to prepare. The teacher at CREIPAC, Mme Huebert, congratulated us on how wonderful our students were to teach and how much she had enjoyed her time with them.

Students, in pairs or threes, were placed with their hosts from day two to day six. For five consecutive nights students lived with their host families. Our students were excellent, fully embraced the local culture, were polite and respectful and learned much from the experience about both themselves and about life in Noumea for the French. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to practice their French and broaden their minds culturally and linguistically. Apart from the evenings, they also had all Saturday together with their host families. After their last day together, students and families exchanged gifts and memories of meals, endless games of UNO, cooking lessons and conversational French. The students were sad to say farewell and I hope they think about maintaining contact.

Away from the lessons and the host families, our group program was varied. On three afternoons we explored different aspects of life in Noumea. One afternoon we had a two-hour guided tour of the city aboard the Tchou Tchou Train. It was a fun tour with commentary in French and English, allowing us to get our bearings of the city, driving through the local suburbs and visiting panoramic view points. Another afternoon we visited the Tjibaou Cultural Centre. We had a two-hour guided tour in French about everything Polynesian. The Centre educates visitors and locals alike about indigenous Kanak culture. Students saw some traditional art and learned how native huts are constructed. On our third afternoon we explored the variety and cost of goods on offer at the local Super Marché and then shopped for souvenirs.

A highlight for us all was the full-day excursion on day seven to the outer lagoon island containing the Amedee "phare" or lighthouse. The twenty-four kilometres between Noumea and Amedee Island were covered by a comfortable high-speed cruise boat. On the island we enjoyed a delicious tropical banquet, a spectacular Polynesian dance show, a glass bottom boat tour of the nearby reef and of course, hours of snorkeling! Many students were even fortunate enough to swim with the many green turtles feeding on the sea grass! Oh, and did I mention the resident population of extremely docile sea snakes? While on the island, some of the students climbed the lighthouse and were rewarded with spectacular 360 degrees views. Other students also participated in Polynesian dancing. On our last night together as a group we enjoyed a buffet dinner at our hotel and participated in a fun karaoke evening hosted by the hotel together with other Noumea residents. After a trouble-free flight and bus trip we arrived safe and sound back at school at 4pm. Some of us were tired and emotional - and that wasn't just the parents!

It was a wonderful tour and I would like to thank everyone who helped us get it underway. I would also like to thank our wonderful students for being so open to developing an understanding of the many benefits and joys of learning a second language. Finally, thank you to all the parents and guardians of the students for allowing their sons and daughters to participate in the tour and consequently gifting them with some life-long memories and, hopefully, the passion to continue with their studies of French. Merci et Au Revoir!

Mme Siggie Macleod - Head of Languages Domain

## Parish Visitation

The communities of Immaculate Conception St Arnaud and St Joseph's Charlton welcomed a visit from Bishop Paul Bird from Friday, July 26 to Monday, July 29. Bishop Paul met the communities in informal settings sharing a meal. As Bishop Paul had recently celebrated a special birthday he had cake and received cards. He also visited some parishioners in their homes and these visits were greatly appreciated. On Saturday, Bishop Paul celebrated Mass at the Aged Care Facility in Charlton.

During his stay, Bishop Paul celebrated Masses at Banyena, St Arnaud and Charlton. On Monday, Bishop Paul concluded his visit to our area by visiting St Joseph's School Charlton and St Patrick's School St Arnaud. We thank Bishop Paul for spending time with us.

Anne Kenny

Top: Bishop Paul with the St Arnaud community  
Middle: Bishop Paul with the Banyena community  
Bottom: Bishop Paul with the Charlton community



## Supporting **YOUNG VETERANS'** transition into civilian life

Local veterans are making the most of the transitional support offered through the 'Joining Forces' program, aimed at supporting young veterans' transition from the services back into civilian life.

The 'Joining Forces' program is delivered in collaboration with Centacare Ballarat and the Ballarat RSL, and provides veterans with diverse support service opportunities to assist them and their families to integrate back into their lives and their communities.

A key role supporting the veterans has been undertaken by ex-serviceman Ben Brooks, who served in the Australian Army for 8 years and was medically discharged in 2009. Ben explains the importance of the program and of his role to the veterans as an ex-serviceman in the following way, "These ex-service personnel have been trained to be the protectors and the providers, therefore they can find it hard to open up to those closest to them, who they feel it's their duty to protect. The advantage of myself being a fellow ex-serviceman is that it has allowed the opportunity for people within the program to have a relatable outlet, someone who won't judge,



with no expectations or emotional connection."

The program has opened various opportunities for those involved, including engaging with the community, navigating local support services and providing further education opportunities.

"We have had great response to the program so far. The participants have appreciated having the support, even for something as simple as catching up and having a conversation. Having someone to talk to who can act as a sounding board has been appreciated," said Ben.

Activities focusing on mental and physical health have been planned for

later in the year, aiming to connect the local ex-service community.

"Connecting the younger veterans' community through peer activities is a way for 'Joining Forces' participants to meet and debrief with each other, whilst encouraging them to take care of their physical and mental wellbeing," said Ben.

'Joining Forces' covers the Central Highlands area including the City of Ballarat, Moorabool Shire, Hepburn Shire, Golden Plains Shire, Pyrenees Shire and Ararat Rural City. To find out more information about the 'Joining Forces' program please contact Centacare on 03 5327 7900.

Photo: Cpl. Angel Serna [Public domain]

## JOY SPREADING



On Tuesday, July 16, a group of young Catholic adults gathered at the Golden City Hotel in Ballarat for another instalment of *Joy Spreading*. This time the group heard from the Vicar General Fr Kevin Maloney who presented on 'Good and Evil in the Creation Narratives', complete with a hand-drawn illustration of the 'Classical World View' and readings from Genesis. The mood was convivial and welcoming and it was a great occasion to meet a few new faces, as well as catch up with old friends.

*Joy Spreading* is an initiative begun in the Australian church's 2018 'Year of Youth'. The format and purpose of the event is to bring together young Catholic adults to connect, socialise and reinforce their faith through presentation and dialogue. If any parishioners are interested in organising an event such as this, please feel free to contact the Ballarat Youth Ministry Coordinator Patrick Kennedy on [patrick.kennedy@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:patrick.kennedy@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph: 53377160.

# SPC Boarding Buddies

*From worlds apart, a unique bond has been forged between two Year 7 students in their first year at St Patrick's College Ballarat. Eric Yang hails from the bustling Nanjing metropolitan region in China, about 305km west of Shanghai, a city with a population of 30 million. He is the first international Year 7 student to enrol as a boarder in the new St Patrick's College boarding precinct. Dwayne Hayes hails from Ali Curung in the Northern Territory, 380 km north of Alice Springs. Ali Curung is a town with a population of 493. He is the first Indigenous student from a remote community to commence their boarding education in Year 7 in the new St Patrick's College boarding precinct. Yet while their paths to Ballarat could not have been more different, their journeys with the green, white and blue colours of the College are now intertwined.*



*The College Director of Boarding, Mike Silcock, said it has been a joy to watch a unique friendship bloom in such a small amount of time. "These two young men, born worlds apart, have formed the closest of friendships here as boarders at St Patrick's College," Mr Silcock said. "Their amazing bond is clear evidence of the wonderful diversity that exists amongst the boarders at the College, a diversity we celebrate and which brings together two very different young men to journey together through school.*

*There are so many anecdotes or memories that could be shared about their time together in boarding and this is just in the short space of time that they have been with us. They take great delight in telling us (usually over lunch when they both come and park themselves on our staff table) what the other has been doing (or doing wrong!!). And when Dwayne scored a try in his first game playing Under 13 rugby for the College, the first to congratulate him was his team mate, Eric."*

*It is not just in the boarding house, though, that the impact of these two boys' friendship is being felt. In the halls of the Junior School and in the Year 7 classrooms, both Dwayne and Eric are being recognised by their peers as future leaders of St Patrick's College. "Both Dwayne and Eric were recently appointed as Year 7 Form Captains and were elected by their peers," Mr Silcock said. "They are two of our four Year 7 boarders who are thriving amongst a wider Year 7 cohort of some 234 students. We see their achievements and their friendship as further proof of the 'complete' or 'total' support that boarding can give our younger students, providing them a platform from which to excel."*

*It is hoped that Dwayne and Eric's early success can pave the way for more younger boarders from diverse backgrounds to attend the College and provide new life to Ballarat. "It is really great to see these boys succeed as we pushed so hard for both an International program and acceptance of younger Indigenous boarders," Mr Silcock said. "Whilst we will always judge each potential enrollee on his merit or readiness – these two have just excelled in the environment we are able to create. It has been a real highlight to our boarding year to see the friendship these two have formed."*

*The story of Dwayne and Eric is just one of the many thousand untold stories of boys excelling at St Patrick's College. While some of the high-profile College events attract the accolades, and controversies can often dominate the headlines, it can be easy to lose sight of the wonderful little things that occur around St Patrick's College minute-by-minute.*

*"The friendship between Dwayne and Eric is a great example of a real feel-good moment from St Patrick's College," Acting Co-Headmaster, Mr Stephen Hill, said. "Every day our students and our staff are weaving a fine network of strong relationships, built on the back of meaningful interaction and all with a commitment to the greater good.*

*We are always encouraging our boys to become better men, to build relationships based on respect, to be compassionate, aspirational, honourable and filled with hope. There are myriad ways this philosophy becomes reality in day-to-day life at St Patrick's College."*

*Mr Hill said that many in the St Patrick's College community should take pride in these day-to-day achievements. Boys volunteering their time to tutor refugee students in western Melbourne, or running Easter Egg drives before dressing as the Easter Bunny to visit sick children at the Ballarat Health Services – Base Hospital are typical examples.*

*"We also have boys volunteering to work at soup vans," Mr Hill said. "And we had our Year 10 students sleep outside overnight in May to gain a greater appreciation of the plight of the homeless. We also have our Year 9 students working on a variety of community-based projects every two weeks as part of their curriculum. All these worthwhile tasks are centred around building relationships and teaching our boys how to respect others and to work for the greater good of the community. Hopefully that environment will continue to enable friendships like Dwayne's and Eric's to flourish and grow for many decades to come."*

Paul Nolan - Director of Community Development

# ITALIAN FESTA

Although numbers were down on previous years, the 2019 Festa Della Madonna Del Monte Carmelo in Swan Hill was enjoyed by all who attended and was a wonderful celebration of tradition, culture and spirituality.

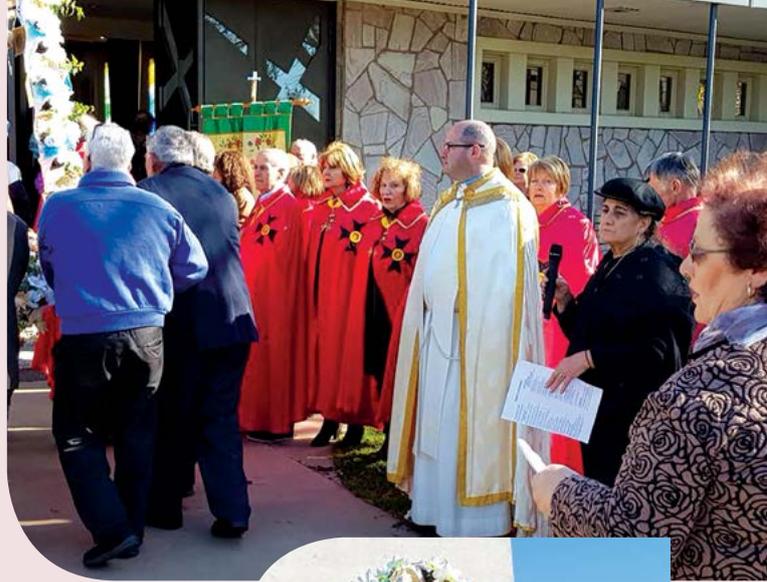
The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16, is honoured throughout Southern Italy. Emigrants from there have brought that tradition with them to the various countries they've settled in, allowing them to maintain and build solidarity in their new home. Our own statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel here in Swan Hill was donated by the Parish of Varapodio, in the southern Italian region of Calabria, origin of many of our local Italians. The feast holds a special significance in this town as locals who came from there were protected from severe earthquakes that ravaged the area many years back, and give credit for this to the intercession of Our Lady of Mt Carmel.

In its sixty-third year in Swan Hill, the Festa has enabled Italian immigrants in the region to connect and create community, meet up, catch up and enjoy their tradition and culture, whilst at the same time acknowledging and thanking Our Lady for her example and her intercession.

The festival this year began with an evening Mass on Friday, July 19 for deceased loved ones. On Saturday morning, there was an Anointing Mass with a Dinner Dance at the Italian Social Club in the evening. A full church celebrated Holy Mass on the Sunday, followed by a street procession with the statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel. The majority adjourned to the Italian Social Club afterwards for a beautiful lunch of pasta and home-made sauce by the Italian Ladies Committee, as well as a BBQ and traditional music and dance. The trading table selling cream cannoli, gingerbread biscuits, crostolis and zeppole was sold out early. Local children from *Dance It Up* put on a wonderful performance of the traditional Tarantella dance. Everyone had the most fabulous day.

A special thanks must go to Fr Matt Thomas and our visiting priest Fr Jake Mudge. Having studied in Rome for many years, Fr Jake speaks fluent Italian, and the elderly patrons greatly appreciated hearing their native tongue. He also gave much comfort, pleasure and encouragement to the sick and house-bound parishioners he was able to visit.

*All agreed it was '...a wonderful celebration of tradition, culture and spirituality.'* Carmel Muscatello



## Halls Gap Excursion



On Friday, September 13, thirty-six very excited Foundation, Year One and Two students from St Mary's School Warracknabeal travelled to Halls Gap to visit the Zoo. Upon arrival, the students listened to a talk about reptiles and if they wished they had the chance to hold a snake.

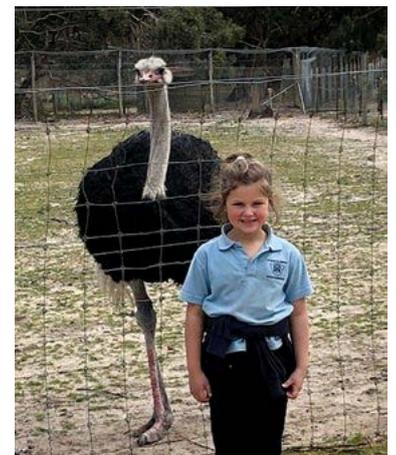
The rest of the day was spent exploring all of the amazing animals at the Zoo and having a play on the playground. A most enjoyable day was had by all. Below are comments from some of the students:

*Hudson - I loved seeing the bison and the ducks that were swimming.*

*Ella - My favourite animals at the Zoo were the owls. I liked seeing them because of the sound they made.*

*Chanel - I loved seeing the pigs at the Zoo.*

*Harlow - My favourite animal to see was the giraffe. I had a photo in front of the cage.*



Joy Quarrell - Principal

# New bus to take residents on social outings

Connecting residents with their local community will be just one of the many benefits to come from Mercy Place Ballarat receiving a bus. It is a lovely birthday present for the residents at the aged care facility, which recently celebrated its first birthday.

Sr Angela Caine and Raymond Shackleton are two of the very excited residents who will now have more opportunities to get out and about. Sr Angela was busy selling jam and pickles at the facility's open day on Saturday, raising more than \$1100 to buy fuel for the van so residents can go on their first outing. "They all went like hot cakes," she said.

The van, which is able to seat eleven residents, was purchased with funds raised by the community as well as a generous donation from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation. Sr Angela said she was really looking forward to being able to go out on trips with her fellow residents and that it would also be an opportunity to meet people she does not usually socialise with. "It will be really nice to get a change of scenery and some fresh air," she said.

Sr Angela is looking forward to going on trips to Lake Wendouree or picnics in Daylesford and Creswick while Mr Shackleton is looking forward to a trip to Buninyong. The arrival of the van comes just in time for the pleasant spring weather, with residents keen to go to the Ballarat Begonia Festival and Spring Fest. Other residents have expressed a desire to simply go for a drive through Ballarat while others wish to visit Bridge Mall, go trout fishing or to see the Christmas lights later this year. Mr Shackleton said he no longer owned a car so it would be nice to get out and about more often. "I am excited for it. It's something we can look forward to," he said.

Mercy Place Ballarat General Manager Andrew Howard thanked the community and the Diocese for its support and said having its own bus would mean residents would be more connected to their local community. "We will use the bus to transport our residents to social outings," he said. "It means our residents can be more connected to and feel like a greater part of the community. Connectedness is really important for people living in aged care homes and is something we place a great deal of emphasis on."

The aged care home, designed to accommodate people living with dementia and restricted mobility, is modelled on small households, with a maximum of eight residents living together in a household with their own kitchen, lounge area and individual ensuite bathrooms.

Residents living with dementia are not secluded in one part of the facility. Instead, they live with the other residents. "This innovative approach to aged care living promotes connectedness, independence, choice and relationships. It also helps to create a real feeling of home," Mr Howard said. Along with its new bus, Mercy Place Ballarat also boasts a village square, a grocer, a café, wellness centre and chapel.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Hayley Elg and photo by Brendan McCarthy  
Photo: Raymond Shackleton and Sr Angela Caine with the new bus from Mercy Place Ballarat



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Over three weekends, children in the St Aloysius Parish Redan celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation, a significant occasion in their faith journey.

Our thanks to Fr Kevin, Fr Lovin, Annette Hirth, Cathy Cramer, Bernadette Lynch, the St Aloysius Caring Circle and to the school staff and families who supported these children on this journey.

We congratulate the children on this important occasion.

Michael Kennedy - Principal

# 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MASS

The arrival of the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Polding, (pictured right) in November 1844, to the settlement of Portland was a significant occasion in the lives of some two hundred and fifty Catholics who had made the new settlement their home but had been without a priest in the community since their arrival. It was early days in the colony, which at this time was still referred to as New Holland, and the area now known as Victoria was the District of Port Philip. Portland had been visited by sealers and whalers including William Dutton in 1828 and permanently settled by the Hentys in 1834. For thousands of years, before any white men, it was the home and traditional grounds of the Gunditjmarra people.



In 1842, Alexander Laurie, the first Presbyterian clergyman at Portland, wrote in a letter, “The population of the township and suburbs of Portland may be estimated at about 800 souls. The most numerous class are the adherents of the Church of Rome. They have no priest as yet: some of the less bigoted occasionally attend our service. Not a few of them came voluntary and offered me a subscription for our church.”

The history records show us in fact that there was much “theological give and take” in the early days of the Portland settlement, with financial support given freely across the board from church members to other churches with assurances of reciprocal support in building their place of worship.

On April 23, 1843, a petition from the Catholics of Portland was forwarded to Archbishop Polding at Sydney requesting the appointment of a resident priest. Funds for his support were guaranteed by 116 signatures to the petition. On May 17, 1843, a subscription list was opened for the erection of a chapel and one hundred and fifty pounds was raised in a few hours. That Dr Polding had not forgotten the petition is shown by the fact that in the next year, 1844, when the Archbishop visited Melbourne, he lost no time in journeying to Portland.

On November 2, 1844, the Geelong Advertiser reports, “His Grace Archbishop Polding arrived on Tuesday last by steamer from Melbourne, en route for Portland Bay. His stay (in Geelong) will be very short as it is his intention to pass overland on horseback to Portland.....”

The Portland Guardian reports, “Dr Polding accompanied by Archdeacon McEncroe and Father MacEvey held a variety of services, both public and private, in the store formerly occupied by Mr Tulloch in Gawler St. The public services were well attended on most occasions, Protestants forming as large a proportion of the congregation as the members of the Catholic Church.” The first Mass then offered at Portland was that celebrated by Dr Polding on Sunday November 3, 1844, in Mr Tulloch’s store.

The Sydney Morning Chronicle (December 7, 1844) records the impressions of Dr Polding and Archdeacon McEncroe after their visit to Portland and Port Fairy. “Speaking at a meeting of the Propagation of the Faith on Sunday last, Fr McEncroe said that he noticed in his travels the great spiritual destitution of many of their fellow countrymen. The Archbishop and himself found considerable numbers of Catholics in Portland and Port Fairy who had never been favoured by a visit from a Catholic Clergyman, and who had not of course the opportunity of partaking of the Life-Giving Bread of the Blessed Eucharist. It was edifying to witness the piety and fervour of these people. Their earnest appeal for a priest was heart-rending since, on account of the limited number of priests, we were not able to comply with their request for the present.” During their four days in Portland, upwards of one hundred persons received Holy Communion, fifty children were baptised and several marriages blessed.

**All Saints Parish will celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the first Mass in Portland with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on Sunday, November 3, 2019, at 10.30am, followed by a light luncheon at Bayview College. All welcome. For information and catering purposes please reply to [portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or call Di on 0427 946 053.**

*Source: Booklet – the Catholic Church in Portland – Centenary of the First Mass 1844 – 1944.*



*Students and staff of Our Lady Help of Christian’s School Murtoa travelled to Horsham on June 20 to celebrate the Gifting Mass, along with students from Ss Michael and John’s School Horsham and St Brigid’s College Horsham attending as well.*

*A wonderful response of donations saw over \$4000 worth of food items donated to assist those in need, through St Vinnies and Christian Emergency Food Centre. Thank you for your generous donations. Our students were commissioned into the 2019 Mini Vinnies Group at Mass, receiving blessed badges and certificates.*

Cathy Grace – Principal

## wishing mauze all the best



After thirty seven years of dedicated service at St Malachy's School Edenhope, Maureen Payne (or Mauze as she is dearly known) has decided to put away her pens, paper and spreadsheets to enter into retirement. We all know that Mauze does not like being made a fuss of, so we had to disguise Grandparent's Day along with Book Week to get her to turn up at school for

a farewell. This day, August 22, was to be her last official day at the school.

After we had our Book Week Parade and celebrations, it was time to celebrate the wonderful grandparents we have in our school community, of whom Mauze is one; her grand-daughter is currently in Year 6. After our prayers

and thanks for grandparents, we asked Mauze to come forward as a "special grandparent" at our school.

Students presented Mauze with a book about her "super powers", and we had a PowerPoint presentation of the many photos taken of Mauze over the years. There were also 'thank you' messages from staff, parents and grandparents. Staff collected all their ideas about Mauze and these were collated by Tim Rokebrand and put together as a very entertaining poem. Students then farewelled her with the hymn by Andrew Chinn, "May God Be With You". Later that same day after Mauze had attended a funeral, current and past staff surprised her with another farewell at the local Golf Club where more Mauze stories and presentations were held. Current and past parents had the opportunity to farewell her at an afternoon tea at the school on Tuesday, 3rd September.

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mauze, and we thank her for her warm and welcoming approach to everyone. Her ability to make everyone feel loved was her most memorable quality. Her outstanding contributions to our school community in so many different ways will be remembered for many, many years to come. We now wish her all the very best in her retirement so that she can enjoy more time with her family and friends and some pampering time for herself.

Angela Kealy - Principal



On Sunday, September 22, a crowd of approximately sixty people attended the final Mass at St Joseph's Catholic Church at Buangor. Fr Justin Driscoll celebrated Mass and spoke eloquently about those founding people who built the church and the fact that on completion of the building, there was no money owing for the build. He also spoke about the fact that the Church was more than the building, but more about the community. Fr Justin remarked on the many memorable and moving occasions that had taken place in our faith community over the many years.

## FINAL MASS AT BUANGOR

John Jess welcomed the gathering and spoke about the significance of the event and that the local community was pleased the church was to be restored and looked after, as part of a project for the new owner.

The Stations of the Cross, an important feature in the church, were gifted to the Lexton Catholic Community (also St Joseph's) and Toni Cini graciously accepted these with some very kind and respectful words.

Following Mass the congregation were treated to a lovely morning tea in the Buangor Sports Centre. A great day was had by all with lots of wonderful memories shared.

Bernadette Franc





## CELEBRATING MERCY

On Tuesday, September 17, St Joseph's College Mildura began its 'Mercy Week' activities with Fr James Kerr leading us in our College Eucharistic celebration. This Mass was celebrated with our local Sisters of Mercy - Sr Patricia Fitzgibbon, Sr Helen Nolen and Sr Carmel Setford. McAuley House, led by Ms Sophie Quinlivan, had the pleasure of facilitating this wonderful celebration.

Our celebration focused on the Story of Mercy, how Catherine McAuley, living in Ireland, heard the cry of the poor and homeless. Her response was "the poor need help today, not next week". She committed her life to these people and the need to show them love. She did not want girls, women and children to cry out, and not get a helping hand.

During our Mass, Sr Helen Nolen focused on her own personal Mercy journey, from growing up in a small rural town to working in schools and Indigenous communities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory and overseas in Timor Leste. Sr Helen is now back close to her roots, to family, but this does not allow her to become complacent or to ignore the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Sr Helen reminded us about the call of Catherine. She told us that Catherine's words, "the poor need help today, not next week", challenge us to speak up, to speak out against injustice, wherever it rises. In her reflection, she asked where the face of mercy, of compassion, is needed today, where the edge that beckons us to offer a helping hand is placed. Sr Helen reminded us that the tradition of Mercy belongs to each of us who have been touched by the life of Catherine of Dublin. With rapid diminishing of vocations to the convent, the baton is shifting from a majority of Sisters of Mercy to a majority of co-workers affiliated with MERCY. That means us. We are being called to action, to live out the values of our College.

Following Mass, the students received an ice cream, a tradition established many years ago by the Sisters of Mercy at the College, for Mercy Week. To continue our celebrations of Mercy Week, the Mercy Action Group students held 'Catherine's Bake Sale' on Wednesday, September 18. While on Thursday, the Wellbeing and Music departments with Mercy Action Group held a BBQ stall and Student Music Concert to raise awareness of R U OK day. Finally on Friday, students had a Footy Colours casual clothes day where students donated a gold coin. All money raised during the week went to Mercy Missions and Mercy Works.

*Paula Cox - Director of Catholic Identity.*



# POPE'S REPRESENTATIVE VISITS BALLARAT

Archbishop Adolfo Yllana is the Apostolic Nuncio (the Pope's representative) in Australia. He is based in Canberra. When Bishop Paul heard that the Nuncio was to come to Melbourne, he took the opportunity to invite him to visit us in Ballarat. The Nuncio and Bishop Paul attended a Mass in Melbourne on August 1. The next morning, Bishop Paul drove the Nuncio to Ballarat.

They met with Audrey Brown (Director of Catholic Education), Tony Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer of Centacare) and Michael Myers (Professional Standards Co-ordinator). Audrey outlined the educational ministry of the sixty-four schools in our diocese. Tony spoke of the social services provided by Centacare. Michael summarised the steps we have taken in the professional standards area, both to assist those who have been abused by Church personnel and to ensure the safety of children today. The Nuncio offered encouragement in each area and commended the cooperation that has developed between these three areas of Church life.

Following the morning meeting, Archbishop Yllana celebrated the 12.05pm Mass in the Cathedral and met with parishioners after the Mass. He then joined the priests from around Ballarat who had gathered as usual for Friday lunch in the cathedral presbytery.

After lunch, Bishop Paul took the Nuncio to the Ballarat Gardens for a leisurely stroll before driving him to Tullamarine Airport for his flight back to Canberra.

The day's visit provided the Nuncio with an opportunity to come to know our diocese a little better. He also carried with him a copy of the latest edition of our diocesan magazine, *Our Diocesan Community*, so that he could learn more about what has been happening throughout our diocese in recent times.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR



## ANDYMC CONFERENCE

Ballarat Diocese Youth Coordinator Patrick Kennedy attended the annual ANDYMC conference in Lismore, NSW. ANDYMC (Australian Network of Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators), the national professional body for youth coordinators, is an independent network that exists with the blessing of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and regularly communicates with the Bishops Commission for Pastoral life. It was established over twenty years ago and the primary aim is to support the leadership and implementation of Youth Ministry across the country.

As a representative for the Ballarat Diocese, Patrick spent three days in Lismore collaborating with leaders from around twenty dioceses, comparing accomplishments and difficulties, and sharing helpful



resources. There was also a spiritual retreat led on the first day by Bishop Greg Homeming, an Adoration session with the local youth-group band 'Wildfire', working teams discussing Pope Francis' recent apostolic exhortation *Christus Vivit*, and time for networking and socialising in the evenings. Needless to say, everyone came away from the week inspired by new ways of spreading the Gospel message to young people!

The document *Christus Vivit* will inform the Catholic Church in Australia's approach to Youth Ministry for some time to come. It contains guiding principles and concerns issuing from the World-Wide Synod on Young People held last year in Rome, which was attended by over three hundred young people. A core insight is "meeting young people where they are" in their lives, and consequently the Ballarat Diocese will be looking at implementing programs that will respond effectively to the Holy Father's call to bring the Good News to those immersed in a 21st century context.

Patrick Kennedy - Youth & Young Adult Ministry Project Worker

# ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

The Ballarat Diocese has a long history of supporting some of the most vulnerable and marginalised within our community. Some of the following stories give insight into the lives of people who have come to Australia in search of sanctuary. Others tell of the commitment of parishioners and organisations within our Diocese who strive to honour the dignity and affirm the rights of all God's people.

## SEE MY HUMANITY

Look at me  
See my humanity  
See a person  
Not a refugee

Look at me  
See who I am  
Not my colour  
Not what you think I am

See my spirit  
My fight to live  
Not what I need  
But what I can give

Hear my silence  
See my pain  
Respect the fear  
I can't explain

Look at me  
Don't see a refugee  
See a person, just like you  
See me. See my humanity.

Naser Moradi - June 2017

Poem and painting  
printed with permission



### Good News Story from Centacare, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat

A Malaysian family who are seeking asylum in Australia were referred to Centacare in Mildura for support. The entire family was living in one room, in an overcrowded house in an isolated location with little connection to those outside the household. The family, including the mother who is expecting her fourth child, had not had any health check-ups since arriving in Mildura. As they were not linked to Centrelink, the family had no access to public funds or healthcare. It would be fair to say that when the Centacare program staff offered assistance to this family, they also offered dignity and hope. With the help of Centacare, appropriate housing was found for the family in Mildura which was then furnished with Centacare funds. The mother and children now have an Interim Medicare Card and have been linked in with health services. The children are all attending playgroup and the older two have been enrolled in the Mildura English Language Centre and will soon attend primary school. It was found that the family are also eligible for the family tax benefit and rental assistance. It took Centacare liaising with local communities and services on the family's behalf for this family to have access to some of the most basic rights that many in Australia take for granted.

### Rural Australians for Refugees - Harry Collins (Ararat)

I am part of Ararat's Rural Australians for Refugees group (RAR). We are a diverse group of people from faith and non-faith backgrounds who are united by our care and compassion for refugees and asylum seekers. Besides advocating for change of politicians' minds (no easy task), we also assist the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) in Footscray with donations of food, clothing and toiletries. A highlight for our group is the camp we hold in the Grampians. Young men of a refugee background from West Heidelberg in Melbourne come and spend a weekend with us – experiencing the Australian bush and all it has to offer. The benefit of this weekend away is twofold; they experience a style of life they have never imagined, and we grow in our knowledge and understanding of their lives and customs.

### Matty - John O'Sullivan (Emmanuel College, Warrnambool)

Matty's refugee story started when he was placed on a boat at the tender age of thirteen by his parents in his native country of Sri Lanka. Matty's parents wanted to protect him from the civil war which was happening in the country at the time. Matty spent time on Nauru and Christmas Island and then finally in the Darwin Detention Centre before being sponsored through the Brigidine Asylum Refugee Project which also supported Matty to complete his VCE studies. Despite missing several years of schooling, Matty graduated, excelling in both Mathematics and Science. Now 21, Matty, with help from a committed network of supporters in Warrnambool, is studying a Bachelor of Mathematics/Science at Deakin University on a part-time basis. As part of Matty's Visa status, he can work and study. However, he is classed as an overseas student meaning he must pay the significant overseas student rates. To support his studies, he tutors students after school and at Kip McGrath, as well as making pizzas at a local restaurant two nights a week. On top of this, he volunteers time to Emmanuel College. In getting to know Matty, I have been impressed by his dedication to his studies and his spirited effort to forge a new life in Australia – much to the delight of his parents and siblings.



### **Journey of a Refugee - Fr Doan Nguyen (Hamilton)**

My name is Doan Nguyen. I was born in Vietnam into a Catholic family of five boys and two girls. All my siblings are living in Melbourne but my parents both passed away some years ago. When in my teens, I went through the experience of being a young refugee. My older brother and I arrived in Melbourne as boat people from the refugee camp in Thailand in the mid-1980s. We had made a risky boat trip from Vietnam to Thailand. There were thirty-two people in the boat, twenty-eight of us were Catholics. The journey was eleven days long, our boat lost its rudder on the second day and we floated in the Gulf of Thailand for ten days. We were desperate throughout the journey. However, we landed on a desert island in the Gulf of Thailand. We were then transferred to the refugee camp up north and stayed there for more than a year. After being interviewed and accepted by an Australian Immigration Officer to come and live in Australia, we flew to Melbourne, settled down and started our new life in this fortunate country. I was put into an ESL class for six months and joined the ordinary grades from Year 9 onwards. I completed secondary school and continued with my tertiary studies at Victoria University in Melbourne graduating with a business degree, specialising in accountancy. I worked in this field for some years before I became a religious. I am now a Redemptorist priest and am currently based at St Mary MacKillop Parish in Hamilton. It is my pleasure to give a hand in offering our Church's pastoral services to the people in the parish.



### **Sr Carmel Setford rsm (Merbein)**

In the past decade I have worked closely with asylum seekers and refugees in a pastoral capacity. I have heard first-hand the harrowing stories of torture, threats, murder and fear. I can fully appreciate that for some, the only option was to leave their homeland and try to seek sanctuary elsewhere. In my experience, one of the real cruelties endured by these people is the uncertainty imposed upon them by consecutive Australian governments as a consequence of their seeking asylum by boat. Some have been isolated in detention centres, often for years, afraid to return to their homeland and unsure of how long they will remain in detention. Even when they are finally given a Temporary Visa and have a work permit, the uncertainty continues. Obtaining a visa is complicated and expensive. It is hard enough to understand, let alone afford the legal quagmire that is the Australian immigration process. In contrast to the often cruel and draconian actions of the Australian government, I have seen much goodness in the Australian community. There are countless examples of people who have found practical ways of advocating for and supporting our asylum seekers and refugees, people who give of their time, resources and friendship, and this gives me hope. May this friendship and advocacy continue until, hopefully, the Government finally shows some compassion for these vulnerable people.

### **Grandmothers Against the Detention of Refugee Children (GADRC) - Dianne Reynolds (Dunnstown)**



GADRC was formed in response to the Rudd government's harsh policy of off shore processing of refugees. Grandmothers know from their own experience that children must feel safe and be protected, and we were distressed at the deprivation being experienced by children in Detention Centres and Community Detention. We believe that locking up Asylum Seekers and separating families is unjust and discriminatory for people legally entitled to seek safety and freedom in Australia. Grandmothers and Friends aim to bring about change in Refugee Policy by liaising and participating with other refugee and advocacy groups, writing letters and speaking to political leaders about our concerns. Some of us visit MITA Detention Centre in Broadmeadows where we have developed friendships with detainees, listened to their life stories and heard their concerns about the harsh treatment of those held there indefinitely.

### **How to get involved:**

Access the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission website ([www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services & agencies/welfare/social justice commission](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services&agencies/welfare/socialjusticecommission)) for more information about:

- these and other stories concerning this social justice issue from across our Diocese;
- various organisations that you can support or join; or
- sharing your own stories about being, celebrating or supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

***“We encounter Jesus in those who are poor, rejected or refugees. Do not let fear get in the way of welcoming our neighbour in need.”***

*Pope Francis - 20/06/2018*

*Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission*

## AN EVENING TO INSPIRE

Emmanuel College celebrated ten years of its Inspiring Alumni at Warrnambool's Lighthouse Theatre in August. The Evening of Inspiration was a joyous occasion during which Cheryl Hicks, Stephen Lee, Michael Owen, Melissa Patterson, Helen Ridgwell and Fr Barry Ryan were inducted into the Inspiring Alumni.

Whilst the inductees have gone in various directions since finishing their education at Emmanuel College, one quality or characteristic links them together. Whether in the workforce or in their professional lives or in the local community, service to others is evident in the way each of them is living out their lives. By providing legal expertise in the service of the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, or establishing the "Tasty Plate" catering service in our local community to employ people with disabilities, or by providing access to educational opportunities for indigenous young people in the remotest parts of the nation, or providing rescue services in the Southern Ocean through Surf Lifesaving Victoria, or by bringing environmental theology to thousands of university students, or being a pioneering woman in aviation, the inductees have had a positive impact on the lives of many.



"They are exceptional role models," said Principal Peter Morgan, "of whom we are justly proud, and we acknowledge their capacity, through their leadership, to inspire others to succeed and achieve. This year, too, for the first time, we are inducting seven Young Alumni Achievers. Congratulations to Peter Cho, Edwina Goodall, Virginia McCormick, Emma McDowall, Liam O'Keeffe, Nathan Sobey and Aimee Timpson. These young people are all shaping and contributing to our Australian way of life. Congratulations to all our inductees."

Along with the inductees, a number of current students were recognised for their inspiring and exceptional achievements. Student talent was showcased through an art exhibition (a retrospective of past Art Hall of Fame Winners), a fashion parade featuring student design work and performances including the Ursula Frayne Speech Festival winning Voice Choir, the Senior Concert Band performing Bohemian Rhapsody and an outstanding rendition of an award-winning song, Thulele Mama Ya, by the Emmanuel Singers. Nominations are now open for the next inductions of Inspiring Alumni and Young Alumni Achievers in 2021.

*Jean Christie - Director of Marketing*

## LIFE LONG CONTRIBUTORS AT MARY GLOWREY PARISH, EAST WIMMERA

Most successful parishes thrive, thanks to the hard work put in behind the scenes by volunteers. In recognition of all those volunteers, we would like to acknowledge several people who have worked tirelessly for their parish. None of these people realised that what started out as filling a need at the time would end up as a life long journey.



**David Pierce, St Michael's Wycheproof**, was a 16-year-old trainee bank teller when he was invited by Mother Brendan to help out with the financial ledgers at St Michael's Primary School. This then led to parish bookkeeping and now, aged 75, David has closed the books as St Michael's Parish transitions to a new era as part of the wider Mary Glowrey Parish. A lot has changed over the past fifty-nine years, not just the leadership of priests and Mercy Sisters that he has seen come and go but the nature of the work, from book ledger to computer programs. David said he had made good friends through his work and association with the diocesan finance office, including support from Ray McClusky and Mark Bromley. St Michael's thanks David for his great contribution to the parish and wishes him well for his retirement. (Jacinta Miller, Wycheproof)

**Maris Stephenson, of Quambatook and Boort**, is one of those 'salt of the earth' kind of people who have worked tirelessly over many decades to make things happen, see projects through and actively support the work of others. Maris has lived and worked in the Ballarat diocese at Quambatook for over forty years. At Quamby, she's a life member of the Football Club, has been the Citizen of the Year and has held office on many committees. In church life, Maris is a Life Member of the CWL, holding office for many years, and has also been the liaison officer for the parish and the unofficial caterer for many priests and visiting dignitaries. Serving as CWL Diocesan president and assisting Ballarat Diocese Caritas Coordinator Sue Searls, has kept Maris on her toes and on the go all over the place. Now retired, but still doing her fair share of moving and shaking behind the scenes, Maris continues to contribute to her much loved Quambatook and to the church community in many ways. (Annie Meadows, Boort)





**John and Marlene Arandt** arrived in **St Arnaud** in 1964. Their two children started school at **St Patrick's Primary School** and so they became involved at school level and progressed to being valued and respected volunteers at the **Immaculate Conception Parish** in **St Arnaud**. For many years the parish ran the local deb ball, in which John was involved. He was also Parish Secretary for over twenty years and is currently in charge of the planned giving program for the **Mary Glowrey Parish**. Marlene has been a volunteer with **St Vincent de Paul**, as well as cooking many meals for local and visiting priests. John and Marlene also maintain the gardens around the church and the parish centre. They were both very saddened by the passing of **Fr Paul Mercovich** in September 2017. Fr Paul had been the parish priest at **St Arnaud** for around twenty years and John and Marlene spent many hours running him to appointments in his later years. Thank you for your many years of hard work.

**Anne Kenny** returned to **Charlton** in 2002 to care for her mother. Anne claims she was quite happy sitting on the sidelines when she first moved home but seeing the need for someone to help with the planned giving, she graciously put her hand up to help. After the untimely death of the then parish secretary, Anne was asked to take on that role as well. As the years have rolled on, Anne has become a stalwart at **St Joseph's** whom many people have come to rely on for her common sense approach and experience. When Anne is not following her other religion (golf), she is kept busy printing the weekly **Bulletin**, banking and quietly going about the parish doing what needs to be done. It is people like Anne who keep our small parish communities running smoothly.



## BRIGHT FUTURES

Established in 2018, the **Damascus College Ballarat Bright Futures Scholarship** sponsored by the **Sisters of Mercy** (John Thirsk Estate), **Fr Brendan Davey** and **Damascus College**, is for the purpose of supporting students and families who are experiencing financial or personal disadvantage, and who demonstrate a strong commitment to social justice activities and contribute to their local community, but may not otherwise be able to afford a Catholic education.

This scholarship is awarded annually to one incoming Year 7 student for 50% tuition relief, and is awarded for the duration of a student's enrolment at **Damascus College** (maximum of 6 years).

Applications open in October and close in February each year. Primary School Principals must support/endorse one Grade 5 student per year from their Primary School community, to be considered for this **Damascus College** scholarship.

In order to extend the reach of this scholarship to more than one student per year, **Damascus College** has begun fundraising for the **Bright Futures** scholarship fund.

On Thursday, September 19, the inaugural **Bright Futures Fundraising Breakfast** was held at the **Ballarat Golf Club**, with more than fifty guests in attendance. Attendees were treated to a sumptuous buffet breakfast, listened to special guest speaker **Mary Darcy**, discovered more information about the scholarship and networked with other past students and members of the **Damascus** community, all with the aim of raising funds for the scholarship.

**Damascus College** was extremely pleased that this inaugural event was such a success and raised a good amount of funds towards the scholarship. It has been a great start to reaching the ultimate fundraising goal. This event will now become a permanent bi-annual fixture on the **College** calendar.

To find out more information about the scholarship, please go to: <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-scholarships>

To give to this very worthy cause, please go to: [https://damascuscollege.worldsecuresystems.com/past-students-giving\\_form](https://damascuscollege.worldsecuresystems.com/past-students-giving_form)

*Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development*



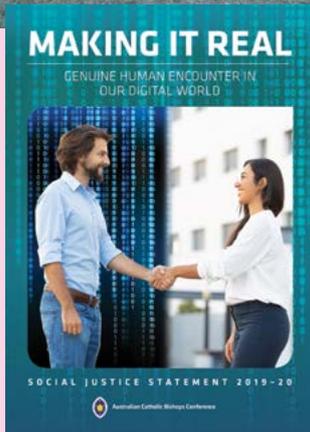
# social justice

In August, two members of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission (BDSJC) attended the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council Annual Conference in Sydney. Anthea Hinchey (Chair) and Rachel Smith (Executive Officer) attended the conference on behalf of BDSJC. The conference provided opportunities for Anthea and Rachel 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 statement 'Making it Real: Genuine Human Encounter in our Digital World'. Presenters included Beth Doherty (musician, journalist and teacher), Matthew Howard (social media expert) and Sue Martin (Catholic Earthcare).

The 2019-2020 Bishop's Conference Social Justice Statement acknowledges the valuable contribution digital technology has made to our lives, but points to some elements of human engagement with social media that have left us at odds with human solidarity. It refers to Pope Francis' suggestion that we must become confident citizens of the digital world, while at the same time identifying and addressing the human issues that contribute to the misuse of social media. The statement calls us to be both good neighbours and loving, understanding, faithful and truthful co-constructors of the online world.

The statement will be used to inspire and drive the work of the BDSJC in the coming months.

*Anthea Hinchey*



*Mercy Regional College Camperdown's Mrs Sue Bohm will be saying farewell as she closes the door on twenty-five years with the College. Sue has seen the College grow from two hundred and twenty students across the two Campuses to double that number now.*

*Sue started at the College in 1995, when she took on the position with the then Catholic Regional College as Administration - College Secretary/Principal's Secretary/Reception and Administration in the old College offices in Dimora Avenue. In the early years, as Sue was the only one in the office, Sister de Chantal was a great support as a back-up. When administration moved into the Old Convent building in 2001, Sue gained an assistant.*

## SAYING FAREWELL

*Sue has worked under six Principals at Mercy Regional College: Mr Peter Griffin when she began in 1995, Mr Patrick Linehan, Mr Kerin Glennen, Dr Andrew Watson, Dr Darren Egberts and recently Mrs Berni Sinnott. Sue took up the position as Principal's Secretary to Dr Watson in 2005.*

*Sue considers it a privilege to have worked at the College, with all the different staff over the years, and she thanks them very much for the support they gave her in her role. Sue especially loved interacting with students in the early years and has some great memories of them. Quite a few now have children of their own at Mercy.*

*Sue will enjoy Long Service Leave before officially retiring in 2020. She is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Bill, her children Rebecca and Luke and their families.*

*Julie Giblin - Mercy Regional College*

# LEADERSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY



On Wednesday, September 11, Centacare Ballarat along with Catholic Social Services Victoria and the Diocese of Ballarat, hosted a leadership and spirituality breakfast at the Mercure Ballarat Hotel and Convention Centre. Many local parishioners, community members, clinicians, health care workers, educators, social justice advocates and religious education leaders attended the event. Centacare's Chief Executive Officer Tony Fitzgerald welcomed all present and Bishop Paul Bird offered a prayer of grace before breakfast. Deanna Davis, Centacare General Manager Family & Community Services introduced Chris Lowney, who was presenting to the gathering.

Chris Lowney is an author and speaker on leadership and Ignatian spirituality and at one time was a Jesuit seminarian. *Everyone Leads*, Chris's recent book on revitalisation of the Church, builds on the Ignatian principle that everyone exercises a leadership role. In his presentation, Chris encouraged listeners to reflect on two key principles of leadership, which he argued is mainly a spiritual role. He reflected on the need for a good leader to 'do the laundry' and to take 'pit stops'. Doing the laundry referred to the call for leaders to live and be with all those whom they lead, and to always serve others first. Chris suggested leaders need to attend to the spiritual nourishment required to lead effectively and to do so by taking 'pit stops' – to take time daily to reflect on one's work and to review one's leadership capabilities.

Chris promoted five 'take home' messages to his audience, who were able to ask complex questions throughout the session. Chris' messages were:

- Feel called to lead because everyone is a leader
- Serve a purpose that is greater than yourself
- Treat others with dignity
- View service as leadership
- Reflect daily

At the end of Chris's presentation, Denis Fitzgerald, outgoing Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Victoria, was farewelled. Denis (pictured right) was thanked and acknowledged for his contribution to the Catholic social services community.



As a community we thank all those involved for organising this valuable event.

*Rachel Smith - Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Executive Member/Emmaus Catholic Primary School*

## A LOVE OF READING

*Students at St Thomas More School in Alfredton dressed up in their favourite book characters and participated in activities that fostered a love of reading during the school's Book Day on September 3.*

*The whole school came together to read Australian children's book *The Stone Lion* before Ballarat-based illustrator Ritva Voutilainen visited to speak about her work.*

*A Harry Potter Scavenger Hunt held in the library was another highlight of the day, as well as a book swap, art activities and dress up parades.*

*St Thomas More School Prep to Grade 2 literacy leader Jean Crafter said the pupils' excitement for the day and their exposure to Australian children's literature helped foster a love of books and reading. "You can see their excitement when finding out about all the books nominated," she said. "Even dressing up in the different characters highlights that books are fun to read, encouraging them to get to know the characters and what happens in stories."*



*This year's theme was 'reading is my secret power'. Ms Crafter said the theme empowered all pupils to learn through reading.*

*Schools across Australia celebrated Book Week from August 17 to 23. St Thomas More School rescheduled their celebrations to this week to fit in with other school activities.*

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier  
Text by Rochelle Kirkham and photo by Lachlan Bence



## Bring out their best Becoming a mentor

A new six-month project is being piloted from the Warrnambool and Hamilton offices of MacKillop Family Services. The program aims to connect young people living in foster care with supportive adult volunteer mentors in the local community. Mentors will be matched with young people based on a shared hobby, interest or passion, and will catch up with them for a couple of hours a fortnight. Kick a footy, bake a scone, shoot some hoops, listen to music, do some drawing or colouring-in. The possibilities are endless.

All the young people MacKillop are considering for the project have been impacted by trauma of some kind earlier in their lives. With very limited family connections,

and a lot of professionals who are paid to be in their lives, MacKillop are looking for people who can provide these kids with another connection to their community based around just having some fun.

The young people will gain so much from these connections. MacKillop are equally confident that the mentors engaged for this project will also benefit from the experience.

Please feel free to get in touch with Michael Hoffman should you require any further information. Michael's details are as follows: telephone: 5500 2000 and email: [michael.hoffman@mackillop.org.au](mailto:michael.hoffman@mackillop.org.au)



*The annual Arts Festival is a glorious celebration of the performing arts and of the extraordinary talents of students and staff at Loreto College Ballarat. However, the learning and the experiences that students gain from events such as this last far beyond the final curtain.*

*Throughout Term 3, the entire school comes together enthusiastically for this special event. The music made by choirs, bands, ensembles and individual performers echoes throughout the hallways, as they gather to practice before strutting their stuff on the stage in the hotly contested lunchtime auditions, House Choir Competitions and Royal South St Competitions that support the final line-up of performances.*

*Teams of staff and students work together behind the scenes for months to bring together a diverse, creative and dynamic two night show on the Mary's Mount Centre stage. The mesmerizing work that goes on back-stage, side-stage and up high in the bio box calls upon a range of unseen talent without which the show could not go on. When the curtain finally goes up it is as the result of the leadership, teamwork, initiative, creativity, collaboration and pure talent that have characterised the preceding weeks, and which culminates in an evening of breathtaking performances.*

*It is always an evening to remember. New talent is unveiled as performers share their unique and individual skills and passions, and those whose skills are already honed are applauded for their practised, polished and perfected performances. As the final curtain comes down, there is much to applaud... individual and team performances, memories, friendships, skills and a Loreto education that lasts a lifetime.*

Judy-Ann Quilliam - Director of Marketing and Development  
Our Diocesan Community - October 2019

# BISHOP PAUL IN ST ARNAUD

On Monday, July 29, St Patrick's Primary School St Arnaud had the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Paul into the school. Bishop Paul visited each of the classes and engaged in discussions about what Christianity means, answered several student questions about his role as Bishop and led prayer sessions. The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed hearing about his experiences and would like to wish Bishop Paul all the best as he continues to spread the good news.

Eliza Tillig



## A MIRACLE NEEDED

Mary Ward, 1585-1645, founded the religious congregation we know as the Loreto Sisters. Mary Ward's virtue and reputation for holiness have been validated by the Church; in being declared "Venerable" the Church has given public recognition to Mary Ward's significance and importance for the Church and for society today and in the future.

We need a miracle to advance the Cause of Mary Ward to the next level of Beatification, and we have a very promising case.

We ask your help in two areas:

- Your earnest prayer, that if God wills, this case may be brought to a successful conclusion;
- Write a brief statement (a paragraph or two) of what Mary Ward means to you or to others in your part of the world: her impact, direct or indirect, on your life;
- Email to [causemaryward@gmail.com](mailto:causemaryward@gmail.com)

This will help to provide evidence of devotion to Mary Ward and her impact worldwide.

Completing the Canonisation process can only happen with concerted effort. Will you play your part by responding to these requests?

Prayer

*God, creator of all that is good,  
we thank you for giving Mary Ward  
to the Church and to the world.*

*Impelled by the fire of your love, she did not shrink  
from risks, labours or sufferings.*

*She lived and worked for your greater glory,  
for the good of the Church, for the nurture of faith  
and for the dignity of women.*

*She was a pilgrim who spread the joy of the  
gospel. A woman for our times.*

*Grant that through the solemn testimony of the  
Church the example of her life  
may be a light for all who seek God's will.*

Amen.



## Congratulations Fr Peter

In conjunction with Bishop Paul's visit to Charlton, St Joseph's Community celebrated Buloke Shire's newest citizen, Fr Peter Jose. Fr Peter was born and raised in India and in 2010 came to the Ballarat Diocese.

He served in Ballarat, Mildura and Sea Lake parishes before moving to Charlton in 2017. Fr Peter realised Australia was now his home and so on Wednesday, 10th July, he became an Australian citizen. Congratulations, Fr Peter.

Anne Kenny





# PLENARY COUNCIL

Much has been happening since the launch of the six themes at Pentecost. The report on the Listening and Dialogue phase was released and the 314 page document is available from <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>. Snapshot reports that provide an overview of the stories, questions and submissions received

during this time are also available. Six discernment and writing groups for each theme have been established to review these submissions and also receive responses from the second phase, "Listening and Discernment". The writing groups will also consider their relevant theme in light of Church teaching, of Church tradition, of Scripture and drawing from contemporary best practice within and outside the Church. Through the discernment process and drawing on the six National Themes for Discernment, the agenda for the first session of the Plenary Council will be developed.

The whole Catholic community is invited to participate in the Listening and Discernment phase and in the Ballarat Diocese this process has begun with each parish appointing leaders/facilitators willing to lead 'Listening and Discernment' encounters in their local faith communities.

Bernadette Lynch and Jane Collins along with Julie Boyd from the Ballarat Diocese held preparation training days for the parish leaders/facilitators across the diocese. These days were held in Warrnambool, Ballarat, Horsham, Swan Hill and Mildura. Over ninety people attended the sessions and there was great discussion on the next phase of the Plenary Council and the sharing of many perspectives.



Building on these preparation training days, Lana Turvey-Collins from the Plenary Council Facilitation Team was in the Diocese from September 9-12 to assist the parish leaders/facilitators for this next stage of the Plenary Council process. Following on from the earlier days and Lana's sessions, it is hoped that leaders have a clearer understanding of what discernment means, feel confident with the options on how to facilitate the discernment experiences, and have a clearer understanding of what a response may look like. Leaders/facilitators were interested in the meaning of discernment and the spiritual conversations which are part of the discernment process. Materials were provided in order to facilitate this process in parishes. It is hoped that all Listening and Discerning encounters will be completed by Easter 2020. Responses can be submitted to the Discernment and Writing Groups through the Plenary Council portal on the website. Handwritten or email responses can be sent into the Pastoral Ministry Office. For more information regarding discernment sessions, please make contact with your parish. Other information can be found on [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

*Jane Collins – Pastoral Ministry Office*



## Reconciliation at Timboon

*Earlier in the year, Fr Neville Stanislaus, Parish Priest of St Joseph's Timboon, had his picture taken with the children who approached the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.*

*Supper with their extended families which included several grandparents followed the "Children of the Light" service.*

*This group will complete their Sacraments of Initiation in the middle of 2020.*

Ruth Hoffmann, Sacramental Program Coordinator.



## “FULLNESS OF LIFE FOR ALL”



*At the Diocesan Principals gathering on July 26 in Halls Gap, the Foundation Year (Prep) to Year 10 Diocesan Scope and Sequence for Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) resource, called Fullness of Life for All, was launched.*

*The scope and sequence resource will assist teachers and school leaders to implement Relationships and Sexuality Education in a way that acknowledges the context of our communities and is in fidelity with Church teaching in the area. The launch follows professional development that took place in each of the zones in May.*

*This resource was produced by the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB) in response to the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria commitment to the Victorian*

*Government child safety reforms, which require all school governing authorities to ensure appropriate education about healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality), together with education about child abuse awareness and prevention.*

*In 2015, a Reference Group was established with the aim of formulating a policy for Relationships and Sexuality Education for the Ballarat Diocesan Schools Advisory Council. The Reference Group consisted of primary teachers, priests, primary curriculum leaders, primary Religious Education Leaders, parents and CEO staff and Dr Frances Baker rsm, a moral theologian from Catholic Theological College. The reference group was responsible for developing the Diocesan policy for Relationships and Sexuality Education. A draft policy was completed in 2016 and, after a few amendments, this policy was ratified in 2018.*

*In developing the scope and sequence, CEOB engaged the services of an external consultant, Jenny Walsh, who is a Relationship and Sexuality Education consultant with extensive experience of developing curriculum in this area across Victoria. Working collaboratively, Jenny and Jim Waight (Primary Religious Education Officer CEOB) constructed a Scope and Sequence for P – 6 which was completed by the end of Semester 1, 2017. Explicit links were made to teachings of the Catholic tradition at each level. After consultation with teachers and students across the diocese, Jenny Walsh constructed the Scope and Sequence for Years 7 – 10. Bernadette Tolan (Secondary Religious Education Officer CEOB) collaborated with Jenny to ensure the Enhancing Catholic School Identity theology, the Catholic context and teachings of the Church were explicit across the Scope and Sequence.*

*In December 2018, Fr Bernard Teo CSsR, a moral theologian, was contacted to review the RSE Scope and Sequence P – 10 for the purpose of obtaining a Nihil Obstat. This was granted in April 2019. In his feedback, Fr Bernard stated that the program was faithful to Church teachings and what the faith community holds. He said that it demonstrated a positive approach towards human sexuality and was in line with Church teachings.*

Jim Waight and Bernadette Tolan

## DYNAMIC SPEAKERS FOR CWL

At the recent Spring Social afternoon, in the Mary Glowrey room at St Patricks's Cathedral Precinct Ballarat, the Cathedral Branch of the Catholic Women's League presented two dynamic and faith-filled speakers, John and Margaret Millington (pictured right with Catholic Women's League Ballarat Diocesan President Margaret Rowe, centre).

Nhill's inspirational couple amazed us with their ability to retell their life's journey and how their faith has enabled them to transform family tragedies into work for the community. Margaret and John have both received Order of Australia Medals for their work for drug reform, road safety and road trauma support and most famously for their remarkable innovation in providing employment for Karen refugees at Luv-a-Duck and other Nhill based businesses.



A delighted audience then enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea provided by our generous CWL members from Ballarat.

Carmel Kavanagh

# New Bishop in Sandhurst

Bishop Paul Bird shared the news that Pope Francis has appointed Fr Shane Mackinlay as the new Bishop of Sandhurst. "On behalf of our Diocese, I offer Fr Shane congratulations on this appointment. We will certainly feel the loss of Fr Shane's services to our Diocese of Ballarat, as Parish Priest of Bungaree, visiting priest for the Parish of Gordon, and chair of the Bishops Advisory Council, as well as his contribution as Master of Catholic Theological College," Bishop Paul said. The Episcopal Ordination was celebrated on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

Reflections on Fr Shane's time from Bungaree can be read below:

The parishes of Bungaree and Gordon recently held a combined farewell lunch for Fr Shane Mackinlay, who has been appointed as Bishop of Sandhurst. Damian Ryan, Bungaree Parish Leadership Team, was MC for the day and welcomed all present including members of Fr Shane's family, his father Malcolm, (his mother, Helen was unable to attend), his sister and brother-in-law Karen and Brendan Madden, Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and Fr Des FitzGerald CSsR. Fr Des will be providing sacramental ministry in the two parishes until January 2020.



Chris Kavanagh, Principal of St Brendan's Primary School Dunnstown and St Mary's Primary School Clarkes Hill, opened the day with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the many activities Fr Shane undertakes in our parish, especially with the parish schools. We were well entertained with the many "faces of Shane" presentation. Bishop Paul was then welcomed to lead us in prayer and thanksgiving before our meal and also extended his congratulations to Fr Shane on his appointment.



Following lunch, representatives of the two parishes expressed their appreciation to Fr Shane. Michael Winter, Chair of the Gordon Parish Council, Leah Hanrahan, Bungaree Parish Safeguarding Officer and Sr Pam Barlow, formerly of the Gordon Parish, all reflected on Fr Shane's contribution to the parishes. We were reminded of what an important part of our lives Fr Shane has been over a long period of time. The parishes then presented him with a framed photo of all the parish churches and Bungaree Presbytery. Fr Shane then responded with his usual good humour and expressed his thanks to all those in these communities who welcomed him into their parish and into their families. We wish Fr Shane well in his new role in Bendigo. We will miss him not only as our priest, but more importantly as our friend. Many thanks to Damian Ryan and the Bungaree Parish Leadership Team for the organisation of the day, which was enjoyed by many and the staff of the Bungaree Community Centre.

*Julie Boyd - Bungaree Parish*



Students, staff and parents of the Bungaree Parish Schools farewelled their parish priest of fifteen years, Fr Shane, at a moving ceremony. Those gathered were asked to place a stone in a bowl if they had been baptised by Fr Shane, received the Sacraments of Initiation by Fr Shane, been married by Fr Shane or had worked with him. This was a very powerful experience as we could all see the strong connections that Fr Shane has formed in our parish and school community and what an impact he has had. Andrea Leonard placed a stone for her son, Campbell, as he was the very first child that Fr Shane baptised in the parish. Whole families stood to place a stone. In the case of the Slater family, Fr Shane had married the parents and then baptised all of their five children. It was remarkable to see that almost every child in the room had been baptised by Fr Shane.

Beautiful prayers prepared by the children were read and the School Captains spoke in glowing terms of the relationship they have built up with him over the years. The liturgy concluded with everyone holding their hands towards Fr Shane to give him a blessing. The school community presented Fr Shane with an illustration of the Bungaree Presbytery and hand drawn images of him by the children. Fr Shane thanked everyone and reflected on how he has really enjoyed being part of the community. He also showed us the motto he has created for himself as Bishop of Sandhurst. We are very sad to see Fr Shane, now Bishop Shane, leave our community but wish him well on his new journey.

*Sue Prendergast - St Brendan's School, Dunnstown*



# CELEBRATING JJAMM WEEK

St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill celebrated JJAMM Week in August and it was a wonderful celebration of Fr Julian Tenison Woods, the **Josephites** and St **Mary MacKillop**. There were activities every day, run by the student led Liturgy Committee and overseen by Mrs Alison Wright.

*What a fabulous week of celebrations we had! Saint Mary MacKillop was a woman who taught us that there is so much to be grateful and thankful for and this week we have seen this in action! Our junior Liturgy committee members organised and ran a Saint Mary MacKillop Kahoot in the Library. Those that attended had lots of fun!!*

*Tuesday was the annual staff versus students netball match. After a defeat last year (the first in a number of years), staff were ready to claim the prize back. However, the Year 12 team proved way too good (and TALL!) and the students were victorious in a hotly contested affair.*



*Wednesday included Hot Jam Donuts at recess and the return of pJJAMMa day. It was great to see so many students and staff support the wearing of their pyjamas.*



*Thursday was our Feast Day Mass and opening of our newly refurbished building, The Providence Centre. Many thanks to all those who helped with preparations for both events. A big thanks to those who always work behind the scenes preparing for the Mass and helped organise and set up for the opening.*

*Mary MacKillop lived with radical faith and trust, inspiring hope in entire generations of people. This dynamic woman found life in the call of Jesus, devoting herself to the needs of others, especially the downtrodden, poor and forgotten.*

*She never lost sight of the personal invitation at the heart of gospel, to strive first for the kingdom of God. She proclaimed it and built it up with her Sisters of St Joseph bringing education and relief to the poor. Mary and her companions would see a need, discern a response, and act with love and trust in God. Her letters tell of her fidelity in trial and challenge, joy and consolation. Her courage in the face of persecution is legendary.*

*Let us look to Mary MacKillop and learn from her as a model of faith, love and generosity. Like her, may we find our joy in God's presence.*

*Alison Wright - Director of Mission*

## presentation at nazareth house

On Friday, August 30, Fr Robert McCulloch, the Columban Procurator General from Rome, celebrated Mass at Nazareth House Ballarat, followed by his presentation in the Nazareth House Hall titled "Persecuted for their Christian faith".

Fr McCulloch explained the blasphemy laws in Pakistan and the discrimination aimed at Asia Bibby who was imprisoned for nine years on false charges of blasphemy. She was released from prison late last year but had to remain in hiding until recently as there were threats made against her life. She is now safe with her family although some

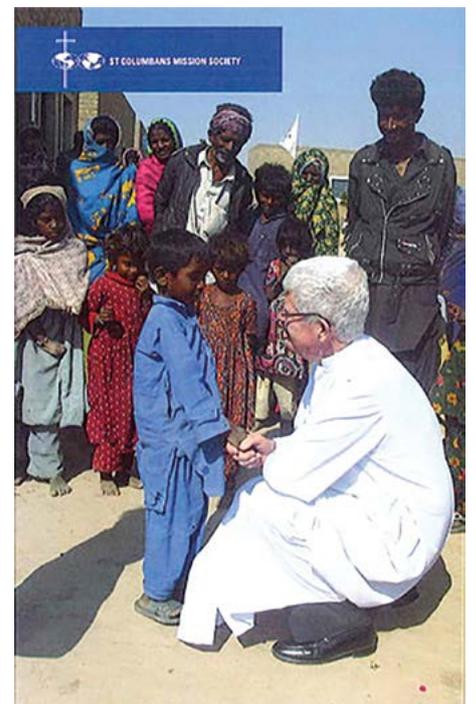
militants have vowed to kill her wherever she is.

*"It might be hard for us to believe but there are more martyrs today than in the first centuries. They are persecuted because they speak the truth and proclaim Jesus Christ to this society." Pope Francis.*

Questions followed and discussions continued over supper.

*Carmel Kavanagh*

*Photo: Fr Robert McCulloch  
Pakistan 2013*



# A MESSAGE

## FROM THE DIOCESAN BUSINESS MANAGER

In the July 2017 edition of ODC I was introduced as the new Business Manager, so it is timely that I report on how I see the finances through a new and different lens.

Whether it is the triannual publication of ODC, the fortnightly edition of e-news, or visits to parishes it is clear that in line with the Diocese's vision there is a "spirit filled" vibrancy throughout the Diocese, a Diocese that spans 117,138 square kilometres from the Murray to the Sea (that's just under half of Victoria).

The Bishop's Advisory Council exists to support and advise the Bishop in his duty to 'ensure that everything concerning the administration of the whole Diocese is properly coordinated and is directed in the way that will best achieve the good of that portion of the people of God entrusted in his care'. (Can.473 S1). Following a review of risks throughout the Diocese undertaken a while ago, eight strategic risks were identified, two of which were financial risks: Insufficient Diocesan funds to provide leadership and the required level of Diocesan activities; and insufficient resources to provide for the long term sustainability of parishes. The more imminent risk of the two though is the one relating to parish finances; of our forty-one parishes less than half are sustainable on a standalone basis.

The Council identified the same fundamental cause for these two risks: Diminishing finances (as result of falling income streams), rising costs, a lack of planning and prioritisation, a lack of capability and expertise, duplication of services across the parishes and cultural attitudes throughout the Diocese.

Included in the rising costs being faced by parishes is the cost of maintaining and insuring our many magnificent buildings (given their age and construction type); over 35% of parish costs are in maintaining and holding property. Increasingly too their need for parish to have appropriately skilled paid staff; salary related costs make-up 26% of parish costs.

The greatest threat to parish finances has come from a continuing decrease in Mass attendance, which has been decreasing year-on-year over the past thirty years. As evidenced in census data the number of Australians identifying as Catholics averages around 25%; and as Catholic Education often reports, we are educating around 25% of Australia's primary and secondary children (Catholic and non-Catholic) in our schools. So we (Catholics) are out there, but are just not attending Mass in the numbers they used to.

There will be many varied and personal reasons why this is the case, but churchgoers remain the primary source of income for our parishes, and whilst attending Mass is not like going to the movies which requires the buying of a ticket to get in, the two collections at Mass are

increasingly important to the financial viability of most individual parishes.

The Catholic Weekly reported in 2016 that 12.2% of the Catholic population attended mass each week yet on

the other hand, as noted above, 25% of primary and secondary children are educated in a catholic school. It was identified as far back as 2002 as part of a Diocesan finance strategy workshop that many parents of school children see the school as 'the church' and their financial commitment to 'the church' begins and ends there.

There is no subtle way to state this, but it is a simple message: We need more Catholics to support their parishes, not just the same parishioners supporting it more. Quoting from Chris Lowney's book, *Everyone Leads: How to Revitalize the Catholic Church*:

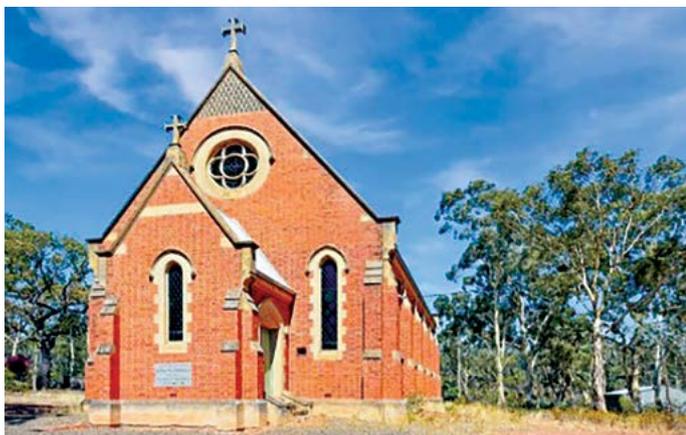
"Not since the Protestant Reform, five centuries ago, has Catholicism suffered defections on so devastating scale. And the future looks grimmer... we cannot [however] solve a problem that we do not even recognise. And we will not galvanise around new strategies unless we acknowledged that current ones are not working".

Recognising we need an increase in collection monies to increase parish incomes, on the cost side of the equation we cannot sustain the forty-one parishes we have (we had fifty-one, however with the amalgamation in July 2018 of thirteen existing parishes into three new ones, the work has begun and we are beginning to see the fruits of the *Looking Forward* process we have been engaged in over recent years), nor the one hundred and sixteen churches in these parishes; nor small bank accounts that could be made to work harder if they were consolidated. Canonically, we cannot combine these funds unless parishes are amalgamated and there is a resistance for such amalgamations. Amalgamations of parishes does not mean your local church community changes its name, nor that a church, for reason of the amalgamation alone, not be there in the future.

As a result of the generosity of parishioners, and the clergy that have led parishes over the one hundred and forty-five year history of the Diocese, we have some magnificent churches, presbyteries and halls which we should be proud of. As Mass attendance drops off, so too does the need to maintain so many of these buildings. Whilst the decision to amalgamate parishes and rationalise parish assets is a difficult one, not making a difficult decision now does not make it any easier to make in the future.

When parish assets are sold the funds remain within the parish. Two recent examples include: Maryborough





At a grass roots level, parishes need your support and they need the support of all Catholics in the parish. We should not take our parishes, and the community and spirit filled vibrancy that is within them, for granted. At a strategic level the change that I see as being needed must include the structure of the Diocese and its parishes. Concurrently we should identify functions that could be delivered better if they were centralised, or regionalised, and shared across the Diocese. This would serve our parishes' future viability best, and could be done in a way that ensured responsibility and the right to participate remain at the grass roots level.

Parish sold the St Francis Xavier Church in Tarnagulla (above) and the proceeds helped fund the purchase of a house block attached to the primary school in Maryborough, which will result in additional facilities being available to the school. Tarnagulla is a classic tale of the changing demographic within our diocese, and of the boom and burst of the gold rush. The church opened in February 1912 and cost £1,721 to build. At its peak Tarnagulla had six churches (Church of England, Uniting, Methodist, Catholic, Baptist and Welsh). The 2016 census had Tarnagulla's population at one hundred and thirty-three (just thirty seven families).

In Watchem, in the Parish of Birchip, St Joseph's Church (right) was sold (after closing in 2009) to a local community association, which will ensure it remains a community asset. This was a fantastic outcome for the parish and the broader community in which it gathers.



## ‘THE POWER OF THE PEN’

*“The power of the pen!” is something many of us would be aware of. At St Joseph's Primary School Warrnambool, we saw just how powerful the ‘pen’ could be. Students of E3, focusing on improving their writing, wrote to the Sydney Daily Telegraph to express, beautifully and compassionately, their concern for the plight of drought affected farmers. The students were particularly concerned for the farming families of outback NSW. They were conscious of the impact on livestock, community, young people and the local environment.*

*Gemma Jones, the new sub-editor of the Daily Telegraph in Sydney, responded by publishing six of the letters and announcing the students as the winners of the “Adopt A Farmer” support program. Gemma offered to fly the six students published to Dubbo to visit farms and the local primary school. Qantas and News Corp funded the trip and visit. The students - Sophie Jellie, Nicholas Russell, Hannah Van de Camp, Daisy Shiells, Amelia Harris and Neave Black - travelled with Qantas, stayed overnight at St Vincent's Girls Boarding College in Potts Point Sydney and then flew to Dubbo for the day to visit farms and tour areas devastated by the conditions. They made the trek to Trundle, about one and a half hours from Dubbo. The students shared a BBQ and some time with students from the local school. Making their way back to Warrnambool was quite an adventure for all involved. Staff members George El-Hage and Catherine Lee supported the travellers.*

*To support this endeavour, the students from E3 coordinated a casual clothes day with a gold coin donation. Generosity, empathy and a commitment to action by students, staff and the parent body ensured this day was successful in many ways. We discussed our environment and what droughts are, we talked about supporting each other and how small actions can make a difference in our world.*

*Our “Adopt A Farmer” ambassadors presented a cheque to support the community suffering from the drought. The cash donation of \$1,200 was generous and will be heartfelt by the local community. As important as money is, the symbol of people caring for each other is more so. Thank you to all, especially the families supporting this message to our young people. An amazing effort by all.*

Michael Gray - Principal  
Photo: Nick presents a cheque to local farmers

# TREE PLANTING

Ballarat's youngest environmental leaders have taken action that will have an inter-generational community impact. Twenty pupils from St Patrick's Parish Primary School Ballarat planted productive fruit trees with Food is Free Inc volunteers at the organisation's Green Space for Schools Tree Day, held on Friday, July 26. They were one of many groups of students from schools around the region that participated in planting on the nationally recognised day. These small hands planting small trees make a big statement on the importance of caring for our environment, of connecting with food, and of giving back to community, as well as on the power of grassroots action.



Ballarat-based company Fifteen Trees co-ordinated the tree planting at the Food is Free Green Space, purchasing trees from Avalon Nursery with funds donated by Harrison Funerals. The company, started by Colleen Fillipa in 2009 in Ballarat, encourages corporates to fund the planting of trees by community groups in their local area. Since 2009, Fifteen Trees has facilitated the planting of 134,460 trees.

"The company gets to see photos of where their trees have been planted so it gives them a bit of a connection to the community and where the trees have gone," Ms Filippa said. "There are many benefits to planting trees. Trees take carbon out of the atmosphere, keep our soils, rivers and creeks healthy, have a cooling effect on our urban environment, and produce flowers for the bees and fruit for us."

Planet Ark research shows a five per cent increase in tree cover can reduce nearby daytime temperatures by 2.3 degrees. A large healthy tree can take in up to 93 kg of carbon dioxide and 1.4 kg of air pollution a year. As Urban and Environmental Planner Dr Tony Matthews has said, trees may be the most cost effective and positive urban intervention available to us.

For St Patrick's Parish Primary School Grade Four environmental captains Olivia and Noah, the excursion was the first time they had planted a tree. Both said they had fun with the planting and would do it again in the future. "I have learnt it takes a lot of hard work and it is very messy. It is a process. You have to be patient," Noah said. The excursion was part of the school's healthy living program which includes a focus on sustainability. St Patrick's Parish Primary School teacher Kathy Finn said the pupils would take their knowledge back to the school and share it with their classmates and the community.



Planet Ark research has found 70 per cent of Australians believe individual actions can have an impact on global environmental issues like climate change. Tree planting is a climate change action that does not have to wait for politics. The volunteers from Food is Free show that individuals can make a tangible difference by growing trees for their communities.

Anyone can access the Food is Free Green Space which grows produce for sharing and functions as an educational space. Food is Free Chairperson Bec Djordjevic said she wanted the pupils to be able to come back in ten or fifteen years time and pick fruit from the trees they planted. "This goes far beyond just planting a tree," she said. "That tree will now feed the community in the future and they have had a part to play in that. It is about getting the kids on board to lead the future. How good would it be if on National Tree Day next year all the kids went and planted

one tree in their backyards and it becomes a tradition for all kids to plant something on National Tree Day." Visit [treeday.planetark.org/find-a-site/](http://treeday.planetark.org/find-a-site/) for details for 2020.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Rochelle Kirkham and photos by Kate Healy  
Top: Isabella, Tahliska, George and Isaac helping to plant  
Bottom: Declan, Harry and Abraham plant trees

## STUDENTS SLEEP OUT FOR A CAUSE



More than fifteen Damascus College Ballarat Year 11 students and staff braved the weather and slept out to raise money for homelessness on Friday, September 13.

Damascus College is committed to social justice and, as part of this commitment, is now in its sixth year of running the Seeds of Justice Street-Wise Sleep Out, where it raises money for the Ballarat Soup Bus and Uniting Care Ballarat.

Acting Deputy Principal, Mr Tony Haintz, said that the sleep out raises funds and awareness in support of those who are caught in the complex set of circumstances that leads to homelessness. "Representatives from the Ballarat Soup Bus and Uniting Church Outreach addressed the students before they embarked on their sleep out and the students also watched a DVD on the streets of New York," he said. "All students who participated sought sponsors to raise money for the local homeless support agencies. By their engagement in community development events, students develop within themselves the virtues of compassion, unity, justice and understanding."

At various stages throughout the night, students were asked to move on and find other places to sleep, just as if they were homeless in the city.

As a Catholic school, Damascus College encourages an attitude of action for social justice and community service. This is put into practice in several ongoing activities at local, national and international levels as part of the College's Christian Personal Development Award.

We hope that the experience was a faith filled time and provided lasting positive memories about social justice, as well as making a difference to the homeless people in our rural city. The sponsorship of the event by friends and families raised in excess of \$750 for the partner organisations.

*Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development*

## ROCKING AND ROLLING AT ANY AGE



*On Tuesday, August 20, residents from Sunnyside House Camperdown came to Mercy Regional College in order to present an event that had been eight weeks in the making. This was a dance event where all residents, despite their mobility levels, and the Year 10 students, who were caring partners, were involved. The students guided their dance partners in wheelchairs through flowing moves to some of the great rock and roll dance hits.*

*Instructor Michael Brebner patiently trained the students to follow intricate dance moves which saw the Sunnyside House residents glide with grace and ease over the dance floor. Residents and students were dressed to impress in period dresses, ruffled petticoats and stylish shirts. Smiles abounded and as the tune of the 'rock n roll waltz' floated across the room, residents and students completed turns and spins reminiscent of the wonderful dance era of the 50s and 60s which is still so popular today.*

*The Dance was part of the Christian Outreach Program, an integral part of the Religious Education Curriculum at the Year 10 level. Students spend one afternoon a week for up to ten weeks visiting various residential Aged Care facilities, including Cooinda, Vinnies Shop and Senior Day Centres in Terang, Camperdown and Cobden. They engage with community members of all ages and learn not only to be more at home in these environments, but to develop relationships without age or ability barriers.*

Jo Saunders – Mercy Regional College

# Preparing Liturgy: (Part 3)

*In part one of Preparing Liturgy, I explored the meaning of Liturgy and why we come together to celebrate (ODC March 2018). In parts two and three I look at the ELEMENTS of the MASS and the importance of preparing each aspect in consultation with the presiding priest. We now transition from the Liturgy of the Word, outlined in part two (ODC October 2018), to the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the attention of the assembly moves to the Altar.*

**The Preparation of the Gifts:** This involves the collection being taken up and the gifts of bread and wine being brought forward to the priest. During this time an appropriate hymn may be sung or even instrumental music played. The priest prays a blessing over the bread and wine and symbolically washes his hands. The preparation of gifts ends with the Prayer over the gifts

**The Eucharistic Prayer:** The Prayer is composed of a number of prayers, many of which need a response from the assembly and others which are prayed by the priest on behalf of those gathered.

The **acclamation, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**, is best sung by the people as a prayer of praise.

**The Consecration:** The story of Jesus at the Last Supper being retold as the priest repeats the words and actions of Jesus. We not only remember but continue to take part in them here and now. It is through these words and actions that the bread and wine is transformed into the body and blood of Christ. God's saving action works in our lives and world, here and now, as it has in the past and will continue in the future.

**The Memorial Acclamation:** This is acclaimed with joy as the assembly acknowledges the perfect mystery of Jesus' death, resurrection and glory. The Eucharistic Prayer comes to a climax with the priest's proclamation of the doxology and the assembly's response of Amen.

**The Communion Rite:** The elements of the Communion Rite begin with the 'Our Father' or 'Lord's Prayer', a prayer taught to us by Jesus which praises God, asks for our daily bread and for the forgiveness of sins, reminding us that we must be united and at peace with our neighbour.

**The 'Sign of Peace':** Gives us the opportunity to demonstrate the peace and unity for which we have just prayed, with those who have gathered together for this celebration. This greeting should reflect our sincere wish to experience Christ in our relationships.

During the **Breaking of the Bread, or the Fraction Rite**, the prayer, 'Lamb of God', is prayed usually through song. The breaking of the bread from one piece to many pieces is a sign of the relationship of the people with one another and with Christ.

**The Communion preparation prayer** is prayed as the priest shows the assembly the Chalice and the Host and we are invited to respond and share in the Eucharistic supper.



**The Distribution of Communion** usually occurs through a procession of those coming forward to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Some may receive the host alone and some may come for a blessing only. During Communion an appropriate hymn may be sung. After Communion there should be a time of silence during which each member of the assembly meditates on the mystery of Christ's presence in the Eucharist.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist is brought to a close through the praying by the priest of the Prayer after Communion.

**The Concluding Rite:** During this rite, the priest gives the assembly the important Final Blessing. When he makes the Sign of the Cross over those gathered, he is asking for God's help and protection for all present.

**The Dismissal:** the assembly is invited to go out into the world and live out all we have heard and celebrated in the Eucharist. As the priest leaves the church, an appropriate recessional hymn may be sung.

As I reflect upon the elements of the Mass and the different parts of this beautiful ritual, I think of the importance of the 'full, conscious and active participation' that *Sacrosanctum Concilium* emphasises for all those celebrating the Eucharist. I remember back to pre-Vatican II attendance at Sunday Mass, when my role was to watch what the priest was doing and my only active participation was the change in posture as I stood, knelt or sat at different times during the Mass. As I did not understand Latin, it was only through reading my personal Missal that I was able to know "where we were up to" in the Mass. Today, as I respond to the priest's greetings, pray the different parts of the Mass set for the assembly and sing the songs of praise and petition, I feel that I am truly celebrating the Eucharist and all it means to the Catholic Church.

# SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat welcomes the release of the audit report of child safeguarding prepared by Catholic Professional Standards Ltd. The Diocese is the first diocese in Australia to be audited against the new National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, which were developed to provide a framework for Catholic Church entities to build safe church cultures.

The audit confirmed that the Diocese is already addressing most of the points set out in the Standards. At the same time, the auditors have identified areas for improvement, including more diocesan support to promote consistent safeguarding practices across all parishes, the provision of information to children about safeguarding and the training of volunteers in safeguarding procedures.



The Diocese has accepted all of the audit recommendations and will work to implement them. The Diocese is committed to the safeguarding of children and will continue to implement policies and procedures to ensure the safety of children.

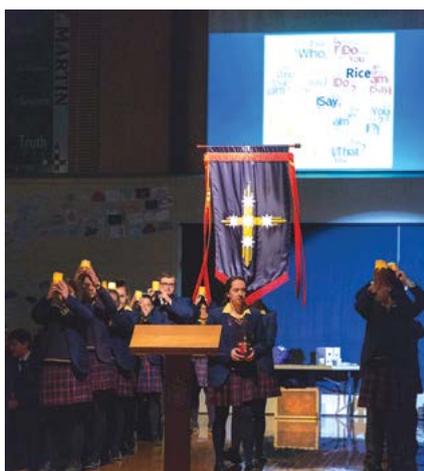
Please contact the Diocesan Coordinator for Professional Standards, Mr Michael Myers, (03) 5337 7121 or michael.myers@ballarat.catholic.org.au for further information.

## Damascus celebrates Damascus Day

Every year Damascus College Ballarat celebrates its identity by holding 'Damascus Day.' This year we celebrated on Wednesday, September 18. This special day commenced with a whole of school Mass, followed by a full festival of activities for all to enjoy, organised by the Student Representative Council (SRC). The Damascus Day Mass is one of the major ways in which we show our identity as a College in the Roman Catholic tradition.

This year's festival theme was 'Once upon a time', where students and staff were invited to dress up in their favourite fairytale character. Students were issued with a 'storybook' that indicates all of the areas they needed to visit throughout the festival. There were five areas of activities including Hansel & Gretel, The Little Mermaid, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Alice in Wonderland and Far Far Away. Students were asked to complete at least three activities in each area to get their storybook stamped, and once they receive four stamps, they went in the draw to win one of three hampers. All activities were free and included gingerbread man decorating, scavenger hunt, 3D printing competition, colouring competition, disney karaoke, fairytale heads, pin the tail on the mermaid and a rowing challenge to name a few.

*Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development*



***“How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising; inclusive, participatory and synodal; prayerful and Eucharistic; humble, healing and merciful?”***

***How are we called to be a joyful, hope-filled, servant community, one that is open to conversion, renewal and reform?”***

## ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTENARY 1919-2019



*Save the date*

### Sunday 10th November

Parish Centenary Mass 10.30am

St Mary MacKillop College Open Tours  
11:30am—2:30 pm

St Mary's Primary School Tours  
11:30am—2:30 pm

Memorabilia Displays in the St Mary's Primary School Gym Foyer

Centenary website: [www.smswanhill100years.com](http://www.smswanhill100years.com)

School website: [www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)

If you have any photos, information, old stories or anecdotes from either schools could you please contact Susan Domaille at school (03)50332541 or  
Email: [sdomaille@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sdomaille@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au)

## MINI VINNIES' PYJAMA DAY

The Mini Vinnies group from St Patrick's Parish Primary School Port Fairy organised a Pyjama Day. Staff and students were encouraged to wear their pyjamas to school as an awareness raising exercise into the issue of homelessness.

Mini Vinnies members visited each class to deliver a presentation explaining what it means to be homeless, why people might be homeless, what the St Vincent de Paul Society does to support the homeless and what we, as a school community, can do. This activity coincided with the Beanie and Blanket Drive that the school was running as part of the Winter Appeal.

Peter Sanderson, Deputy Principal



Mini Vinnies members, Claudia and Maggie, deliver their presentation on homelessness to their classmates

## NEW SHORT STAY UNIT OFFICIALLY OPEN

Following five months of construction, the new St John of God Ballarat Hospital Short Stay Unit has been completed and is operational. St John of God Ballarat Hospital CEO and Regional Manager Alex Demidov said that as the stress on emergency departments increases, the need to continually expand hospital facilities is essential. "The creation of this new unit has come in response to community need" he said.

The new unit will help to alleviate some of the pressure on the emergency department and improve access to quality emergency care for the Ballarat community. The Short Stay Unit has eleven private rooms, with each having its own private amenities including ensuite bathrooms. There is also a communal area which will give visiting families a space to relax while their loved one is receiving treatment.

Jamie Lovett - SJOG Administration Officer



## Reflection on the role of Master of Catholic Theological College



*Catholic Theological College is very pleased to announce the appointment of Rev Dr Kevin Lenehan as Master of the College. Fr Kevin reflects on this role:*

With Fr Shane Mackinlay's appointment as Bishop of Sandhurst this year, the Senate of Catholic Theological College set about finding a replacement for him as Master of CTC. Following a process of nomination and recommendation through the College academic community, and eventual election by the members of the Senate, the vote fell to me, another priest of the Diocese of Ballarat, to be appointed as Master for the next four years. While some say I was the obvious candidate after some years as CTC's Associate Dean, I have been greatly humbled by the strong vote of confidence expressed through the nomination and election process, and by the many encouraging messages from around the country on the news of my appointment.

What is Catholic Theological College? CTC was established in the early 1970s to provide teaching and research in the disciplines of theology, philosophy, biblical and pastoral studies. It provides the ordination studies for the Catholic Dioceses of Victoria and Tasmania and for seven affiliated Religious Orders. It also runs courses for lay people involved in education, chaplaincy, pastoral and spiritual care, or who are simply interested in the disciplines we specialise in. The College Constitution states that CTC 'exists for the academic formation of ordination candidates, religious and lay people, for the pastoral service of the Church, principally in Victoria and

Tasmania.' Since its foundation, CTC has been a member of the University of Divinity (formerly Melbourne College of Divinity) founded in 1910, one of the oldest continuing ecumenical institutes in the world.

What does the Master of CTC do? Well, I'm learning that day by day as I begin working in this role. Basically, the Master is the Chief Academic Officer and CEO of the College and its operations within the University of Divinity. This means oversight of academic, financial and organisational policies and management, staffing and succession and strategic development. The Master shares leadership of the College with a Deputy Master, Academic Dean and Associate Dean, and represents the College in church and educational contexts. He serves as a member of the University Executive. All this is to foster and serve the academic theological formation of the Colleges almost four hundred audit, undergraduate, postgraduate and research students, and over seventy permanent and sessional academics and administrative staff.

My association with Catholic Theological College began in 1983 when I (together with Fr Gregory Tait of the Ballarat Diocese) began ordination studies at the College, located then with the seminary next to Monash University in Clayton. I had very happy years as a student of CTC and knew at the time that I was receiving a high-quality education in all the fields of theology. It was only years later, however, as a postgraduate and doctoral student at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium that I came to appreciate more fully the

excellence of CTC and its lecturers in those years. So, like my colleagues teaching and researching at CTC, I feel a sense of gratitude and responsibility to provide for a new generation the same excellent theological education. The student body is much more international, gender-balanced, full and part-time, and diverse in delivery modes and locations than when I was a student, but the same passion for theological formation that is both deeply human and fully Christian and responsive to the issues and needs of our context exists today.

So my hopes for the College during my term as Master revolve around ensuring the academic quality and pastoral suitability of CTC's offerings, and to make them known and accessible as widely as possible to our sponsoring bodies and the wider church community. I am very conscious that during my term the Australian Church will undertake the Plenary Council for which our parishes, agencies and individuals have been preparing. What will be the contribution of CTC's students and staff to the discernment and deliberation of mission priorities of the Catholic Church into the future? Also, the opening of the academic year in 2022 will mark the 50th anniversary of the College, a significant opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the past and recommit to the College's mission and role in a very different church and society to that of 1973.

### 106 YEARS, RIP



*Marie Magdalen Clohesy was born at Kingston on April 9, 1913, and was the third born of seven children to Blampied farmers John & Giglia. She was baptised and confirmed at St Peter's Daylesford. Marie went on to enlist in the RAAF as a telephone operator and achieved the rank of Sergeant. She married Harold Lewis at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat in 1947 and had two children. Marie was a Sacristan at St Joseph's Blampied for many years and this was her place of worship for most of her life. What was the secret to living 106 years? Marie said keeping her brain active, playing sport, eating bull boar sausages and drinking mineral water.*

Leonie Keynes - Parish Administration Officer, Daylesford and Creswick

# EXCITING TIMES

Wow - what an exciting term it has been in the kitchen and in the garden at St Aloysius Primary School, Redan! Even though we have had to dodge a few showers and windy squalls, the children have managed to do lots in the garden to 'get ready' for the growing season. If you pop into the garden, you will see that the compost bins/stalls are working a treat! The children should be able to rattle off all the ingredients of 'Compost Lasagne!' We have also been busy building our amazing worm farms. Now complete, 1000 'red wriggler' compost worms have taken up residency in their new home at St Aloysius. The children have all experienced 'getting their hands dirty'. We have grown plants from hardwood cuttings, we have planted heaps and heaps of plant seedlings (you should see the budding cauliflowers!) and the children are learning how plant life starts from a single seed - amazing!



In the kitchen, the children have been experiencing the different cuisines from the countries they are learning about in their Inquiry Unit. First up, the children learnt about Asia so Asian flavours were present in their Rice Paper Rolls. Then off to Japan, where Sushi was on the menu. I wonder what flavours we are going to taste on the trip to South America? Overall we have had lots and lots of fun and new learning experiences. Bring on the beautiful Spring weather and lots of amazing harvests so we can cook up a storm!

Claire and Belinda - SAKG Team

# REST IN PEACE

Sr Barbara Lemke (25/10/1925 – 23/8/2019) was born in Ballarat. On leaving school, Sr Barbara trained as a nurse at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and graduated with the reputation of being the best practical nurse of her year. On returning to Ballarat, Sr Barbara nursed at St John of God Hospital for some time and on April 2, 1948, she took the huge step of entering the Mercy Convent at Ballarat East. Upon entering the Superiors enrolled her at the Creswick School of Forestry to study Botany and Zoology. Her qualifications were further advanced with the completion of a Primary Teaching Diploma.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Sr Barbara was involved in a mix of teaching and nursing. The Ballarat Diocese established a technical college, St Paul's, and teachers of domestic science were needed. Barbara and a companion sister obtained the requisite qualifications in the theory and practice of cookery at the Emily MacPherson College in Melbourne and so began another phase of her Mercy life and ministry.

Sr Barbara's Mercy ministries included: Director of Rosary Nursing Home in Ballarat East, founding member of the Mercy Home Nursing Service and Pastoral Carer for Ballarat Catholic Deaf Association. Barbara was a member of the Ballarat East Parish Leadership Team in the early 1980s as well as Congregation Bursar for two terms.

Barbara's long and fruitful life has added much to many lives. We thank you, Barbara, for the beautiful and gentle life you shared with us. Rest in peace dear Barbara.

Patricia O'Brien RSM



Sr Ursula Caine (28/3/1929 – 16/8/2019) was born in St Arnaud. She entered the Convent in 1948 and continued with an Arts and Crafts Diploma. Sr Ursula, however, was needed to teach a class in a small school. From Birchip, she taught in Edenhope, Manangatang, St Arnaud, Robinvale, Donald, Charlton and Ballarat.

In 1983, Sr Ursula moved back to St Arnaud to look after her mother, whose health was failing. After her mum died, she took over looking after her sister, Sr Angela, who had a horrific car accident. Sr Ursula and Sr Angela lived in the family home in St Arnaud for twenty eight years. They joined the St Vincent de Paul Society and spent many years caring for the less fortunate, supporting the sick and helping the children. They immersed themselves in the St Arnaud community in various organisations – Woodworkers, Choirs, Schools Red Cross

and ecumenical services, as well as helping with the "Right Choices" Program to help the disadvantaged children of the area.

Sr Ursula was, at all times, gentle, caring and compassionate. She had a great sense of humour and was always fun to be with. Rest in peace Ursula.

Sr Angela Caine RSM

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

*This is my final article for Our Diocesan Community as Diocesan Archivist. Family duties and limitations of age have required that I resign this position.*



*I wish to introduce Samantha Fabry who has been appointed as Diocesan Archivist on a trial basis. Samantha is a graduate in museum studies from Deakin University. She is a consultant in urban planning and heritage management and has been a collections manager with a major*

*Victorian museum, archive and library collection. This is the expertise I believe she will bring to the position. Her son is a student at Damascus College Ballarat and her husband is also a heritage manager for a major Catholic religious order. While Samantha does not have specific professional archivist's qualifications I believe that with her prior experience, your support and the guidance of the national diocesan archivist's body she will be an asset to the diocese.*

*Thanking you all across the diocese for your support over many years and God bless,*

Michael Taffe - Ballarat Diocesan Historical Commission

## SLEEPING OUT

On September 19, the Young Vinnies at St Brigid's College H o r s h a m hosted their annual Vinnies S l e e p o u t . Twenty-five



students and five staff attended, beginning their evening with soup and sandwiches prepared by Vinnies members, Pat and Leon. After the meal the students congregated in Room 1 for a talk and a discussion about Homelessness. The students were told that the people most vulnerable to homelessness were teenagers and older people. Once the presentation was over, all present gathered their belongings together and headed over to the College Stadium for the Sleepout. After a long, cold night, students and staff arose at 7.30am, packed up their belongings and walked over to the Foods Room for breakfast again prepared by Pat and Leon. The homeless experience enabled the students to gain a greater understanding of the challenges faced by people who aren't able to live in a stable environment. A big thank you goes to Miss Farnham, Mrs Van Dyk, Mrs Butler, Mr Lowes and Mr Butler for their encouragement and support.

*Rhiannon Abernethy - School Development Officer*

Our Diocesan Community - October 2019



DIOCESAN RCIA CONFERENCE  
FOLLOWED BY  
VICTORIAN RCIA STATE CONFERENCE

15/16 November, 2019

*It takes a*

*village*

### Venue & Time

St Patrick's Cathedral Hall  
Dawson Street, Ballarat

Friday, November 15  
5.30 PM - 9.00 PM

Saturday, November 16  
8.30 AM - 4.30 PM

There will be a number of breakout sessions  
from which participants can choose two

For more information:

email: [pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
or phone: 03 53377179

For registrations and breakout session  
information please see  
[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/Service &  
Agencies/Pastoral/Liturgical & Sacraments/](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/Service&Agencies/Pastoral/Liturgical&Sacraments/)  
RCIA Conference



The Plenary Council 2020 has moved into the second phase of preparation, *Listening and Discernment*. In this phase, we are all invited to participate in a communal Discernment on the six National Themes. We are invited to reflect, to pray and to consider how God is calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is: Missionary and Evangelising; Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal; Prayerful and Eucharistic; Humble, Healing and Merciful; A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community; Open to conversion, Renewal and Reform. In coming months, through the discernment process and drawing on the National Themes for Discernment, the agenda for the first session of the Plenary Council will be developed. In the discernment process, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. *‘How can we know if something comes from the Holy Spirit...? The only way is through discernment, which calls for something more than intelligence or common sense. It is a gift which we must implore. If we ask with confidence that the Holy Spirit grant us this gift, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading and good counsel, then surely we will grow in this spiritual endowment.’* Pope Francis

**Photos:**

Front cover: Stained glass window at St Joseph’s Church, Warrnambool. Back cover: 1. St Patrick’s Primary School, Ballarat 2. Plenary Council Session in Warrnambool 3. Bishop Paul at St Patrick’s School, St Arnaud 4. Mercy Mass celebration in Mildura

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.