

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT



# OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

No. 63 March 2021

## YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

*“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”*



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### OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

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# A Year of the Family and a Year of Saint Joseph

## A Year of the Family

In most years, there are crowds of people in Saint Peter's Square at midday on Sundays when the Pope comes to a window to lead the Angelus. For the past year though, the square has been almost empty. Because of the Covid pandemic, people have not been gathering. This was the case on December 27. Apart from a few security guards, there was no one



in the square. Yet this did not stop Pope Francis from leading the Angelus and offering a reflection. Instead of coming to the window, he stood before a camera inside the apostolic palace and spoke to people via television and online. To his right was a Christmas tree and to his left a Christmas crib, reflecting the Christmas season. The Christmas crib included only the figures of the baby Jesus, together with Mary and Joseph. The focus was on the Holy Family. It was the feast of the Holy Family.

In his reflection for the feast, Pope Francis spoke of the child Jesus being surrounded by the motherly affection of Mary and the fatherly care of Joseph. Through their love, he said, Jesus felt the warmth of God's tenderness. The Pope then spoke of the importance of affection and tenderness in our own families.

Pope Francis acknowledged that all families have their problems and tensions. In the face of conflict, he underlined the importance of being ready to forgive and make peace. He recalled the advice of Scripture, "Do not let the sun go down on your anger." He observed that if we do not make peace, the tensions will continue. He referred to the ongoing tensions as a "Cold War". If we do not make peace by the evening, "the Cold War the day after is dangerous."

Pope Francis highlighted three phrases that are very valuable in family life: "Please", "Thank you" and "I'm sorry". He said that these expressions will help to keep the family in good shape.

In offering these reflections, Pope Francis was echoing some of the passages in a document he had written in 2016, called "Amoris Laetitia", "The Joy of Love", about love in the family. He noted that we are approaching the fifth anniversary of this document and he proposed that we celebrate a special "Year of the Family" in which we focus again on family issues. He nominated March 19, the anniversary of "Amoris Laetitia" as the starting date. This "year" will be somewhat longer than twelve months. Pope Francis explained that the year will be extended until June 2022, when the Tenth World Meeting of Families is due to be held in Rome.

In "Amoris Laetitia", Pope Francis addressed a wide range of topics related to the family. He noted various views about family life in society in our time. He recalled some key teachings of Scripture and recent Church documents. He reflected on the qualities of love in marriage and encouraged support for those preparing for marriage and for couples as they live out their married life. He



referred to the fruitfulness of married love in the birth and nurturing of children. He discussed the education of children in the context of the family. He encouraged ongoing pastoral care for families, particularly when they are facing challenges.

Throughout the coming year, I expect that there will be a number of conferences on such topics. Some of these meetings might be in person. In view of the pandemic, some might be online, particularly the international conferences. However, whether in person or online, such gatherings will provide opportunities for people to share their experiences of family life and their reflections on the challenges and opportunities of family life today.

This year will also provide an occasion to review the services that are available to support families. These include marriage preparation services, marriage and family counselling services and services that support parents in their care for children.

### **A Year of Saint Joseph**

A few weeks before announcing the Year of the Family, Pope Francis announced a Year of Saint Joseph. The occasion was the 150th anniversary of a declaration by Pope Pius IX. On December 8, 1870, Pope Pius IX had given Saint Joseph the title of Patron of the Catholic Church, calling on Saint Joseph to protect the Church in the troubles of that time. On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis recalled this declaration by his predecessor and invited us to renew our trust in the intercession of Saint Joseph in any troubles that we face in our time. Pope Francis announced a Year of Saint Joseph to run from December 8, 2020, until December 8, 2021.

This Year of Saint Joseph will overlap with the Year of the Family and it might seem confusing to have two such Years running at the same time. In this case, however, the Years complement one another very well. While Saint Joseph is Patron of the Church in general, his role of caring for Mary and Jesus makes him well suited to be Patron of Family Life in particular.

Pope Francis has nominated Saint Joseph's feast day of March 19 as the start of the Year of the Family. It is also the date when "Amoris Laetitia" was published. So March 19 is doubly appropriate as the starting date for the Year of the Family. It is the feast of Saint Joseph, patron of family life. It is also the anniversary of Pope Francis' document on the family.

If we look back on Pope Francis' ministry, we find a further link with Saint Joseph. Pope Francis began his service as Pope on the feast of Saint Joseph in 2013. In his homily that day, Pope Francis drew lessons from Saint Joseph for his own mission and for the mission that we all share. He highlighted Saint Joseph's vocation to be the guardian or protector of Mary and Jesus and protector of the Church.

"How does Joseph exercise his role as protector? Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand. From the time of his betrothal to Mary until the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, he

is there at every moment with loving care. As the spouse of Mary, he is at her side in good times and bad, on the journey to Bethlehem for the census and in the anxious and joyful hours when she gave birth; amid the drama of the flight into Egypt and during the frantic search for their child in the Temple; and later in the day-to-day life of the home of Nazareth, in the workshop where he taught his trade to Jesus. How does Joseph respond to his calling to be the protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church? By being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and receptive to God's plans."

Pope Francis then spoke of our own call to be guardians or protectors of one another and of all creation. "The vocation of being a 'protector' means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!"

From these excerpts from his first homily as Pope, we see how Francis linked Saint Joseph with care of the family so it is not surprising that he has now linked the Year of Saint Joseph with the Year of the Family.

In a later homily, Pope Francis mentioned a practice that he follows that illustrates his personal devotion to Saint Joseph. It was in 2015, during a visit to the Philippines for a meeting with families in Manila. He described Saint Joseph as someone who was in tune with God even while he was asleep! He spoke of the times in the gospels where we read of an angel speaking to Saint Joseph in a dream. Then he referred to a little statue that he has on his table showing Saint Joseph asleep and his practice of entrusting concerns to Saint Joseph by putting a note under this statue.



"On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint

Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!"

In declaring a Year of Saint Joseph, Pope Francis is inviting us all to entrust our concerns to him. In having this Year of Saint Joseph overlap with a Year of the Family, he is inviting us to include our family concerns among the intentions that we entrust to Saint Joseph's care.

May this Year of Saint Joseph encourage us to go to Saint Joseph in our needs. May the coming Year of the Family

inspire us to live our family lives in a truly Christian spirit, rejoicing in the blessings that we share and supporting one another when trials come. Through this year of reflection on family life and through the intercession of Saint Joseph, may our families experience anew the joy of love.

*+ Paul Bird CSsR*

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Image: Bishop Paul's sleeping St Joseph

## LEARNING TO LEARN

*In the first two weeks of term one, students in all classes at St Brendan's School Coragulac participated in 'Learning to Learn' units. It is exciting when students step up to a new year level and it is important that everyone gets off to a good start. These units help to set the foundations for optimal learning to take place throughout the year.*

*As everyone settles into their new learning environment, teachers and students focus on building strong relationships and a dynamic community of learners. An emphasis is placed on discovering the many ways individual learners learn, different ways of thinking, developing a growth mindset, building teamwork, building resilience, developing curiosity and problem solving.*

*Students revise the behaviour expectations at St Brendan's and learn how important it is that we all do the right thing and work together to make it a great year for everyone.*



*The 'Learning to Learn' units were a fantastic way to begin the year and the outdoor education activities were a wonderful way to finish the program. Students worked in multi-age groups, building positive relationships across the whole school. Miss Alice and Miss McGuane created a range of activities to develop skills in teamwork, problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and discovered first hand that learning does not stop at the classroom door.*

*The first activity was in the sandpit where students worked in teams to create outdoor environments such as farms and roads. Activity two was an art activity where students hammered nails into a pellet and then wound wool around the nails to create an artistic design.*

*The third activity took place in mud kitchens which involved creative play and getting messy!! A scavenger hunt was the fourth activity and students worked in groups to create the scavenger hunt for another group. Each group had to collect fifteen items from a list created for them by another team. One list required students to find a moth. This proved to be difficult so they used their imagination and had a teacher print a photo of a moth for them. Thinking outside the box!*

*Activity five looked at art in nature. Students worked with a partner or a small group to create a piece of art from natural resources such as plants, flowers and rocks. The 'learning to learn' unit was a great experience for all students and teachers.*

Leanne Eastman – Principal





## Assessing the needs of the Diocesan archives

*The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat received a Community Heritage Grant from the National Library of Australia for a "Preservation Needs Assessment" report in September 2020. This funding allows for a professional conservator to investigate the current and future environmental needs for the archives. In February 2021, the conservator Alexandra Ellem commenced examining some of the 100,000 objects currently held in the archive collection. Alexandra (pictured below) comes from the University of Melbourne where she is currently the subject co-ordinator for the course, "Issues in Art Conservation." In this position, Alexandra teaches conservation and ethical issues as well as working with students who wish to become curators.*

*Alexandra maintains a wealth of knowledge on the conservation of various material including paintings, books, works on paper, documents, textiles, sculpture, photography, jewellery, regalia and memorabilia. She has worked as a painting conservator for the National Gallery of Victoria as well as for the Centre for Cultural Material Conservation at the University of Melbourne. Working closely with the Diocesan Archivist, Alexandra will be analysing the future environmental conditions needed for this archive. This information will be included in the report along with how this significant collection should be displayed once the archives have been relocated to the diocesan offices in the near future.*



Dr Samantha Fabry - Diocesan Archivist

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS at Mary MacKillop Western Border Parish



The Hamilton Community in the Mary MacKillop Parish Western Border gathered for lenten programs to reflect on Lent and its meaning in our lives. There were three groups running programs in the community.

I put together a program for our Josephite group using LiturgyHelp, which is a unique subscription service for everyone involved in liturgy, prayer and catechesis, as well as drawing on our Josephite Prayer Books for my sources of material.

We reflected on the Sunday Gospels for Lent, using the resources mentioned and we considered and prayed the Scripture under the Josephite Prayer headings of:

GATHERING  
SCRIPTURE CONTEXT  
LISTENING  
BREAKING OPEN and  
RESPONDING to the Sunday Gospel  
finishing with a BLESSING PRAYER

I used the context from one of the LiturgyHelp Commentaries and the blessings from "Act Love Walk. Praying in the Josephite Spirit" which is published by the Trustees of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

At first I thought it may not have enough content but we had no trouble spending an hour together in prayer and reflection.

Noreen McLeish - Hamilton

*Photo: L to R - Maree Bell, Wendy Collins, Noreen McLeish, Carmel Schlaghecke and Marie Cook. Trish Irving (absent). All from Hamilton.*

*Inset: Maureen Ellis from Mornington, one of our Josephite Companions. Maureen joins us from a distance.*

Previously, we used the Brisbane Lenten Program in our parish, however it was not published this year. The Wollongong publication 'Comfort' was happily used by two of the Lenten reflection groups but copies were out of print and it did not really appeal to our Josephite Companions group. Thinking about all of this,





## Pathways to School Leadership: Leading with Impact Program

*For two days in the last week of February, twenty leaders from the Ballarat diocese joined with eight leaders from Catholic Education Melbourne's Western Region at the Mercure in Ballarat to undertake the 'Pathways to School Leadership: Leading with Impact' Program, designed and facilitated by Dr Stephen Brown, Director of The Brown Collective.*

*These two days form part of a two year program targeted at supporting the ongoing development and growth of existing leaders and those aspiring to a leadership role. Feedback from participants was extremely positive. When asked what they found valuable about the program, one participant noted the opportunity to be part of a collaborative group with a fabulous facilitator. "Over the last two days I have been provided with opportunities to reflect on myself as a leader in Catholic education."*

*Each participant will identify a leadership challenge particular to their setting and work with a mentor and principal coach to address the challenge. The program has also been a valuable opportunity to work across two neighbouring dioceses. The group will gather again in September for the next phase of the program.*

John Meneely - Deputy Director of Catholic Education

## St Malachy's Edenhope

St Malachy's Primary School in Edenhope welcomed in the new school year outside with parents, staff and students in their 'healing space'. The parents, staff and students gathered to pray together while also taking the opportunity to formally welcome the students and staff, particularly those new to St Malachy's.

The parents stayed on for a cup of tea and were welcomed in fine "Mercy Tradition". Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, said to one of her sisters on her deathbed, "Be sure you have a comfortable cup of tea for them when I am gone." Since then a tea cup/cup of tea has become the symbol of Mercy hospitality.



I was fortunate to help lead a Student Mercy Pilgrimage to Ireland and Rome nine years ago with Sr Mary Moloney RSM and during the visit to Catherine McAuley's house in Baggot St, Dublin, I was reminded of Catherine's quote of hospitality. If you are ever passing through Edenhope and feel like a cuppa and something nice to eat, St Malachy's in Lake St is the place to stop!!

Shrove Tuesday went ahead COVID style despite the lockdown and the small numbers at school. The burning of last year's Palm Sunday palms in readiness for Ash Wednesday and the traditions behind the burning of the palms and the making of pancakes was still enjoyed by the small gathering.



John O'Sullivan - Principal

Our Diocesan Community - March 2021



# RITE OF ELECTION



After being called forward by Fr John, Bishop Paul, speaking in the name of the Church, questioned the preparation, understanding and readiness of the catechumens. He then met the catechumens and candidates individually with their Godparents/Sponsors.

It was an uplifting experience for us all. We thank Bishop Paul for 'making the pilgrimage' to Warrnambool, Susan Crowe for her singing and Julie Boyd from the Pastoral Ministry Office in Ballarat for all their work towards making it possible.



*Mary Lancaster - Warrnambool Parish*

Easter is the highlight of our liturgical year and we (in the Parish of St Joseph's Warrnambool) are usually fortunate in having at least one person who desires to be initiated into the Church at the Easter Vigil. This year we have two, a catechumen – Rebecca James and a candidate - Jenaya Kelly, who wishes to seek full communion within the Church.

As a 'forerunner' of the series of Rites that lead to the Vigil, our RCIA Team had been making plans for the annual pilgrimage to the Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat on February 20. We then heard the news that St Joseph's was to be privileged in hosting the 2021 Rite of Election. We were excited by the prospect and especially as it meant that all RCIA team members were able to be present – the 'tyranny of distance' from Ballarat means that usually only a couple are able to make the journey.

Also present for the occasion were members of the St Mary MacKillop Parish Western Border with catechumens Nima Cardwell and Suzie McManus and St Mary's Colac parish with catechumen Emircan Akarsu. Apologies were received from the Northeast Mallee Parish.

The ceremony was celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, assisted by Fr John Fitzgerald. Fr Pat Mugavin proclaimed the Gospel. Our organist, Tony Herbert and the Choir, with Ballarat Cantor, Dr Susan Crowe, provided the music.

## MILESTONES

*Fr Dan Arundell celebrated his 90th birthday on December 24, 2020 and Fr Bill Melican also turned 90 on January 3, 2021.*

*We wish them many happy returns for their birthdays.*

*We thank them both for their ministry amongst us and for their generous service.*

*Fr Dan is pictured at a recent clergy gathering with Frs Paddy Mugavin, Anthony Nagothu and John Corrigan.*

*First printed in the Ballarat Cathedral Parish Newsletter*



# Instrumentum Laboris (Working Document) Released for Plenary Council Journey



The journey towards the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia has reached another milestone with the publication of ***Continuing the Journey, the instrumentum laboris (working document) for the Council***. Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says the role of a working document is, “to offer an account of what the People of God have expressed as an invitation for ongoing discernment.”

The working document for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia provides a catalyst for the Church to renew the journey of prayer and discernment toward the first assembly in October, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said.

The document, known as an *instrumentum laboris*, draws on the voices heard during the Listening and Dialogue and Listening and Discernment phases of the Plenary Council, but also from other key sources. It is entitled *Continuing the Journey*. “This is an exciting step forward and we take it together, amidst a time of great change. More than 220,000 people participated in the first stages of Listening and Dialogue, and those voices can be heard clearly in the working document,” said Archbishop Costelloe.

“As writers, we drew inspiration from Scripture, writings and teachings of the Church including the documents of the Second Vatican Council, encyclicals and papal exhortations, Australian bishops’ pastoral letters and more. The abundance of wisdom in the writings of our rich tradition, together with the papers of the Plenary Council discernment thus far, provided an incredible foundation for the content of this working document.”

Archbishop Costelloe said an *instrumentum laboris*, whether for the Plenary Council, for a Synod of Bishops in Rome or a local synod, “seeks to offer an account of what the People of God have expressed as an invitation for ongoing discernment.”

A number of key themes emerge in the document including:

- renewing a Christ-centred Church that heals wounds and warms hearts;
- strengthening practices of discernment and synodality;
- the call to co-responsibility in mission and governance;
- embedding a response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
- renewing and supporting the ordained ministry;
- promoting discipleship in parishes, families and young people;
- forming prayerful and Eucharistic communities that are eager to engage in society for the service of all;
- proclaiming the Gospel in a change of era;
- renewing the Church’s solidarity with First Australians and those on the margins of society;
- promoting an integral ecology of life for all persons, societies and our common home, the Earth.

Plenary Council Facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins said a reflection guide has been developed to help people throughout the country engage with *Continuing the Journey*, maintaining the national focus for the Council. “A document has the most value when it is brought to life through dialogue and response,” she said. “In this particular time of changing norms in society and the emerging reality of post-COVID life, it is increasingly important to have as many faith communities, groups, agencies and individuals participate in this continued discernment as possible. Every single person is needed for God’s mission today.”

Archbishop Costelloe expressed his gratitude to the other members of the *instrumentum laboris* writing team: Daniel Ang, Trudy Dantis and Fr Kevin Lenehan. “The Plenary Council has drawn upon the faith, the knowledge and the expertise of countless people during the journey so far,” he said. “In Daniel, Trudy and Fr Kevin we were once again blessed with a range of experiences and insights that helped make the document what it became.”

Citing the working document, Archbishop Costelloe says it “invites the whole Church, and in a special way the delegates to the Plenary Council, into a deeper discernment which can help us hear the voice of the Holy Spirit emerging from the multiplicity of voices. Every part of this journey so far has been embedded in prayer and, similarly, I invite people to recognise the need to engage with the *instrumentum laboris* with an open heart, an open mind and a receptive spirit,” he said.

Archbishop Costelloe said *Continuing the Journey*, in addition to being a document of value in and of itself, will also help with the creation of the agenda for the Council’s assemblies.

As at other stages in the Plenary Council journey, people are encouraged – individually and collectively – to pray with the document and a simple reflection guide has been devised to support that local engagement.



# Continuing the Journey

*There are under two hundred days until the opening of the first assembly of the Plenary Council in October and with the extended period of preparations, we hope and pray for the renewed energy that the post COVID world will need.*

*As you have read, the release of ‘Continuing the Journey’, the working document -- or instrumentum laboris -- for the Plenary Council has occurred. The document draws from the richness of the voices of the People of God, captured during the Listening and Dialogue and Listening and Discernment phases, as well as papal writings, bishops' statements and key documents from within and beyond Church to inform the Plenary Council journey. A reflection guide has been developed to help people throughout the country engage with ‘Continuing the Journey’. The reflection guide, which is a continuation of the guides at other stages of this journey, invites people to pray and discern with the document individually or in small groups. We will promote this throughout the diocese in the near future.*

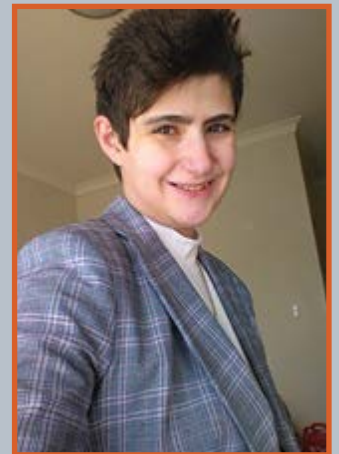
*Firstly though, in continuing the journey, a number of young people in the Ballarat diocese have been invited to reflect on the discernment papers written in the Discernment phase, with the first two reflections offered in this edition of Our Diocesan Community. Monique Sciberras has written a reflection on HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS prayerful and Eucharistic? Casey Dodd has commented on HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS Missionary & Evangelising? The questions for these reflections were: After reading this paper, What gives you hope? What do you find challenging? What are your thoughts on this paper in relation to your parish or the diocese as a whole?*

## **Monique's reflection:**

I feel at this time, God is calling us to rediscover the beauty and the splendour of the Eucharist, so that we can become closer with Christ and let the Eucharistic marvel shine through us in our lives, when we engage with everyone.

Remind people that the Eucharist is the centre of the Church and should be the centre of each individual's life. I feel the liturgy should be celebrated with deeper reverence and piety, so that all can appreciate the gift Jesus gave to us and bring life to the community so they can draw all people and produce fruits for conversion.

The experience of the liturgy should help people become more attuned and connected with God by encouraging them to pray more before and after Mass. Offer more traditional practices daily like perpetual Eucharistic adoration, Holy Hours and Benediction outside of Mass so that the faithful can be in an unceasing bond with God in a personal and communal way.



## **Casey's reflection:**



*This article fills me with hope for the future, especially for the future of young people. The Plenary Council calls us to commit to justice and peace, listen to others and empower ourselves and each other. This gives me hope in the fact that the Council is focusing on important values that are essential for engaging the community. Engagement allows us to not only work in collaboration for the common good, but also show a deep sense of compassion for our pluralistic society.*

*This article also gives me hope for the Plenary Council's vision to be a community of open arms, welcoming those from society into the Church and the Kingdom of God. This inclusivity motivates and encourages all to be engaged in our community and live with faith, commitment and purpose, which I believe is really important for our future.*

*One of the challenges that comes to mind is how people can include and communicate with others in a way that is meaningful, authentic and genuine. The way in which you would work with older people with Mission and Evangelising is very different to the way you would work with teenagers. For the Church, I believe it is really important for them to have the resources, knowledge and commitment to put into action ways that can engage and include the whole community from all generations. I think a way to overcome this challenge would be to encourage young people to be involved and stay involved in the Church, which would then inspire other young people to do this same. In this way, inclusivity would flourish and engagement would thrive within the community.*

*This paper allows me to recognise and understand the work of my parish and their commitment to listen to the needs of the wider community. In this ever-changing and unpredictable world, the Church endeavours to carry out Jesus' teachings and mission in ways that bring hope, light and fulfillment to members of our community. I believe that the diocese offers love and support to all, which is important in gaining trust and commitment. The Church also embraces and promotes minority groups, allowing their voices to be heard to help shape our community.*



## ACU welcomes students to campus for Semester 1 2021

*Australian Catholic University's (ACU's) eight Australian campuses were bustling with thousands of students beginning their university journey or resuming their studies when semester 1 began on Monday, March 1.*

*Turnout for orientation activities across Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Ballarat were very positive, as students gravitated back to campuses where social activities and information sessions have been designed to maximise the experience while following COVID-safe practices.*

*Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Dr Stephen Weller welcomed new and returning students with a reassurance that the university had safety plans in place that observed the COVID-protocols for each state or territory. "Whether it's welcome to ACU for the first time or welcome back to our returning students, we are delighted that our campuses are open and ready to start the year afresh. Already there is a real buzz as students are arriving on campus, bringing excitement and positive energy."*

*"We have scheduled a blended learning model featuring both on-campus and online classes for all campuses for 2021, and our students can come to campus to access our services and facilities and to enjoy social opportunities."*

*"ACU is following health advice at all times in an ever-changing environment; we remain committed to adapting teaching and learning environments, campus experiences and our operations to ensure the health and safety of our community."*

*COVID-19 FAQs, including on practical class attendance, placements, assessments, technology and IT support, health and wellbeing support, student accommodation and travel are available through the student portal and on the ACU website. These are updated regularly to reflect public health orders. "We are looking forward to providing an engaging student experience as well as safe and healthy campuses," Dr Weller said.*

*Each of ACU's campuses has seen a growth in domestic students in 2021. Across the board, the university's flagship education and health sciences programs have remained consistently popular, reflecting workforce demand in these sectors. ACU offers degrees in education, health, law and business and humanities and social sciences.*

Media contact: Jen Rosenberg



## FAREWELL TO SR DENISE DESMARCHELIER IBVM

After many years with us in Ballarat, Loreto Sister Denise Desmarchelier is moving to Southport, Queensland. Sr Denise was first appointed to Loreto College Cooparoo from 1960-1964 and now in 2021 she will join six other Loreto Sisters in and around Brisbane.

We thank Sr Denise for her presence amongst us in the Cathedral Parish and the witness of her religious life, asking God to bless her as she responds yet again to go where she is called. Srs Natalie Houlihan and Jacqui McGilp will be the remaining presence of the Loreto Sisters amongst us in Ballarat.

Sr Denise has also been a valued member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission since May 2017. During this time she has assisted and provided her expertise at many events hosted by the Commission. Her presence amongst us will be missed.

*First printed in the Ballarat Cathedral Parish Newsletter*



# Laudato Si - Care For Our Common Home

On your way to Thunder Point in Warrnambool, you might notice the spectacular parkland growing beside the Merri River. It is hard to believe that less than two years ago Emmanuel College Year 7 students and their Religious Education teacher joined with the local council to help plant tiny tube stock trees, shrubs and grasses.

Now established and thriving, these plants, endemic to the local area, are already providing welcome habitat, food and shelter for our beautiful birds and other wildlife.

The project was the Year 7 students' way of living out *Care for Our Common Home - Laudato Si*. The community, flora and fauna all benefit - what a beautiful legacy to their work and efforts.

Pictured below are students from 7E 2019 assisting the Warrnambool City Council to plant tubestock along the Merri River reserve.

Ms Jacqui Floyd – Emmanuel College Warrnambool



## 'Life in the Spirit'



*'Life in the Spirit' is a group from St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat that is part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement and they have been meeting every Tuesday since 2017 from 7.00pm to 8.30pm in the Mary Glowrey Room, breaking during the school holidays.*

*The meetings were unexpectedly interrupted when COVID-19 hit and life came to a near standstill for most. However, with the marvel of technology, Zoom became the platform as the group continued to joyfully experience the Lord's transforming love through music, prayer, reflection on the Word and sharing about God's daily guidance and strength. It was a great source of solace and fellowship through a time of what would otherwise have been disconnection and isolation from the parish. The grand finale was the memorable Christmas gathering to celebrate Christ the very week after restrictions were lifted. "We thank our Lord for His great grace through 2020 and all are invited to join us in 2021!!*

*L to R - Kirby, Priya, Kazia, Carmel, Maree, Dawn, Anne, Jean, Margot, Tomy, Kathy, June*

First printed in the Ballarat Cathedral Parish Newsletter

# New Catholic Education Ballarat Staff

Catholic Education Ballarat officially welcomed eight new staff on Thursday, January 21 2021. Some staff commenced in mid-2020 but had their official induction postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.



L-R: Jeanette Goon, Penelope Irish, Tom Sexton, Leonie Walsh, Grant Victor-Gordon, Kim Hawkes, Danielle Buzaglo, Christine Bulger

**Jeanette Goon ( “J” )** – Commenced in April 2020 as Payroll Officer: “J” has more than fifteen years of payroll experience, her latest roles with CGT Ballarat Gold Mine and GFP Studios Pty Ltd, where she was responsible for over three hundred staff payroll end to end. J has a Diploma in Business and is currently studying Certificate IV in Human Resources.

**Penelope Irish** – Commenced in July 2020 as Properties & Facilities Advisor: Penelope, born and bred in Ballarat, has also spent extended periods of time in London, Melbourne and Western Australia and comes to us with a broad range of related experience from the Mining, Construction, Hospitality and Education sectors. She has more recently been engaged with local communities across Victoria and NSW as Facility Manager for Adult Education, Employment and Training organisations and industrial sites supporting people with disabilities. Penelope is an advocate for continual learning having completed additional study in the areas of Project Management and Education and Training and is devoted to ensuring the most appropriate environment is available for all individuals to achieve their goals.

**Tom Sexton** – Commenced in August 2020 as Executive Director, Catholic Education Ballarat: Having served in Catholic education for over thirty years, predominately in the Diocese of Sandhurst, Tom’s leadership and experience will greatly enrich Catholic education in the Diocese of Ballarat. He began his career in Catholic education as a teacher for seven years, followed by four years as a principal. Tom then commenced at Catholic Education Sandhurst where he was an Education Officer for two years, before returning to a principalship for a further nine years. Tom then returned to the Catholic Education Office Sandhurst where he was Assistant Director for Planning and Resources for eleven years. In 2018 Tom began work as an independent education consultant working across Australia. Tom’s varied experience in the Catholic education system has given him an in-depth insight into and understanding of the needs of small rural schools through to large regional colleges. He has been involved in the *Enhancing Catholic School Identity project* and has served on various Diocesan, State and National education committees. Tom has also completed his Masters of Business Administration, Diploma of Teaching, Graduate Diploma in Education and Certificate in Surviving Disruptive Technologies.

**Leonie Walsh** – Commenced in July 2020 as Visiting Teacher for schools in the Northern Zone: Leonie has been working for the past 14 years as an Education Officer – Learning Diversity with specific responsibility for sensory needs at Catholic Education Sandhurst. Leonie has extensive experience working as an educator in schools for the deaf as well as providing training to adults in this field. Leonie is recognised as a valued team member at CEO Sandhurst given her willingness to build effective working relationships with students and to bring students her specific expertise and a willingness to seek productive solutions.

**Grant Victor-Gordon** – Commenced in June 2020 as Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator: Grant has an established career in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Risk Management spanning 30 years. He has worked extensively in the Worker’s Compensation and Disability Services industries, as well as the education sector. Grant has considerable experience in the provision of injury management and injury prevention advice to organisations and individuals alike. He has also worked for the National Safety Council of Australia as a Consultant and Training Facilitator, delivering services to major corporate and national organisations. In the past eight years, he has been employed by Wesley College Melbourne as the OHS Coordinator, taking responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation of the College OHS management system across all campuses. Since 2012, Grant has also combined



his interest in the performing arts with his OHS risk management expertise to assist the Castlemaine State Festival with managing the hazards associated with the biannual Festival Program.

**Kim Hawkes** – Commenced in January 2021 as Education Officer: RE (Primary) for schools in the far north and west of the diocese: Kim has taught at St Joseph's Primary School, Red Cliffs since 1998 where she has held a number of leadership positions, including both Literacy and Special Needs Co-ordinator. Presently she is a member of the school's leadership team and part of the Professional Learning Community (PLC) Guiding Coalition. From 2010-2019, Kim was the Religious Education Co-ordinator and Leader at St Joseph's and this year is supporting RE Curriculum knowledge in her Senior Unit Team. Kim brings both passion and a strong experience base in religious education to this position, supported by her active involvement in St Joseph the Worker Parish, Red Cliffs. Her leadership skills and knowledge of PLC processes will add much to the leadership and service she will offer as an Education Officer.

**Danielle Buzaglo** – Commenced in January 2021 as Psychologist for schools in the Southern Zone: Danielle began her professional career in 2003 as a Secondary teacher of Psychology and Humanities. Danielle taught for eight years in both secondary and primary school settings before becoming a registered psychologist in 2011 after completing a Masters of Educational Psychology. Danielle commenced working for the Department of Education and Training Student Support Services in 2012 and quickly became an endorsed Educational and Developmental Psychologist. In 2014 Danielle entered private practice and was the Educational and Developmental Consultant Psychologist at Camperdown Psychology. Danielle's clients have ranged from 4 - 25 years old with difficulties including childhood trauma, depression, self-harm, school anxiety and social difficulties.

**Christine Bulger** – Commenced in January 2021 as Education Officer: RE (Primary): Throughout her career, Christine has taught and led in the area of Religious Education and Catholic identity within a secondary and primary school context. A significant area of her work in leadership at both Marian College and St Mary's Primary School, Ararat, has been supporting student learning in Religious Education by journeying with staff in the implementation of the Awakenings Curriculum. From 2001 - 2013, Christine both taught and held coordinator roles including Religious Education Coordinator at Marian College. Since 2013, she has taught at St Mary's Ararat, where she has assumed the leadership roles of Religious Education Leader and Deputy Principal. Christine brings to the role a solid understanding of the challenges and areas for opportunity and growth in supporting teachers in the ongoing implementation of the Awakenings Curriculum to ensure learning and teaching in Religious Education that is life giving and transformative. Her leadership skills and knowledge of PLC processes will add much to the leadership and service she will offer as an Education Officer.

*Emma Newman - CEB Marketing and Communications Officer*

## ST PETER'S FINAL MASS

*After more than one hundred and fifty years of history, it was with heavy hearts that the parishioners of St Peter's in Wedderburn held their final Mass on Christmas Eve 2020.*



*In the days of the search for gold, Wedderburn Catholics were under the care of the Castlemaine Mission, then Carisbrook and Inglewood*

*Missions. In January 1877 a block was purchased in Wedderburn as a site for a church. Tenders were called for in March and by August construction of St Peter's was complete. On November 25, 1877 the church was consecrated.*

*In 1978 St Peter's became part of St Joseph's Parish, Charlton. On March 13, 1978 the centenary of St Peter's was celebrated.*

*In 2020 a difficult decision was made, with consultations of the last four loyal parishioners of the church, to close Our Diocesan Community - March 2021*

*its doors. The final Mass to be offered in St Peter's was the end of an era. Over the years St Peter's has been the centre for many baptisms, funerals and weddings - the last wedding being a massive affair in 2018 with over two hundred guests.*

*Lay Led Assemblies of Word and Communion began in 1998. Joan Steel, Berna Reeves, Kathy Whale, Pat and Frank Canfield organised Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion for two weeks and then Mass was celebrated the other two weeks. In later years Lou Gamble helped out, as Joan was the last soldier standing!*

*Joan Steel and Frank Canfield are our oldest and longest worshippers with over sixty years attendance at St Peter's.*

*Written by the parishioners of St Peter's Wedderburn*





## FAMILY CARE SISTERS

*Did you know that the foundress of a Religious Order – the Grey Sisters, now known as the Family Care Sisters – was born in Beaufort on June 30, 1884?*

*Maude O'Connell was her name; a woman who was determined, justice orientated, pioneering, a feminist and unafraid to challenge the status quo .... so much so and because of the appalling working conditions of women, that she took a job in a factory and became a union official so that she could help improve the conditions. She was an ardent advocate for equal pay for equal work.*

*She had a vision – to provide service to mothers in their own homes. In 1928 when she asked Dr William Collins at St Francis Church in Melbourne why this was not happening he said, 'are you prepared to roll up your sleeves and help the mothers in their homes'? Her reply was 'yes and I will get others to help me'.*

*In 1930 the Family Care Sisters began and Daylesford was the location that provided women and children with a holiday away from the stresses of daily life. Since then various family needs have been provided in and around Melbourne and some rural areas. Their Canterbury house is used for those from country Victoria who need to attend medical specialist appointments in the city.*

*In 2008 the two remaining Sisters approached the Sisters of Mercy (the former Melbourne Congregation) asking if the two congregations could journey together. The foundresses of the two congregations – Maude O'Connell and Catherine McAuley – both so alike in that they did not want to found a religious congregation 'but rather to be a woman of change, devoted to causes and to the poor!'*

*In 1998, management of the O'Connell Family Centre was transferred to Mercy Health and Aged Care and in 2006 the O'Connell Family Centre was generously gifted by the Family Care Sisters to the Sisters of Mercy, Melbourne Congregation and Mercy Health and Aged Care Inc. So the vision of this woman from Beaufort – Maude O'Connell – continues – as each congregation respects and preserves each other's traditions and identity.*

Sr Geraldine Mugavin RSM

Image: <https://institute.mercy.org.au/about-us/family-care-sisters/>

Fr Michael McKinnon celebrated a COVID Safe Confirmation and First Eucharist Mass at St Joseph's Timboon in November 2020. The children completed their preparation at home with their families and persevered through the weeks of home schooling. Congratulations to the children and their parents.

In spite of no parish celebration and a ten per family guest limit, it still felt like Sacrament Day. Thank you to all our parishioners who supported these children and Annette who produced music for this special event.

Ruth Hoffman - Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator

## Timboon Parish Sacramental Program





# Diocese of Ballarat Scholarship

Each year the Ballarat Diocesan Finance Council awards a scholarship to support a student from each secondary college in the Diocese moving into Years 11 or 12.

Successful recipients of the award will have demonstrated:

- leadership potential and student advocacy;
- community involvement characterized by actions for justice;
- consistent academic application reflective of a commitment to study.

One such recipient from 2020 was Louise Tamer from Emmanuel College, Warrnambool. Louise is currently in Year 11 and is an all-round high achieving student who consistently achieves excellent academic results, participates in school sporting events, regularly helps at school and parish masses, is a year level leader and excels in public speaking. Her public speaking achievements include winning the Rostrum Voice of Youth national final in 2019 and the Lions Club Youth Public Speaking competition in 2020. She has also been recognised in the

Moyne Youth Achiever Awards and is an active participant of social justice and community service programs, such as being a member of the Young Vinnies and last year during the COVID lockdown, wrote letters to the residents of Lyndoch Living in Warrnambool.

Congratulations to Louise as one of eleven worthy recipients of the 2020 Diocese of Ballarat Scholarship.



*First printed in the Catholic Education Ballarat Weekly newsletter - February 17, 2021*

## FAREWELL TO SR MANUELA



*Srs Manuela Cabigas and Tirsa Bale cssjb, Sisters of St John the Baptist (Baptistine Sisters) arrived in Ballarat on September 25, 2017 from the Philippines to begin a new foundation in the diocese. The Sisters were based in Horsham during their stay.*

*Sr Manuela Cabigas was appointed as the Diocesan RCIA & Sacramental Facilitator in November 2017 and Sr Tirsa was appointed the Horsham Parish Pastoral Associate.*

*Sr Manuela commenced her diocesan role by travelling to attend Masses at many parishes throughout the diocese, making herself known to all she met. She assisted as required with the implementation of the RCIA program in parishes and fulfilled many ministries in the Horsham parish. As part of her role, Sr Manuela was also a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.*

*Sr Tirsa returned to the Philippines in 2020 due to ill health and died on September 18, 2020.*

*Sr Manuela Cabigas flew home to the Philippines in October 2020 in the midst of COVID-19. With restrictions and difficulties securing a ticket, her departure was swift and unfortunately a farewell did not occur. The diocese sends sincere thanks, prayers and gratitude to Srs Manuela and Tirsa (RIP) for their ministry and spiritual contribution to the diocese during their time with us.*

*The following message was received from Sr Manuela to the Horsham Parish:*

*My dear parishioners and friends! Thank you for your support, goodness, love and concern, It meant a lot. I'll keep you safe in my heart. God bless you. Praying for you always.*

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

## DIOCESAN PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Fr Kevin Maloney has taken on the role of Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator in the diocese. The Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator develops and facilitates diocesan initiatives, programs and activities to strengthen and support diocesan and parish life. As well as Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator, Fr Kevin is also Vicar General of the diocese. A Vicar General is a priest who is appointed by the bishop and given executive power to assist in the governance of the diocese.

The Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator position is part of the Office of the Bishop of Ballarat and liaises with diocesan colleagues, in particular the Pastoral Ministry Office, with regard to providing effective diocesan communications and many others, nationally and locally, in the areas of Evangelisation, Lay Ministry, Pastoral Planning and Pastoral Research.

Fr Kevin will be supported in this role by a Pastoral Planning Panel consisting of Andrew Jirik, Fr Justin Driscoll, Mark Bromley, Anne Eskdale and Jane Collins. The Pastoral Planning Panel will assist Fr Kevin to develop an overall picture of ministry throughout the diocese. This would involve, for example, proposing updates to the *Looking Forward* document.

Fr Kevin is no stranger to this sort of role as he has previously held roles coordinating the Pastoral Ministry Office, the Religious Education Centre and the Pastoral Development Commission. His role as Vicar General will also be beneficial to this position as well as his understanding, compassion and knowledge of parishes and clergy. We wish Fr Kevin all the best in this position.



## Languages at St Brigid's



*In the final weeks of remote teaching last year, activity in the learning of languages at St Brigid's College Horsham was given a boost by a grant from Catholic Education Ballarat. This grant enabled the College to set up a program of COVID-safe calligraphy classes for small groups of senior students studying Japanese with local native-speaking Japanese experts. This was a welcome opportunity to inject some authenticity into the teaching and learning of Japanese.*

*Our native-speaking teacher Yoko Cross and her friend Akina Koh, are both highly trained experts in Japanese calligraphy. This is much more than a way of writing*

*in Japan, it is a highly valued and respected art-form based on a strict mastery of basic brush-stroke types, graceful balance of the components of each character and projection of the strength of spirit of the artist. Students are only at the start of their understanding of this. Writing in Japanese script is a pragmatic necessity rather than an art-form. Having hands-on individually guided opportunities to write characters, with focus on their shape and style rather than on their meaning and use in written communication, enormously enhanced their overall skill in writing in Japanese.*

*Furthermore, as increasing numbers of students are choosing to continue with Japanese at higher levels, it was a major encouragement to receive a grant to acquire some advanced paged dictionaries for students to get acclimatised to using in Year 12. Google Translate is wonderful and will no doubt be the dictionary of choice for anyone learning Japanese in any context in the future, but only paged dictionaries are permitted to be used in exams and assessment tasks at Year 12 level, so it is good to have received support in establishing a strong reference resource for our senior students.*

*The next College trip to Japan would normally be planned for this year. Current government restrictions on international travel mean that both the 2021 visit by students from our Japanese sister school and the biennial visit that St Brigid's students would normally make to Japan have had to be cancelled. As the year progresses, we may be able to revisit possibilities to re-establish this important component of our teaching of Japanese at the College, and, hopefully, re-establish these programs for 2022.*

Jeni Allen – St Brigid's College Horsham





*St Joseph's received funding from the Australian Government under the Capital Grants Program (CGP) for the project and appreciate this wonderful opportunity to improve the school's facilities for the students and staff.*



Naomi Kennedy – Principal

## Opening and Blessing

*The long awaited Opening and Blessing of St Joseph's School Red Cliffs refurbished junior classrooms and administration block was celebrated on March 2. The school community were thrilled that the Bishop of Ballarat, Paul Bird was in attendance to conduct the blessing with Dr Anne Webster MP, Member for Mallee officiating the official opening. After the formalities, attendees were invited to stay for a light lunch and refreshments on the lawns outside the classrooms.*



## World Interfaith Harmony Week



The week of February 1 -7 saw the celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week, with a range of events organised by the Ballarat Interfaith Network. Internationally, the idea of setting aside a week each year to promote mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan in 2010. The United Nations strongly endorsed the initiative and the first week of February has since been marked internationally with events that promote a culture of peace, mutual understanding, harmony and good will.

In Ballarat the week opened with a flag raising event at St Peter's Anglican Church, where representatives of various faith groups and religious organisations came together in a spirit of harmony and celebration. The following day, all were invited to a morning ritual at the Wat Thai Buddhist temple in Mt Helen. Later events in the week included a family history afternoon at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and a Sikh event of prayer, ritual and hospitality, culminating in a delicious communal dinner at the Brown Hill Hall.

*Jo-anne van der Voort - Ballarat Interfaith Network*



Our Diocesan Community - March 2021





# THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

Ss Michael and John's Parish in Horsham has been blessed over the last nine years to have been in the pastoral and spiritual care of Fr Peter Hudson. It was with some sadness that we took time to formally thank and farewell Fr Peter after the weekend Masses on December 19 and 20, 2020. These had to be modest gatherings due to the COVID-19 restrictions and not in the order appropriate for such a special man. Fr Peter formally completed his time as our Parish Priest with the Parish Mass celebrated on Sunday, December 27. I am reluctant to say that Fr Peter has retired from Priestly ministry because I believe this man has much more to give to the People of God in our Diocese and beyond.

While Horsham has been the beneficiary of Fr Peter's most recent years of ministry, our diocese has been greatly blessed by the nearly fifty years of service Fr Peter has given since his Ordination in May 1971. Over the years, Peter gave faithful service to the people of God in Terang, Ballarat, West Warrnambool, Hamilton and Swan Hill prior to his time with us in Horsham. We will keep Fr Peter in our prayers and be forever grateful for the years he spent with us.

Take care Peter. Best wishes for all you are still to do in the years ahead. God Bless.

Chris Robarts – Chair, Parish Council



Top: Fr Peter in Ss Michael and John's Church Horsham.  
Bottom: Fr Peter with Kingsley Dalgleish, Principal of St Patrick's Primary School Nhill



## SEEDS IN SPACE

*Monivae College Hamilton science students are extremely fortunate to be chosen to represent one of the schools to take part in the Australian Seeds in Space educational program. In collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) the Australian Wattle seeds will live in space for six months, returning to Australia in time for Science Week 2021.*

*Supported by the Australian Space Agency, the "What'll happen with the wattle?!" program is being offered to more than one hundred and fifty schools, scout groups and Australian Air Force Cadets across Australia.*

*A community panel judged the applications that included two hundred words and a short video, explaining what the schools would do with the wattle once it had grown.*

*Monivae students will receive wattle seeds that have flown to space as well as seeds that have not. The seeds are from the same seed lot. Students will be asked to germinate and grow their seeds, recording data about the germination and seed growth. Data will be uploaded to the 'What'll happen to the wattle?!' app.*

*Throughout the program, the One Giant Leap Australia Foundation will run teleconferences and provide educational support to participating groups. The 12-month - two year project will result in the creation of a nationwide map identifying the location of Australia's 'space wattle' trees.*

*This unique project is an historic opportunity for Australian schools and students. The Monivae College science students are thrilled to be a part of this exciting program.*

Jill Whiting - Community Liaison Co-ordinator  
Picture above: Year 8 Science students

Our Diocesan Community - March 2021





## Remembering Sr Rose

The Emmanuel College Warrnambool community remembers the life of founding Principal, Sr Rose-Marie Glennen who died on December 22, 2020. Sr Rose was initially Principal of St Ann's College from 1988 to 1990 and was instrumental in the formation of Emmanuel College. She was then appointed the Principal of Emmanuel College when it commenced in 1991.

Sr Rose initially worked as a Primary Teacher before joining the Sisters of Mercy. She was passionate about education and as an avid learner herself, took on many opportunities for further study. Over time she accumulated an impressive array of credentials including a Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Theology and Graduate Diplomas in Pastoral Care and Administration.

All of this study served her well in her role as teacher, both in country and city schools and with primary and secondary classes. While she excelled in teaching science subjects, her approach to teaching religious education was particularly appreciated by students, with an approach that was enlightened, enlivening and different.

As Principal, Sr Rose led the College through amalgamation and a great deal of work that went unseen. Her efforts provided direction for Emmanuel College to build a school where the staff and students could share *Faith, Hope and Love*.

Beyond the school gate, Sr Rose's time in Warrnambool saw her as an active member of the Sisters of Mercy, often travelling to and from Ballarat after school for meetings. She was a great supporter of the Warrnambool and District Catholic Schools Network and prioritised building the relationship between the schools. She was also a committed member of the Brophy Family and Youth Services Committee and was the first female member of Rotary in Warrnambool.

Following her time in Warrnambool, Sr Rose returned to Ballarat as part of the former Ballarat Congregation Leadership Team. From there, she took up an opportunity to work in Darwin around 2001 where she worked with Centacare (now CatholicCare NT) which saw operations greatly expanded throughout the Northern Territory and retired from there in 2014. At Sr Rose's retirement, Jayne Lloyd, Director of CatholicCare NT, said "Rose is unique, a champion for justice and role model for strong women. She provided a face of the Church that was real and that people could relate to and she challenged our staff to think differently about Church and faith. Sr Rose has had a lifetime of commitment of service which she has chosen to express through religious life. We are fortunate that we have been able to benefit from Rose, her wisdom and her knowledge."

Sr Rose was also part of the Reference Group that worked to establish the Institute of Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea. Sr Rose will be remembered by the Emmanuel College community as a strong, no-nonsense lady, whose commitment to Catholic Education and social justice has left us with an ongoing legacy.

*Candice Hampstead - Alumni Coordinator*

<https://institute.mercy.org.au/thank-you-and-farewell/>

## Beginning the school year with Mass

*The staff of the three Catholic Primary Schools in the Ballarat Cathedral Parish came together on Wednesday, January 27, to celebrate the Eucharist with Fr Justin Driscoll at St Patrick's Cathedral. Over one hundred staff members from St Patrick's Primary School Ballarat, St Thomas More Primary School Alfredton and Siena Primary School Lucas gathered for this opening Mass.*

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the usual Mass with staff of all Catholic Primary, Secondary Schools and Colleges in the Ballarat region was unable to take place. Instead the staff of all schools gathered in prayer on this particular Wednesday in solidarity with each other.*

*Our primary school staffs renewed their commitment to Catholic education with Faith in the Future. This year we celebrate two hundred years of Catholic education in Australia.*



*First printed in the Ballarat Cathedral Parish Newsletter – January 31*

## RESPONDING TO COVID-19

*As I watched on television our Australian Women's Cricket Team win the World Cricket Cup in March 2020 at the MCG, I suspect we were not prepared for what followed a week or so after that event. What followed was the start of a national lockdown of international borders, followed some time later with the closing of borders between states, as the struggle was on to get on top of this coronavirus pandemic.*

*This pandemic has affected so many work places, hospitality venues, hospitals, aged and assisted care homes and virtually every facet of life across the nation. This pandemic has affected Victoria more severely than any other state or territory. This pandemic has affected everyone, especially the mental and psychological lives of so many families and people at a cost that is incalculable. The efforts of Governments have been to tackle both the health of the community and the economy, with the realisation that the priority is fixing the health aspect first.*

*One could ask the question. "What has this pandemic taught us?" I would suggest the following:*

- *One of the first things to learn was that this was something that we could not control.*
- *It became important to realise that to get on top of this virus we needed a total 'buy in' of everyone in this state and nation to overcome this pandemic.*
- *This 'buy in' consisted of following the health guidelines given to us by health authorities. Clearly, not accepting them would lead to a blow out of cases that would cripple the health system.*
- *What was clear was that people, after perhaps thinking of their own needs first, then started to realise that to defeat this virus, it was a matter of doing what had to*

*be done by people working together.*

- *The pandemic, I believe, helped us all to re-evaluate our priorities and change them considerably.*
- *The pandemic slowed down the frenetic way of life for so many and helped to place greater importance on the quality of human relationships with those close to us, as well as others more broadly.*
- *I also believe that the pandemic has caused us to reflect more on our lives and our values. Faith being one of them.*
- *I think also our being in lockdown has given us a greater hunger for the Eucharist and for prayer.*
- *This pandemic has helped us see that it is in community that we move, love and have our being.*
- *This pandemic has given us the opportunity to stop, reflect, discern and act in a new way going forward. This is in a way that is not frenetic, but rather is grounded by having a solid foundation that drives our choices. It might be an oversimplification to say, as I often say to some of my friends, my first idea is usually not my best idea. My best ideas come from reflection, sometimes in an hour, or a day, or longer.*

*This pandemic has assisted many, I believe, gather some of the insights alluded to above and many more that will emerge over time. Yes this pandemic has brought death and suffering on many fronts that cannot and must not be minimised. However, it has also brought many blessings to us all, including to those who have suffered the most. In conclusion I believe this pandemic can make us stronger as a people because most of us realise that it is in community that we have the greatest of strengths.*

Fr Denis Ryan - Priest of the Diocese of Ballarat

## Mini Vinnies

*At St Patrick's Primary School in Camperdown, eight grade 4 students have volunteered to be part of the Mini Vinnies which is the junior school section of the St Vincent de Paul Society. These children have big, kind hearts and they want to give their time to help others in need.*

*Their first project in Term 2 will be the Winter Appeal where they will collect clean blankets, sleeping bags, coats, hats, scarves and beanies. These items will then be donated to St Vinnies. The second project in Term 2 will be a food drive where they will collect non-perishable food items to donate to those in need.*

*These children are putting their values into action as they carry out the school motto of **Deeds Not Words Only**. They also took the Mini Vinnies pledge and were presented with their badges at the school assembly. They are all looking forward to the year ahead and excited that they have the opportunity to help people.*

*The Mini Vinnies group pictured are Meg, Daisy B, Daisy C, Madison, Ava, William, Jake and Olive.*

Tracy Hickey - St Patrick's School Camperdown







# Welcome to our new Principals

We warmly welcome the following new principals and congratulate them on their appointments. Some are familiar faces; some are new to the diocese. We look forward to partnering with each principal as we continue to work towards our shared diocesan vision together: As partners in Catholic Education, open to God's presence, we pursue fullness of life for all.

**Michelle Broderick - Loreto College Ballarat** - Michelle is a highly experienced educator, who grew up in St Arnaud before moving to Ballarat to further her education. Michelle is the thirty first Loreto College Principal/ Head Mistress since it first opened in 1875 and is in her twelfth year of senior leadership at the executive level, including her role previously as the Deputy Principal (Learning and Identity) at St Joseph's College, Geelong and other senior leadership roles at Clonard College also in Geelong. Michelle holds Masters degrees in both Education and Business Administration, along with a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diploma in Education, with the latter two gained during her studies in Ballarat. Michelle is very excited and honoured to be appointed Principal of Loreto and is looking forward to getting to know the students, staff and families as well as reconnecting with the Ballarat community.

**Karl Dwyer – St Joseph's School, Coleraine** - Karl has sixteen years teaching experience, having previously taught at St Patrick's School, Koroit and for the past ten years at St Pius X School, Warrnambool West. He has held a number of leadership roles in this time, including: Numeracy Leader, Physical Education Coordinator, Guiding Coalition member and Acting Deputy Principal. Karl is also an active and valued member of his local parish and local community.

**Inez French – St Brendan's Primary School, Dunnstown and St Mary's Primary School, Clarke's Hill** - Inez was the interim Principal at the Bungaree Parish Schools for the six months leading up to her appointment as Principal in September 2020. She has been Deputy Principal and a classroom teacher at the school since 2014. As interim Principal, Inez led the two school communities with strength, courage and compassion, particularly through the challenges that COVID-19 has posed. She has worked to build positive and connected relationships with the school and parish communities and looks forward to continuing to lead the Bungaree Parish Schools.

**Mark Gibson – Sacred Heart Primary School, Mildura** - Prior to his appointment as Principal of Sacred Heart Primary School, Mildura, Mark was Principal of St Joseph's Primary School, Red Cliffs for five years. Prior to this, he served for one year as Deputy Principal at Sacred Heart, Mildura and for two years as Principal of St Patrick's Primary School, Nhill. Since 1996, Mark's experience has consisted of a variety of teaching and leadership roles within both small and medium sized schools across the diocese and Catholic Education Ballarat. We are grateful that Mark has chosen to return to the Mildura community to renew his connections with the staff, students, parents and the Sacred Heart Parish.

**Roxanne Leed – St Mary's School, Ararat** - Prior to her appointment as Principal of St Mary's School, Ararat, Roxanne was the Deputy Principal and Religious Education Leader for St Alipius Parish School, Ballarat East and is also a member of the DOBCEL Safeguarding Children's Reference group. This is Roxanne's first Principal appointment.

**Olga Lyons – St Patrick's Primary School, Port Fairy** - Prior to her appointment as Principal of St Patrick's Primary School, Port Fairy, Olga was Principal of All Saints Primary School, Portland since 2014, where she has made very valuable contributions in strengthening the connections between school, parish and the wider community. Olga has had extensive impact on developing leaders within the staff and has formed a highly professional team of educators. Previously, Olga has taught a range of year levels, Reading Recovery and Library. She has held various leadership roles including Literacy Leader, Learning Diversity Leader and Curriculum Leader. Olga also spent ten years as a Literacy and Curriculum Education Officer for Catholic Education Ballarat. Olga's qualifications include Diploma of teaching (ACU Ballarat), Graduate Diploma of Applied Science in Teacher Librarianship (Edith Cowan University), Reading Recovery training and Master of Educational Leadership (ACU Melbourne).

**Paul McDowell – St Patrick's Primary School, Gordon** - Paul has post-graduate qualifications in Business Administration, Religious Education and Student Guidance and Welfare. His leadership experience includes Deputy Principal, Religious Education Leader and time as a Pastoral Care Officer P-12 for Catholic Education Sandhurst. Prior to his appointment as Principal of St Patrick's Primary School, Gordon, Paul was Deputy Principal of Catholic Identity at Our Lady of the Southern Cross School, Wyndham Vale where he was responsible for the daily administration of the middle school. Paul possesses strength of leadership in the areas of learning and teaching, faith development, student wellbeing, and community engagement, as well as extensive experience in coaching and mentoring of staff. He has worked to build positive and connected relationships with the school and parish communities and looks forward to making strong connections with the St Patrick's School community.

**Suzie McManus – Sacred Heart Primary School, Casterton** - Suzie has worked in Catholic Education for nearly twenty years at St Joseph's Primary School, Coleraine, where she served as Acting Principal and at Sacred Heart School, Casterton. Her numerous leadership roles have included Special Education and Learning Diversity Leader, membership of the Western Trinity Guiding Coalition, Curriculum Leader, First Assistant to the Principal and, for a six-week period

previously, Acting Principal. We are thankful to have a senior leader of Suzie's calibre to provide leadership for the Sacred Heart School community.

**Steven O'Connor – St Patrick's College, Ballarat** - Steven is an experienced leader in education including as a past Deputy Headmaster at St Patrick's College. Prior to his appointment as Principal, Steven was Head of School at Santa Sabina College in Strathfield and has previously held the positions of Head of College/CEO at All Saints' College in Bathurst, Principal/CEO at Trinity Anglican College in Albury-Wodonga, Deputy Principal at Thomas Carr College in Tarneit and other senior positions including at Toowoomba Grammar School and St Stanislaus' College in Bathurst. Steven complements his leadership experience with a sound academic record having a Master of Education (Education Administration) from Charles Sturt University, Master of Letters (History) from University of New England, Bachelor of Arts/Diploma of Education from the University of New England and Diploma of RE (Catholic Schools) from Charles Sturt University.

**John O'Sullivan – St Malachy's School, Edenhope** - Prior to his appointment as Principal of St Malachy's School, Edenhope, John was the Director of Catholic Identity at Emmanuel College, Warrnambool, a position he has held since 2008. Prior to this role, John was the Principal of St Colman's Primary School, Mortlake for five years and has held various positions of leadership in both primary and secondary schools across Victoria and Tasmania. John demonstrates strong commitment to his faith community and parish organisations. He has a very strong sense of Catholic identity and has worked extensively on developing Catholic school culture.

**Matthew Uzkuraitis – St Thomas' School, Terang** - Prior to his appointment as Principal of St Thomas' School, Terang, Matthew was Principal of St Joseph's Primary School, Penshurst, a role he held for three years. Prior to this he worked in a variety of teaching and leadership roles at St Thomas' Primary School, Terang, for eight years. Having experienced a long and meaningful association with the school, Matthew is keen to renew his connections with the parish community and professional relationships with the staff, students and parents.

**Ben van de Camp – St John's Primary School, Dennington** - Prior to his appointment as Principal of St John's Primary School, Dennington, Ben was Principal of St Thomas' Primary School, Terang since 2017, where he worked closely with staff to build strong community engagement (especially with his community leadership during the St Patrick's Day fires). Ben has developed a great sense of responsibility and built leadership capability amongst all of his staff, whilst also working very closely with the other schools in the Hampden Network to achieve the best possible learning outcomes for students. Previously, Ben has taught at St Patrick's Primary School, Camperdown where he fulfilled the role of Interim Principal for eleven months. He then progressed to the roles of Principal and REL at St Joseph's Primary School, Penshurst, before moving on to St Thomas' Primary School, Terang. Ben's qualifications include Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching (ACU Ballarat), Master of Arts – Theology (ACU Ballarat) and Master of Educational Leadership (ACU Melbourne).

**Jamie Walsh – All Saints Primary School, Portland** - Jamie has been continuously employed at All Saints Primary School since 1996 as a teacher and also in positions of leadership, including Deputy Principal since 2017. Having such a long association with the school and the Portland Community, Jamie is well placed to develop long and fruitful relationships between the staff, parent and parish communities.

We also warmly welcome the following Interim Principals:

- Stephen Hogan – St Joseph's Primary School, Penshurst
- Naomi Kennedy – St Joseph's Primary School, Red Cliffs
- Stephen Madden – Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Primary School, Warrnambool East
- Gerard Raven – St Brigid's College, Horsham

*Emma Newman - Marketing and Communications Officer*



## CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

*On March 4, St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake participated in 'Clean up Australia Day'. The school has been participating in this for many years as it is a wonderful way to ensure the students learn about the importance of looking after the environment.*

*Staff and students cleaned up around the school and church yard, Apex Park, the old Primary School site, around the Sea Lake Pool and RSL Hall and the Recreation Reserve.*

*Thank you to the Student Representative Council and Miss Powell for organising such an important event.*

*Catherine Nunn – Principal*



## AWARDED THE PREMIER'S SPIRIT OF ANZAC PRIZE

Tristan Clonan, a student from Damascus College Ballarat, was awarded one of the main awards for the Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize 2019-20. Tristan attended a virtual award presentation where he listened to the Victorian Minister for Veterans along with an ex-soldier who spoke of her experience as a soldier and the importance of remembering and celebrating Australia's military history. Tristan heard of the competition through his teachers, Mr Gerard Macklin and Mr Brendan Bawden, and was encouraged to enter into the prize. He was shortlisted along with forty other students and was invited to attend the Shrine of Remembrance to participate in a selection and presentation day.

The Premier's Spirit of ANZAC competition encourages students to dive deep into Australia's war history. The competition is judged by a selection panel and of the three prompts to explore, Tristan chose to represent the perspectives and experiences of Australian's in war. "I entered a poem about WW1 which talks of a young boy who snuck away to go to war, who then died on the battlefield of Gallipoli," he said. "I then took it one step further, as I am passionate about the piano, I chose to also create a composition to be edited together as a video, where I narrate the poem to the piano music."

Tristan was one of ten students from all around Victoria who received the main prize consisting of a \$3,000 scholarship to go towards study related expenses. He is the third Damascus student who has won this award. A number of other Damascus students have been shortlisted and received regional prizes. "On a normal year, award recipients would have travelled overseas to Singapore and Vietnam, but I think it is a good compromise in what has been a really challenging year. It was amazing to be recognised in such a way, and I feel very grateful for the opportunities I have been given," he said. Tristan's video can be found at: [https://youtu.be/BMjP\\_LBDeJc](https://youtu.be/BMjP_LBDeJc)

*Sarah Boswell - Leader of Marketing & Development*



## Clergy Appointments



In January 2021, the clergy appointments made by Bishop Paul Bird and the Personnel Advisory Board during 2020 came into effect.

Fr Eugene McKinnon is now the Parish Priest of the Parishes of Redan, Sebastopol and Linton.

Fr Gerry Prunty has been appointed the Parish Priest of the East Wimmera Parish (Birchip, Charlton, Donald, St Arnaud, Wycheproof).

Mons Glynn Murphy is the Parish Priest of Horsham, Hopetoun, Nhill and Warracknabeal with Fr Jim McKay appointed as Assistant Priest in these parishes.

Frs John Fitzgerald and John Corrigan have been appointed Co-Pastors of Warrnambool, Warrnambool West, Dennington, Koroit and Port Fairy Parishes.

Fr Michael Linehan has retired as Parish Priest of West Warrnambool and Dennington while Fr Peter Hudson has retired as Parish Priest of Horsham and Nhill Parishes.

We wish these clergy well in their new appointments and congratulate those retiring and thank them for their ministry.



## SHOWING CREATIVITY AND RESILIENCE

Students at St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballarat East have celebrated music education in a show of resilience, creativity and unity. The school was one of hundreds around Australia whose students performed the same song at the same time on November 5, 2020 as part of the Music: Count Us In program. All students performed the song in separate rooms with their classmates, with creative approaches to adapt to Victorian government restrictions on singing in schools.

St Francis Xavier Primary School Performing Arts teacher Jessica Van Gaans said the students began practising the song at school during Term 3 last year when they were able to sing and then during home schooling. Though they later had to learn a different way to perform the song when school returned on-site with restrictions on singing in place. Groups of students learnt Auslan to perform the song, while grade six students performed percussion parts, grade fives performed using body movements and grade four students did bucket drumming. "It has been a good opportunity for the students to perform in other ways than singing," Ms Van Gaans said.

"It was really important for them to be part of it because of everything happening, especially with COVID-19 and the bushfires. It gave the students something to look forward to and work towards," Ms Van Gaans said.

School children around Australia sang the song 'You Won't Bring Us Down' at 12.30pm on November 5. The song was written by four student songwriters from around Australia and draws on themes of young people standing up for what they believe in, climate change and the summer bushfires.

Ms Van Gaans said the song was relatable to pupils and encouraged them to make positive change. "The students were so excited to perform it because it is a big celebration and a way of everyone having a fun time together and appreciating music," she said.

The Music: Count Us In program was launched in 2007 as a way to celebrate and encourage music education in schools. It was launched after a federally-funded national review of school music education found most students missed out on meaningful music education in schools. The program provides free teaching resources to schools who register and participate each year.



Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Rochelle Kirkham and photos by Adam Trafford  
Top Photo: Mackenzie and Allira played bucket drums during the nation-wide song performance  
Bottom Photo: Mabel, Ryan and Fergus

## Sr Kate McGrath RIP

Sr Kate McGrath RSM died peacefully at Mercy Place Ballarat on November 14, 2020.

Kate had many ministry appointments in the Diocese of Ballarat at Wendouree, Robinvale and Ballarat East as well as being Principal at Mortlake, Edenhope and Sebastopol. She worked at the Catholic Education Office as a special needs assistant and held leadership responsibilities within the Sisters of Mercy.

In the last two years Kate engaged in wonderful pastoral ministry with residents in her house at Mercy Place Ballarat.

Please pray for Kate, her family, the Sisters of Mercy and all who will miss her.

Tom Sexton - CEB Director's Update 16/11/2020





## Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Your Best

On Friday, February 19, St Paul's Primary School Mildura relaunched their School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework. This framework is an important part of the school's focus on wellbeing for all and reinforces our school norms of: Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Your Best.

This program was first celebrated in November 2017. The children and staff readily engaged in the relaunch with the senior unit students introducing the Bee Dance to everyone and a special thank you to the staff who so enthusiastically volunteered to join the children on stage. Special mention to Mrs Brouwers, Mr White, Mr Alexander, Mr Freeman, Mrs Heeps, Anne-Marie and Denise for their show stopping performance. Students were involved in a fun "bee" and "norm" activities throughout the day. It was also a casual clothes day so students were encouraged to wear yellow and black.

School-wide positive behaviour support (SWPBS) is a framework that brings together school communities to develop positive, safe, supportive learning cultures. SWPBS assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for children and young people.

Vince Muscatello – Principal



## 2021 World Day of Prayer



On March 5, the Cathedral branch of the Catholic Women's League hosted the 10.00am **World Day of Prayer** Service in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

The 2021 service was prepared by the women of Vanuatu, "Build on Strong Foundations." The service was co-led by Max White who chairs the Ballarat World Day of Prayer Committee and Carmel Kavanagh, President of the Cathedral branch of the Catholic Women's League.

Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai of the Ballarat Central Uniting Church gave the address and led the assembly in song. As a native of the kingdom of Tonga, Lauleti brought not only the gift of song to us, but experience of the peoples of the Pacific islands, including Vanuatu. Various readings and reflections were led by Sheila Wilton, Brian Broadribb and Doreen Streckfuss.

Thank you to the members of the CWL for hosting the 2021 World Day of Prayer in our Cathedral.

*First printed in the Ballarat Cathedral Parish Newsletter*

## APOSTOLIC LETTER - YEAR OF ST JOSEPH PATRIS CORDE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

*Para 2: A tender and loving father*

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4). In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103:13). In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love,<sup>[11]</sup> who is good to all, whose "compassion is over all that he has made" (Ps 145:9).

Our Diocesan Community - March 2021







## *Creating Connections and Spreading Joy*

The thought of larger gatherings and live performance make most of us feel nostalgic for 2019. The recent lockdown in Victoria, although brief, reminded us that, even though our situation has improved, things can change in an instant.

With that in mind, we feel so fortunate to have had the chance to hold our traditional Seminar Days for students in Years 9 – 12 at St Joseph's College Mildura on February 3 and 4. A sensational way to start the year, these Seminar Days allow our young people to learn more about the pursuit of social justice in an interactive group forum full of activities, music and singing.

Our students in Years 10 and 12 worked with Gen Bryant on her second visit to the College. A self-labelled 'music minister' with her guitar always at the ready, Gen shares her own story through songs both self-penned and traditional. Chris Doyle from Karis Ministries led our Year 9 and 11 students in activities full of singing, dancing and random acts of kindness. Everyone learned that we live in a world with gratitude, respect and compassion in abundance. Finding it might mean stepping out of your comfort zone, but you will be all the better for it.

We are grateful to both Gen and Chris for entertaining, educating and inspiring our young people. We know that the knowledge they shared will stay with our students for years to come.

*Marg Blythman – Principal*

## *"BE MORE"*

*Each year Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in schools, parishes and the community to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. This year, the theme of Project Compassion was "Be More." It challenged us to venture into a new experience of compassion, and was taken from the invitation of Saint Oscar Romero, to "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." This message invited us to step up and step out for those who do not have the essential resources they need for their survival.*

*Throughout each week in Lent, students from Our Lady Help of Christians School Murtoa watched stories of people who need such help and this assisted in bringing this year's Project Compassion theme to life. As a fundraiser, the school community worked towards completing a money line. With the words 'BE MORE' on the foyer floor,*

*the school aimed to cover these words with coins. Every coin will go a long way towards helping people in need throughout the world. Any spare coins was a welcome donation to this wonderful cause: act charitably, act in solidarity, act for social justice and give hope and a chance in life for all.*

*Cathy Grace - Principal*



Our 'BE MORE' money line growth pictured early March



## Anniversary of National Apology Day



St Alipius Parish Primary School Ballarat East participated in a moving and emotional acknowledgement of the thirteenth anniversary of the National Apology on February 12, 2021.

On February 13, 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd publically apologised, on behalf of the Federal Government, to the Stolen Generations – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander children - who were forcibly removed from their families and communities by successive colonial and Australian governments.

We acknowledge the ongoing pain and grief experienced by our First Nations communities due to the forced removal of children by successive colonial and Australian governments.

Our strong, stoic and beautiful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff stood proud and tall as we committed to walking in unity together at St Alipius Parish School.



*St Alipius Parish School Community*

## Beginning of Year Mass



*One of St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill's most important events of the year is the Beginning of Year Mass which took place on Wednesday, March 3. With certain restrictions still in place the Mass was celebrated in the Jubilee Centre with the school community, including a small number of invited parents.*

*Student leaders were commissioned into their roles and College Captains were presented with their blazers. Events where the College community can gather together are even more precious now after the separating events of 2020.*

*It was also the first time Fr James Kerr had stood before the school community and celebrated Mass (instead of being online!). What a wonderful celebration it was!*

*Michelle Haeusler - Principal and Alison Wright - Director of Mission*





The journey towards the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia recently reached another milestone with the publication of *Continuing the Journey, the instrumentum laboris* (working document) for the Council. This *Instrumentum Laboris* seeks to offer an account of what the People of God have expressed, especially—though not exclusively—in the Listening and Dialogue and Listening and Discernment phases of the Plenary Council journey. At the same time, this document also seeks to invite the whole Church, and in a special way the delegates to the Plenary Council, into a deeper discernment which can help us hear the voice of the Holy Spirit emerging from the multiplicity of voices to which we are attending.

*Continuing The Journey Instrumentum Laboris (Working Document) For The Fifth Plenary Council Of Australia*

**Photos:**

**Front cover:** Year of St Joseph, ACBC. **Back cover:** 1. St Alipius Parish School Ballarat East 2. Australian Catholic University 3. World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration 4. St Brendan's Primary School Coragulac

We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea. Inspired by the Gospel and nourished by the Eucharist, we follow the example of Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, reaching out in joyful and humble service, caring for all of God's creation, growing in love day by day and looking forward to life with God forever.

Vision Statement for the Diocese