



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

News around the Diocese

No. 66 April 2022

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OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

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

The next ODC will be in July 2022.

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Next steps for the Australian Plenary Council

In the last issue of *Our Diocesan Community*, several people offered reflections about the Australian Plenary Council – in particular about the First Assembly of the Council, held by video conference from October 3 till October 10. The assembly brought together 277 members from all around Australia.



One of those who attended the assembly from our diocese was Marie Shaddock, from the parish of Ouyen. Marie was inspired by those who took part in the gathering. "I have heard such inspiring people who bring fresh ideas and new insights. It has been so good to listen to the earnest voices of the young people who are present in our discussions."

Felicity Knobel, from Ballarat, found the assembly a time of mixed emotions. "It has been a time of joy, frustration, testing of patience, light bulb moments and everything in between. Sometimes we have to sit with the discomfort of differing opinions."

Fr Kevin Lenehan was conscious of the variety among the Council members and the thousands of people who had offered their comments in the consultations before the assembly. "It is the most diverse and inclusive gathering in an official Catholic meeting in Australia's history, made up of ordained and lay people, women and men, younger and older, indigenous and those arriving from many countries, Latin and Eastern Catholics, leaders in Catholic education, health care and social services. These members are mindful of the comments of tens of thousands of Catholics who took part in the national consultation in recent years."

Fr Kevin Maloney spoke of the process of the Council as "challenging but rewarding". He referred to the reports from the discussion groups during the assembly and the proposals from individual members and observed that these would become "the starting point for the consultation and preparation to be undertaken prior to the Second Assembly."

This month, the members of the Plenary Council received a 30-page document that draws together reflections and proposals from the groups and individual members and presents them under various themes. This document will be developed further following comments from the members in the coming weeks, with a view to having proposals ready to be considered by the Plenary Council in the Second Assembly in July. Here I would like to give some examples of the themes that are emerging and some of the proposals being formulated.

The first heading in the document is "A Deeper Communion Enriched by Diversity". This refers to the Church's mission to be a sign of union with God and a sign of the unity of the whole human race. While being a sign of unity, the Church includes great diversity, as the gospel is expressed in different cultures. The Plenary Council reflected on the ancient cultures of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Draft proposals encourage the Church community to welcome contributions from

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in liturgy and in the various areas of the Church's life. The Plenary Council highlighted the place of Eastern Churches in Australia and looked to promote mutual understanding between Catholics of Eastern and Western Churches. The Council also encouraged the Catholic community to foster links with other Christian communities, with members of other religions and, indeed, with all people, as we work together to affirm the human dignity of every person. Last week I saw a photo that showed how the Church could be a sign of unity even in a time of war. On Ash Wednesday, members of various Christian communities prayed together in St Paul's Anglican Church in Canberra. Even as Russian forces continued their attacks in Ukraine, a Ukrainian Catholic priest sat with a Russian Orthodox priest and together they prayed for peace.

The second section of this month's Plenary Council document refers to leadership and governance in the Church under the heading "Growing as Disciples and Servants of the Gospel". Disciples are those who have heard and responded to God's invitation to follow Jesus Christ and they become members of the Church as a community of disciples. In this community, the Spirit bestows a variety of gifts and each member is called to use their gifts to serve their sisters and brothers in the Church and in the broader human family. This calls for formation for all the faithful, that they might use their gifts of service to the full. Among the recommendations in this section are proposals to engage the community in dialogue and discernment through diocesan synods, diocesan pastoral councils and parish pastoral councils. There are specific references to enhancing the role of women in the processes of decision-making in the Church as well as in ministries. The document refers to the commission that Pope Francis has established to study the question of ordaining women as deacons.

The third section of the document is headed "To witness to Faith, Hope and Love as Missionary Disciples in the World". This refers to sharing the gospel through participation in all spheres of life, with particular attention to social services, health care, aged care, and education. There is a call for formation for laity as well as clergy as missionary disciples, ready to go out and meet people where they are, especially those who are on the margins of the Church and society. This would include formation

in Catholic Social Teaching. In the education field, there are proposals for a national vision for Catholic education from the early years through to the tertiary level and for enhancing cooperation among Catholic education providers.

The final section of the document is entitled "To proclaim God's new creation as people of prayer, healing and hope". This begins by recalling the teaching of the Second Vatican Council that "the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed and at the same time it is the fountain from which all her power flows." The proposals encourage communities to celebrate the liturgy both with reverence for the transcendence of God and in a way that is welcoming and accessible to all. Recognising the importance of the liturgy of the Word, there is a proposal to extend the ministry of preaching to suitably qualified lay people. There are reflections on the gospel call to conversion and reconciliation and how these can be celebrated in the Sacrament of Penance and in the Eucharist. There are reflections on the need for healing for those who have suffered abuse and all who have been affected by these crimes. There is acknowledgment of steps that have been taken to ensure the safety of children and anyone at risk and a call to continue to develop a culture of care for every person. There are proposals to promote personal prayer and prayer in parishes and families. There is a call for "ecological conversion" and a recommendation that the Church in Australia take practical steps such as those proposed by Pope Francis to care for the earth and care for the poor.

As we consider this outline of topics in this month's Plenary Council document, we can see that the Plenary Council members are examining a wide range of areas in the life of the Church. In the months ahead, we have the challenge of refining the proposals to be considered at the Second Session so that the decisions that the Council makes will be of real benefit to the Church in Australia for the years ahead. Please continue to pray for the members of the Plenary Council that the Holy Spirit will guide us each step of the way.

+ Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR



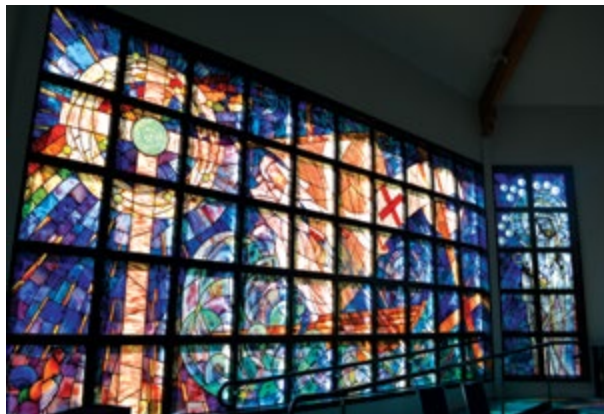


A PLACE OF LIGHT

For Ss Peter and Paul Church, Buninyong, the people wanted a building which would express the belief that the church community exists in relationship to the world, at once part of it and separate from it. It was this 'two-way' relationship that influenced the choice of glass as the major component of the walls and fittings. It is a place of light and one can see both in and out.

Architect Richard Falkinger drew up the plans for the building, taking on board the ideas and wishes of the parish community. The glass is the work of artists Janusz and Magdalena Kuzbicki.

Sourced mainly from France and the United States of America, the glass is hand painted, kiln fired cut and leaded. There are also some other pieces of glass which Janusz and Magda had stored away, waiting for a project worthy of it. These are the rondels used to signify various things, for example the gifts of the Holy Spirit in one window, the twelve tribes of Israel in another. How fortunate that Buninyong was considered worthy! Janusz did the painting and firing and Magda the cutting and the lead for all the windows in the church.



There are other ways in which glass has been used in the church - the baptism font, the altar, the entry/exit images at the side of the main doors. The bowl of the baptism font is made of glass. In this instance molten glass was poured into a mold, creating a beautiful, semi-translucent basin.

The base for the altar uses another form of glass. This is glazed glass, similar to that used for windows. Only here, instead of being vertical, the glass is laid sheet after sheet, one on top of the other. In order to make the whole thing

manageable for installation it was cut into segments. Before each segment was installed, each individual sheet of glass was meticulously cut so that when put together with the other pieces, it seems as if there are five separate orbs inside the large cube forming the base of altar. The cubes symbolize the four gospels and one eternal Truth.

For the main entry/exit of the church a different glass was used. The image of Christ, Universal King and Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth is sculpted from Valle de Verre, a glass selected and purchased in America. It came in solid blocks of already coloured glass which Janusz and Magda took to with hammers to chip off usable pieces. This resulted in the magnificent gold and blue colours of these two images.

So, glass is a very important component in Ss Peter and Paul Church. It helps to interpret and express the meaning of Church. It is used for liturgical utensils. When painted it enables the story of salvation to be told. Importantly, it creates a very beautiful space in which to gather, celebrate, pray and socialise.

Fr Adrian McInerney





Happy Day at St Brigid's Church Ballan

Sunday Mass at St Brigid's on February 27, 2022 was a very busy day. Firstly, we welcomed Fr Justin Driscoll, our new Parish Priest, as he celebrated Mass. Marie Shanahan welcomed Fr Justin on behalf of the Parish. We look forward to working with Fr Justin.

During Mass we welcomed the children of the parish and their families as they prepare for the sacrament of reconciliation. The children were presented with their stoles and work books. A delicious morning tea followed Mass. It was wonderful to catch up with our fellow parishioners and to be able to chat without needing to wear masks.

A Synod 2023 dialogue was held in the Gathering Space immediately after morning tea. Led by Rosemary Canavan, participants raised points for discussion and reflection. It was a chance under the umbrella of the Synod questions, to review what we do well as a faith community in the Parish of Gordon and explore avenues where we can improve. Parishioners agreed that issues raised during the informal gathering should be collated and forwarded to the Synod Committee for their consideration.

Aileen Toohey and Anne Eskdale

L-R (front): Judith Hodgson, Rosemary Canavan, Joan Egan, Lorraine De Spirt

L-R (back): Fr Justin Driscoll, Edith Paarhammer, Marie Shanahan, Bridget Sims, Anne Eskdale, Moira Shanahan, Catherine Green, Margaret Green, Tony Paarhammer, Beth Calleja and Lloyd Lamb.

MONIVAE COLLEGE HAMILTON OPENING MASS

Monivae College, Hamilton celebrated their Opening Mass and Investiture of Student Leaders on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Mass was celebrated by Fr Bob Irwin msc, Fr Ted McCormack msc and Fr Paddy Mugavin PP. Students assisted in the blessing of the school community and with Communion. At the conclusion, sixteen student leaders were awarded their leadership badges with the help of their parents.



Leaders have taken on roles as school captains and vice captains, house leaders, boarding leaders, sports and arts leaders. In 2022, Monivae will be implementing a new style of leadership program whereby students will be recognised and awarded house points for demonstrating Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) values of kindness, understanding, compassion and true friendship as well as sports, academic and other achievements.

Kylie Schurmann - Marketing Co-ordinator



THE STORY OF THE STAINED GLASS “MARY WINDOW”



I have always loved art, taught many art classes but never had much opportunity to do much myself. In 1968 Fr Boylan took me on a tour of the new St Mary's Church in Birchip to explain the stories behind the artefacts he had purchased for the new church, and in particular the beautiful side window in the chapel we now know as the Holy Family Chapel.

If you look closely at the image of the stained glass window you will see there are rays reaching out to us from her heart, the love of Mary is radiated from her heart for us all and the words Ave Maria are found in the halo.

The grain is shown at the foot of the window because Birchip is in a grain growing area. There used to be a blessing of the grain Mass each year before sowing season. Fr Boylan always wanted to keep this going so this was also depicted in the grain in the window. The four seasons are shown in the squares on the right. The colours of the rising and setting sun are in the background.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary depicted in the glass was also to commemorate the school which changed its name from St Mary's when the new building was built. The letters IHOM are in the picture too but tricky to find. Five small squares down the right side show the five churches in the parish at the time - Karyrie, Curyo, Birchip, Watchem and Watchupga. Curyo had plans for a church but the church was never built so Masses were in homes in the very early days after Karyrie became our first church. The window also included the liturgical colours of the seasons, reference to the mysteries of the Rosary, and Mary depicted looking upwards as rays of the Australian sun shine upon her.

The letters BVM for Blessed Virgin Mary are also there and take some searching. Several feasts are also depicted with stars, water, symbols and colours.

Fr Boylan prayed at that side altar area every day and encouraged children to visit the church. He had a great devotion to Mary as a mother figure as he had left his own mother in Ireland. He said he often just sat with his problems and always felt at peace. He had plans for a window of the Sacred Heart on the other side of the church and a second set of confessionals were in the original plan but, then money was tight and the plans did not proceed. As the church was to be called St Mary's, the Mary window was made first.

The window was the work of the well-known stained glass artists, John Ferguson and Nick Papas. They met in New Guinea during World War II. John Ferguson did a lot of war sketching and painting. His father, Nelson, also an artist and teacher, had done the same thing in World War I in Europe. After the War, John studied at RMIT where his father had taught. Nick also studied there. John joined the Brooks Robinson Company in Melbourne and Nick joined as a glass painter in 1952. They formed their own company in 1955 constructing windows with distinctive techniques using painted glass as well as stained glass. They made many memorial windows to soldiers as well as church windows in newer churches. Nelson Ferguson and James Urie also made many windows. The Princess Theatre and St John's Toorak are well known. Nick married John's sister. John also married and

had four children, all involved with the arts. Two sons are still in the business in Melbourne. John Ferguson and his wife had a bad car accident and John could not continue making windows after 1990. He died in 2010. He was an amazing man who built two houses and two catamarans. He was a designer, a keen film enthusiast, a violinist and a walker. He practised transcendental meditation. He had an extraordinary knowledge of the Bible which helped his work.

Maureen Donnellon (As told by Father Daniel Boylan in 1968)

Our Diocesan Community - April 2022

VALE ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

On January 17, 2020, the Learmonth community celebrated its final Mass, followed by lunch, after gathering regularly for worship at St Joseph's for nearly 150 years. Many former parishioners were in attendance to mark the occasion and reminisce about the Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals that had been celebrated in the Church, which had always been an integral part of the faith life of the Learmonth community. It was a wonderful celebration enjoyed by all who were there.

With the church officially closed and no longer in use, what happens to the property? The costs of retaining it such as maintenance and insurance make it financially unviable to do so. However, the emotional attachment that goes with a building for all sorts of reasons are perfectly valid and need to be handled as tactfully as possible. In addition, there is the sensitive issue of items that may have been donated by particular families, usually in memory of a deceased loved one, and adorn the building as was the case with St Joseph's Learmonth. The global pandemic was an unforeseen event that also had to be navigated.

Consistent with the values of gospel stewardship and as a gesture of goodwill, the parish wrote to the descendants, (as far as could be located) of donor families. The letter explained that the Church was closed and the intention was to dispose of the property and that they were welcome to have returned those item(s) that had been donated in memory of a loved one. Many were humbled and touched at receiving the letter and gratefully received

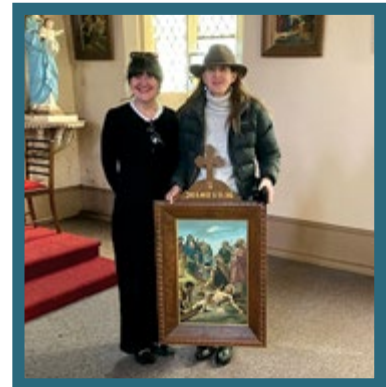
back the item that had been donated. Those items for whom no descendant could be found were sold.

The wooden altar to the rear of the sanctuary on which stood the Tabernacle was donated to the Archdiocese of Melbourne, which after restoration is the altar in the Crypt Chapel of the Melbourne General Cemetery where the priests are buried. The Chapel is used when a priest is buried as well as for Mass on November 2 each year, when we commemorate all the faithful departed. The cedar pews were donated to St Augustine's Parish Creswick for use in their church.

The property itself was subdivided into two lots, with the vacant land at the rear selling first and the church auctioned on December 4, 2021 followed by a clearing sale of the residual items. Inevitably there will never be complete consensus when it comes to closing a church, however all things considered this was most successful from a number of perspectives.

Fr Marcello Colasante - Parish Priest

1. David Foran accepting Station of the Cross V on behalf of his father Terry, donated in memory of William Irene Augusta and Doris Mary Foran
2. Shirley Coulter and her daughter Veronica accepting a pedestal and communion plate donated in memory of the Coulter Family
3. Daughters of Claire Madden accepting Station of the Cross 11 donated in memory of Michael and Ellen Madden



BISHOPS MEET



Early each year, Bishops of Victoria gather for a lunch, hosted by one of the bishops. This year, on February 7, Bishop Paul Bird hosted the lunch at the Cathedral Presbytery in Ballarat.

Pictured L –R: Bosco Puthur (Syro-Malabar Diocese), Denis Hart (Former Archbishop of Melbourne), Shane Mackinlay (Sandhurst), Peter Connors (Former Bishop of Ballarat), Peter Comensoli (Archbishop of Melbourne), Paul Bird (Ballarat), Les Tomlinson (Former Bishop of Sandhurst), Greg Bennet (Sale), Terry Curtin (Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne) and Mykola Bychok (Ukrainian Diocese).

Reflections on the First General Assembly of the Plenary Council

As time moves from the First Assembly of the Plenary Council to the Second Assembly in 2022, our discernment continues. Being open to reading, watching, talking and listening is key to this process. It is also important to stop and take time to reflect and pray. I shouldn't be amazed, however, it is extraordinary the opportunities, the conversations and what I watch that brings me to think about the Plenary Council.

My focus can't help but be drawn to Pope Francis and his call for a synodal Church. It is a Church that listens, learns and shares its mission. It is about collaboration, it is about ensuring that all voices are considered important and listened to so that all are included and are called to action. It is our Church. It is everything that our Plenary Council should be.

I am privileged that I am in a leadership role in my school that allows me to explore these notions on a daily basis and particularly relating to the question that I focused on for the First Assembly. My focus in the Plenary Council was "How might we better see the future of Catholic education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens?" I explore this everyday with our students, our families and our staff. It is at the forefront when planning retreat experiences, curriculum changes, formation experiences with our staff, communication with our families, planning for the future of the school (the list goes on). These are all completed with our understanding of communion, participation and mission. It is also very much about what we want our graduates to be, what our families experience and what our staff can develop so that we are continuing to evolve, to recontextualise, to reimagine and to continually bring our mission to all.

It is an exciting time to be part of our Church. It is a time that requires fearlessness, courage and confidence, knowing that we are walking in the footsteps of Jesus to bring about lasting change and improvement to our Church.

Felicity Knobel, Ballarat Diocese Member to the Plenary Council

The First General Assembly of the Plenary Council seems a long time ago and I admit to being very grateful for a break, though there is a lot of work to be completed.

The First Assembly was draining, difficult, exacting and at times exasperating but in spite of the difficulties brought on by being online for extended periods each day and not having the person to person contact with other members, I feel it was successful.

One of the criticisms people put forward about the Plenary was that it would be nothing more than a talk-fest and nothing would come of it. I think they will be proven wrong. Speaking from the perspective of the small groups, many if not most, arrived at well-formed concrete proposals by the end of the Friday night. I know in my group late on Wednesday night, that I did not think such a thing even remotely possible; yet it happened. Yes, it was messy and there were disagreements over . . . a lot of things, but it was always honest and respectful. There were endless debates over the exact meaning of terms and how it would be understood, but the reason it did progress was, I think, because everyone wanted it to succeed over and above their egos and agendas.

I believe it is the start of a way ahead, a positive step towards a better future for our Church in Australia and that means for each of us. A saying I had not heard before resonated and has stayed with me from the opening day "we cannot hurry the river." It will take time, as all good things do, but equally there is an end date and July will roll around very quickly. In the meantime, there is a lot of work to be done behind the scenes.

Marie Shaddock, Ballarat Diocese Member to the Plenary Council





LAUNCH OF SOCIAL HOUSING

The Honorable Richard Wynne, Minister for Housing, formally opened nine new apartments at Centacare Housing Services' Mitchell Park complex on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Accompanying Minister Wynne were other distinguished guests including Bishop of Ballarat, Paul Bird, Juliana Addison, Member for Wendouree and Michaela Settle, Member for Buninyong.

CatholicCare Victoria CEO, Agnes Sheehan, commenced the opening with an Acknowledgment of Country and an introduction of the project, recognising the symbolic commitment to affordable housing shared by the State Government and the Catholic Church in Victoria. Bishop Paul Bird provided a reflection and blessing of the apartments, followed by the formal opening by Minister Wynne and concluding with Chair of Centacare Housing Services, Neil Jens, touching on the significance of these new apartments and the opportunities they bring.

The nine new homes comprise of six one-bedroom apartments and three two-bedroom apartments, offering a range of accommodation options to suit families, couples or individuals. The apartments provide an affordable alternative to public housing and private rental accommodation.

More importantly, these apartments will provide the stability of home life that will enhance well-being, build greater independence and provide increased opportunities for education, employment, and community participation.

Originally published in CatholicCare news

Pictured from left: Michaela Settle - Member for Buninyong, Ross Wheatland - Executive Director CatholicCare, Neil Jens - Chair Centacare Housing Services, Julianna Addison - Member for Wendouree, The Hon Richard Wynne - Minister for Housing, Bishop Paul Bird - Bishop of Ballarat and Agnes Sheehan - CEO CatholicCare Victoria.

Sr Margaret Kelly rsm has drawn thirty-five years of dedication and care for the Apollo Bay community to a close, retiring from her long-time volunteering role. A Sister of Mercy and former teacher, Sr Margaret moved from Ballarat to Apollo Bay in 1987, and didn't wait long to get involved in the community. "I said it would be good if we got out into the community a little bit. It's very important to do that, I feel," she said. "There was a Do Care program advertised in our local newssheet. We went along to this training session, and we were given a person to visit each week and it went from there. I love people and tend slightly toward the less able," Sr Margaret said.

She was an integral part of the health service, formerly Otway Health until its amalgamation as Great Ocean Road Health, supporting aged care residents, and volunteering for the meals on wheels and friends-in-hand programs. COVID-19 impacted the way she supported aged-care residents, but she ensured there was still a social connection, calling them and checking in. Great Ocean Road Health volunteer co-ordinator Meloney Howell praised Sr Margaret and said her departure left big shoes to fill. "At the hospital in aged care she's been an advocate for the residents that are there," she said. "Especially when there were people who didn't have family, making sure they got the care they needed or were guided in the right direction. "She's been an enormous support. It can be very lonely and isolating when you're in aged care if you don't have family to support you, so having a friendly face that would come in and visit them regularly was very important." Meloney said. She said Sr Margaret formed bonds with people through her work and highlighted the importance of the friends-in-hand program.

Article courtesy of the Colac Herald, text by Greta Lannen, photo courtesy of Great Ocean Road Health





Excitement and optimism marks O week as students welcomed back to ACU

More than 4500 new students were welcomed to ACU's seven campuses including the Ballarat Campus for vibrant Orientation Week festivities. Colourful bursts of ACU's purple and red signage gave way to excitement, optimism and hope mixed with the sizzle of sausages and loud music.

ACU Vice-Chancellor and President Zlatko Skrbis said it was very exciting to reconnect with students and welcome them back to campus for first semester as COVID-19 restrictions, which applied in most of Australia, ease. "We are excited to welcome our commencing and continuing students to ACU and ACU Online in 2022 and offer a particular welcome to our international students who we are glad to have back," Professor Skrbis said. "As a university, we are very committed to welcoming students back on our campuses as we want them to have yet again a full student experience. We are looking forward to the year ahead with great hope and optimism."

Professor Skrbis said all ACU campuses were open post COVID-19 restrictions with 77 per cent of classes on campus for Semester 1. "As we reactivate our campuses, we want to do this responsibly and safely and to do this each and every one of us plays a part," he said. "ACU is a wonderful place to experience friendship, diversity and the power of new ideas. We have missed our students and seeing our campuses buzzing with people is very exciting."

Media contact: Jen Rosenberg

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Loreto College Ballarat celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) with their annual IWD Breakfast and induction of the 2022 Loreto Ballarat *Women in Time - Inspiring Alumni*. *Women in Time - Inspiring Alumni* formally celebrates the outstanding achievements and contributions of Loreto College Ballarat alumni who have become exemplars of Mary Ward's vision that "women in time to come, will do much." The combination of the annual IWD theme and formal recognition of Loreto alumni seeks to inspire current and future generations of students.

In 2022 Maria Myers AC (Class of 1964) was recognised for Arts and Cultural Excellence & Community Service Leadership, Kate Torney AO (Class of 1985) was recognised for Academic and Professional Excellence & Community Service Leadership, and the first posthumous recognition was given to Sr Cynthia Wright ibvm for Religious and Social Justice Leadership.

The stories shared from all three Loreto alumni reflected on the ongoing influence of their Loreto education and their ability and willingness to go forward courageously where the need is greatest. Sr Margaret Finlay ibvm and Ms Meg Barry (President of the Past Pupils Association) shared the inspiring life of Sr Cynthia Wright ibvm with the Loreto community.

The 2021 inaugural *Women in Time - Inspiring Alumni* Inductees (Professor Michelle McIntosh, Margaret Heffernan OAM, Jane Hill and Ebony Monson) also established and announced the first *Women in Time - Student Award*. The award was created to acknowledge the support they have received from others throughout their careers, and they wanted to do the same for a current Loreto student. The inaugural student award was presented to Year 11 student Ann Chalakkal.

Judy-Ann Quilliam - Director of Marketing & Development



Our Diocesan Community - April 2022

KINDNESS ROCKS

As part of activities with the Resilience Project and GEM (Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness), Miss Finnigan and her class at Sacred Heart Primary School, Casterton designed and painted their own kindness rocks. Each student then gave their rock to another student in their class.

The Resilience Project delivers emotionally engaging programs to schools, sports clubs and businesses, providing practical, evidence-based mental health strategies to build resilience and happiness. Through presentations, school curriculum, events, the TRP App and Wellbeing Journals, the benefits of Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness and easy ways to practise these in everyday life are shared. The mission is to teach positive mental health strategies to help people become happier. More information can be found here: <https://theresilienceproject.com.au/>



Suzie McManus - Principal

Bright, happy & engaging



A focus upon the seasons was the inspiration for the refurbishments completed at Our Lady Help of Christians, Wendouree in 2019. The carpet design depicts the changing of season from one to the next. This is most beautifully illustrated in the gathering space surrounded by coloured glass walls at the centre of the Junior Learning Space. This space is primarily used as a meeting place for the Junior classes to hold community meetings and shared learning. It is bright, happy and engaging.

The circular space also allows for clear lines of supervision for small groups to learn and explore together. The shape, colour and transparency of the glass welcomes our learners into the surroundings, allowing everyone to be interconnected. Stage 2 of our Masterplan replicates the glass design for our Middle and Senior Learning Spaces. We look forward to sharing this upon its completion.

Leigh Bradshaw - Principal

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Matthew Restall and William (Bill) Lowry were ordained as Deacons for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, December 10, 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral. The Main Celebrant for the Mass was Bishop Paul Bird CSsR and he was joined on the sanctuary by a number of diocesan and visiting clergy to celebrate this occasion, along with many fellow seminarians of the ordinands.



Family and friends of Matt and Bill were also in attendance to participate in this Mass and to support them on this important step towards their Ordination to the Priesthood, which will be celebrated in 2022.

Sr Carmel Setford rsm began the Mass with an Acknowledgement of Country. The choir and musicians led the music beautifully during the Mass, inviting all to participate in song. The Liturgy of the Word followed, with Tanya Kehoe proclaiming the First Reading and Deacon Jackson Saunders (Diocese of Sandhurst) proclaiming the Gospel.

During the Rite of Ordination, the candidates were Called and Presented by Fr Denis Stanley, Rector of Corpus Christi College, to Bishop Paul for Ordination as Deacons. Next followed the Election by the Bishop and Consent of the People, Bishop Paul's Homily, the Commitment to Celibacy, Examination of the Candidates, Promise of Obedience, Litany of the Saints, Laying on of Hands and Prayer of Consecration. For the the Investiture with the Stole and Dalmatic, Matt was vested by Fr Frank Buhagiar and Bill was vested by Deacon Jackson Saunders. Both were presented with the Book of the Gospels and a Kiss of Peace from Bishop Paul and other deacons in attendance.

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the gifts were brought forward by Matt and Bill's parents – Phyllis & Emidio Restall and Tracey & Grant Lowry. Towards the end of the Mass, Bill offered words of thanks on behalf of Matt and himself. Following Mass, supper was provided at Patrick's Hall.



TIMBOON PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Fr Neville Stanislaus, Parish Priest of St Joseph's Timboon, stands with William and Charlotte who have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

They will prepare for Confirmation and First Holy Communion during 2022.

Ruth Hoffmann, Sacrament Co-ordinator

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY AT LUMEN CHRISTI

Armed with buckets and tongs, students at Lumen Christi Catholic Primary School Delacombe became "ecological warriors" to clean up their small patch of Ballarat. Pupils from all year levels took part in National Schools Clean Up Australia Day on Friday, March 4 which came at the end of a week focussed on the environment and how individuals can have an impact on their surroundings.

As well as the school grounds, pupils, teachers and families tackled rubbish at neighbouring Doug Dean Reserve and streets surrounding the school.

Teacher Leonie Leviston said the reserve was a special place for pupils, who often use it for picnics, sport and a weekly walk around the lake. "It's a special place for us and obviously if we have rubbish in the playground the first place it impacts is Doug Dean Reserve where it gets in to the water catchment area," Ms Leviston said.

"Taking part in National Schools Clean Up Australia Day is a great way to inspire students to learn about the impact of rubbish on their environment ... and segues in to our 2022 school theme 'we are protectors and nurturers of creation and one another'."

During the week classes also focussed on waste, conducting classroom audits of bins and lunchboxes to see how rubbish can be reduced. A 'nude food' lunch was also held. "The classroom audits each day lead up to the nude food lunch so students were not cleaning up then creating more rubbish," Ms Leviston said. To



cut down on the number of plastic bags used to collect waste, the children used plastic buckets and tongs, which will be saved and reused, to collect rubbish. "We took it on as a theme for the whole week to help develop social conscience and awareness around the issue of rubbish ... so our children could get out there and do something for the world and be active in that respect, not just to be protectors of creation but ecological warriors in its cause."

National Schools Clean Up Australia Day was on March 4 and Clean Up Australia Day was held on March 6.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Michelle Smith and photo by Adam Trafford.

Ruby and Alyssa get ready for Lumen Christi Catholic Primary School's Clean Up Australia Day rubbish collection this week.



Pastoral Care Program

This year all students at St Brigid's College, Horsham from Years 7 to 12 will participate in a new Pastoral Care Program. Each year level will have one period a week devoted to the program. The program will be based on the Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum (PEEC) designed by the Institute of Positive Education at Geelong Grammar.

Geelong Grammar explains the program: Positive Education brings together the science of Positive Psychology with best practice teaching to encourage and support individuals, schools and communities to flourish. We refer to flourishing as a combination of 'feeling good and doing good'. Positive Education focuses on specific skills that assist students to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, enhance personal resilience, promote

mindfulness and encourage a healthy lifestyle. Through teaching these valuable life skills, the program provides its students with an increased capacity to learn effectively, as well as offering them a strong foundation on which they can build a successful life. The Institute of Positive Education is a ground-breaking initiative dedicated to improving student and staff wellbeing. The Institute has the dual purpose of nurturing Positive Education at the School and assisting the growth of Positive Education throughout Australia and the world. For more information visit the Institute of Positive Education website - <https://instituteofpositiveeducation.com/>

St Brigid's provides a caring educational community where each student is known and nurtured as an individual. The approach to pastoral care stems from the fundamental belief that relationships are the key to success in teaching and learning, effective personal development and in bringing staff and students together. By creating positive relationships within the school and broader community we aim to enhance the wellbeing of each student and develop a sense of social responsibility within our students. The Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum (PEEC) will complement this aim.



NECESSITY – THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

The District of Yanaoca in Peru takes in more than fifty small rural communities. The Parish includes larger centres such as Yanaoco itself, Pampamarca, Tungasuca, and Queque. These centres have populations ranging from about 200 people to about 2,500. The smaller rural communities vary in size, some are small villages

with their little plazas, local government buildings, schools, and churches. Others are a scattering of dwellings where the inhabitants have constructed a rough soccer pitch, a church, and little else.

The geographical area would be similar in size to the Camperdown Parish, including Timboon. However, it can take up to two hours to get to some of the communities, such being the terrain and the state of the roads, most of which are unpaved. The roads that are paved are narrow as they wind their way around the sides of mountains, and they are full of potholes. In the rainy season, the unpaved roads can become boggy and prone to landslides, and are therefore impassable by car.

For the locals, the main means of transport are the small fifteen-seater buses (or combies as they're known here) unless they are lucky enough to hitch a ride. The combies vary in their reliability and are limited to a few of the main roads. The locals do a fair amount of walking, although the presence of motorbikes has become more common recently.

Most of the rural communities celebrate Mass once a month, though for some it is less, and even less again during the height of the rainy season. There are currently two priests working in this area and one other who works in the Parish of Checca, an hour and a half from Yanaoca.

Up until relatively recently, only one priest worked in this whole area, including the neighboring Parish of Checca. Fr Paul Prendergast, a Columban, worked here on his own for the best part of twenty years and remained in semi-retirement for a further five more until ill health forced him back down to Lima where he died towards the end of 2020.

Because of necessity, Fr Paul developed a pastoral plan which included the commitment of a large group of laypeople who were formed and trained as Catechists. Most of these people belong to the communities in which they minister. Another group consists of long-term Catechists with an extensive formation who are known as Missionaries. These Missionaries are designated to work in the communities where there may not be a Catechist, or where the Catechist is in need of support and accompaniment.

The Catechist's role is to prepare the community members for the reception of sacraments, organise and plan the celebrations of the Eucharist, and lead liturgies in the absence of a priest. They liaise with local authorities regarding civil matters that might pertain to land titles or such. They are expected to speak on behalf of the local Faith Community at general community meetings when it might be necessary.

They are also part of monthly meetings held in Yanaoca for pastoral planning where they receive ongoing formation in areas such as scripture, liturgy, prayer, and sacramental theology.

Due to the hard work of Fr Paul, this pastoral structure is well established and continues to operate soundly. It would be impossible to be an effective pastoral presence among these communities without this strong lay commitment. Without it, many of our communities would have fallen completely under the influence of the Pentecostals and other sects that have moved into the Andes in recent decades.

Most of the people that participate in our communities are Quechua hablante (pure Quechua speaking.) At present this is my biggest challenge, although most are able to communicate through Spanish in a rudimentary fashion. I am slowly learning to celebrate Eucharist in Quechua, but the language itself is quite complex. It is of paramount importance that the people hear the Word in their native tongue and have it explained to them in that language as well. In the rural communities, therefore, I usually get the Catechist to read the First Reading in Quechua and to share a



Meeting of Missionaries

reflection afterward. If I have a Missionary present, I ask them to proclaim the Gospel in Quechua and preach a homily in Quechua. Otherwise, I read the Gospel in Spanish, preach, and then invite the Catechist to interpret. Because certain Christian notions are not found in Quechua and can only be expressed in Spanish, I can usually pick up the drift of what is being said during the translation. I am in no doubt that at times the Catechists use a fair bit of poetic license in their interpretation!

I enjoy the experience of sitting in silence throughout the proclamation of the Word during these celebrations and simply trusting in the presence of the Spirit. It is so freeing, and therefore quite a unique spiritual experience. Out of necessity, I am divested of my control or influence over how the Liturgy of the Word will unfold, how the message will reveal itself, and reach those present. I am reminded of the fact that my role is to lead the celebrants gathered to share in the Eucharist. In these circumstances, my responsibility as a leader sometimes includes designating a key role to others in the proclamation of the Word.

Necessity is, as they say, the mother of invention. It can also be the conduit through which the power of the Spirit is set free.

Fr Michael McKinnon

Fr Michael was officially inducted as Parish Priest of Yanaoca by the Bishop of the Diocese of Sicuani on Sunday, November 28, 2021 and his service is an important diocesan commitment to maintaining an effective missionary dimension to our local Church.

A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND TRUTH



Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." John 8:31-36 NRSV

Some time ago, I was given a significant donation and asked that I spend it on something that recognised the hurt that had happened in our parish and school years ago, something that also recognised the strength of life-giving relationships that exist at St Alipius Parish School today and that create hope for the future. Other people added to these funds and I was able to commission Magda and Janusz Kuzbicki to create a glass window which portrays our cross, our motto, 'The Truth will set you Free' and the colours of ribbons blowing in the breeze.

In December 2020, after a COVID-19 related delay, our window was installed. It was amazing and celebrates many aspects of our community; our history, our present reality and our future. If you park in King Street after dark and look up at the windows of the Mercy Wing you will be able to see this beautiful art piece.

We waited to celebrate an official blessing of our window when we could all do this together. On Friday, November 26, 2021 as a community, we blessed the window.

The window we blessed was created in acknowledgement of the past and out of a deep commitment to the future. The window was created out of love and out of hope. It

was created for each of you. For every member of our community, past, present and future, every family, every staff member, every single child. The window is for you... to remind you that your voice matters in making the world a better place. A place of love. And that is the truth that will set you free.

Eileen Rice – Former Principal, St Alipius Parish School Ballarat East

PAPAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

The Ballarat Diocesan Liturgical Commission was formed in 1970 with membership consisting of ten priests and Bishop as Chair. The membership of the Commission was extended in late 1973 with the addition of one Religious Sister and two lay people. Following this, Dr Peter Morris was invited to join the Commission in 1976 and during this time served as Chair in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1999.

Over Peter's many years of valuable service to the Commission he has been involved in the organisation and presentation at Diocesan Assemblies and regional meetings, assisted and been MC at numerous Diocesan liturgies, provided his vast knowledge and wisdom at Liturgy formation sessions throughout the diocese and has been willing to assist with the promotion of liturgy in the diocese where needed. Peter's knowledge of the diocese and its people has been an asset at Commission meetings and his calming voice of reason appreciated.

Peter's involvement in the Cathedral parish, particularly in Funeral Ministry, provided the Commission with valuable information into this ministry in parish life. Peter was instrumental in providing the details for Commission policies and guidelines.

To acknowledge Peter's years of service to the Commission, Bishop Paul Bird presented him with an Apostolic Blessing for "forty years of service to the liturgical life of the Diocese of Ballarat". Bishop Paul expressed his gratitude for the generous service Peter has given as a member of the Commission over so many years, his valuable contributions to discussions as well as work on documents and involvement in presenting the liturgy seminars.

We wish Peter well in his retirement from the Commission.



Rite of Election 2022



The annual Rite of Election was celebrated on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird and assisted by Ballarat Cathedral Parish Administrator, Fr Ed Moloney.

During the Rite of Election, an important step in the RCIA journey, the candidates and catechumens are presented to the local bishop as a sign of their "election" into the Catholic community. It is at this gathering that those wishing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation make public their intention to continue their discernment and preparation during the Season of Lent.

Six parishes were represented with catechumens (those yet to be baptised) and candidates (those who have already been baptised but have yet to receive the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation) accompanied by their sponsors/godparents, family and fellow parishioners.

Catechumens were presented from the parishes of Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat East and Redan, with apologies from Mildura, Portland and South West Coast. Candidates were presented from the parishes of Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat East and Redan with apologies from Mildura and South West Coast. Following the blessing and dismissal, all present joined Bishop Paul for lunch in St Patrick's Hall.

The journey of discernment for these catechumens and candidates will culminate at the Easter Vigil where they receive the Sacraments of Initiation and are officially welcomed into the Catholic Church by the local parish community.



MRC Celebrates Feast Day

Monday, February 21, 2022 was a special day for Mercy Regional College Camperdown as it celebrated the Feast Day of the Ryan House. It is the first year that House Feast Days have been introduced to the MRC calendar and the College is hoping to turn them into a long-standing tradition of honouring significant figures in the history of the school.

The Ryan House was named after the College staff members Sr Beda Ryan, Mary Ryan and Desmond (Dinny) Ryan. The Ryan Feast Day is marked on the day of Sr Beda's death, February 21.

Sr Beda Ryan was the Principal of MRC's predecessor, St Patrick's School, in the early 1970's and then taught at the newly formed Catholic Regional College. Sr Beda was instrumental in pushing the idea of a regional school and continuing opportunities for the students whose circumstances might have denied them. Along with others, her persistence and ability to confront challenges meant that future generations could look forward to educational and learning opportunities that might otherwise be limited.

Mary and Dinny Ryan were members of the Catholic Regional College and Mercy Regional College staff for many years. They are remembered for their dedication, service, and commitment to the cause of Catholic secondary education in the region.

In celebration of the Feast Day, the red Ryan House banner was proudly displayed at reception and all Ryan students

enjoyed a symbolic red iced donut. Most importantly, the students had the opportunity to reflect on the sense of community and belonging, and to honour the life of their House patrons.

Katya Belokon

Marketing, Communications & Community Engagement Officer



Wishing you well

Ordained in October 1987, Fr Gary Jones has spent almost a quarter of his entire priesthood serving the communities of Daylesford, Creswick, Clunes and Blampied. Leonie Keynes and Neil Doolan presented farewells to Fr Gary on behalf of all the parishioners. Fr Gary has headed off to the Parishes of Mortlake and Terang and moved closer to where his family lives.



Fr Gary, we will miss you, we will also miss your funny jokes, placed ever-so-neatly into your Sermons, and those who visited the office will also miss Miss Molly. We wish you well.

Neil of Creswick spoke:

We sincerely thank you for the good work you have done and the caring service you have provided for so many in our community, for leading our combined Parishes through the past nine years. An extremely challenging period not only for the Catholic Church on a global scale but also for local communities who have struggled to retain their churches and their priests.

In particular, we thank you for your unwavering dedication during the absolute hardest of times in recent years for any Parish Priest, in trying to navigate and provide pastoral services and support through this debilitating COVID pandemic, the restrictions and the lockdowns. So, at a time of life when most people should be thinking of retirement, you are taking on new challenges, on new ground, once again; to serve the Lord and his people. For that, you cannot be thanked enough.

The parishioners of St Augustine's Creswick & St Peter's Daylesford

CELEBRATING OPENING MASS

On Friday, February 11, 2021 Grade 5 and 6 students from St Patrick's Primary School, Camperdown gathered together at the church for their Opening Mass. The children lead the readings and performed duties along with carrying out a special blessing for the Foundation children which was recorded for them to view virtually in their bubble.

It is a tradition at St Patrick's that the Grade 6 children perform a blessing on the Foundation children as they enter their first year at school. At the end of the year, the Foundation children perform the blessing on the Grade 6 children as they depart the school.

The blessing is:

May the Lord bless you and keep you
May the face of the Lord shine on you
And be gracious to you
May the Lord look upon you
May the Lord look with kindness upon you
And give you peace.

After Mass, children were presented with their grade 6 badges and arm bands, the house captains received the banners to their houses and the school captains received the school banner and made inspiring speeches.



Tim Bourke – Principal



community garden



We have a wonderful Community Garden at St Thomas' Primary School in Terang where students are able to come out to plant, pick, learn and enjoy everything garden related.

There is a wonderful parent support network with this garden with Rachel Moloney, Monica Heffernan and Tara Reid as regular helpers.

As it is a community garden everyone is welcome to come along and help out. It is a lot of fun. Each class is rostered on at least once or twice a term and there are always plenty of jobs to do.

We would love to involve more people so if you feel this is something that you might be interested in please contact the school.

Matt Uzkuraitis – Principal

I am certain the Spirit will guide us and give us the grace to move forward together, to listen to one another and to embark on a discernment of the times in which we are living, in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity.

Address Of His Holiness Pope Francis For The Opening Of The Synod

Teachers as researchers: The Mystery of Language

The following was part of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education Industry Report presented to the State Government in 2021.

Foundation teachers Claire Lay and Rebecca Ryan at St James' Parish Primary School Sebastopol construct themselves as researchers in collaboration with the children in their class and the local community in the long-term project "The Mystery of Language", which uses the story of the English language, or etymology, through multi-layered and rich investigations.

This story (figures 1 and 2) includes detailed studies and tales of strife, invasions, struggles for power, battles for riches and farmland, and consideration of times of conflict and peace. The scenarios are a means for all children, inclusive of English-language learners, to become literate, and understand literacy as a complex process that will enable them to make meaning and communicate with audiences using the confirmed conventions of our language in relevant ways. They have a passionate reason to do this with genuine audiences, because they want to share their knowledge, in authentic and contextual ways. This is not an unusual project within the context of this school.



The school is committed to the redesign of the educational experience, moving from school as, 'the cultivation of a narrow band of skills' to 'providing opportunity for all, not just a few, to realise their transformational potential as active, responsible citizens of this great land.' Co-principals Peter

Fahey and Garth Kydd recognise the empowerment of students to participate in a democratic society is critical to the school's mission. Central to this is a firm understanding that children, families, staff and community are capable and contributing citizens. Collaborations with universities and community members are commonplace. In particular, relationships with local Wadawurrung educators are a part of how teaching and learning is imagined.

Ordinary moments as provocation

The commitment to the power of ordinary moment over prescribed curriculum is evident as staff, children and the community co-participate through The Mystery of Language project, taking on the complexity of language and literacy beyond drill and skill.

Etymology becomes a driving force, which is often regarded as being too complex for young children and more appropriate in the upper years of schooling. Lay and Ryan choose to disrupt this common assumption of young children not being ready for this complex work, moving beyond simplistic teaching practices that view children as in deficit.

These staff regard etymology as a 'story that helps connect the facts and make sense of the words in our language in meaningful ways that connect with the children's identity and purpose'. This work connects with Yunkaporta's 'story sharing' where the story brings together everyone's stories and experiences, generating new knowledge through the process.

Co-participating with the children, family, community and local place, Lay and Ryan recognise how the story of words and language, which traditionally begins in England, is often disconnected from the context of Australia. Specifically, in their case this means a disconnection with Wadawurrung Country, the local place where the school is located. And thus, the story of language for this group begins with Wadawurrung Country and involves consultation with a local Wadawurrung woman.

This story becomes the catalyst for this inquiry where children explore spelling through group discussion of words. For example, one child asks how to spell 'knight' and this then acts as a provocation for a group discussion

focused on spelling choices, histories of words, and pronunciation. Further, new words become part of their long-term memory through being connected to words, to stories and to experiences, while children continue to look for and explore dilemmas across the English language. Part of this includes asking complex questions provoked by the histories of language: Who will invade this land next? What words will they bring? Will they be kind? Why would they invade another land? Where did the Celts go? Will they ever know peace?

These large and complex questions illustrate the many entanglements within language and literacy. What becomes most profound for the teachers, though, is that 'the wondering about words and where they come from is endless. The fear many children would have experienced (related to being able to 'read' and 'write') appears to have subsided. In its place is curiosity and concentration'.

The Mystery of Language project situates the process of understanding and acting on literacy as social justice with young children viewed as capable of engaging with this complexity. Spelling as part of literacy is contextual and in response to social issues where the multiple layers of language are used to understand the intentions of spelling. The Mystery of Language project is a site for research as staff as researchers respond to the data generated through the project and document an innovative new pedagogy – Spelling Intentions Made Easy (SIME).

SIME is a contextual engagement with spelling that moves beyond the usual Foundation-2 focus on phonemic awareness, phonological knowledge, and orthographic knowledge. SIME circumvents the 'Spelling Wars' and provides a counterpoint to the narrow focus on skills and phonics through the study of language.

Rather, the knowledge of sound structure of language including phonemic awareness, knowledge of the system of written symbols used to represent spoken language, knowledge that the smallest parts of words carry meaning, and knowledge of the origins of words comes together with the local place as well as the historical, ethical, political and cultural layers through deep and complex studies of language.



DOBCEL news

The Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) welcomed the following people during Term 4, 2021 and Term 1, 2022.

School Principals

Jayne Bosworth – St Brigid’s Primary School, Ballan (pictured right)

Jayne became Principal of St Brigid’s Primary School, Ballan in January 2022, after commencing as Interim Principal in mid 2021. She previously held the position of Deputy Principal at St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballarat East, where she also held positions of Curriculum Leader, Intervention Coordinator and Classroom Teacher. Jayne has forged strong community connections in her short time at St Brigid’s and has a clear vision for the school. She has a depth of understanding of learning and teaching to improve learning outcomes, and a commitment to the wellbeing of students.



Carmel Hanley – Lumen Christi Primary School, Delacombe (pictured right below with Tom Sexton and Fr Eugene McKinnon)

Carmel commenced as Principal of Lumen Christi Primary School, Delacombe in January 2022. She has been part of the school community since 2013, having held the positions of Teacher, Leader of Wellbeing, Leader of Learning, and Deputy Principal. Since July 2021, Carmel has been Interim Principal at the school, during which time she has proven herself to be an asset to the Lumen Christi community. Carmel has demonstrated proven leadership in her roles as Deputy Principal and Interim Principal, and a continuing ability to build strong relationships with students, staff and the wider school community.



Darren Lloyd – St Joseph’s Primary School, Penshurst (pictured left)

Darren commenced as Principal of St Joseph’s Primary School, Penshurst in January 2022. He has long been an integral part of the St Patrick’s Primary School, Koroit community as Teacher and Religious Education Leader, Hands on Learning Coordinator and Deputy Principal. Darren is a proven practical and effective leader. He has a commitment to student wellbeing and protection, in addition to his experience as a committed Religious Education Leader and Deputy Principal.

Interim School Principals

- Nerrida Holland – St Mary’s Primary School, Warracknabeal
- Emily Clarke – St Alipius Parish School, Ballarat East
- Tim Bourke – St Patrick’s Primary School, Camperdown
- Stacey Atkins – St Colman’s Primary School, Mortlake
- Chris Grant – Damascus College, Mount Clear

Catholic Education Ballarat Staff

- Matthew Byrne – Deputy Director: Catholic Education
- Megan Ioannou – Deputy Director: Stewardship
- Murray Macdonald – Education Consultant: Central Zone
- Maree Baker – Manager: HR
- Julia Petrov – Education Officer: Secondary Learning and Teaching
- Julie Cooper – Education Officer: Learning and Teaching
- Shay King – Education Officer: Learning and Teaching
- Casey Stoetzer – Education Officer: Learning and Teaching
- Breeana Wade – Education Officer: Learning and Teaching – Digital Solutions
- Chris Young – Payroll Administration Officer
- Kanishka Hitihamillage - Web Developer with SIMON
- Tim O’Shea - Web Developer with SIMON
- Sushant Thapa - Web Developer with SIMON
- Tim O’Farrell – has moved into the role of Education Consultant: Secondary



- Jacqui Righetti – has moved into the role of Manager: Safeguarding and Standards
- Kevin Cummins – has moved into the dual role of Education Officer: HIVE/Canvas and Marketing and Communications Officer

DOBCEL farewelled the following people during Term 4, 2021 and Term 1, 2022. We thank each individual for their contribution to Catholic education in the diocese and wish them every blessing for the future.

School Principals

- Eileen Rice – St Alipius Parish School, Ballarat East
- Joy Quarrell – St Mary's Primary School, Warracknabeal
- Gabrielle Driscoll – St Brigid's Primary School, Ballan

Catholic Education Ballarat staff

- Julie Duynhoven – Assistant Director: Business Services
- Andrew Watson – Education Consultant: Secondary/Interim Deputy Director: Catholic Education
- Janine Hillman – Project Officer: Policy and Governance
- Michael Trainor – HR Manager
- Kathie Turkenburg – Education Officer: Learning and Teaching
- Kim Butler – Education Consultant – Central Zone
- Anne Bone – Education Officer: Learning and Teaching
- Emma Newman – Marketing and Communications Officer
- Haiden McLachlan – ICT Support Officer
- Jesse McCluskey – Speech Pathologist

Principals who have moved to CEB roles

- Murray McDonald – Lumen Christi Primary School, Delacombe
- Matthew Byrne – Damascus College, Mount Clear

CEB staff who have moved to school based roles

- Rachel McGennissen – Senior Education Officer: Learning and Teaching (now Deputy Principal at Trinity College, Colac)
- Emma Rutherford – Senior Education Officer: Learning and Teaching (on a 12 month secondment at St Paul's Primary School, Mildura)

GRIMWADE CONSERVATION SERVICES AND CONSERVING THE WWI TRAVELLING ALTAR: FIRST STAGE

After successfully receiving funding from Veteran's Affairs through the "Saluting Their Service Commemorations grant" in May 2021, the WWI travelling altar from the Diocesan archives is currently being conserved. Transported to the Grimwade Conservation Services at the University of Melbourne by the archivist in January 2022, works undertaken include surface cleaning, stabilisation of objects held in the box and the repair of the Latin altar card which inserts into the lid of the altar. Conservators are replacing the non-original screws with better matched countersunk flat head-screws, like those from the 1915 period. The two brass handles have been carefully removed from the altar to remove any dirt, corrosion or grease. To conserve the altar's authenticity, any evidence of damage that occurred whilst at Gallipoli or the Western Front was untouched, enabling any proof of wax deposits, nicks or old surface damage to remain in situ. Through conserving this highly significant object, the travelling altar box remains an integral part of the Ballarat Historical Commission archives collection. It highlights the dedication and commitment of priests from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat during WWI to celebrate Mass for the soldiers,



allowing them to spiritually support those at the front line.

Dr Samantha Fabry -
Diocesan Archivist

Top: Dropping off the travelling altar to Conservators Marica Mucic and Senior Conservator Holly Jones-Amin at the Grimwade Conservation Services. Photos courtesy of Conservator Marica Mucic.



Developing a Pastoral Identity through the service of the Community of Faith

In a year of instability and turbulence, one familiar constant for me last year was my Clinical Pastoral Education or CPE placement in the scenic coastal town of Warrnambool. This healthy rhythm of pastoral visitations, to age care facilities and private homes (when I could), along with the pastoral intervention reviews and journal entries I wrote each week, helped keep me occupied through the monotony of staggered lockdowns. More importantly however, CPE afforded me an invaluable experience to understand, integrate and develop my own pastoral presence.



Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is an intensive course of pastoral experience in a given clinical setting. This could be a full-time three-month experience in a setting such as a hospital, or in my case part-time over twenty weeks in an aged care facility and parish context. CPE helps those engaged in spiritual/pastoral care develop a real sense of their own pastoral, professional, personal and spiritual identity and aids participants in making assessments of and responding to the spiritual needs of others. CPE involves both practice and theory in what is called an action/reflection methodology, involving a practical clinical placement as well as group and individual supervision.

In my initial application process for CPE, I was rather nervous I admit, yet I'm still really unsure as to why, since it really was a life changing experience. CPE is heavily promoted in our seminary formation to priesthood and all the other seminarians I had talked to about CPE had very transformative and encouraging experiences. I completed my placement for CPE with the South-West CPE centre last year between June and November in the Star of the Sea Parish South-West Coast around the greater Warrnambool area. Like everyone, my time on the placement was somewhat complicated by the pandemic, but I was still able to experience some very fruitful pastoral encounters.

Despite the different ease of pace with the pandemic, CPE was certainly no walk in the park! Each week we would have Group Supervision for six hours on zoom, with a nice lunchbreak in between, thankfully. As well we had a full day within the nursing home, which normally began with liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion, as we were unable to have Mass in the facility at the time. This was also complemented with many visitations to a broad

variety, a cross-section of the local community with all sorts of pastoral/spiritual needs. Normally, each of our CPE group sessions would have at least four participants and a supervisor. Each session would involve presenting a different piece of reflective work or some ongoing education in topics important to pastoral and spiritual care. Producing work every week for our Thursday group sessions and my fortnightly individual supervision was no easy feat.

It was in this process of critically reflecting on my own pastoral experiences and the level of care I provided, however, that I learnt the most about who I am as a pastoral carer and how I can grow in the development of my own pastoral style.

Written work for the CPE course was broad. Each week we would have to write a pastoral practice journal, reflecting on the experiences of the previous week. We wrote and reflected on our spiritual journeys, we completed mid and final term evaluations and we completed eight pastoral intervention reports (PIR's). These were the most interesting tasks for me. It was a very eye-opening experience presenting someone's story and my own pastoral encounter (de-identified) to my group of peers to reflect on.

Overall reflecting on my experience of the CPE program with its theoretical and practical components, I would highly recommend it to any person involved in pastoral and spiritual care, be it in a service or educative context. One of the most difficult aspects of pastoral and spiritual care is critically evaluating our own care for others and having a network of feedback and support in doing so. Unless you have been in the role of the patient, you can't really know completely your own pastoral capabilities or all your areas for improvement.

CPE is an invaluable opportunity for those who participate in the life of our Diocesan communities more broadly, building up the pastoral competencies of those who minister within our organisations and parishes. Not only does this course help individuals in developing their pastoral identity but it also enhances the mission of the church more broadly, as we all increase our awareness of how to model the love of God in our every pastoral encounter.

The South-West Victoria CPE Centre is currently taking expressions of interest for their 2022 part-time course from July-November. The supervision for the course will be offered online via Zoom, with some face-to-face opportunities during the semester. CPE Units through the Centre are also credited through the University of Divinity towards the completion of theological studies. Anyone interested in applying or learning more can email Bernadette Wurlod the Centre Director at bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au or phone: 0455 033 321

*Rev Mr William (Bill) Lowry - Deacon of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat
Photo: CPE Participants Semester 2, 2021 - (L to R) William Lowry, Bernadette Wurlod, Peter Sherman, Patricia Sharkey. Absent: Lucy Barrow.*

SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE

On behalf of the Emmanuel College Warrnambool community, we wish to congratulate Sr Marie Mansbridge rsm for sixty years of service as a Sister of Mercy. Sr Marie is a past student of St Ann's College attending from 1955-1957, where she was inspired by the work and the lives of Sisters who taught her, particularly the kindness and teachings of a then young Sr Philomene Carroll. In 1959 Marie entered her novitiate, along with another five St Ann's girls and her long held love of caring for small children led her to a ministry in education.

A 35-year long service to a number of Catholic primary schools throughout Victoria began in 1963 with her appointment to a Grade 5 class at St Patrick's School in Geelong West. Sr Marie retired from teaching in 1998, creating a fortuitous opportunity to relocate to her home of Warrnambool. However, as Sr Marie describes it, "You put down stones to carry bricks when you retire," and her service continued, seeing her as busy as ever. It was at this time that Sr Marie joined us at Emmanuel College as our Home Liaison Officer, a unique role that all our families over the years appreciate. Sr Marie's impact during this time is still remembered by many of the families she worked with, as she is still often greeted in the street by them despite being retired from the role for ten years.

Alongside her work with Emmanuel College, Sr Marie has been very active within our Parish, as the Community Leader for the Sisters of Mercy, plus a number of community groups supporting families and the elderly. Most notably is her 22 years as the Leader of the Parish's Bereavement Group. This Diamond Jubilee has given Sr Marie the opportunity to reflect on what she describes as - a very happy life. She explains, "I have been a very happy person in my religious life. There have been difficulties, which there are in every life, but my life has been a very happy life and I wouldn't change it for anything."

We thank you Sr Marie for all you are and have been to our College community, and for the enduring example of Faith, Hope and Love you give to all within the Warrnambool community.

Candice Hampstead— Emmanuel College Warrnambool



Farewell to Judith O'Sullivan



Judith O'Sullivan commenced on the Diocesan Liturgical Commission in May 2017, following her appointment as Pastoral Associate at the Ballarat North Parish. During this time Judith assisted at Diocesan events hosted by the Commission including the Mass of the Oils, Rite of Election and other various liturgies and freely offered her time to present at Liturgy formation sessions held throughout the diocese.

In 2019 the Ballarat Diocese hosted the RCIA State and Diocesan Conferences and Judith was instrumental in the organisation and planning of these days, and was able to share her knowledge and experience of RCIA with those in attendance. Judith's practical understanding of parish life and experience with RCIA were valuable contributions to Commission meetings.

In 2021, Judith returned home to New Zealand to take up the position of Worship Co-ordinator at the Christchurch North Parish and therefore resigned from the Commission and her position at the Ballarat North parish, where her presence and ministry amongst us is greatly missed.

Dear brothers and sisters, may this Synod be a true season of the Spirit! For we need the Spirit, the ever new breath of God, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is moribund, loosens shackles and spreads joy. The Holy Spirit guides us where God wants us to be, not to where our own ideas and personal tastes would lead us.

Address Of His Holiness Pope Francis For The Opening Of The Synod

LAUNCH OF PROJECT COMPASSION – BALLARAT SECONDARY SCHOOL LEADERS MASS



Student leaders of Damascus College and Loreto College gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday, March 1, the day before the beginning of Lent, to acknowledge their role in their Colleges (St Patrick's College Ballarat was an apology for this Mass).

Bishop Paul challenged the school leaders to follow Jesus' witness and to reach out to those most in need this Lent.

The ceremony was a simple celebration of the Mass and the dismissal included a blessing of the Ashes that would be used by the Colleges in Ash Wednesday ceremonies. Student leaders were also presented with a candle and a Project Compassion box to take back to their school communities, as a focus point for Project Compassion 2022.

Bishop Paul joined the students in the gardens of the Cathedral for the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancakes.

Tony Haintz - Assistant Principal – Catholic School Culture, Damascus College Ballarat



Sr Anne Forbes RIP

Sr Anne Forbes rsm died peacefully on February 17, 2022 at Mercy Place Ballarat. Anne's ministry was primarily in education in the Ballarat Diocese. She was a founding staff member at St Martin's in the Pines (1967), now Damascus College. Anne taught at primary and secondary schools, including Sacred Heart College (Ballarat East), and for two years at St Patrick's College. Anne was the Diocesan Director of Caritas for some years, a work which she loved. Anne also spent time in Timboon and Wendouree Parishes, sharing her music ability and visiting the locals.

In Ballarat especially, Anne became a champion advocate for the East Timorese for many years. She made a home for many East Timorese students who came to Ballarat for education and created a safe haven for these young people. They treasure her presence in their lives today. Anne is remembered as a woman of mercy and a passionate advocate of justice. Anne's funeral was held on Friday, February 25, 2022 at St Alipius Church, Ballarat East.



Anne pictured with Teo (Teodosio Ximenes from East Timor)

Special Celebrations at St Joseph's Church, Nandaly

Baptism of Billie Jane Marshman

On December 12, 2021 Billie Jane Marshman was baptised at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Nandaly. Billie is the daughter of Amanda and Darren Marshman and little sister of Levi from Beulah.

This baptism was a bit more special as Billie Jane's Great Great Grandmother, Mrs Roma Mitchell nee Cavanagh born in 1923, was one of the first babies to be baptised in St Joseph's Church when it was built in 1926.

Not a lot happens here at St Joseph's nowadays but when these little things happen along we think it is special. Celebrations continued after Billie's baptism at her grandparent's home, Barb and Chris Hall at Mittyack. Pictured right is Amanda holding Billie and Darren with Levi.



First Eucharist and Confirmation



On November 14, 2021, a long awaited First Eucharist and Confirmation of Miss Layla Faith Kiley and Master Oliver William Brady was celebrated during Mass with Fr James Kerr.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions this ceremony was put back many times but it did eventually happen. Families of both Layla and Oliver attended. Layla's godparent Matt Brady was her sponsor while Oliver's sponsor was Emily Hayden.

Oliver's grandmother, Jo Brady welcomed all to St Joseph's Church for this special occasion mentioning that the great grandparents of Layla and Oliver raised and brought their children to Mass in Nandaly, and that this tradition still goes on. Jo asked that these family members be remembered at this Mass.

Following Mass a barbeque was held in the park in Nandaly for all to enjoy. Pictured left is Fr James Kerr with Oliver and Layla.

Farewell

2021 at St Joseph's Church Nandaly saw the farewell of long time parishioner Mrs Beverly Cook OAM. Bev made up her mind to move to Bacchus Marsh to a retirement village. Bev has been a prime mover in the Parish of St Mary's Sea Lake, now a part of the Holy Family Parish, Northeast Mallee. Bev held the position of secretary for many years as well as Chairperson of St Mary's Parish Council until we joined with the Holy Family Parish. Bev was also an Assembly of the Word and Communion leader at St Joseph's.

We celebrated an 85 year reunion at St Joseph's Nandaly and Bev was a big part of organising this, helping out by supplying book material, cooking and most things that go with back-to's.

Bev has been a tireless worker and very active parishioner and she will be greatly missed. We wish Bev good health and happiness at Bacchus Marsh and Bev, it's always good to see your face back at Nandaly. God Bless You, Bev.

Sam Brady – Nandaly

Photo: Bev: Drought in the Mallee, February 2007, Photographer: Jon Augier, Source: Museums Victoria Copyright Museums Victoria / CC BY-NC (Licensed as Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International)





Ash Wednesday

St Paul's Primary School, Mildura acknowledged Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, with a wonderful Mass at the Sacred Heart Church. Special thanks to Fr Matt Thomas and Mrs Blagus for organising this celebration. We call it Ash Wednesday because many Christians around the world receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads.

Ashes are a sign of sorrow and repentance and God's people have used this sign for hundreds of years. This cross of ashes tells our friends and neighbours that we are not perfect, and that we know we are not perfect. It also reminds us that we are followers of Jesus and we believe that God is always with us. We can be hope-filled people who encourage, inspire and support others by being optimistic and cheerful whilst acknowledging that life is difficult for many people at the moment. Let us become beacons of hope to others.

Vince Muscatello – Principal



ZOOMING WITH BISHOP PAUL

In their Religious Education class recently, Grade 5 and 6 students at St Brendan's Primary School Coragulac were lucky enough to have a Zoom call with Bishop Paul Bird. The students were in expert groups and held a question and answer session with Bishop Paul to gather information.

Expert group 1:

On the weekend Bishop Paul likes to sleep in, go for walks, go swimming and watch TV. He also listens to classical music and plays folk and Irish music on the accordion. He follows AFL, cricket, rugby league and soccer.

Expert group 2:

Bishop Paul became a priest at twenty-five years old and has been a priest for forty-seven years. For his job he organises and celebrates Masses, helps the community and visits schools. He came to our school in 2018 and in 2014 for a blessing. His favourite part about his job is praying with people and having a chat. The hardest part about his job is dealing with different people's opinions.

Expert group 3:

Bishop Paul has been to Rome a few times. He has met Pope Francis and Pope Benedict. He told us that the Pope has two main roles, to look after Catholic communities across the world and look after people in need or are having trouble.

Students were very interested in discovering details about Bishop Paul and we thank him for his time.

Tahlia Whytcross – Teacher
Our Diocesan Community – April 2022

Mount Egerton's Lone Pilgrim

Anthony Bailey was determined that observing COVID-19 restrictions was not going to deprive him of his walking pilgrimage for the second year in a row. In 2021, the pilgrimage was cancelled in advance because of uncertainty about COVID-19 restrictions, so he decided to make the pilgrimage on his own. Anthony, an overseas development consultant from Mount Egerton, had previously taken part in the annual Christus Rex pilgrimage from Ballarat to Bendigo held on the last weekend of October in honour of the feast day of Christ the King. In this pilgrimage some six hundred pilgrims walk in stages from St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat to the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Bendigo. The ninety kilometres is covered in three days.

Anthony devised an alternative route in the countryside east of Ballarat, beginning and ending each day with a visit to a church, to underline the religious character of his walk. The churches visited were St Patrick's Gordon, St Brigid's Ballan, St Michael's Bungaree, St Michael's Springbank, St Brendan's Dunnstown and St Columba's Ballarat North, where the pilgrimage terminated. With his four-months-old border terrier Bertie as company for some of the way, and one fellow pilgrim on Sunday, Anthony calculates that he walked seventy-four kilometres – sixteen kilometres shorter than the Ballarat-to-Bendigo pilgrimage – with an average of around twenty-four kilometres a day.

Anthony hopes that the collective Ballarat-to-Bendigo pilgrimage will be reinstated this year. "It's been a fixed event for twenty-five years," he said, "and has inspired at least one other major pilgrimage in England. You could say it's conducive to both physical and spiritual health."



Christopher Akehurst and Anthony Bailey
Anthony with his four-months-old border terrier Bertie about to set off from St Patrick's Church, Gordon.



Special Donation

Radio Ballarat general manager John Fitzgibbon thought there had been a mistake. Working at home late last year, the media stalwart received an email, indicating a record donation of \$50,000 had been made to the 3BA Christmas Appeal. The boss jumped on the phone, suggesting a typographical error had occurred. A loyal employee chastised him, indicating such errors did not happen.

The reality was the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation had donated the sum. The body is intent on helping those in need, according to the Diocese's Business Manager Andrew Jirik. "We wanted to make an impact and we

wanted to make sure the money got to where it needed to get," Mr Jirik said.

"The 3BA Christmas Appeal is ideal for this. They've got resources, they've got connections. We had our meeting, we made a decision and it hit the accounts within a couple of days." The four charities - Uniting Ballarat, the Salvation Army, Anglicare Ballarat and the St Vincent de Paul Society - were chuffed. "They're stoked," Mr Fitzgibbon said. "It's about helping as many people as possible."

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by James Couzens
and picture by Adam Trafford

Photo: St Vincent de Paul's Alan West and Kevin Elliott, Radio Ballarat's John Fitzgibbon, Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Business Manager Andrew Jirik, Salvation Army Ballarat's John Clonan and Anglicare's Kim Boyd.

Bernard Dowling (1927-2021)

Bernard (Bernie) Dowling was born in Preston in 1927. Possibly destined for Catholic Education, he had an uncle who was a Redemptorist Priest and three aunts who were Sisters of Mercy in the Wilcannia Forbes Diocese where they worked as teachers.

Bernie's links to Catholic Education began when he commenced school at St Gabriel's in Reservoir, just before he turned five. He was taught at St Gabriel's by the Good Samaritan Sisters. Bernie's family often heard the story of him not wanting to go to school and after dropping him off at school, his mother would find him at the front gate when she got home. Despite this he eventually developed a real love of school.

While he loved the railways and worked there for a period, Bernie found his way into schools and loving his first experience of teaching after training to be a teacher at the Melbourne Teachers' College. Although the first half of his teaching career was spent in Department of Education schools, Bernie's Catholic upbringing and love of administrative work saw him connect with the local parishes in each town in which he lived. While Head Teacher at the Mairor's Flat Primary School, he became very involved at St John's Dennington when Fr Payne was appointed as Parish Priest followed by Fr Jack Russell. Most of his work was in finance, but he was also responsible for starting the weekly bulletin for the parish.

Transferring to the Minyip Primary School after eight years at Mairor's Flat, Bernie was contacted by a Religious Sister, who told him that they were looking for a lay principal at St Patrick's in Koroit. After some discussion with Peter Teggelove who was the Director of Catholic Education in the Ballarat Diocese at that time, Bernie accepted the role as the first lay principal in the Ballarat Diocese, taking over from the Good Samaritans.

After spending nine years as Principal at St Patrick's he was invited to apply for the Principal's role at Our Lady

Help of Christians in East Warrnambool, to which he was appointed, this time taking over from the Sisters of Mercy. He loved his time at both schools and was humbled when it was announced that a wing at OLHC would be named after him.



Bernie had close associations with the parishes in both Koroit and East Warrnambool and remained actively involved in the finances at OLHC until he was 85 years old. On deciding it was time to hand over the finances, he continued being seen regularly at 6.00pm Mass on a Saturday night, until he was no longer physically able to attend. Bernie's last years were spent in Bupa Aged Care in Ballarat, where he enjoyed the visits from the local laity and priests on a regular basis until COVID made visits impossible. By this stage dementia meant that he found it difficult to enjoy a good conversation, but his faith was obviously with him till the very end as witnessed at his final anointing, when he joined in the 'Our Father' with Fr Eugene McKinnon.

It was appropriate that Bernie return to OLHC in East Warrnambool for his requiem after passing away peacefully on July 2, 2021. Fr Lawrie O'Toole and Fr Gerry Prunty concelebrated his last Mass in the parish he loved so much.

Cathy Prunty

Photo: Fr Lawrie, Bernie and Mary Dowling



Science is fun!

St Joseph's College Mildura student Caterina De Maria was selected as one of twenty-five nationwide finalists in a BHP science competition. The 17-year-old student developed an experiment to discover the effect of eucalyptus camaldulensis (red gum) smoke on the rate of photosynthesis for the Science Teachers Association of Victoria's Science Talent Search.

In this competition, her experiment was awarded a distinction, which earned her an invitation to BHP's national science competition. St Joseph's College chemistry teacher John McGlashan said the school was very proud of her for getting to the national competition. "It's very hard to get to this level." From the twenty-five students, Caterina is believed to be the only regional student. She said, "all the others were from really fancy grammar schools." Caterina said, "participating in the project was really fun."

Caterina is passionate about science and "likes learning about the world, like why things work, how things work." St Joseph's has had students participating in the Victorian Science Talent Search for many years. Mr McGlashan said "Caterina's project is one of the best I've seen."

Article courtesy of the Sunraysia Daily, text and photo by Sarah Buchcker

Our Diocesan Community - April 2022



YEAR OF FREEDOM

In 2022, Loreto College Ballarat celebrates the value of Freedom. Throughout the year the students and community will celebrate, discover, explore and live the Loreto value of Freedom. Assistant Principal Faith and Identity, Felicity Knobel noted, "As a Loreto community it would be easy to focus entirely on our own freedom or lack thereof in the last two years. Instead, the College is using this experience to build empathy for people in our world who always face the injustice of no freedom that the lifting of the pandemic won't change."

The kite has become a symbol of freedom for Loreto College this year. Felicity observed that, "A soaring kite is a sight to behold. It moves freely with the wind, it can look spectacular, it can go in many different directions. You can let a kite go, it can go wherever the wind takes it. However, for a kite to move well it has to have someone holding it that is confident, that can read the conditions and can change and adapt so as to let the kite soar. Due to conditions, a kite doesn't always soar. It gets tangled. It requires you to stand away from other kites to allow them a chance to soar. It requires a rethink, to ask for assistance, to help someone. This resonates with the teaching of Mary Ward and Jesus."

The Opening School Liturgy began with the Year 7 and Year 12 student procession of the kites, with each Year 7 and new students receiving their House badges as an official welcome to the Loreto community. All student leaders across the school, the Year 12 cohort and the 2022 Leadership Team were also acknowledged. Loreto College looks forward this year to the opportunities that will bring freedom to all.

Judy-Ann Quilliam - Director of Marketing & Development

Legion of Mary



Our Lady of Nazareth Praesidium, Ballarat, was formed twenty years ago on December 10, 2001. Since the 1940's, there has been a cyclical presence of the Legion of Mary in Ballarat. The current Praesidium had its beginnings on December 10, 2001 on the shores of Lake Wendouree and on December 10, 2021, we celebrated our twentieth anniversary. However, the first Praesidium of the Legion of Mary in Ballarat was in the 1940's, a Junior Praesidium at Loreto College in Dawson Street.

1921, a day before the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, celebrated its Centenary around the world on September 7, 2021. The Centenary celebrations of Our Lady of Nazareth Praesidium Ballarat were on hold due to the COVID pandemic restrictions in Victoria, once these were lifted, the Centenary was celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Peter Connors, the Spiritual Director of Our Lady of Nazareth Praesidium Ballarat with Mass, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Tesserat prayers and Rosary, concluding with Benediction. The spiritual nourishment was followed by light refreshments at St Patrick's Hall after Mass and was attended by Bishop Peter, active and auxiliary members and parishioners. A good catch-up time for everyone present.

Sarah Kuek, President, Our Lady of Nazareth Praesidium Ballarat

Cry of the Earth. Cry of the Poor.



On Saturday, November 6, the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission hosted a forum in response to the Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement for 2021 - 2022. Like many things in 2021, the forum was a reimagining of previous forums. Restrictions and uncertainty meant that we did not all gather in person in one place. However, this enabled us to gather in smaller hubs across the diocese and it gave us the opportunity to have engaging and thought provoking speakers of the highest calibre 'dialing in' from across Australia. Forum participants gathered in Ballarat, Colac, Hamilton, Mildura and Warrnambool.

In his introductory remarks, Bishop Paul reminded us that we live in interesting times with COP26 happening at the same time and much discussion about the environment in the media. Bishop Paul also reminded us that faith and science complement each other and when we read the book that is creation, we learn something about the creator. We heard about the science of climate change from Dr Mark Diesendorf, contemplated the Church's response led by Dr Sandie Cornish, reflected on the Indigenous experience with Vicki Clarke and Sherry Balcombe and we were called to action with the assistance of Jacqui Remond.



A thought provoking part of the day was when Dr Mark Diesendorf outlined the steps that we can take to combat climate change but also the questions that we must ask ourselves.

Is it right for low-income countries to be impacted by climate change because of the decisions of rich countries?

Are we morally obligated to live a simple life?

Throughout the day many themes emerged. Here are some things that I am still thinking about:

- The climate crisis and care for the environment is something that we must be in together. Science and faith must work together to solve this problem and to address the questions that it raises.
- We all have a responsibility to leave something for future generations. As Bishop Paul said, we want to leave a garden not a desert.
- Everything is interconnected, our actions have a flow on effect and can impact the world, both positively and negatively, in ways that we don't always know or understand.
- We are called to action! Often the problem can seem too big, but there are things that we can all do that can begin to make a difference. The problem can be solved if we choose to solve it.
- There is a need for dialogue. We were challenged to listen to others and to hear the different voices. There is much to learn from our Indigenous communities.
- The Catholic faith has a deep well of teachings on the environment and our role within it and for it.

However, the real question that I have is, what is my contribution going to be?



Special thanks to the members of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission, and in particular the working party, who embraced the challenges of presenting a forum at this time. Also, thanks to Sandra Dillon from Ballarat Earthcare who joined the working party – her contributions were invaluable; to Jeanette Morris for the acknowledgement of country that beautifully set the scene for the day, to Fr Barry Ryan who responded to the keynote speakers and helped us all to draw together our thoughts and to Jim Ryan, who was our MC in Ballarat and live streamed to the hubs.

Finally, to those people who were able to participate. Responding to the Climate Crisis and knowing where to start can be overwhelming, but by showing up, listening and reflecting, this participant is confident that we are planting the seeds of change and moving forward in our endeavours. Listen. Learn. Change.

Stacey Atkins

DAMASCUS COLLEGE 2022 OPENING SCHOOL MASS

On Friday, February 11, Damascus College Ballarat celebrated their Opening School Mass with a limited congregation, a reflection of our changing world. Year 12 and SRC students, together with the choir, represented the whole student body with reverence and a sense of pride.

The leadership team and house leaders represented the staff and community of Damascus College. We were very fortunate to have Bishop Paul celebrate Mass as we focussed on our scripture verse for the year from the Gospel of St John, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit." Bishop Paul reminded us that by doing two things - loving our God above all others and treating our neighbour as we would like to be treated, we are able to keep the faith and grow with the Spirit, so that God's love can be revealed among us in many diverse and fruitful ways.

Toward the end of Mass, Bishop Paul blessed the school badges. These were distributed at the assembly that followed, to the Year 12 students and SRC members as our new school leaders. Interim Principal Chris Grant commissioned our new school leaders to go forth to serve their House, their Year Levels and their College community, with faith as they pursue their education and live the motto Be.My.Best., in the name and in the spirit of Jesus. Mr Grant asked our school leaders to lead quietly, being examples of courage and commitment, generosity and creativity, sensitivity, compassion and wisdom.

Damascus College Ballarat



FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION

Catholic people were invited to join local consultations about their experience of synodality within the Church as part of the two-year journey towards the next international Synod of Bishops, set for October 2023. Ten areas of synodality are being explored with questions in each area across those themes of communion, participation and mission.

We were invited to reflect on how we are united with one another in the communion of one people of God, how well we work together and also to consider how each member of the Church can participate in the life of the Church. We were asked to share our reflections with others and listen as they shared their reflections with us. The period for local submissions for the global Synod of Bishops process has now closed.

Hundreds of submissions from across the country have been made through the online Synod of Bishops portal, along with responses that have also been sent directly to dioceses. "The collation of responses within each diocese has already begun, we will provide reports for all dioceses, eparchies and ordinariates towards the end of March, after which time dioceses will each celebrate and conclude the local consultation stage.", said Dr Trudy Dantis, Director of the National Centre for Pastoral Research. Based on diocesan reports, the National Centre for Pastoral Research will then prepare a national synthesis that will be finalised during three sessions with the bishops in May and June. The Church in Australia will provide its consolidated report to the Holy See in August.



JUSTICE INGRAINED

Growing up in a Catholic family of justice advocates, this guiding principle became deeply ingrained. During my children's educational years, I was a volunteer in state and national organisations that lobbied for the rights of all children to have access to and receive a high quality education. Following on from this it was a natural transition to become involved in an organisation that supported those in need globally.

In 1995, Gerry Baldock became Diocesan Director for Caritas Australia and I assisted him as coordinator of the annual Caritas Australia appeal, Project Compassion and various Emergency Appeals. In 2003, I was blessed with the opportunity to see Caritas' work in action in Bangladesh.

Towards the end of 2006, I was appointed Caritas Diocesan Director by Bishop Peter Connors. I have been privileged to accompany overseas Lenten speakers from various countries to parishes and schools throughout the diocese. Their shared stories continued to enhance my understanding of what a difference we can make to the lives of the most vulnerable in our world.

Project Compassion's high quality resources are distributed annually during Lent to parishes and schools. At the Caritas Australia annual conference held in NSW, the various program staff provide background information about the programs and share additional anecdotal information when invited to speak in parishes and schools, including updated information of previous program recipients on how their lives had changed over the years.

In January 2007, I was appointed Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission following in the footsteps of Sr Kathleen Woodruff. In 2012, I was gifted with the opportunity to visit programs in Zambia and South Africa. Two consecutive annual conferences were held in Alice Springs where I had an opportunity to visit First Nations people and projects. They did not believe we would return the second year as they have had visits from politicians and the United Nations with no follow up visits to see if any changes had been made to their lives. These visits for

me were life changing spiritual experiences and eliminate false perceptions. Both Catholic organisations, Catholic Mission and Caritas Australia, provide assistance in different ways through their programs, whether it be supporting vulnerable children or assisting communities to become self-sufficient and achieve a sustainable living.

During COVID-19, information technology provided our schools and parishes an opportunity to connect with our overseas partners and program recipients directly, including the relevant program coordinator. This is a wonderful way forward in the future for connecting our faith communities, students and parishioners, to hear the stories directly and ask questions of those involved. I hope more people take the opportunity to participate in this way in the future.

Over the years I have made lifelong friendships with several of my peers. It has been an amazing experience to have had the opportunity to meet and work with such committed and dedicated people of faith and like mind.

I wish to thank Bishops, Paul Bird and Peter Connors, for having given me this opportunity, diocesan clergy, parish administration and school staff for their ongoing support. Thank you to a group of people at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Wendouree who have supported me in various ways over the years and a very special thank you to you, the donors, the parish and school communities, for without your financial assistance the programs would not be the success they are in making a difference to many in need. As I retire from these two roles, I look forward to what the Holy Spirit will guide me towards on my next journey of life.

Sue Searls

A morning tea was held for Sue on December 8, 2021, after rescheduling from earlier in the year due to COVID-19, acknowledging Sue's generous service of many years. Thank you for all you have done, Sue. We wish you all the best for whatever the future holds.





Celebrating sixty years of learning

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School in Wendouree marked their sixtieth anniversary on Friday, October 15, 2021. Opening on October 15, 1961 with two rooms on site, the school has grown, now with one hundred and twenty-five students, twenty-four staff and multiple building.

Principal Leigh Bradshaw said many of OLHC's children are the third generation to learn and play there, their parents and grandparents having fond memories of similar spaces and people. "Families who've been here for a long time talk about our 100-metre corridor, and the different races that have happened down there," she laughed.

"When former students return as parents, they walk in and have flashbacks. There are lots of memories of sport days, community events, trivia nights, and one particular teacher, Paddy Ryan. He was here in the eighties... then returned in the 90s, and is still here now. He hasn't changed and has been a constant, caring, supportive part of the school for families."

OLHC has produced a series of videos marking each decade of the school's history, shared via their Facebook and Instagram pages. "All of our celebrations moved online, sharing most of the memories we would have presented had we been able to invite everybody back for open days," Mrs Bradshaw said. "The amount of memorabilia that is coming back into school is incredible and the memories that families are sharing with us has blown us away."

"The personal stories include those of families where generations have attended our school, and those of one of the founding teachers Sr Josepha, now Sr Angela, who sent in her memories of teaching Mick Malthouse when he was here. Another high-profile student who attended OLHC is Melbourne Cup-winning jockey Michelle Payne."

Mrs Bradshaw is "honoured" to be leader and custodian of OLHC, providing an "umbrella of care," and a safe principal's office that isn't a "scary place" to visit. It's a space where children can feel comfortable and welcome to share their learning milestones. She acknowledged that primary school for many young people in Ballarat has not always been 'a happy place.' "We want to celebrate the past, but people will see things that I have shared, and that will trigger a gut reaction in them. It's really important for everyone to understand we honour the past, which is not all happy and joyful, but that every part of our history is our history," she said.

"As a school and diocese, we learn from that, and the way we work now is so child-centred and child-friendly. We welcome people to come back and visit; our learning here is outstanding and our staff work to personalise learning for every child." Videos and more memories are viewable to the public at facebook.com/olhcwendoureevictoria and instagram.com/ourladyhelpofchristianswend

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Times, text and photo by Edwina Williams

Image: When I'm 60: OLHC's students created artworks looking sixty years into the future, to mark their school's big birthday.



***Have you seen these badges before?
If you know where they are from please contact
the Pastoral Ministry Office via email -
pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au***

At the end of last year Emmanuel College Warrnambool farewelled Ms Josie Long after twenty years teaching with the College. However, Josie's affiliation with Emmanuel College spans well beyond these twenty years. As a member of the Class of 1980, Josie first stepped onto the grounds as a Prep student at St Ann's College in 1968.

Josie admits that she was a bit of a tricky student, who didn't really love being at school, so the eventual choice to become a teacher came as a surprise. While the choice was initially an unconventional one, it has allowed her to share her skills in the kitchen and her compassion with students from many corners of the globe.

Josie began teaching at Numurkah, followed by Beaconsfield, before heading abroad to a posting in Vanuatu with the Australian Volunteers. She loved her time in and out of the classroom in Vanuatu, as she learned about the different culture and a different way of life. One of her biggest take-aways was, "They would all get together and cook. A lot of their socialising was cooking the dinner, but they didn't socialise to eat the dinner."

A long association



When Josie and her young family returned to Australia, she was quickly approached by Mr Daryl Mahoney to join us here at Emmanuel. Now looking back on twenty years, she comments, "I love working with kids, and I really loved that I could teach Food Studies. Food Studies classes don't generally include a big project, so I loved it that in each class the kids could have success. Particularly kids who may not have had success in other classes. It really allows them to shine."

Alongside her work in the classroom, Josie can also be proud of the link she helped establish between Emmanuel College and the Ruben Centre in Kenya. The Ruben Centre, established by her brother, Br Frank O'Shea, operates programs providing health, education and social development services for the people of the Mukuru slum. The relationship provides students with a real-life insight into poverty and social justice issues, and is often the focus of student fundraising efforts. "I think it's been really important for the kids to appreciate how other people live." Ms Long explains.

Now retired, Josie in her usual style looks to the future with an open mind and an open heart. We wish you all the best.

Candice Hampstead – Emmanuel College Warrnambool

Mayor for a Day

The students of St Colman's Primary School, Mortlake, were very fortunate to have an incursion with comedian, playwright, author and former primary school teacher, Damian Callinan in February. Damian was preparing for his show 'Mayor for a Day' in Mortlake that evening, which he has been touring around a number of regional areas. The children were thoroughly entertained during the workshop and were gifted with two copies of his book 'Weird School'.

Damian pitched some future book titles including 'The Day that the Octopus Invaded the St Colman's Swimming Carnival' and 'The day that Max Gawn came to Footy Colours Day'. We thought they'd be pretty good books!

The children were then asked to imagine what they would do if they were Mayor for a Day. It seems that lollies and making things edible featured highly. In addition to this, the staff might be concerned about their jobs if any of the children did have their requests granted as the school building has been earmarked as a lolly shop or even a

swimming pool. Damian then used some of these during his performance that night, which the school staff were fortunate to attend.

Damian's observations of Mortlake gave us all a bit of a giggle, particularly when he checked in the Mount Shadwell chalet (the weighbridge station) and had a picnic on a vacant lot. We all appreciated Damian taking the time out of his busy schedule to visit us at St Colman's.

Stacey Atkins - Principal



ACCOLADES FOR ST MICHAEL'S STALWARTS

In Wycheproof, volunteering often sets the tone and pace of life for those who call the bustling rural community home, whether it's been for only a short-time, or as is the case of the following two individuals – a lifetime.



Len Story and Eddie Molloy are well known in the Wycheproof and wider Buloke communities. Both possess varied interests and hobbies, contributing to the social fabric of the unique Mallee town in a variety of ways throughout their lifetimes. Such contributions extend to both being integral members of the St Michael's Wycheproof community (which falls under the umbrella of the East Wimmera Parish), and further being recently recognised with great praises on Australia Day.

In what was a wonderful celebration for both Len and Eddie, and their respective families and friends:

- Len was honoured as 'The Buloke Shire* Australia Day Citizen of the Year' at a feature event ceremony held at the Berriwillock Community Centre on Australia Day eve.
- Eddie was awarded 'The WycheAlive Citizen of the Year' for Wycheproof, at a service held at the local Centenary Park on Australia Day morning.

Both received incredible praises from across all walks of the community via Club representatives and others, as their individual outstanding contributions for dedication

were detailed via lengthy speeches across the varied ceremonies, all highlighting their association with St Michael's.

Len was noted for his everyday acts of kindness, one colleague quoted, 'There is nothing Len hasn't contributed to in Wycheproof overtime – he has been part of everything'.

Whilst it was noted how much Eddie does for the elderly – as he doesn't consider himself in that age bracket quite yet!

Len continues to maintain a strong presence around the church grounds. In years gone by he was previously involved in the finance and administration side, and now regularly maintains lawns and manages watering programs. He is always available to contribute in any way, shape, form.

Congratulations are sincerely extended to both gentleman from their friends and family and the wider Ballarat diocesan community. There is no doubt that their faith has, and continues to be a strong guiding light throughout their life journeys.

* The Buloke Shire community is made up of five major towns, Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof, and five smaller townships, Berriwillock, Culgoa, Nandaly, Nullawil and Watchem.



Jackie Noonan - Wycheproof
Many thanks also to the Buloke Times

BLESSING OF STATUE OF ST PATRICK FOR THE CATHEDRAL

On Wednesday, March 16, 2022 Bishop Paul Bird blessed and installed a statue of St Patrick in our diocesan Cathedral. The Evening Prayer was held on the Vigil of St Patrick's Day. Fr Ed Moloney, Administrator of St Patrick's Cathedral, and Fr Abraham Thomas were also present. During Masses in the Cathedral on March 17, acknowledgement of the installation and blessing of the statue was made by Fr Ed and Fr Abraham.

The statue was originally donated to St Patrick's Church in Rokewood in 1959 as a gift from John Leemon and Agnes Doyle in memory of their parents and sister, Margaret Mary Leemon. Descendants of the donors of the statue that were able to attend, Kerry Doyle, John Doyle, Sharon Bradley, Sally Carey, Natalie Carey and Adele Maher, were welcomed to the ceremony by Bishop Paul.

This sculpture of St Patrick is a rare example of high quality polychromatic work. Made in Fitzroy by Mattei Brothers, the statue is of plaster, reinforced with iron rods. The iconography and symbols connected to St Patrick have often portrayed him as a bearded bishop with mitre, crozier and chasuble and holding the Bible. However, in this sculpture, St Patrick holds a church, a reference to his role in bringing Christianity to Ireland and building up the Church there during the 5th century. His chasuble is usually marked with a cross but in this case, the statue has been painted with images of the shamrock, a reference to the tradition that St Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. The inner lining of the chasuble he wears is in the characteristic green of Ireland. He is represented in this sculpture as standing on two snakes, an allusion to the tradition that St Patrick drove snakes out of Ireland.

During the ceremony Fr Ed proclaimed the Gospel and Bishop Paul delivered the homily. Bishop Paul prayed a "Prayer of Blessing" over the statue and processed to St Patrick, along with Fr Ed and Fr Abraham, for incensing of the statue. The statue has been placed in the north transept of the Cathedral accompanying the statues of Jesus of the Sacred Heart and St Mary MacKillop. Representatives of the three parish primary schools participated in the ceremony.

Information on the origin of the statue provided by Dr Samantha Fabry, Diocesan Archivist.





The United Nations General Council declared 2022 as the International Year of Glass. “The Year will celebrate the essential role glass has in Society. The use of glass in architecture dates to Roman times, containers have an even earlier history in Egypt and Mesopotamia (now Syria and Iraq) and glass beads were widespread throughout the Middle East, India and China, being traded internationally from the Bronze Age. The development of modern science has been based on glass artefacts from the large scale (astronomy) to the small scale (biology); from simple lamps to the lenses for lighthouses; in communications and electronics ranging from the first valves to optical fibres. Now in a world constrained by a variety of environmental pressures, glass is one of the most recyclable materials; it has a variety of roles in reducing greenhouse gas emissions such as energy saving coatings, double/triple glazing and solar cells, it is made from widely available materials and is contributing to major improvements in our health.”

<https://www.iyog2022.org/>

Photos:

Front cover: Ss Peter & Paul Church Buninyong Altar. Back cover: 1. St Mary’s Church, Swan Hill 2. Bottles of Oil, Mass of the Oils 3. St Alipius Parish Church Ballarat East 4. Ss Peter & Paul Church Buninyong Baptism Font

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