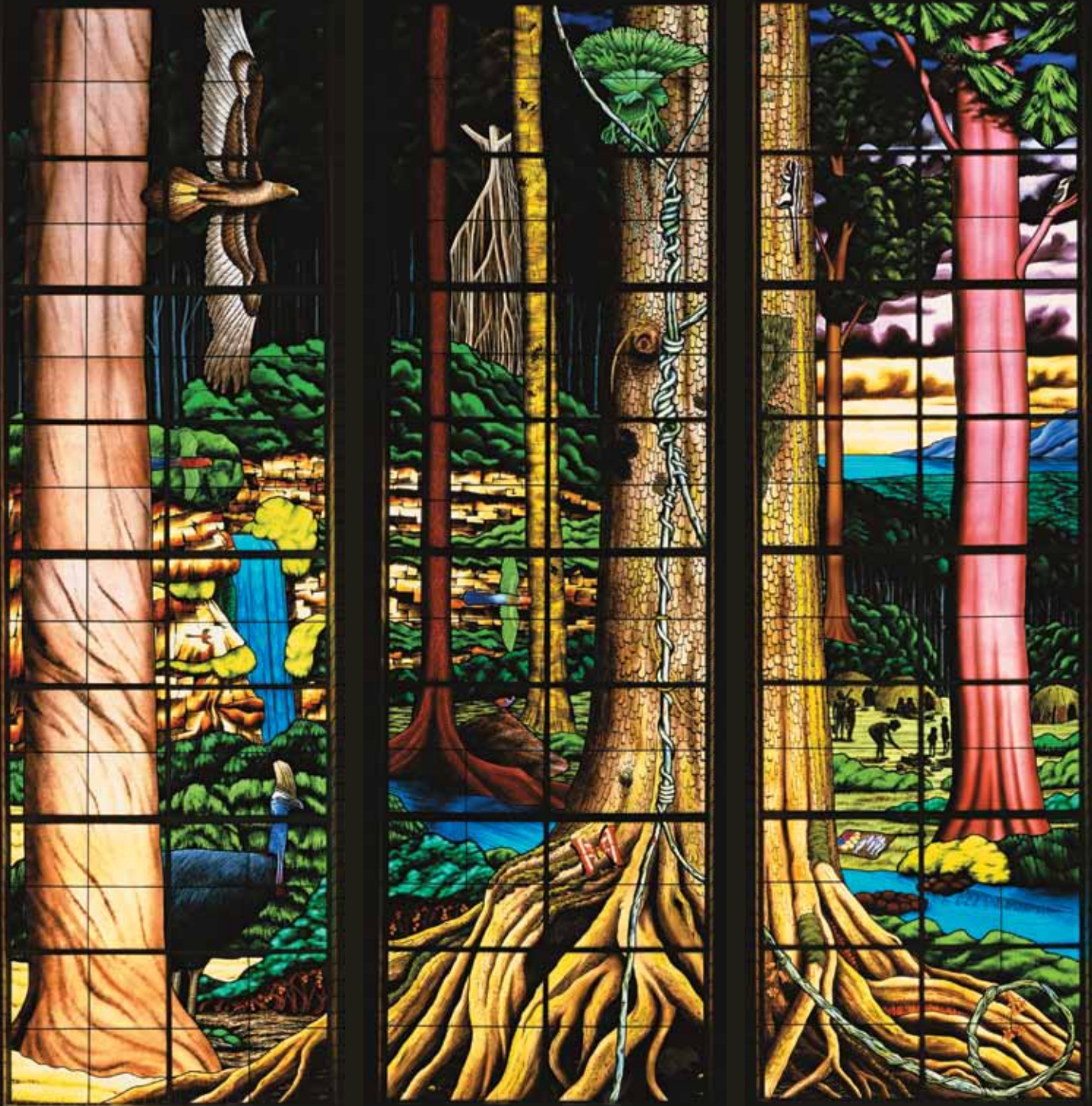




EDITION 1 MARCH 2013

CAIRNS DIOCESAN NEWS

From the outback, through the rainforest to the sea



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OLD POPE; NEW POPE

Reflections from The Most Reverend James Foley DD DPh (Leuven)

Don't Cry for me Argentina: is the haunting song about that strange person Eve Perón, wife of a former president of Argentina.

Those same words could be said of Pope Francis who now too has to leave his native land!

Probably never before has a pope been under such public scrutiny, nor have the expectations ever been greater.

Yet it does seem that Gods' providence has brought forward the right person for the Church in these troubled times.

Francis, the first Jesuit to be pope, comes with a freedom and an inner strength.

I grew up in Toowong, a Brisbane parish long staffed by Jesuit priests, of whom I have only the best of memories. Their standard of living was most basic. Their presbytery had an almost spartan military-like feel to it - no unnecessary extra comforts.

Unlike other religious groups in the Church, the Jesuits, in their spiritual training and throughout their lives, put great stress on individual prayerful integrity and a certain solitariness of life and independence of action.

Yet this freedom is always obedient to the Gospel of the Lord - in all its lowly simplicity yet - with its high and clear demands.

This is the distinct character Francis inevitably will bring as Bishop of Rome and leader of the wider Church. This is just what is needed at this time.

-oooOooo-

What follows I wrote at the time of Benedict XVI's retirement and before the election of Francis. It tries to spell out some of the issues which the Church presently faces and gives some lessons and hope from the past troubled history of the papacy.

-oooOooo-

We live in interesting times, with the resignation of Pope Benedict.

With those jokes about Eggs (=Ex) Benedict, a further play on words is tempting: Now that he has laid aside the yoke of office, it will be all white now! He will continue to wear a white soutane.

Benedict has made a brave, even noble, decision for the sake of the Church. Unlike many others in high office, he is able to put the needs of the position above any personal attachments.

Apparently at the time of his election he did express concerns that administration was not one of his strengths. He also may have hinted then, that at seventy-seven (77), he would only assume responsibilities for a limited period of time.

He, as close as anyone, had witnessed the dying days (even years) of his predecessor John Paul II. He would have seen that this was not necessarily so good for the whole Church.

A power vacuum in any organisation, let alone one so centrally focused as the Catholic Church, can be very destabilising and even dangerous.

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Front Cover is from St Monica's Cathedral Windows:

Description - By Window 16 a waterfall is flowing over these rocks, as cool and refreshing as the lava flowing on the opposite side of the cathedral is hot.

Window 18 overlooks the Cairns coastal plain, Trinity Inlet and the Yarrabah Peninsula.

God said, 'Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees bearing fruit with their seed inside, on the earth'. And so it was. The earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seed in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds. God saw that it was good (Genesis 1/11-12)

In times past, that may not have been such a problem. Now, in these days of the Internet and 24 hour news coverage, no position or high office is spared constant scrutiny!

Such scrutiny (and leaking) has been quite intense during Benedict's eight years as pope.

Painful though this can be, it may yet be good and cleansing for the Church. As the Lord Himself said: For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. (Mt 10:26)

The scandal of sexual abuse within the Church and across wider society is a highly relevant example. Dreadful as this has been, especially for victims, who have had to suffer in silence - the Lord has also said: the truth will make you free. (John 8:32)

The Church has not faced the situation of a retired pope for many centuries. There have been only two (2) instances, each in very different circumstances.

The more recent (relatively speaking!) case was that of Gregory XII, who was elected Pope in 1406, on the understanding that he or any other cardinal elected in that conclave would resign in order to resolve the Great Schism. There had been a tragic series of popes and anti-popes in Rome itself and at Avignon in the south of France from 1378 to 1417.

After ten complex years Gregory finally kept his word and a new and undisputable election of Martin V in 1415 took place.

Gregory then went on to serve faithfully cardinal bishop of Proto.

The earlier and more relevant example is that of Celestine V. He had been elected on 5th July 1294 from outside the College of Cardinals, after a deadlock of two years within the conclave between two powerful candidates.

Celestine was then an eighty (80) year old Benedictine

monk of strict, simple hermit observance. He brought this unworldly spirituality to the office, which, sadly, just did not work in a highly charged politicised situation of that time.

He had the good sense to resign on the 13th December 1294, after less than six (6) months and returned to a hermit's existence. However, his successor, Boniface VIII, one of the powerful significant popes of all times, thought it safer to take Celestine in under closer supervision. History is divided as to whether this was a gentle form of house arrest or a harsh imprisonment. The following pope, Clement V, sainted Celestine for his troubles and his holy simplicity of life on 5th May 1313 - only eighteen (18) years later. Benedict XVI visited and prayed at the tomb of St Celestine V at L'Aquila in 2009. It may have been with these historical precedents in mind, that Benedict plans to remain living within the Vatican - to avoid any sense of there being Two Popes - or two different centres of papal authority.

The blunt truth is there can not be two Popes at once. Essentially the Pope is the Bishop of Rome.

When I retire at seventy-five (75) in 2023!!, a new bishop of Cairns will be appointed and I become emeritus - like an old retired professor! From the moment my resignation is accepted I can exercise no further role in the diocese. At Mass the next day I would not sit in the big bishop's chair.

So too with Benedict. He becomes like any other retired bishop. He ceases to be pope with any of the Petrine authority or wider powers which that office carries.

PRIEST IN PROFILE: FATHER JOHN NEWMAN

Report by Fr Newman and Chrystopher Spicer



Born in 1932, Father Newman was the second of nine children and grew up on the land in the Nanango district in south-east Queensland, within the Brisbane archdiocese. At the age of thirteen, his father's illness necessitated his leaving school to help run the family property. Later, he became a carpenter at which he worked for seven years before entering Banyo Seminary at the age of 25. The necessary secondary education for this was acquired by a correspondence course prior to beginning the 7 year seminary studies.

After ordination, Fr Newman was appointed to the staff at St Monica's cathedral in January of 1965, where he was to spend seventeen years with the exception of two years on Thursday Island. After 8 years as Administrator at St Monicas' he was parish priest at Mossman for eleven years and parish priest at Atherton for almost eighteen years before retiring in October last year.

As well as his normal duties, Father Newman has also been the chaplain to Cairns Base and Calvary Hospitals and to the SAC and SMC colleges. He served for twenty three years as an Army Reserve chaplain first to 4 Cadet Battalion and later the 51st Battalion FNQR. He has been a part time Queensland Police Service chaplain for eighteen years, an appointment that is still current. Fr

Newman was awarded an OAM in 1998 for services to the Community and the Army Reserve.

On his retirement after 48 years of service in the Cairns diocese Fr Newman looks back on Vatican II as the most exciting event in those years. Asked "What do you think are some of the challenges of our time", he said:

"One of the greatest challenges of our time is to assimilate and then to communicate the riches of the Vatican II documents: especially regarding the Liturgy and the rights and duties of the laity that belong to them by reason of their baptism. Vatican II taught that the 'Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life'."

"Unfortunately, we use the word 'eucharist' to name several aspects of the reality itself. When we celebrate the eucharist, (or the mass, as we also name it,) we have the two parts of it, the 'liturgy of the word, and the liturgy of the eucharist. Then Jesus becomes present in the eucharist under the appearance of bread and wine, then we receive the eucharist in holy communion, after which the eucharist (the remaining consecrated bread) is placed in the tabernacle. (We also name the eucharist that is kept in the tabernacle, the 'blessed sacrament.)"

"Because of this multi usage of the name, I fear a lot of people do not realize that it is the CELEBRATION of the Eucharist that is the source and summit of the Christian life. Many are also unaware of the teaching of Pius XII that the 'CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST IS AN ACTION OF THE WHOLE CHURCH, HEAD AND MEMBERS.' (Mediator Dei 1947). The celebration of mass is not merely an action of the priest alone, he is only one of the many celebrants, and his particular role is to 'preside' ('presider')."

"In its Decree on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II stated that the 'full, active and conscious participation of all the people is the aim to be achieved above all else.' This means that everyone present must firstly be **fully** and **actively** involved in the celebration of the liturgy; and secondly be **conscious** of **what** they are doing and **why** they are doing it. This also must be done in a spirit of the unity that Jesus prayed for at the Last Supper, "Father, may they be one in us as you are in me and I am in you, so the world may believe it was you who sent me" (Jn 17:21). The celebration of all the liturgies, and the building up of God's kingdom, must be seen as an 'action of the whole Church' and not solely the responsibility of the priest (Mediator Dei)."

"The lay people in the body of the church are able to do so much more with regard to liturgical hospitality than the priest, who is limited by his role as the presider (the funeral liturgy, especially). Perhaps the Holy Spirit has allowed the current shortage of priests in order to make us all aware of the 'rights and duties' of lay people as enumerated by Vatican II, and for them to be called on and be allowed to exercise those rights and duties that they have as the baptised: not only in the liturgy but in many other areas which prior to Vatican II were regarded as the sole responsibility of the clergy."

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CELEBRATING 720 YEARS of Ministry in FNQ

Report by Sr Rovena Duffy, assisted by Michelle Langtree on behalf of Eileen Lander and the Mercy Mission and Charism Board



Clockwise:
The Jubilarians from the Sisters of Mercy - the Northern Community
The Jubilarians from the South C Community and past leader of the former Cairns
Sr Faye Kelly (leader of the South C Community and past leader of the former Cairns
Congregation) and Sr Margaret Rush enjoying their celebratory lunch at the Earlville Conference Centre.
Sr Mary McHugh during the Mass to celebrate the Jubilee of Religious Profession of twelve sisters.

On January 12, 2013 The Sisters of Mercy - the Northern Community of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy living in the Cairns Diocese celebrated the Jubilee of Religious Profession of twelve Sisters who have lived and worked in the Cairns Diocese during most of their religious lives performing a total of 720 years of ministry work in the Far North.

The Jubilarians celebrating were : (Platinum -70 years) Sr Mary of Mercy Wallwork; (Diamond - 60 years) Sr Patricia Butterfield, Ines Demartini, Carmel Doran, Brigid Foley, Mary McHugh, Bridget Murray, Anastasia Murray, Mairead Murray, Rita O'Malley, Margaret Rush; (Golden - 50 years) Sr Irene Masterson.

Each Jubilarian was presented with a corsage from Sr Bev Strong, Leader of the Northern Community before the celebrations commenced with a mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church at Earlville at 11am. In attendance was Revered Father Martin Kenny PP, Dean of the Northern Deanery, Reverend Fathers Miah McSweeney, Hilary Flynn and Barry Craig. During mass Jubilarians received their lighted candles from Sister Bev Strong and all Sisters of Mercy present stood and raised their hands while renewing their religious vows. The liturgy and booklet were prepared by Sister Therese Masterson, who artistically interwove the motto of each Jubilarian on the cover of the booklet.

The Sisters and invited guests were served lunch at the Earlville Conference Centre. Bev Strong spoke about the religious call of these sisters and their contributions - other guests and family members were invited to share past and present stories of each sister. Much laughter followed as stories were told of the wonderful events in the lives of these great women.

Sr Faye Kelly (leader of the South C Community and past leader of the former Cairns Congregation) spoke of knowing each sister and how delighted she was to be here to celebrate with them.

God Bless them all for their generous giving over many years - Like Mary to the Angel Gabriel they simply said - Yes!

The sisters celebrating their Jubilees wish to thank all those who have prayed for them and sent congratulatory messages.



Parish in Profile MALANDA

Report by Fr Greg Moses with the assistance of the English family

When Malanda's pioneering families came to the area from as far away as southern Australia, northern New South Wales and even Ireland, they brought a strong faith with them that they have nurtured since then within family and community.

The first Mass was held at the Kureen Hotel, for which some people came from Mareeba on a push-and-pull rail cart. From 1911, the Catholic community gathered at a newly built hall near the Malanda Hotel bottle shop until the present Church of St James was built in 1925-6 on land donated by James English. Augustinian priests would ride over from Herberton on horseback to minister to the community, leaving there on the Saturday and staying overnight at the Malanda Hotel in order to preside at Mass next morning, and for many years Augustinians such as Fr Downey and Fr Patrick Bernard Doyle continued to ride over from Atherton or Herberton on horseback or motorcycle or by car. It wasn't until 1959 that the first resident priest arrived, Fr Len Bibbo, for whom the present presbytery at 7 Monash Avenue was constructed in the same year.


Since then, many Catholic priests have ministered to the Malanda community, including Bill Grundy, Frank Crane, John Flynn, Kevin Flanagan, Dave McKenzie, Ivan Hernon, Fr. A.W. Whiting, Fr. J. P. Drury, Ivan Hernon again until 2000, John Butcher since May 2000 with help from John McGrath since September 2002 and now Greg Moses, the present Catholic pastor, from 2006.

The Malanda Catholic community has always had a strong tradition of lay participation and lay leadership as well, though, currently supplemented by the services of their Southern Tablelands regional deacon, Alban Hunt, and this tradition continues to manifest itself in both Malanda and Yungaburra as Greg Moses' pastoral responsibilities have broadened to

include Atherton as well as Malanda and Herberton. There is now a thriving committed leadership group in Malanda, the St James Catholic Community Council, and a representative group in Yungaburra, and the parish community continues to strongly appreciate the contribution of their Pastoral Projects Officer, Janice Hunt. A highlight of last year was the retreat conducted by John Lizzio.

As there is no Catholic school in Malanda, stronger links have been formed between the Catholic community there and the local Malanda community than might otherwise have been the case as Catholic families have come to look upon the Malanda State Primary School and the Malanda High School as very much their own community schools.

Since the high point of this thriving Catholic Christian community during the time of Fr. Ivan Hernon and the early years of Fr. John Butcher, some families have departed from the Malanda region and there has been a general aging of the church Mass-going population. However, Malanda still gathers to participate in Catholic Christian worship, and there are plans for a wholesale renewal project of St James church that will include disability access. During last year the roof was replaced and the exterior was repaired and repainted, and now the community is looking forward with prayer and in God's grace to the time when work on the interior of the building will be completed.



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DEANERY COORDINATORS PLAY VITAL ROLE IN SPREADING THE WORD OF GOD

Report by Janice Hunt and State School Religious Instruction Leadership Team



Left: Thresea Jankowski, Right: Christine Cross

State School Religious Instruction fills an important role in the lives of catholic children and the community at large. Its primary task is to share with children the wonder of learning about Jesus Christ.

The catechists who volunteer to teach the word of God are talented, generous and dedicated. To support catechists, our diocese employs a coordinator for each Deanery area (Northern, Southern and Western).

For the past four years Christine Cross has embraced this role for Northern Deanery with passion and dedication but has now resigned from the role to return to classroom teaching and spend more time with family. In this time she has visited each and every parish and state school and has met frequently with

all her catechists; providing services and support in classroom management, spiritual development, the 'Christ Our Light' Religious Education program and fulfilling Education Queensland requirements.

We welcome and congratulate Thresea Jankowski on taking up the reins from Christine and continuing the good work. Thresea is an active parishioner at St Therese' Parish in Edmonton. Having taught in both State and Catholic schools she brings a wealth of knowledge and wisdom gained from her additional twenty years of experience as a volunteer catechist to this coordinator's position.

Once again, this year catechists were invited to the TREWTH Conference coordinated by the Faith and Religious Education team at Catholic Education Services. Participation at the Conference workshops will prove helpful and relevant to the Religious Instruction classroom.

Thanks to Bishop James, Priests, catechists and Catholic Education Services Faith and RE team for making this apostolate vibrant, and able to serve in mission to others. Any new volunteers may contact their local parish or Deanery Coordinator for more details.

Western Deanery Coordinator: Janice Hunt
Southern Deanery Coordinator: Michelle Pike.
Northern Deanery Coordinator: Thresea Jankowski



"May Grace Be with You" the participants of the initial Vatican 2 eConference October 2012

LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH GRACE

Report by Hugh O'Brien, Year of Grace Co-ordinator

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes grace in a language of love that exists between God and human beings. Grace is the favour, the intimacy, the free gift which heals the wounds of sin and makes us holy, transforms our thoughts and actions from within. With this year being the Year of Grace, a committee comprising 10 members with a wide range of skills and abilities has been assembled, meeting every six weeks to discuss insights and activities for celebrating this important quality.

Initiatives include publishing The Year of Grace bulletin and the committee now seeks written submissions from parishioners about their experiences of living with grace.

This bulletin is also an opportunity to showcase a number of aspects, invitations, and challenges people face as Catholics within this Year of Grace.

The Bishops of Australia invited the whole Church to a Year of Grace that commenced at Pentecost, 2012 and launched the theme, "Starting afresh from Christ". Bishop Michael Putney gave some wonderful advice for the Year of Grace.

"Push out into the deep. When the going gets tough, have another go. Go where it is toughest. Allow the grace of God to stir within you. The Year of Grace is not a program, but a thousand opportunities to start afresh from Christ."

Jean-Pierre De Caussade in his book The Sacrament of the Present Moment highlights a question we need to persistently ask of ourselves is, "How is Christ present to me in this task I am now involved in? How can my participation in this task in front of me now be a participation in the life and death of Christ?"

According to Bishop Foley, "The message for this Year of Grace is that we need to "re-commit to finding God's favour in appreciating and doing well the ordinary things of life."

Vatican II is a great grace of the last century which continues to provide a compass for this century. Vatican II is a great treasure chest that will shape our lives. We need to harvest all the treasures from Vatican II.

To this end an invitation is extended to Parishes, Schools and Church entities to reflect on a National eConference, DVD, "Vatican II- An Event of Grace." The format of the session is to view the DVD, reflect on a presentation and then discuss influences of Vatican II in your community.

- Groups may purchase the DVD from the Broken Bay Institute (orders@bbi.catholic.edu.au)
- OR
- Contact the Year of Grace Committee secretary Priscilla O'Brien (pobrien@cns.catholic.edu.au, 40509712) to enquire about organizing an evening in your community on "Vatican II- An Event of Grace." It would be the Year of Grace Committee's pleasure to be involved in such formation opportunities.

In the near future we will receive another DVD titled "Faces of Christ." Copies of this DVD will be forwarded to all parishes and schools. This should prove to be an excellent prayer in communities. It is a prayer without words, being in God's presence rather than performing in Christ's presence. Keep tuned in for this opportunity for prayerful reflection in small groups.



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HARD WORK AND PASSION PAYS OFF FOR ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH COMMUNITY

Report by Peter Buckley

St Francis Xavier's Parish community has enjoyed an exciting few months and achieved much – a trend that looks set to continue well into the year.

The construction of a Parish Centre has been a major topic of discussion particularly when considering the future and its value in providing a warm heart and sense of community.

While still in its early stages, much work has been done to progress this project with meeting outcomes culminating in a design and pre-empting the all-important fundraising phase.

To date, major fundraising efforts have included a spectacular concert in St Monica's Cathedral that was held last October. The music and singing were of an international standard and as such, reaped great praise and applause from the appreciative audience. The supper afterwards was equally wonderful. All the hard work proved worthwhile raising a valuable \$8000. Added to this, other initiatives have brought the progressive total to \$13 000.



Another highlight was the parish's hosting of the Relic of St Francis Xavier during its Year of Grace pilgrimage. From November 6 to 8, the relic was displayed in the Church and became the focal point for visits, prayers and veneration by so many from around our Diocese. Notably, many families from the Asian sub-continent participated in the ceremonies, acknowledging the link with the faith journey of their ancestry until the present. The Year of Grace encourages us to deepen our faith, hope and love in Christ and His people, and St Francis Xavier is a practical model of these aspirations.

The liturgies of Advent and Christmas were wonderfully celebrated. The roles played by children of the parish at the Christmas Vigil Mass enhanced the celebration for all, and the presence of a real baby in the crib helped bring home the message!

A great blessing for the Parish's future is the number of adults and school-aged children who are Baptism candidates.

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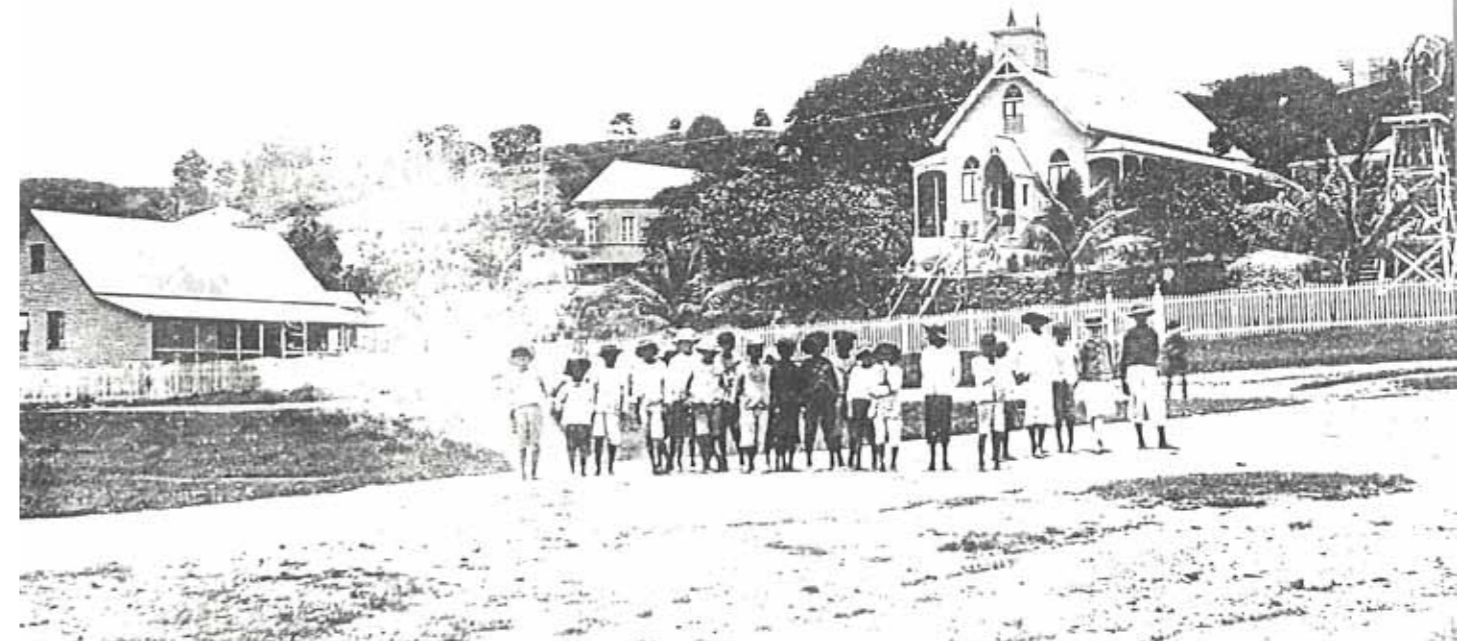
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My Magical Journey: UNCOVERING THE HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART SCHOOL, THURSDAY ISLAND

Report by Brother Barry Lamb



Sister Margaret Sweeney, a young Australian Sister of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart sailed from Sydney to Thursday Island to start a school for local children.

While Sister Sweeney was not yet fully trained, she was English speaking and that was the prime requirement after the earlier arrival of three French speaking Sisters who had arrived on Thursday Island to help establish a Mission before proceeding on to Papua New Guinea.

This information and more was revealed to me after being asked to record a written history of the school for its 125 year Jubilee celebrations. And so began a rather magical journey of discovery into Thursday Island and its convent school.

I took up this task 2011, during a visit to Thursday Island and as such I did not have any historical repositories other than the school itself – which incidentally seemed to have very little historical material available. Amongst its meagre collection, however, I did discover an absolute treasure in about 20 original School Inspectors' Reports. These were invaluable, telling, as they did, the subjects taught, the numbers of children and teachers and the 'atmosphere' amongst the children that the Inspector noticed.

I was told there might be 'something' in a filing cabinet in the presbytery. There I uncovered another 30 Inspectors' Reports! So now I had detailed descriptions of aspects of school life for 50 different years from 1905 (the first recorded report) to the 1980s. I'm guessing that no other school in Australia would be able to pinpoint 50 Inspectors' Reports in its archives.

My other research was undertaken on the net. I scoured 'Trove'. For readers unfamiliar with 'Trove', it is a site created by the National Library of Australia and is available easily and free to anyone in the world. They have scanned in facsimiles of every page of all Australia's major newspapers from the 1890s or so to 1954. I typed in several variations of 'Catholic School, Thursday Island' and up came all manner of mentions from picnics and concerts to the Sisters offering their blood to save the life of a hospital patient.

While researching the school's history I decided it would be a good idea to also look closely at the history of Thursday Island itself. In so doing I was able to document the key social and political events of the island within the school's chronology – decade by decade. This was a delightful study and 'Trove' proved most helpful in terms of documenting Thursday Island life.

Interestingly Thursday Island had its own weekly newspaper published throughout the 1880s and 1890s. Copies of this invaluable source are held in the State Library of Queensland and are available on microfilm. I spent some days looking through these pages to great benefit. Notably, Thursday Island's news press was lost during the Second World War when the civilians from Thursday Island were forced to evacuate. Then after the war, a local resident and enthusiastic supporter of the church and school, Mrs Gwen Moloney started up a weekly newspaper on a Gestetner duplicator. She did it all herself – reporting and typing up stories in her own unique style. And since she was so intimately connected to the school and church there were always stories about processions, sports days,

picnics, First Communion, changes of staff and more. Copies of these bulletins called Torres News, are also available on microfilm in Brisbane at the State Library of Queensland.

Other sources I drew on were the archives of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Kensington in Sydney as well as their world headquarters in Rome. Sister Bernadette in Rome was able to email me about 20 portraits of the earliest Sisters, including the very first three who arrived in 1886! The founders of the Mission, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, were also helpful in providing historical material, both in Australia and in Rome. A history of the Mission in the Torres Strait written by Father James Littleton, MSC, was especially helpful.

After the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart were no longer able to provide teachers for the school the Cairns Sisters of Mercy assumed leadership which they continued for 30 or so years. Their archives contained several photograph albums that have been immensely helpful in bringing parts of the history alive. Special mention to the former student, parent and one-time 'informal' school photographer who made all of her photos available for use.

My sincerest thanks to all the other former students and teachers who generously shared their recollections and particularly those, who now in their 80s, recalled their school days during the late 1930s.

Research in the Mitchell Library in Sydney, which contains much Australian history, provided insights into life on Thursday Island from the time the school began, through extracts from old stories of travel going back to the 1880s.

Gathering all these sources and information and kneading it together into a coherent story was a task of enormous delight and satisfaction. My hope is that some readers may get the same enjoyment I did in going back in time and reliving school days and life in general on this tiny but fascinating island of the Torres Strait.

Copies of Br Barry Lambs book
'History of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Thursday Island 1887-2012'
available for sale at a cost \$40.

Cathedral Bookshop Gift Shop
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Contact Robin Mclean-Williams
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130 Lake St Cairns
40 50 8713 or
email rmcleanwil@cns.catholic.edu.au

Keeping Faith ON THURSDAY ISLAND

Report by Fr Karel Duivenvoorden Parish Priest Tully-Silkwood

Like a growing number of catholic communities across Australia, the parishioners of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart parish on Thursday Island are facing life without a resident priest or religious community.

For these parishioners, this is a totally new experience. The last resident priest departed in June last year and the remaining two Marist Brothers in December. With the Bishop's approval, Fr Karel Duivenvoorden from Tully-Silkwood parish will undertake a pastoral support role with Thursday Island parishioners and has pledged to help wherever possible in easing the burden.

Incorporating churches at Bamaga, Horn Island, Hammond Island and Thursday Island, this parish is similar to others in the diocese and elsewhere with people registering as catholic but sometimes participating only at critical moments along life's journey. Nevertheless, the faithful continue to share the gospel and communion and uphold good administration of the parish: staying true to the proud legacy of more than 125 years of catholic development across Torres Strait.



Inside of our Lady Of The Sacred Heart Church, Thursday Island

Undaunted by the task at hand, parishioners are facing life with courage and a willingness to do what they can. At the moment they meet regularly for Sunday Liturgies of the Word and Communion (and for prayer at other times), and are supported by monthly visits from priests across the diocese.

For parishioners on the islands, keeping the faith takes more than observing the needs of worship and ritual. With diocesan support from the mainland, the community is trying to maintain a Religious Education presence in the very least at Thursday Island's State Primary School, and has initiated a sacramental program in coordination with the parish school Principal and APRE.

While the Bishop works to secure a more sustainable ministerial presence on Thursday Island, the parishioners continue to keep faith with him and the diocese. Their commitment and perseverance under difficult circumstances is an example for each and every parish not to take their current way of life for granted, but to rise up and accept the responsibilities of the faith.

Keeping faith on Thursday Island has lessons for us all.

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THE NATIONAL PASTORS AND PASTORAL ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE

5-7 FEBRUARY 2013
ADELAIDE HILTON, ADELAIDE

Report by Sister Irene Harrison, Gulf Savannah parish and Sister Irene Masterson, Cooktown parish.



Almost 150 delegates representing several dioceses across Australia and New Zealand gathered in Adelaide last month for the National Pastors and Pastoral Associates triennial conference.

In his letter of introduction to conference members Archbishop Wilson, said "This Conference provides an opportunity to celebrate together, as priests and pastoral associates." And celebrate we did - in prayer, in sharing of heart and mind and with fine fare and dance at the conference dinner.

'An echo in their hearts Vatican II -50 years on' provided a thought provoking conference theme that became the vehicle for exploring mission and ministry.

In the conference's opening liturgy the Book of the Gospels and a book of Vatican II documents were ceremoniously carried into the conference space in procession. Delegates were then asked to light candles to symbolise the 16 basic documents of Vatican 2. These remained alight throughout the Conference.

As the first key note speaker, Bishop Peter Comensoli, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney challenged delegates to consider that the church exists in order to evangelise. He noted the key words of this practise being Key Mission, Ministry, Friendship and Co-responsibility.

His little gems included "What matters is the life in Christ", "Service is a consequence of friendship, not the other way around."

The Archbishop's invigorating talk was followed by a key note address by Reverend Dr Philip Marshall, Vicar General Archdiocese of Adelaide.

Philip's delightful sense of humour camouflaged a profound wisdom that is clearly the by-product of participating in deep prayer throughout his life.

Philip began his session by asking the group to share a moment when they were aware of the overwhelming love of God. These stories became his reference point throughout the three sessions he took illustrating that ministry is successful only if we develop deep peace and love.

Visiting pastoral associate, Dr Deb Organ, MSW LICSW DMin, from Minneapolis, United States was third to speak. What a dynamic show of human love, enthusiasm and youth, belying the fact that she is the mother of five children aged between 13 and 21 years.

Deb used Gaudium et Spes, "the council focuses its attention on the world of men, the whole human family along with the sum of those realities in the midst of which it lives" to ponder the question, "How do we foster church as a climate of home?"

The Conference was brought to a climax in Eucharist in Adelaide's Cathedral. The building itself was an iconic symbol of the conference with its beautifully restored stone work on the outside providing an interesting contrast with its ageing interior. The profound faith of the Eucharist with music and song was effective in symbolising a sense of hope for renewal.

We are deeply grateful to Bishop James for the opportunity to attend this event and long may our city continue to participate in this 'church of the future'.

Well worth a visit: Please type in the following website link for further information on the conference and its outcomes. <http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/parishes-and-mass-times/catholic-communities/national-pastors-and-pastoral-associates-conference-2013/keynote-speakers>.



Fr. Hilary and a number of men attending our last Breakfast

CATHOLIC MEN FOR CHRIST

Report by Barry Hoare

On Saturday 8th December, 2012, 'Catholic Men for Christ' hosted its third breakfast meeting for 2012 at Cairns Sheridan Hotel. Attended by 29 men, the group came together to share experiences and listen to a very interesting and insightful presentation by special guest Patrick Kelly from the Catholic School of Evangelisation in Melbourne.

The Catholic School of Evangelisation was established to meet the needs of teaching Catholics how to evangelise effectively; Catholics re-evangelising Catholics.

This practise was brought to Australia in 1994 by Bishop Joe Grech (now deceased). He saw the School as a way of training ordinary Catholics to become evangelisers and in so doing, develop a mission mentality within Catholic parishes; the ultimate objective making every parish into an evangelising community.

At the December meeting Mr Kelly spoke about evangelisation as being at the heart of the Gospel, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News" (Mark 16:15).

In his presentation Mr Kelly spoke about the importance of experiencing a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in order to evangelise. His presentation concluded with prayers and an introduction to the teachings of Jesus as outlined in the Scriptures.

AS FOLLOWS:

God loves you today. **(Since I regard you as precious, since you are honoured and I love you Isa 43:4)**

You are a sinner in need of salvation. (No distinction is made; all have sinned and lack God's glory. **Romans 3:23)**

Jesus has already saved you. **(For this is how God loved the world: He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16)**

Believe and convert yourself now and proclaim Jesus as your Saviour and Lord. **(If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is the Lord, and if you believe with your heart that God raised him from death, then you will be saved. It is by believing with the heart that you are justified, and by making the declaration with your lips that you are saved. Romans 10:9-10)** Jesus I open my heart to you. I believe that you died and rose again for me; I welcome you as my Saviour. I proclaim you my Lord and I give you my life in exchange for yours.

Receive immediately the gift of the Holy Spirit. **(You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise was made for you. Acts 2:38-39)**

Enter in this Christian Community. **(The Lord added to their community those destined to be saved Acts 2:48)**



CAIRNS FIRST OFFICIAL COMMUNITY BLESSING

Report by Peter Cash, Holy Cross Parish Newsletter Editor

Representatives from various Christian denominations throughout Far North Queensland gathered at St Monica's Cathedral for the inaugural 'Cairns & Region Churches Blessing Cairns Ceremony' on Tuesday 12th February 2013.

Mayor of Cairns Regional Council, Councillor Bob Manning along with other local council dignitaries were in attendance for the ceremony that began with Pastor Darryl Roos of the Salvation Army welcoming the congregation. Paster Roos remarked that this was an historic event being the first official service of the Cairns Christian Ministers Network.

Pastor Roos then led the people in a prayer for the Mayor and Councillors. Councillor Manning then responded on behalf of Cairns Regional Council.

A series of prayers delivered by the Christian leaders of Far North Queensland were said in turn to recognise all levels of community from its civic leaders to education, health emergency and community services and the police and armed forces.

A short address by Cairns Christian Ministers Network President, Adem Xhafer preceded final words by Lieutenant Darren Kingston and a Benediction by Father Frank Gordon.

ROSIES 'Friends on the Street'

Report by Melissa Milton Branch Coordinator, Rosies 'Friends on the Street', Cairns www.rosies.org.au

Rosies 'Friends on the Street' is an initiative of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate a Catholic Order of Priests working throughout Australia but founded in France over 200 years ago

Rosies began in Queensland in 1987 through an outreach to 'Schoolies' providing a safety net to graduated year 12 students celebrating the end of their secondary education on the Gold Coast. During this first outreach, the Rosies team came in contact with the homeless living rough on the streets. In 1989 an outreach to the homeless on the Gold Coast began.

Rosies has extended its missionary work over 25 years to include providing friendship and support to marginalised and disadvantaged people on the streets, in the courts, youth detention and prisons. Today we still play a major role in Schoolies, and also provide a Street Retreat Program for high school students to experience the Rosies outreach.

Rosies began in Cairns in 1999 as a street outreach to the homeless and has incorporated the 'School Street Retreat Program' into our program in recent years. Over 75 volunteers reach out on Friday and Saturday nights in Munro Park to the homeless in Cairns and have been blessed in receiving strong support within the Diocese of Cairns, including many parishioners and several Catholic Schools, who contribute to this outreach.

Rosies Vision and Mission are:
'Rosies is a community of people sharing the Oblate spirit of daring. Inspired by the Gospel, Rosies reaches out to those most abandoned, to be present with them, offering them experiences of community and belonging.'

We do this in Cairns by offering times of 'presence' with others through our School Street Retreat program and Street outreach.

Our guiding principles are to:
 Foster people's self-worth and dignity, reach out to people where they are at, accepting them as they are and welcoming them into our community, stand in solidarity with, and offer hope to, those who experience isolation, loneliness and alienation and model a more just, Christian and humane society.

Rosies is a non-profit organisation operating in nine outreach centres across Queensland catering to the homeless. Rosies provides friendship without judgment!. Homelessness is the most damaging spiritual illness in society today and Rosies is proud to part of the healing solution.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION ACKNOWLEDGES DEDICATED SERVICE

Report by Andrea Gregory Catholic Education Services Media Officer



Br Paul Hough, Bishop Foley, Maureen Worthy, Fr Neil Muir and Gerard Kearney

Former Personal Assistant to the Executive Director, Maureen Worthy, was farewelled from Catholic Education Services on Thursday, February 14 with a High Tea attended by many from around the Diocese. Maureen retired from the role after a career spanning over 18 years and a range of roles including Teacher Aide and School Secretary at Holy Cross Catholic School, HR Assistant at CES, Office Manager at St Francis Xavier's School and her current role as Personal Assistant to the Executive Director.

Kind words were spoken by many at the farewell send-off, made special by CES staff home baking, fine crockery and finery as a tribute to the high regard in which Maureen was held.

Maureen's service to Catholic Education had been characterised by her faithfulness, generosity and kindness, Br Paul said. "Her commitment to perfection

in all that she does, her dedication and willingness to go the extra mile has made it a privilege to work with her."

'Graciousness', 'dedication' and 'confidentiality' were other characteristics mentioned that epitomised Maureen and her service to Catholic Education.

Maureen said her departure was tinged with both sadness and looking forward to the journey ahead. Both she and husband Derek were looking forward to spending more time with family including their elderly mothers.

Maureen thanked the people she had worked with in the Cairns and other Dioceses over the years and said it had been a privilege to work for Dr Bill Sultmann, Br Paul Hough and Fr Neil Muir. Many colleagues would remain "friends for life", she said.



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GOD'S CAFÉ AT THE EDGE OF THE SEA

Ministry and the Diaconate Journey

Report by Christopher Spicer on Tony Moore Aspirant to the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Cairns

Tony Moore and I are sitting at the long wooden table in his Chill Café. Its late afternoon and the blue-green water of Palm Cove stretches out to the horizon in front of us as the last customers talk and drink coffee. Most people you meet around here came from somewhere else, so I ask Tony where he's from and how he came to this café at the edge of the sea.

"I'm originally from Sydney," he says. "I was educated at St Aloysius College where I experienced the Jesuit ethos of 'being a man for others,' but for many years my life revolved around the financial markets before I returned to truth and those Christian values. I lived and worked in London and Hong Kong before returning to Sydney, knowing that God had called me into a new life. However, my will still rebelled about that.

Then, when I came to Cairns ten years ago I saw first-hand the ravages of the GFC on many ordinary families and I saw my life in a different light. This café here in Palm Cove was quite literally the answer to my prayers, a novena to St Joseph, after I fully surrendered and vowed I would live in accord with the will of our Lord, trust fully in His providence, and let Him guide and direct my life."

I know this is a busy café that must occupy a large part of Tony's life, and so I'm curious as to how he maintains a relationship with both God and his business.

"Chill Cafe exists as a ministry for me," Tony explains, "because here I am connecting with people constantly and challenged to walk with and mirror Christ in my life. Often after a busy day, while mopping kitchen floors, I'm overwhelmed with God's love and the presence of His Holy Spirit and reduced to tears that He should pour out His love and grace over an ordinary bloke like me. Every day I juggle the café, my study and my family but I wouldn't change a thing. Our Lord graces me with wonderful people so that I am able to meet a demanding schedule and still grow with the fruits of His Holy Spirit."

Tony and his wife Manuela have worshipped at Holy Cross since 2008. They now have a son, James, and Tony is studying to be an Aspirant to the Permanent Diaconate. Tony doesn't see that as just adding to his workload:

"The Catholic Church has always been a positive force in my life, especially here in Cairns. After much contemplation, I wanted to further explore a closer journey with our Lord in the hope of one day giving something back to Him. The journey toward the Diaconate is as much a journey of discernment as a deepening of relationship with our Lord and one needs no other inspiration than Jesus.



Tony Moore and son James

It is through the Mass and through our most beautiful Blessed Sacrament that we can truly hear the voice of God calling us into deeper love and strengthening our character so that we can meet the challenges placed before us in the every day. Our Catholic faith calls us to be a better person, and in being so we influence our family, our community and beyond. It might not be an easy way but it is the way."

Christ is now my business partner from whom I draw my strength knowing it was through His will that Chill was born and through His providence in answer to our prayers that we have prospered."

CATHOLIC MISSIONS IN ACTION

Report by David McGovern Director Catholic Mission (Archdiocese of Brisbane)

When Anna Jimenez (pictured) comes knocking on your parish or school door, please give her a generous hearing. She might be a volunteer but she is, after all, representing the Pope's official agency for Mission and Evangelisation.

Following in the footsteps of Catholic Mission's previous, long-serving volunteer, Mary Twomey, Anna has been appointed by Bishop Foley as the diocesan co-ordinator for Catholic Mission. She brings a wealth of passion and humility to the role, as well as being a mother to two gorgeous girls and a wife to her husband.

So what exactly is Catholic Mission all about? Anna offered the following description:

"Catholic Mission is the Australian name for three autonomous Pontifical Mission Societies acting as a single organisation. Under the patronage of the Pope, these societies are accountable to the General Assembly of Mission Directors in Rome. In Australia, we are linked closely to the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, through the Bishop's Commission for Mission and Faith Formation."

The three mission societies see Catholic Mission and its donors supporting the church's work with children (through the Children's Mission Society), its work with communities (through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith) and its work in training, equipping and supporting local church leaders (through the Society of St Peter Apostle).



Last year, the organisation raised more than \$18M across Australia, with Cairns experiencing an increase from \$230,505 to \$402,928.

Anna shared that a portion of the funds raised through Catholic Mission's Propagation of the Faith Appeal, which last year had the theme of 'I was hungry and you fed me' and focused on the work supported in Ethiopia, also supported some of the diocese's local initiatives in working with indigenous people. An allocation of \$35,000 was made to Cairns, by the Bishops that administer the Home Mission Fund. In all, 11 dioceses were beneficiaries of nearly \$2M in total.

This year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal will be held in Cairns Diocese on the weekend of 8-9 June 2013. With support from her colleagues in the Brisbane office of Catholic Mission, Anna said she was looking forward to helping local parishes participate in the appeal campaign, with some parishes offering to host visiting speakers to share about their insights of, and experiences on Mission.

It is important that your estate plans are regularly reviewed

Make sure your plans remain relevant for your circumstances, and that they are effective from a legal and tax planning perspective. Queensland has seen a marked increase in disputes relating to wills. It is important that your estate plans cater for any potential challenge.

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2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
SOUTHERN DEANERY		
TULLY- SILKWOOD		
5th May	Feast of the Three Saints	St John Church/School Silkwood
Second Term of School Year	Confirmation	Tully and Silkwood
22nd June	Catholic Debutante Ball	Tully
14th September	School Fete	St Clare's Primary School Tully
23rd October	Feast of St Gerard Majella	St Clare's Church Tully
BABINDA		
26th May	Feast of St Rita	Babinda
INNISFAIL		
June	Marist Brothers 75th Anniversary	Innisfail
20th July	Catholic Debutante Ball	Innisfail
28th July	St Vincent de Paul Fashion Parade & Brunch	Mary's Place Good Counsel College
Second Term of School Year	Confirmation	Innisfail & South Johnstone
WESTERN DEANERY		
ATHERTON		
22nd March	St Josephs Day Mass & School Fun Day	Atherton
25th May	P & F Debutante Ball	Atherton
May	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea	St Joseph's Parish School
Second Term of School Year	Confirmation	
18th August	Maria Della Quercia Annual Feast of Our Lady of the Oak Tree	Atherton
19th October	Spring Fair 2013	Atherton
October	Atherton Parish Catholic Ladies Mass & Luncheon	Atherton
MALANDA		
Third Term of School Year	Confirmation	
MAREEBA		
20th March	Feast of St Joseph	Mutchilba
9th June	Feast of St Anthony of Padua	Dimbulah
Third Term of School Year	Confirmation	Dimbulah
Third Term of School Year	Confirmation	Mareeba
8th September	Feast of Our Lady of the Chain	Mareeba
GULF SAVANNAH		
Second Term of School Year	Confirmation	
NORTHERN DEANERY		
MOSSMAN & PORT DOUGLAS		
Third Term of School Year	Confirmation	Mossman
THURSDAY ISLAND		
1st May	St Joseph the Worker Feast Day	Hammond Island
25th May	Crowning of the Statue of Mary Mother of God	Hammond Island
25th May	Feast of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Thursday Island
Third Term of School Year	Confirmation	
25th October	Sacred Heart Parish Fete	Thursday Island
WEIPA		
Third term of School Year	Confirmation	
PARRAMATTA PARK		
19th March	Feast of St Joseph	St Joseph's School Hall
EDMONTON		
12th May	Multi-cultural Mass for Pentecost Sunday	St Theresa's Church Edmonton
13th June	Confirmation	Edmonton
GORDONVALE		
16th July	Confirmation	Gordonvale
24th July	New Facilities Opening & 90th Anniversary Celebrations	St Michael's Parish & School
October	Rosary Way	Gordonvale
EARLVILLE		
10th May	Catholic Women's Mothers Day Cake & Craft Stall	Earlville
December	Parish Christmas Breakfast	Earlville
NORTHERN BEACHES		
End of Fourth Term	Christmas Fair	Holy Cross Parish
WEST CAIRNS		
20th April	Catholic Women's Breakfast	Cairns Sheridan Hotel
18th May	Catholic Men for Christ Breakfast	Cairns Sheridan Hotel
CATHEDRAL		
16th April	Catholic Women's Mass and Luncheon	Cathedral
4th June	Confirmation	North Cairns & Parramatta Park
14th June	Confirmation	Earlville
26th July	Confirmation	West Cairns
Third Term of School Year	Confirmation	Northern Beaches
13th July	Synod	Cathedral Precinct
17th August	Synod	Cathedral Precinct
TERM DATES 2013		
Term 1	Tuesday 29th January – Thursday 28th March	
Term 2	Monday 15th April – Friday 21 June	
Term 3	Monday 8th July – Friday 20th September	
Term 4	Tuesday 8th October – Friday 6th December	

A NEW PREP TO YEAR 12

CATHOLIC COLLEGE AT MT PETER, EDMONTON
REPORT BY ANDREA GREGORY MEDIA OFFICER CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICES FOR THE DIOCESE OF CAIRNS

Catholic Education has provisional accreditation from the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board to build a Prep to Year 12 Catholic College at Mt Peter.

Application for funding is now being made to the Queensland Catholic Education Commission's Block Grants Authority.

If approved during 2013, the plan is to open the new facility in 2015, initially with Years 7 and 8. The College will then grow each year until a full Prep to Year 12 College eventuates.

Strong local support will help gain funding approval, and see the College develop faster for all age groups.

Your support for the new College may be for a number of reasons:

- Interest in enrolling your child/ren at the College
- An additional choice of schooling is good for the region
- Provides a more local option for Catholic secondary education
- Injection of funds into the local community during construction
- Increased employment opportunities both during and after construction
- More facilities and infrastructure for local families
- Attractive to families moving into the region.

If you would like to support the building of this new College, you may do so by:

1. Emailing your name, address and phone number to Gerry Simon from Catholic Education Services, who is the chair of the Mt Peter College Steering Committee, at gsimon@cns.catholic.edu.au

OR

2. Visiting the Catholic Education website at www.cns.catholic.edu.au, follow the link to the Mt Peter page and register your interest.

