



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



News around the Diocese

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

No. 65 November 2021

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THE JOURNEY SO FAR

As we conclude the First General Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, the process of discernment continues. From the opening Mass to the closing of the Assembly, our prayer has been 'Come, Holy Spirit.' The call to hear afresh the Good News of Jesus Christ through a spiritual posture of 'deep listening' has been a central element of the preparation of the Plenary process and a distinctive feature of this week. We adopted a regular pattern of prayer and spiritual conversation throughout each day. This slow process of deep listening allowed space for still nascent dreams and visions to come to greater maturity.

The opening session each day began with a Welcome to Country, spoken from various regions of Australia. Indigenous voices, both young and old, paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging, welcomed the Members of the Plenary Council to the day's gathering, and invited all of us to a time of quiet and prayer. As Members offered their reflections day by day, they regularly acknowledged the Indigenous peoples of the land from which they were speaking.

Over three hundred participants gathered for six days, meeting virtually across five different time zones, with many more people following the opening session of each day online. The gift of listening to one another has planted promising seeds and raised important questions for us. Many described the small group conversations and reports as the heartbeat of this First Assembly. Our process of discernment requires time and space for mature reflections to emerge, and further spiritual conversations will be necessary in our considerations of what God is asking of us in Australia at this time.

As the many personal interventions demonstrated, there is no shortage of passion and charisms among the community of believers. These interventions covered a wide range of the complex realities of the Church and Australian society in this particular moment of our history. They expressed personal wisdom and aspirations that have been a gift to this Assembly's deliberations. Many elements of the Council's Agenda were carefully considered. Discussion of other issues, including some not formally on the Agenda, was initiated, and will require more time.

As participants in this Assembly, we have experienced and expressed the range of emotions that come with facing profound issues together, holding in tension diverse interpretations and expectations. Through prayer and reflection, we have been called to be patient with the process, with each other, with the Church and, most importantly, with the Holy Spirit.

We listened to the confronting and important voices of victims and survivors of abuse in the Church. They reminded us of the great wounds and failures of the Church and the continuing need to discern pathways of true healing and renewal.



The plain speaking of First Nations people has brought into even sharper focus the need for reconciliation with Indigenous communities, as well as the need for justice and for the healing of this land itself through an 'integral ecology'.

In responding to the Agenda questions, we considered ways of living as Church today. Many affirmed what they value about their Catholic faith: spirituality, community, prayer, liturgy and sacramental life, and service through the vocation of all the baptised. Members spoke of the ministries of pastoral care and education, health and aged care, and the many social services and advocacy the Church provides in the Australian community. These are great gifts to a world that is seeking meaning and more authentic living.

Other interventions expressed hopes for renewal, offering perspectives on what might be possible for a Church facing crucial questions, tensions and uncertainties. Many called our attention to the importance of enhancing the role of women in the Church. We heard the call to conversion and fidelity, as well as to imagination and renewal. We were reminded of the needs of rural dioceses and parishes, as well as those of large cities. We celebrated the gifts that the Eastern Churches bring to the Catholic community in Australia.

Often expressed through the lens of personal experience, the discernment of this Assembly has threaded together conversations about what the Church can offer today's world on the one hand, and how the world can inform the ways and structures of the Church on the other. We reflected on questions of leadership and governance in light of Pope Francis' call for us to be more synodal. The missionary vision of Pope Francis has both inspired and infused all the deliberations of this First Assembly. Missionary discipleship has been a key theme, as has the

call to go out to the margins. Another recurring theme, expressed in different ways, is the need for ongoing processes of ecclesial listening which can form and inform how the Church lives its mission today.

The Assembly also considered how all people might feel at home in our communities, regardless of their particular circumstances. Various voices drew our attention to young people, women, single people, parents and families, people with disabilities, people with diverse experience of sexuality and gender, and others who feel, for a variety of reasons, that there is no place for them. We asked how a missionary Church might connect with those who feel distant from the community of faith.

Each of these voices has been a powerful reminder that the Church, as a sign of the kingdom of God, has the vocation of being an image of Christ and an icon of grace to the whole human family.

With the closing of this First Assembly, the Plenary Council process now enters a time of prayer, reflection, maturation and development. This will involve continuing reflection by the Members of the Council, and consultation with the wider Church community, as we develop propositions for presentation to the Second Assembly of the Council next July. This will be coordinated with Australian preparations for the 2023 Synod, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission." In faith, hope and charity, we entrust all these tasks to the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer remains, as always: 'Come, Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit of the great South Land.'

Concluding Statement from the First Assembly ACBC. Bishop Paul Bird CSSR is chair of the Plenary Council Drafting Committee.

THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL

It was a big week in the Catholic Church in Australia from October 3 - 10 as it held its first Plenary Council – the most significant national gathering that can be held – in Australia in more than eighty years. The last one held was in 1937.

As has been noted more than once, a Plenary Council provides an occasion for the Church to discern the future direction of the Church, a process that many hope will mean significant reforms in the Church.

Wide consultation of the entire Australian Church was necessary for the lead up to the Plenary Council with the process beginning in 2018. The processes provided an opportunity for all voices to be heard and have their say in the future direction of the Church.

There were two hundred and seventy-seven members taking part in the national gathering. Members from the Ballarat Diocese included Marie Shaddock, a parishioner from the town of Ouyen in the north of our diocese. Marie is much involved in her local parish community and is also a member of our Diocesan Pastoral Council. Felicity Knobel is from the Ballarat Cathedral Parish and teaches at Loreto College Ballarat. Also nominated from the Diocese were Vicar General, Fr Kevin Maloney and Bishop Paul Bird.

There were a further two participants from the Ballarat Diocese, although they were attending under different headings. Fr Kevin Lenehan was attending in view of his role as Master of Catholic Theological College in Melbourne and Monsignor Glynn Murphy was in attendance in view of his service as a chaplain in the Australian Defence Force.

Our Diocesan Community - November 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Bishop
Plenary Council
Celebrating Anne
New Parishes
East Wimmera AV upgrade
World Day for Grandparents and
the Elderly
Celebrating St Cyril and St Rose at
Boort
New Board Director
World Day Against Trafficking in
Persons Project
Celebrating 120 years
CWL Colac Anniversary
School News
Celebrating St Joseph with names,
a retreat and Christmas
CEB comings and goings
A legacy to the Catholic Diocese of
Ballarat ... and beyond...
Sustaining an International
Friendship during COVID-19
Mercy Jubilees
OLHC *Laudato Si'* Garden
Full of amazing people
I can hear the bell.....
From the Archives

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

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L-R: Marie Shaddock, Felicity Knobel and Bishop Paul Bird

Members from the Ballarat Diocese offered thoughts and reflections over the course of the week.

Bishop Paul offered a reflection for the first day of the Assembly (October 3, 2021):



When we began the Plenary Council process three years ago, we considered the question, “What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?” The process has involved prayer as well as conversation. So it was fitting that the opening day of the Plenary Council’s First Assembly began with prayer. I was pleased to be able to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit in our Ballarat Cathedral in the morning. Because of the pandemic restrictions, we were only able to have a small congregation in the Cathedral but the Mass was livestreamed so that others could pray with us from home. In the afternoon I followed the Mass livestreamed from the Cathedral in Perth. This was celebrated by Archbishop Tim Costelloe, the President of the Plenary Council. In each of these Masses, we prayed for a fresh outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the members of the Plenary Council and on our whole Church

community in Australia. In this week of the First Assembly, I pray that we will be richly blessed with the gifts we need, gifts such as wisdom and courage and patience and love.

Later in the afternoon, the members of the Plenary Council met online to hear further details of the week’s program. This will involve gatherings of all the members each morning and gatherings in smaller groups each afternoon. There will be ten groups of up to thirty members. Each group will focus on one or two of the questions on the Plenary Council agenda. Then the groups will share the fruits of their prayer and conversation with the whole Plenary Council the next morning. Plenary Council members were invited to nominate several topics they would like to focus on for the week. From these lists, we have each been assigned to a particular group.

We have six people attending from our diocese of Ballarat and we will be covering a range of questions. Marie Shaddock is in the group asking how parishes might become local centres for the formation of missionary disciples. Felicity Knobel is in the group looking at Catholic education through a missionary lens. Father Kevin Maloney’s group will be looking at how we might recast Church governance in a more missionary key and how we can share the Gospel through Catholic social services and health care. Monsignor Glynn Murphy’s group will consider how we might better form people of all ages as leaders for mission. Father Kevin Lenehan’s group will look at how the Church in Australia might be open to Indigenous ways of being Christian and how we might learn from the First Nations peoples. My group will consider how we might accompany one another on the journey of personal and communal conversion that mission in Australia requires. We will also look at how we can respond to the call to “ecological conversion”, with particular attention to the more vulnerable people and environments in our country and our region of the world. As we consider all these topics, we will need the guidance of the Holy Spirit and we will be grateful for the prayerful support of people throughout our diocese.



Marie Shaddock, Member from the Ballarat Diocese shared these thoughts on the first days of the Plenary Council (October 5, 2021):

Wow! What can I say, the Plenary is dynamic. Beginning on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi is no mere co-incidence but pure evidence of the Holy Spirit at work. "Rebuild my church" he said to St Francis and we, here in Australia, are looking at just that. Not necessarily redefining, but reviving who we are from the ashes of the 'world.' We represent the creative gift of life. 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.

Archbishop Fisher has challenged us with how we proclaim Christ to those with no faith, to those inoculated by society against faith. We have been asked to question and consider 'how we listen'. Do we have selective hearing or are we selectively deaf? There is no doubt there is a stern voice urging us on, to go deeper, to activate and animate our faith and not to be just 'open' but to 'go' and 'do'.

As we move into the week and progress through the program of the Plenary, Tuesday, October 5 is the Feast of St Faustina Kowalska who gave us The Mystery of Divine Mercy. In 1931, Jesus chose an ordinary person to reveal what he so often does, that the weak and humble have the power to change the world. Surely this Plenary Council is just another form of Divine Mercy. My own participation in it reflects this – that God uses even the most unlikely to show God is at work and to show that each of us has work to do right where we are. Let us not hamper that work, but take note and go forward together courageously and in humility, listening to the Spirit.

First Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia – thoughts by Fr Kevin Lenehan (October 6, 2021):

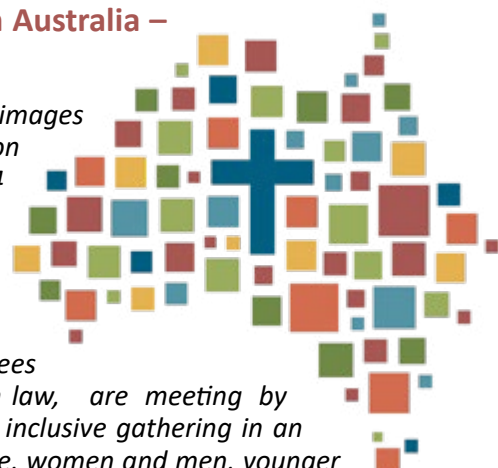
After a moving welcome to country by Aboriginal elder John Lochowiak, with visual images and songs evoking the many landscapes of this 'wide brown land', the first session of the Fifth Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia began on October 4 with a message of greeting from Pope Francis, and an address by the President of the Council, Archbishop Tim Costelloe SDB. The theme of these official messages was one of communion, of belonging, among the many diverse people and groups that make up the Catholic community in Australia.

Around two hundred and seventy-seven Council members, along with invited attendees from other countries, other churches, and experts in church teaching and canon law, are meeting by video conference each day this week, October 3 – 10. 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.

The work of the Plenary is undertaken by members in ten working groups. I am assigned to the group considering the place of Indigenous Australians in the church and in society. Other groups are reflecting on church renewal, governance, ministries, faith formation for families and young people, parish organisation, and social services. Each group is asked to develop concrete proposals for improving church life. These proposals will be further developed over the next nine months and decisions will be made at the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council in July 2022.

On Thursday, October 7, all members will work together to consider how the church should respond to the ongoing need for healing, reconciliation, safeguarding and trust-building in the wake of crimes of child sexual abuse and other forms of abuse in the church. It's a difficult conversation, and members are conscious that more than words is needed in this situation.

Some good advice came to the Plenary Council from St Mary MacKillop, whose words to her sisters were recalled in the opening session: 'Let us move forward being calm and full of hope.'





Felicity Knobel reflects on the Plenary Council First Assembly (October 7, 2021):

When I first became involved in the Plenary Council it was in response to a callout for volunteers to come forward that could assist with perhaps one meeting of discernment for my parish. Alongside, my now friend and colleague Jillian Hogbin, we set about a journey that certainly wasn't the promised one meeting but a longer journey that has taken me at times from my comfort zone and has made me look at my faith, look at the Church and look at the people in the community in a way that is continuing to bring more questions than answers.

The First Assembly has now been taking place for four days online. It has been a time of joy, frustration, testing of patience, light bulb moments and everything in between. I have been in a group of thirty people from all occupations, backgrounds, ages, sexes, experiences and places in Australia and our focus has been discerning the question: How might we better see the future of Catholic

education (primary, secondary and tertiary) through a missionary lens? I have been a teacher (mostly in Catholic education) for over twenty years and I bring this experience and knowledge to this question. However, I also bring with me a knowledge of being raised in a Catholic family, attending Catholic primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. I also bring, importantly, my experience of being a parent to children who are also attending Catholic schools.

Each day we are given a different scripture text that we must use in our discernment of our question. We are then asked to share with our smaller group what is in our prayer today. We are called to listen to not only ourselves, but to all people in our group. The second phase is asking us to share what we heard in our group and how we feel. For the last eighteen months, like everyone, I have spent a lot of time online in zooms, google meets and team meetings. I know that we are exceptionally lucky to be able to meet online and begin this process. However, there is difficulty when you are staring at a screen and not sharing as meaningfully as we might if we were together. Notwithstanding the frustration of being online, there have been moments of really understanding where someone is coming from, a glimpse at something different, understanding something I hadn't considered and also when I disagree entirely with what is being said. In one of our sessions late in the afternoon where there were tired and (perhaps) frustrated people, one wise soul in our group spoke about the fact that we had to sit with the anxiety of how we were feeling with our question, with where we were going and how we were going to get there.

Sometimes we have to sit with the discomfort of differing opinions. Sometimes we need to have the feeling of hopelessness. Sometimes we need to be frustrated by the opinions of others. We are called in this process to allow the convergence. We have been able to tell each other all the things that we do well, where we need improvement, where we have been wrong and where change needs to be. Now we are looking at tacking in a direction so that the wind can be in our sails and we can move in a direction that brings fulfillment to the mission of Catholic education.

Fr Kevin Maloney, Vicar General offers these thoughts on the Plenary Council First Assembly (October 8, 2021):

It is Friday night of October 8 and I have just finished the thirteenth session of the first Assembly of the Plenary Council. This afternoon, as part of the ongoing process, the small groups looking at the operations and structures associated with the Church in Australia drew their observations and proposals to a conclusion. These will be presented tomorrow.

According to the Chairperson, Archbishop Timothy Costello, these groups are a distinctive and valuable part of the discernment process during this week. Each day, the groups have presented progress reports to the Assembly informing them of their ongoing process. The sharing of experiences and spiritual conversations in the various groups has influenced and helped develop the emergence of key directions and ideas.

Tomorrow, October 9, will be an important day as each small group offers their observations and proposals to the whole of the gathered Assembly. The group reports, along with proposals submitted by individual members, will then be publicly available and will become the starting point for the consultation and preparation to be undertaken prior to the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council. I believe those assembled have found the experience of the process so-far challenging but rewarding.

Between the ending of the First Assembly tomorrow and the commencement of the Second Assembly (July 2022) the Steering Committee will prepare propositions with the assistance of the Drafting Committee and the Plenary Council Advisors and with further consultation with Members.



Virtual Vinnies sleep-out

On Thursday, September 2, Mercy Regional College Camperdown held a virtual Vinnies sleep-out. Whilst we couldn't be together it was a great chance for our community to get a little uncomfortable (for just one night!) to help gain a deeper understanding of homelessness, raise awareness of the realities faced by people experiencing homelessness and raise funds to support Vinnies Victoria's services in our local community. Our participants set up their 'sleep-out' in a variety of ways - outside in a swag or tent, on the floor in their bedrooms, or on the couch. We had a reflection on the night via google meet as well as a chance to share our set ups at 8pm. Despite a very tough year for all due to COVID lockdowns, our College community raised an incredible \$482.25 to support Victorian families and individuals who are experiencing disadvantage and hardship.



Kellie Wilson – MRC Camperdown

Celebrating Anne



On the final day of Term Two, the St Mary's School community in Donald held a special morning to celebrate the service to Catholic Education of Mrs Anne Anderson. The morning commenced with Mass celebrated by Fr Gerry Prunty. Anne's family joined a gathering of both past and present staff and students, Catholic Education Ballarat consultants, neighbouring principals, parishioners and many friends of the St Mary's School community, which was testament to the high esteem in which Anne is held. Morning tea in the school's multi-purpose room followed Mass, where many memories were shared and presentations made.

Anne enjoyed a term of long service leave before transitioning to retirement as fourth term of the school year commenced. A valuable member of the Ballarat Diocesan Catholic Education community for over twenty years, Anne commenced her teaching career in Donald as a graduate in 1977. Anne also taught at St Patrick's School Camperdown, St Patrick's School St Arnaud and worked in Special Education at St Arnaud, teaching and caring for many living with general disabilities. Anne returned to St Mary's Donald in 2003, initially as a teacher and then serving as Principal in 2011 and again from 2015 until her retirement.

Anne has been a passionate educator with a strong commitment to ensuring the best educational opportunities for each student. She acted as a wise and exemplary leader working in the best interests of the school, its staff and students and the wider community. Anne's contribution to Catholic Education has always been underpinned by her commitment to the Catholic faith and her aspiration to pass this on to the students.

The St Mary's School community congratulates Anne on all she has achieved and contributed to the education and care of many as a carer, teacher and principal and wish her a happy and rewarding retirement.

Mary Hogan, Senior Class Teacher - Religious Education Leader

Star of the Sea Parish, South West Coast

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese, Star of the Sea, South West Coast as at October 1, 2021.

The new parish covers the area of the former parishes of Dennington (est. 1965), Koroit (est. 1886), Port Fairy, (est. 1849), Warrnambool (est. 1853) and Warrnambool West (est. 1970) and includes the schools: St John's Primary School, Dennington; St Patrick's Primary School, Koroit; St Patrick's Primary School, Port Fairy; St Joseph's Primary School, Warrnambool; St Pius X Primary School, Warrnambool West and Emmanuel College, Warrnambool.

Fr John Fitzgerald, Moderator and Fr John Corrigan, Co-Pastor, will continue their service in the new parish.



East Wimmera AV upgrade

Recently, the Parish of East Wimmera was delighted to receive a grant from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation to assist in implementing a new audio visual (AV) system, enabling us to livestream our Masses each Sunday. This system assists parish communities to come together in their own church to pray together, receive communion and connect with the rest of the parish, whilst sharing in Fr Gerry Prunty's sermon.

At the beginning of 2021, East Wimmera Parish went from two priests to one which meant there were fewer Masses being conducted across the parish on any given weekend. It made sense to implement a new form of worship that didn't put extra stress on volunteers.

The upgrades include cameras, new screens and other hardware, as well as internet access for Birchip, St Arnaud, Donald and Charlton along with Wycheproof and Boort. Many thanks to John Richmond from Birchip for agreeing to conduct the AV audit and instigating the designs required for each project, along with Power AV from Bendigo.

Mass is live-streamed at 10.30am on the first four Sundays of the month from a different church each week. Each church has its own link for the Mass to be live streamed. Although this sounds confusing, the reason for this is that each church has its own internet connection and therefore its own link to YouTube.

For more information, please contact Parish Coordinator Noeline Hogan, ph. 0476 617 976.

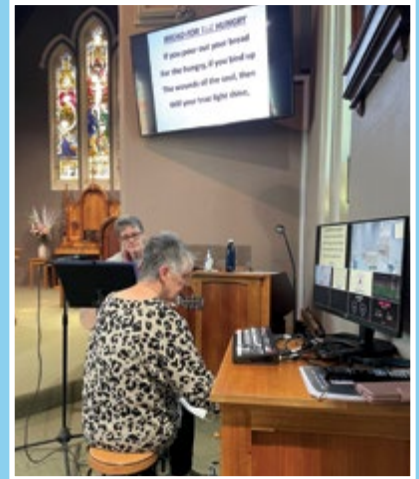


Photo 1: Mary Herben on guitar; Anne Livingston at the computer. at St Mary's Donald. Photo 2: Kelli-Ann Sheahan with John Richmond practicing in the Birchip church. Photo 3: Fr Gerry Prunty being live streamed into parishioners homes.

WINTER KNITTING GROUP

Sacred Heart Primary School Casterton has a Winter Knitting Group. It is a great success with lots of students learning how to knit or learning new knitting skills such as cable and rib. The idea of sharing skills and learning new skills that can be used to make something for others is part of our focus on Catholic Social Teaching and links really well with our Mini Vinnies Winter Appeal.

Knitting is also a great mindfulness activity. Some of our clever knitters will be able to knit winter woolies for Vinnies next year! Thanks to Karen, Mardi and Michelle who have helped our knitters learn new skills. Thanks to Triticia at Cast-er-on who donated needles and Casterton Vinnies Shop who donated wool for our knitters.



Suzie McManus - Principal



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

www.catholic.org.au/grandparents
#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

“I am with you always” (Mt 28:20) was the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this inaugural commemoration. Catholic ministries were encouraged to find creative ways to celebrate the inaugural World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which was commemorated on July 25. Pope Francis announced earlier this year that the day will be marked each year around the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. In his message for the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, with the theme “I am with you always”, Pope Francis said older people, even if “energy is running out”, have a “renewed vocation”.

“It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance,” he wrote. “Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.”

Below are some wonderful stories from people around the diocese about grandparents from children and grandchildren, being a grandparent and the joy it brings and the contribution grandparents and the elderly make in our community.



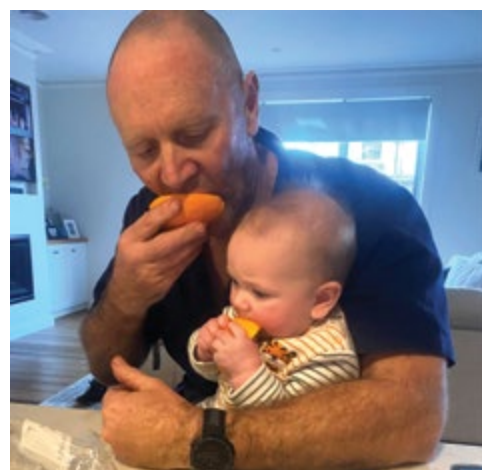
Becoming a grandparent is one of the amazing things about growing old. We have ten grandchildren who range from twenty years to the youngest who is seven months old. It has been a wonderful experience watching them grow to become adults, but still have the enjoyment of watching them learn to crawl and take their first steps.

Having them all in close proximity means that we can see them play football, cricket, netball, swimming and learning to drive. We have so much fun with them and they are always glad to see us. They come for meals and the little ones love getting in and helping to prepare the food. We are so blessed to have our grandchildren, who are all fit and healthy and doing so well and enjoying life. We love them all!

Barry and Dorothy Sheehan – Dunnstown

From the very beginning of our new venture into parenthood both Nanas, Pa and Great Grandparents have played a major role in the life of our little boy, Freddie. As he was a COVID baby when we went into hospital to have Freddie there were tight visitor restrictions in place. Only one visitor allowed other than your support person which for me was my husband, Oliver. Freddie is lucky enough to have my Mum (Nana) and Dad (Pa) as well as Oliver’s Mum (Nana Kate) who were all very excited to meet our new baby boy. It was a hard decision to make as to who our one visitor would be but lucky for us restrictions were eased the day before Freddie entered this crazy world. From the moment Freddie’s Nanas and Pa found out they were grandparents, their support and love for our new little family was evident.

Since bringing our little man home all grandparents, my Mum especially, have provided us with a shoulder to cry on and someone to laugh with. The support they provide us is beyond what we could have ever asked for. From



housework and changing dirty nappies to looking after Freddie for an hour and having sleepovers, they are always happy to help no matter how big or small the favour is. They give us advice and wisdom from their experiences as new parents and have been there for every step of this amazing ride as new parents. Freddie loves listening to baby shark with Nana, eating oranges after work with Pa and cuddles from Nana Kate.

Freddie is also blessed to have three great grandparents. We have carried on some family traditions with Freddie's middle name (Chai Sing) which Papa picked out for us. My Nan has knitted him multiple cardigans and Oliver's Nan has given numerous cuddles and cooked many dinners for us. We often get comments about lucky we are to have the support we do, and we are so grateful that we do. How we would have survived the first seven months without them I do not know, so thank you to Mum, Dad, Kate and all the grandparents for all you do for us and continue to do for our families.

Cassie Yeung – Alfredton



The enduring memories of my childhood are of spending time with my grandparents on their farm. I loved to visit with Mumma and Daddad and collect vegies and flowers and fruit from the garden or the orchard. I loved feeding the chooks and watching Daddad chop the wood. I loved the library of books in the front room where I would snuggle into the club lounge and lose myself in the same stories that my mother read as a child whilst Daddad read his paper or one of his favourite novels.

I loved the smells that came from the kitchen as Mumma baked her famous sponges and scones. The joy of helping her measure and stir and roll and cut stays with me, as do the stories she told as we worked together in that kitchen warmed by the slow combustion stove.

Most of all I loved breakfast time. When we stayed with Mumma and Daddad we had a choice; to have bacon and eggs or porridge in the kitchen with Daddad, or to climb into bed with Mumma and sit, propped up by pillows, to receive the breakfast tray that Daddad brought into Mumma every morning. Two cups of black tea, toast and homemade jam. Just thinking about it makes me smile with the warmth and comfort of that double bed and the loving embrace that these two special people shared with me.

The joy of being a much loved grandchild is only superseded by having two much loved grandchildren. I feel blessed that our grandchildren, Aisling and Bridget, live close by so that I get to see them on a regular basis. Nothing touches my heart more than the excited 'It's Eileen' when I arrive and the race to jump into my arms. Our fridge is covered with drawings and letters from these precious little people who tell us that they love us in so many ways every day.

We are creating memories and rituals of our own: having tea-parties with the precious tea-set that my mother gave me; planting vegetables, watching them grow and, finally, the joy of 'harvesting' them; baking biscuits and cakes and sausage rolls together and not worrying one little bit about the mess; doing 'craft' on the kitchen bench in winter and on the patio on warmer days; following grandfather Mick around the paddocks; reading stories together, singing songs and even the occasional crazy dance.

Our grandchildren are an absolute joy. An additional blessing is watching our son as a parent. It brings tears of pride to my eyes to witness the love with which he and gorgeous wife encircle their family, and the generosity with which they invite family and friends into that loving embrace.

Eileen Rice – Ballarat East

Who could look at a small tribe of offspring and imagine them into the future? Becoming a Grandparent is a joy, a reward for getting older and an amazing consolation for a long life lived AND a reminder that the memory can slip up sometimes. How about those twenty-first century names mixed with older traditional ones? Grace, Ada, Louis, Riley, Emily, Rhys, Rosie, Finn Clementine, Monty Ned, Natalia, Jago, Milla, Ruby, Greta, Ruben - yes we have one of each! Now the memory crunch comes with the birthdays. They tell many stories and give so much love. Like the question of why the farmer might "get rid of the rabbits that eat the pasture." The wide eyed eavesdropper interjects "Oh no not the chocolate ones." Or the beauty of a Prep grade story about her Gran in "hosdbl."



When Sunday comes around and a glance through our community, led by Fr John Fitzgerald and Fr John Corrigan, highlights the silver shades throughout: Like Moira Condon, one hundred years young this 2121 year. She held the door

corner position, knows so many and was the first to greet us when we arrived new to the community many years ago; Like Bernadette McInerney organist extraordinaire and Mary McNamara for hospitality - all builders of our community.

Of course being an elder and/or a grandparent comes along with extra life concerns as we are left to grapple with a renewed set of issues - the health of small ones, their success at school, making the team and of course coping with Grandparents Day. Also add in our migrant families and these special days - Baptism, First Communion, school assemblies, sometimes we 'grey hairs' become the Spare Gran with a new cohort to add to the tribe - welcome Doris and Nancy. The rewards are manifested in so many ways but key to it all in our community is love. This is how we win in every way and gain all the blessings that "Love one another" includes. It's the grand generation - such a blessing and the core of our life-giving community.

Marie Morgan – Warrnambool

My grandmother Dolores is the most interesting grandmother. When she goes to the supermarket she likes to buy lots of fruit for my siblings and I. She thinks she can carry it all even though the Hulk would struggle to carry all of it. This is why my family and I call her the fruit fairy. She doesn't sit down because she wants her house to be sparkling clean. She is always active because she thinks she is younger than she actually is.

Not only is she active, she always finds the time to be involved with me. She is the first one to sign up to take us to sport, school or an appointment if we need a ride there. She is my number one fan for school and my sporting achievements. There is no problem too big or too small for her to help me out with and afterwards I love when we share a hot milo. She is good at solving problems but she always finds a way to sneak a joke in and makes me laugh.

She has a big sense of humour and one of the things she loves to do is tell jokes from her little joke book. She finds them very hilarious even though her grandkids don't find them hilarious at all. We still laugh because she laughs so hysterically we end up laughing with her. We don't call them dad jokes, we call them Ma jokes because they are her jokes. I love it when she would sing and dance to the nursery rhymes when we were younger. My favourite one that I love was Jack and Jill.

My beautiful and interesting Grandmother Dolores is NOT like an old Labrador who wants to rest and sleep a lot, she is like a new puppy with endless energy that will not stop doing whatever she wants to do. I love her so much because she is such a great support to me in bad times and good times and makes those bad times into great times. She keeps my life interesting with her bad jokes, with her love and also her inspiration to do good in life.

Phoebe – Year 8



My grandparents mean a lot to me because Pa Col makes funny jokes, Nana buys me chips at the footy and when Granny and Pa look after me I get to eat cookies. They all love me.

Flynn Boyd

Grandparents are like friends to me, whenever I ask for something they go out of their way to do it. Another thing is they tell good jokes.

Sully Boyd

Saint Paul VI Parish, Wimmera-Mallee

On July 1, Bishop Paul decreed the establishment of the new Saint Paul VI Parish, Wimmera-Mallee. The new parish covers the area of the former parishes of Hopetoun, Horsham, Nhill and Warracknabeal and will include the DOBCEL schools: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Hopetoun; St Patrick's Primary School, Nhill; St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Warracknabeal; Ss Michael and John's Primary School, Horsham; St Brigid's College, Horsham; Our Lady's Help of Christians Primary School, Murtoa

Monsignor Glynn Murphy and Fr Jim McKay have been serving in these parishes and they will continue their service in the new parish.

Contributions from parishioners assisted with the patronage of "Saint Paul VI Parish". Interesting facts for this patronage include St Paul being the first Pope to visit Australia and it will be the only Parish in this Diocese named after St Paul.



Celebrating St Cyril and St Rose at St Patrick's Boort

June 27 is the Feast of St Cyril of Alexandria and the St Patrick's Boort community gathered for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist for Owen and Carrie Byrne. Owen and Carrie are the children of Tim Byrne and Meredith Thompson. Owen had his older cousin, Angus Byrne, as his sponsor and Carrie had her big cousin, Kate Byrne, as hers.

Fr Gerry Prunty celebrated the sacraments with the great support of the local community and extended family. Owen selected St Cyril as his patron and Carrie selected St Rose. Fr Gerry queried Owen as to his choice of confirmation name, to make sure it was not honouring the Hawthorn Football club, but Owen was able to tell Fr Gerry about St Cyril of Alexandria with confidence! Rose shares her confirmation name with her great aunt who was able to be present.

Owen and Carrie and their extended Byrne/Thompson family were very appreciative of the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments in the period where eucharistic gatherings allowed for larger numbers. Thank you to Fr Gerry and the St Patrick's Boort community for making this a very special celebration!!



Matthew Byrne

New Board Director



In September the Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Ltd Board was delighted to welcome Fr Kevin Maloney as a Director. Fr Kevin Maloney was ordained a priest on August 19, 1978 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, following studies at Corpus Christi Seminary. During his studies Fr Kevin obtained a Bachelor of Theology. In 1993 Kevin studied at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium for a Master's Degree.

Fr Kevin has served in the following parishes in the Diocese of Ballarat: Assistant Priest at Ballarat East and Swan Hill; Parish Priest at Mortlake, Bungaree, Daylesford, Creswick, Gordon, Redan and Sebastopol; and Administrator of Ballarat East, Beaufort and Linton parishes. Fr Kevin was appointed as the Director of the Diocesan Religious Education Centre in January 1993. In January 2002, Fr Kevin was then appointed as the Director of Pastoral Ministry for the Diocese. During this time he served on various diocesan committees including the Pastoral Development Commission and the Personnel Advisory Board

Fr Kevin was appointed as Diocesan Vicar General on March 2, 2018 by the Bishop to assist in the governance of the diocese. On January 14, 2021, in addition to being Vicar General, he accepted the role of Diocesan Pastoral Development Co-ordinator to help develop and facilitate diocesan initiatives, programs and activities to strengthen and support diocesan and parish life.

This position is part of the Office of the Bishop of Ballarat and liaises with diocesan colleagues, in particular the Pastoral Ministry Office.

Fr Kevin is currently a member of the Diocesan Council of Priests, College of Consultors, Bishops Advisory Council, Pastoral Planning Panel, Plenary Council Working Party, Finance Council, CDF Committee of Management, Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation, Professional Standards Panel and is Co-Governor of St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballarat East and Damascus College, Mt Clear. In his role as Vicar General, Kevin is also a diocesan representative for the upcoming Plenary Council. Fr Kevin was appointed a member of the DOBCEL Board on September 6, 2021.

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude.

APOSTOLIC LETTER PATRIS CORDE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

Celebrating 120 years

St Mary's School in Warracknabeal celebrated 120 years on August 12. To recognise the day, Mrs Felicity Lane (CEB Learning Officer), via Zoom, spoke to students and staff. Mrs Lane was a former student and boarder at St Mary's. We thank Mrs Lane for her informative presentation. The children gained a lot of information about former times at St Mary's School.

"St Mary's School opened on Monday, August 12, 1901. The school's survival and the impact its presence has had in Warracknabeal and further afield is due to the quality of teaching and to the support it has received from parents and families, in some cases over a number of generations, through the years. In no small part is the attainment of this milestone due to the fifty-five years of dedicated management given by the Ballarat Sisters of Mercy. Also to be gratefully acknowledged is the energetic commitment given to the school by a succession of resident priests since its foundation". Fr Peter Claridge (Parish Priest 1999 – 2012)



The original site was next to the St Mary's Church. The Herald announced on August 16, 1901:

"The new Catholic school which has just been erected at a cost of over three hundred pounds was opened on Monday last by Father Foley, and placed in charge of a lady teacher Miss O'Brien. This lady was chosen out of a large number of applicants for the position on account of her exceptionally good qualifications and successful experience as a primary school teacher. There were over fifty children in attendance at the school".

The school will celebrate this significant milestone when COVID-19 restrictions ease and visitors are able to attend. In the meantime the children are gathering ideas for the celebrations. Photos for displays would be welcomed and knowledge of any past teachers, students, families and parishioners who have been involved with the school over time would be gratefully received. A book written about the school is highly recommended reading, "More than Bricks and Mortar" 1901-2001 St Mary's Primary School Warracknabeal, published by St Mary's School Centenary Committee, Warracknabeal, edited by Michael Downes and printed July 2001.



World Day Against Trafficking In **PERSONS PROJECT**

During Semester 1, students from St Joseph's College Mildura studying Unit 2 Ethics investigated the issue of human trafficking and modern day slavery around the world, including Australia. Today 40.3 million people live in modern slavery. Slavery is often hidden in homes, in restaurants, on farms and on building sites. What is common to all of these examples, is that someone is being exploited and controlled. The students researched the work of ACRATH.

ACRATH stands for the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans. ACRATH's mission is to eliminate human trafficking and the harm it causes, in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and globally. <https://acrath.org.au/>

One result the students researching the issue of human trafficking hope to achieve is to raise awareness of modern day slavery within the College community. In class, the students produced posters and badges to educate others that trafficking in persons is a crime exploiting men, women and children in jobs such as forced labour and sex. The students displayed their posters and gave out their badges on Friday, July 20 which was "World Day Against Trafficking in Persons".

The 2021 theme – "Victims' Voices Lead the Way" allowed the students to hear the personal stories of survivors. This theme highlighted the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking. Survivors play a crucial role in establishing effective measures to prevent this crime, identifying and rescuing victims and supporting them on their road to rehabilitation.

The students did a wonderful job in raising awareness of human trafficking and modern day slavery in Australia and their efforts are to be applauded. With efforts like these we can look forward to a better world.

FR JOHN KEANE RIP



John was born on October 9, 1927 in Gortnaskey where three Irish Counties meet - Cork, Waterford and Tipperary, in the mountains of Ireland. He worked in the rural areas of Mallow, Kilworth, Lismore and Fermoy assisting his father in the cattle industry.

Post WWII, John travelled to London working for a demolition business after which he migrated to Australia and joined the Snowy River Scheme, living in camps with thousands of displaced European men who suffered the trauma of war. John then worked in the uranium mines at Radium Hill in outback South Australia. True to his life-long love of politics and justice for all, he was also a union representative.

Later, he had a brief time in Papua New Guinea working for civil aviation before moving to Brisbane, where he operated a fruit and vegetable business before opening a men's wear shop.

In Brisbane he became involved with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and joined the novitiate in Sorrento, Victoria in 1958. He studied and became a brother for twenty years. For ten of those years, John worked extremely hard managing the Oblate Farm near Geelong. Attending cattle sales, John became well known from Gippsland to the Western District amongst farmers, transport drivers and auctioneers, establishing an effective, earthy, pastoral ministry.

This prompted him to seek priesthood in the Ballarat Diocese. He joined Corpus Christi College at the age of fifty in 1978 and was ordained Deacon in 1981 and a priest of our diocese on May 8, 1981 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. He was appointed as Assistant Priest at Ararat from May 1981, Assistant Priest at Swan Hill in January 1987, Parish Priest of Wycheproof in May 1987, Administrator of Stawell in June 1990, Assistant Priest at Warrnambool in January 1991, Administrator of Hopetoun in January 1993 and Administrator of Linton in January 1996 until his retirement on February 25, 2013. During his time in Ararat he was a popular chaplain to the prison.

He was a man with a phenomenal memory for politics, Celtic poetry and history. He had an expansive awareness of humour. He was an entertaining Irish storyteller, loving

Ireland and Australia where he served as an energetic priest for forty years. Fondly remembered for his Irish wit and great connections with the horse racing fraternity, he will be missed by many throughout our diocese and back in Ireland.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR celebrated Fr John's Funeral Mass on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm. The later time was chosen for Fr John's family in Ireland to participate via the livestream <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBDeWNbr33Q>. The Rite of Committal was led by Fr Greg Bourke on Friday, October 1, 2021, 9.30am at the Ballarat New Cemetery <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgW1jH7495k>. Copies of the Funeral Mass Book and bookmark are available from the Pastoral Ministry Office, pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

May he rest in the peace of Christ.

Words of Remembrance provided by Fr Greg Bourke and Fr John Monaghan

All the best

Bishop Paul Bird appointed Fr Gary Jones the Parish Priest of Mortlake and Terang, effective September 20, 2021. Fr Justin Driscoll will become Parish Priest of the Creswick, Daylesford and Gordon Parishes in January. Interim arrangements will be in place for the care of the Creswick and Daylesford parishes until then.

Many parishioners have sent their thanks to Fr Gary but this one really sums it up for many of us. "We have been blessed to have had Fr Gary in our parish for many years. He has left our parish in an amazing condition that should last for years to come. We will miss his Sunday sermons and we pray for him in his new role." We wish Fr Gary all the best and many blessings in his new position.

Creswick & Daylesford Parish Newsletter 12/09/2021



Our Diocesan Community - November 2021

CWL COLAC ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday, July 19, 2021 the Colac Branch of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) reached the grand age of one hundred.

The Catholic Women's Social Guild (as it was then known) in Colac officially became a Branch on Sunday, June 19, 1921 with the permission of the Parish Priest, Fr Kennelly. Prior to this a membership book containing sixty membership tickets had been distributed but by July this had increased to ninety-six members and by November there was a membership of one hundred. The first office bearers were President - Miss Troy, Vice President - Mrs McGloin, Secretary - Mrs O'Dea and Treasurer - Mrs B Devett.

Celebrations for Colac's CWL one hundredth birthday took place on Sunday, June 20, 2021 and commenced with the Sunday morning 11.00am Mass at St Mary's Colac. Parish Priest Fr Michael O'Toole and Branch President Winsome De Jong welcomed all visitors and members of the CWL and St Mary's parishioners. Thankfully COVID restrictions on Mass numbers had lifted in time, enabling all to celebrate the occasion with the extended numbers on this auspicious occasion.

Following the Mass, CWL members, visitors and their guests gathered for lunch at the Colac RSL, whose management generously opened their venue specifically for the occasion. Amongst all the uncertainty of COVID restrictions and lockdown, members breathed a sigh of relief when venue restrictions were lifted, enabling us all to gather together.

Winsome welcomed all guests to the celebration along with special guests General President Anna Krohn and her husband, Margaret Rowe Diocesan President and members of the Diocesan Committee, guest speaker Helen Paatsch OAM and Fr Michael O'Toole.

An apology was read from Bishop Paul Bird who offered his congratulations and acknowledged the great works of the Colac Branch over the last one hundred years. The Bishop also sent his wishes for a joyous occasion.

Guest speaker was Helen Paatsch OAM who spoke on her research of the Colac CWL. This was followed by General President Anna Krohn who after congratulating the Colac Branch, updated all present on the League today, including the Anima Women's Network which is an apostolate of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga. This was followed by Margaret Rowe who also congratulated Colac Branch and spoke on league happenings in her role as Diocesan President.

A highlight of the afternoon was the cutting of the anniversary cake by long serving member of thirty years, Mary Testa. The delicious fruit cake was made by member Jenny Fulford. The cake was beautifully iced and displayed proudly the CWL emblem. All present then took the opportunity to renew acquaintances, catch up with friends and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon.

Winsome De Jong - Colac CWL Branch President



L-R: Lynne Simpson, Winsome De Jong, Margaret Morrissy, Anne Harrington, Anne Baum, Rita Winter and Beryl Welshman.

Photo courtesy of the Colac Herald 21/6/2021



Vale Sr Elizabeth Hennessy CSB

Earlier this year, February 4, our well beloved Brigidine Sister, Elizabeth Hennessy, died very peacefully in Nazareth House Ballarat. Over the 11 years Elizabeth was in residence, she was very well cared for and much loved by staff and friends. Earlier in her residency Elizabeth enjoyed visiting, comforting and praying with other residents and spending time with those less able.

Elizabeth was very much Irish! Born in Dublin and the middle child of five, she finished her education in Tullow. Then with two friends left home and country at the age of 18 and travelled by ship to join the Brigidine Mission in Australia. Elizabeth was known to many as Sr Cyprian and began the first eight years of her teaching ministry in Ararat. Over the years she moved to other schools in Geelong, Rochester, Beechworth, Albert Park, Horsham and Ardeer. She was a very competent teacher and well-liked by her pupils.

Elizabeth returned to Ararat in 1987, 'retired from school' but still very involved in parish life and visiting the sick. She enjoyed a few trips home to Ireland where her family always welcomed her with great joy. She became an Australian citizen in 1994. In 2010, Elizabeth chose to retire to Nazareth House where she had previously spent a couple of respite times. She loved being there and made many new friends. Elizabeth died just five days short of her 91st birthday, surrounded with great love and care. We would like to thank the Nazareth Sisters, her special friends Denise and Gertie and all the staff who cared for her, especially Nurse Leanne. May she rest in God's loving presence.

Sr Maree Holt csb

A Spiritual Retreat Day with St Joseph

As a way for our parish, the Northeast Mallee Parish, to mark the year of St Joseph, we were very pleased to have the Sapientia Project help organise and run a retreat for us at Swan Hill in June. I think providence certainly had a hand in presenting this opportunity and allowing it to go ahead in the midst of multiple lockdowns and restrictions. It was a very blessed day, with great presentations from our speakers opening up some fantastic engagement. The responses revealed that St Joseph certainly holds an important place in the hearts of the faithful and is seen by many not just as an example but as a steady and approachable companion through life. Days like these really let the faith of our parishioners shine brightly so that we might strengthen each other on the way.



Fiona Bradley deserves a lot of credit for the initiative and her organisation of the retreat, as well as Anna Krohn and Sr Mary Sarah for joining her in travelling to Swan Hill for the presentations. I would encourage other parishes to consider engaging them in the future (www.sapientiaproject.com). We were also very lucky that this retreat was so well supported by our parishioners, some of whom travelled over an hour to join us from Nandaly, as well as Fr Anthony Nagothu travelling to represent our neighbours in Robinvale and Ouyen. A special thanks is also due to our Catering Group for their wonderful hospitality and Mary Kennedy for her help in setting up things.

Responses from our parishioners included Helen commenting that “it was a very enriching day hearing from three speakers. Anna Krohn, Fiona Bradley and Sr Mary Sarah OP. Anna Krohn spoke of St Joseph as ‘Promoter of Social Justice’. Fiona Bradley spoke next: ‘St Joseph Patron of a Happy Death’. We then had a short break to pray or go for a walk or just share with others, followed by Mass with Fr James and Fr Anthony from Robinvale. Reconciliation was available after lunch. Sr Mary Sarah OP then spoke about St Joseph as ‘Guardian of the Domestic Church’. Close to fifty people participated in plenty of discussion and questions. Jocelyn said “the retreat was a great success, everyone had time to circulate during the breaks and Mass and Reconciliation was available to all. It was a memorable day and I hope we can have another retreat in the future. An extra bonus was the enjoyable morning tea and luncheon provided by the Parish Catering Group”.

Fr James Kerr

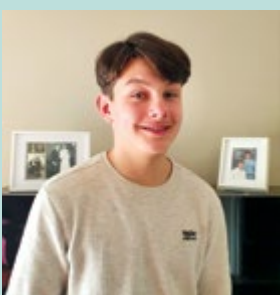


NAMED AFTER ST JOSEPH

JOSEPH WILLIAM ELLIOTT

We decided to call our youngest son Joseph for two reasons. With all our children we had chosen names that had a meaning for us and also because we just really liked them so with Joseph, his name was chosen mainly because both of his grandfathers have Joseph for their confirmation name and we also liked the name. The religious aspect of calling him Joseph was very personal for us as well.

Amanda Elliott



ABEL JOSEPH GRIFFITHS

Names are important. There are many reasons people choose a name. Is it strong? What does it mean? Who are they named after? Can it be shortened? Most names have a significance in the parents lives and they hope the child will grow into the meaning of the name and reflect or model the character or qualities of that person.

St Joseph was known to be a humble man with great inner strength and love for his family. Joseph modelled this through his unwavering care and protection for Mary and Jesus. We chose Joseph to be our son's second name after his two great grandfathers, Cornelius Joseph (pictured left) and Reginald Joseph (pictured right). They both displayed similar qualities to St Joseph; hard working, humble, loving and caring. Where their families were always their first thought and priority. We are very proud of this name and the man our son is growing into in our ever-changing world.

St Joseph is the patron saint of the Universal church, families, fathers, expectant (pregnant) mothers, travellers, tradespeople and working people.

Katrina Griffiths



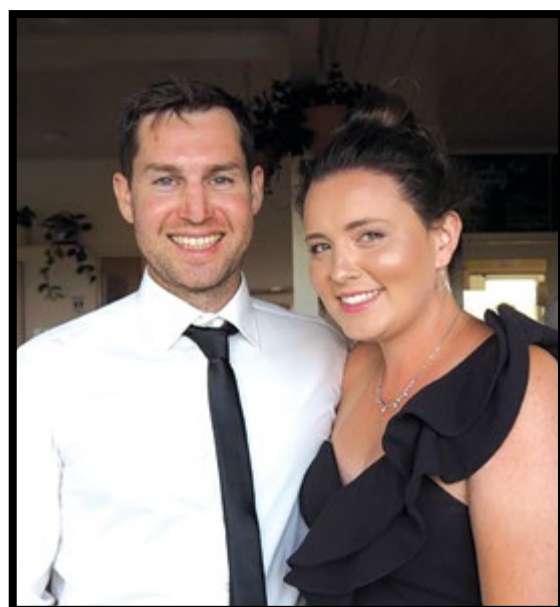
JOSEPH MICHAEL SHADDOCK

Why Joseph? For as long as I can remember St Joseph has always been a significant part of my family, perhaps in a very quiet way, which is probably how he would like it. We have far fewer pictures or statues of him than Mary, yet he sits there, perched on the top of our bookcase surveying all in silence, watching and waiting. In an unspoken way he is the Patron of our family; Mary being the Queen. For me personally he is my 'go-to' for things. If something doesn't work – even in technology or I am not strong enough to lift/push/drag something, if I need a car park, if I have no idea how to physically do something – he's my man, and he has never let me down!

We lost our first baby due to a miscarriage and I called him William, my husband's second name. When we were having our next child, I had no doubt it would be a boy, and happily for us all it was. I was equally sure his name should be Joseph – Joseph Michael. I have never told my husband why I wanted Joseph (because it was a bit mushy – and I hate to lose my composure) and so was just grateful he wanted it also.

You see, St Joseph to me embodies all the good qualities of my husband. The strength of character he has to stand against the tide without saying a word, his deep reverence, his great humility, his honesty, his tenderness, his gentleness, his doggedness, his work ethic, his courage and many more things remind me of St Joseph. I could not think of a better more loving name to lay upon a child, for whom I would wish the same characteristics. I believe that our Joseph Michael is indeed living up to his calling.

St Joseph pray for us, and come to our aid.



Marie Shaddock

Photo: Joseph and Sophie Shaddock



JOSEPH EWING

I was named after my maternal grandfather John Joseph McKinnon, and that connection was always one that was special and has become more important as I grow older. It is a reminder that we carry our ancestors with us. The connection to St Joseph began early on in life as kindergarten and prep teachers gave me the role of Joseph in Nativity plays. Sadly, I was typecast and never offered another leading role in a school production.

Joseph doesn't have a lot to say in the Gospels and in a way that is why he is inspiring. His faith is lived out in action rather than words. His marriage to Mary saves her from scandal (or worse) offering dignity to her. When stalked by death, he protects the infant Jesus and flees with his young family to Egypt.

He is a man of reflection and prayer also. The image of the reclining Joseph reminds me of his encounters with the sacred through his dreams, and leads me to consider the importance of contemplation in my life.

So, I regard my name as both a blessing of family and faith, but also a challenge. I am challenged to be a voice for human dignity, to offer protection and equity to those who are vulnerable and to dream and aspire to a better future.

Joseph Ewing

Year of St Joseph

A Reflection by Fr Andrew Hayes, Making a Scene at Christmas

At Making a Scene at Christmas (MASAC), Fiona Tonkin, Kay Paton and I spend considerable time looking at artworks of Joseph. Firstly, a brief reflection on the world in which Joseph lived, and the world in which we live. Readers might be familiar with the Christmas narratives as they are told by Matthew and Luke (Mark and John don't mention Christmas at all). Matthew is writing mostly to the Jewish people in and around Jerusalem. These people are at the centre of their geo-political world. I think of them as living in Canberra or Washington. Luke is writing mostly to the gentiles, the people from outside. That is why Luke's stories often champion the outsider. The Good Samaritan, for example, was more a neighbour than the religious people who passed by. That is why Matthew has the kings arrive and Luke tells of the shepherds' arrival. Look at the crib where I celebrate Mass in Landsborough (I hope they meant it) in which Matthew's kings are welcomed into the stable. Luke's shepherds stay outside, looking through the window. [see image right] Some are less worthy than others. Grates doesn't it! Who are the shepherds today?



Quick story. Fiona, Kay and I were sharing our art with the children at St Brendan's in Flemington. We asked them, "What would the nativity look like if Jesus was born in Flemington?"

1st answer – The kings would arrive on race horses (it was November in Flemington!);

2nd answer – The big shots would arrive in helicopters. They spend a lot of money not to have to sit next to us on the train;

3rd answer – Actually, the wise people would be doctors and nurses. The hospitals are in Flemington. That's our parents!

In two minutes the children talked themselves from shepherds into queens and kings.

4th Answer – Jesus would be born many storeys up a high-rise. People from all over the world would be there. Look at us.

Joseph was a Jewish man living in first century Palestine. People of their time, Joseph and Mary fulfilled the Jewish customs: Presentation in the Temple, Circumcision, Passover ... Here are a couple of Jewish Josephs in image 2 [next page]. Note the side locks (payot) and prayer shawl (tallit). At MASAC we love the various depictions of Joseph holding the child. Image 3, [next page] in which Joseph holds Jesus and a freshly picked flower, is from Poland. The scriptures don't tell us about the relationship between Joseph and his son. We can imagine it was as beautiful as this. I suppose it was. The scriptures also don't tell us about the relationship between Joseph and Mary. We don't often see them in a

warm embrace, see image 4 below. I suppose they did that. I never saw these artworks as a child. They're popping up more and more now. We wonder what has prompted this change in the art over time.

A mention to St Joseph's School in Coleraine who celebrate May 1 as the Feast of Joseph the Tradie! Plenty of HI-Vis at school on that day. Take a bow St Joseph's Coleraine.

Finally, a depiction of the Holy Family from Spanish South America, see image 5 below. The Holy Family is revered the world over!



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5

TRIBUTE TO FRANK

Frank Sheehan, who died in May this year, was a man of deep faith who inspired and encouraged so many through his concern for the well being of humanity and the earth we call our home. He carried his commitment to justice through high level positions in the YCW, in parliament as the local Member for Ballarat South and in the Overseas Service Bureau.

While a member of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission he became Chair of the Catholic Earthcare Committee in 2012. He promoted the care of our natural environment and was delighted at the vision of Pope Francis when Laudato Si' was published. Frank worked tirelessly for us to realise the connection between justice for all and the care of the natural world. He also became Chair of the Moving Towards Justice group which sought to foster justice for victims of historical cases of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church.

Frank acknowledged that his generous commitment to the welfare of the poor was possible only through the extraordinary support that he received from his wife Rosalie and his family. Let us keep him in our prayers in gratitude for his example of a faithfilled life.



Catholic Earthcare Ballarat Diocese Committee

SPRING at Coragulac



During remote learning, students from St Brendan's Cororooke brought a touch of spring to their local

community. After reading and learning about the Beatitudes, we focused on 'Blessed are the peacemakers' – those who work to make peace and good for others – they will be called children of God. In light of their own experiences of COVID – lockdowns, missing out on family celebrations, times with friends, sport and so much more, they empathised with those around them experiencing difficulties in these challenging times. Students created a spring picture which would be posted/delivered to the members of their parish and local community in the hope of bringing some joy.

The response to the pictures was amazing. The school received phone calls, cards and people who met school staff told of their surprise, joy and gratitude on receiving their picture and how it had put a smile on their face and how touched they were to receive the pictures that the students had obviously had put so much time and effort towards.

'Faith in action is love, and love in action is service. By transforming that faith into living acts of love, we put ourselves in contact with God Himself.' Mother Teresa.

Elizabeth McGuane

WENDOUREE WEST EXODUS COMMUNITY



The ministry of the Wendouree West Exodus Community has continued in 2020 and 2021 in a modified form due to the pandemic. Through the Exodus Community, formed by Fr Frank Smith CSsR seventeen years ago to “walk with the people in the Wendouree West Community”, the reach of his example has spread to the wider community with the movement of people and growing families. Fr Frank returned to Melbourne in late 2017 due to ill-health.

Since the house in Primrose Street closed in May 2018 due to structural issues, the Exodus Leadership Team has worked from the Wendouree Community House continuing the tradition of a ‘drop-in’ lunch where people from the community and others can come and share hospitality and lunch on a Saturday. When the pandemic arrived, the Community House considered our ministry an essential service and we have continued to have a take-away lunch, enabling us to maintain contacts within the community.

This year, with some hope for the future, we applied for and received a grant for \$6,000 from the Ballarat Foundation towards our annual Family Camp for 60-65 people, held in January. Our last camp was in January 2020, and 2022 may or may not be possible. Working out of the Community House has been a blessing but to have our hospitality space lessened to just one day has severely restricted having the programs we have had in the past that have assisted in empowering and advocating for this community. We continue to have hope for the future.

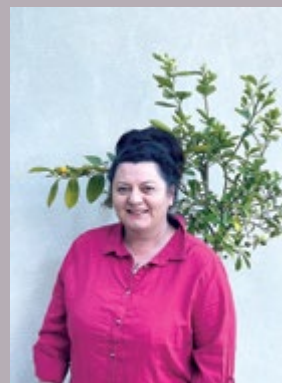
Sandra Dillon

Cliffs in Term 4, 2021, having been Interim Principal since the beginning of the school year. Prior to her appointment at St Joseph’s, she was the Deputy Principal at St Paul’s Primary School, Mildura, where she also held positions of leadership in Wellbeing and Learning Diversity. The selection panel was impressed with Naomi’s clear vision for the school, her ability to build strong relationships and the high esteem she is held in by her students, staff and school community.



Stephen Madden: Our Lady Help of Christians School, Warrnambool - Stephen has been part of the Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School, Warrnambool community since 2013, and has held the positions of Assistant Principal, Curriculum Coordinator, Educational Coach Coordinator and Teacher. He commenced

as the Interim Principal in October 2020, and was officially appointed as Principal in Term 3, 2021. The selection panel was very impressed with Stephen’s leadership of OLHC over the previous nine months and has full confidence in his ability to continue to build strong relationships with students, staff and the school community.



Melissa Drum: St Mary’s Primary School, Donald - Melissa commenced as Principal at St Mary’s Primary School, Donald in Term 4, 2021. For the previous twelve years, she was a teacher and Religious Education Leader at St Joseph’s Primary School, Charlton. During this time, she made a significant

contribution towards the leadership of the school and the effective stewardship of school funding. The selection panel was impressed with Melissa’s extensive experience, passion and commitment to lead a Catholic school in a country community. She demonstrated a great understanding of the importance of enhancing the Catholic identity of schools, the importance of continuing to improve student learning outcomes, and the importance of student wellbeing.

New Interim Principals

We welcomed the following new Interim Principals at schools in the diocese:

- Jayne Bosworth, St Brigid’s Primary School, Ballan (Jayne has now been appointed Principal)
- Mark Maloney, St Mary’s Primary School, Donald

NEW PRINCIPALS



In Terms 3 and 4 we welcomed the following new Principals at schools in the diocese:

Naomi Kennedy: St Joseph’s Primary School, Red Cliffs - Naomi officially commenced as Principal of St Joseph’s Primary School, Red



A LEGACY TO THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BALLARAT ... and beyond...

Anne McMillan was born in Mildura on July 15, 1939 on the cusp of the Second World War and grew up in Cardross. She began school at an early age as her mother was called back to teach and her father had joined the forces. Mildura High School and Sacred Heart College Ballarat East saw to the end of her secondary education. At this stage Anne felt the call to religious life, but her father insisted she have some career before doing so, so she trained as a librarian and subsequently worked in Colac and Mildura before joining the Sisters of Mercy, Ballarat East in 1962 where she was known as Sr Mary Philippa. In 1964 Vatican II was 'in the wind' and this event, in many ways, was to shape Anne's life and ministry.

Anne originally trained as a teacher and taught in primary schools around Ballarat along with time in Robinvale. The library again 'called' and Anne was given the task of setting up the library at Sacred Heart College Ballarat East and in many

of the country schools which were staffed by Sisters of Mercy. At the invitation of Fr Barry Ryan in 1977/1978, Anne established the Resource Centre in the Religious Education Centre – an asset for all involved in school, parish and diocesan education.

On-going education was part and parcel of Anne's life – for herself and those with whom she ministered. In 1985 Anne completed a Bachelor of Theology at Catholic Theological College (the former seminary in Clayton) and followed this later with a Master's Degree in Theology at Notre Dame University USA. She returned to the Diocesan offices where over many years she worked in several areas - drawing up and the implementing of policies and education in same, the bottom line of which was ensuring that the laity were able, and with confidence, to gather in their communities on a regular basis to celebrate their faith.

The notion of celebration whether it be in a small country parish of the Diocese or one to be held in the Cathedral was of great importance to Anne. Anne made sure that the 'People of God' were invited - travelling great distances to be involved - whether this celebration was an ordination of priest or deacon, installation of and consecration of a bishop, Mass of the Oils, Rite of Election or a funeral.

The Rite of Christian Initiation – RCIA – one of the gifts from Anne to the diocese - travelling far and wide to promote and assist parishes with its implementation.

The world of computers entered our world over these times and Anne 'took to them like a duck to water' sharing her learnings with the Sisters of Mercy and the wider church community. Her 'productions', which complemented her artistic flare, can be seen in many places especially in the Diocese and the Mercy world.

This publication *Our Diocesan Community* - known as ODC - is in no small way due to Anne's belief in the power of communication throughout the Diocese and beyond.

Whether Anne was dealing with 'the poor at the door', the complainant on the phone or the appreciative isolated parishioner, she said 'To me, the resilience and commitment of the people and clergy in the face of the sexual abuse, droughts and bushfires, unemployment and changing demographics is nothing short of heroic and immensely special. There are still good news stories emerging from parish and diocesan life and it is clear that the mission of Jesus continues to be carried forward. It would be my hope that this continues to be supported and made possible into the future'. (ODC April 2015)

Anne died peacefully on September 8, 2021 in St John of God Hospital, Ballarat, aged 82 years. May she rest in peace.

Anne's Funeral Mass can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE7rSi9hHuM> and the burial service at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJK9C3U_6G8. Copies of the Funeral Mass Book and bookmark are available from the Pastoral Ministry Office, pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Compiled by Julie Boyd, Sr Marie Davey rsm and Sr Geraldine Mugavin rsm

SUSTAINING AN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP IN THE TIME OF COVID



One of the most disappointing aspects of COVID restrictions for schools has been the inability to provide those valuable, extra activities that provide real-world learning and experiences. An example is the Emmanuel College Warrnambool Alternative Schoolies program - a significant initiative that has been running since 2013. It provides a unique opportunity for senior students to travel overseas at the end of the school year and immerse themselves in another culture while serving and learning from a small community. Emmanuel College has established an ongoing relationship with the people of Ataúro Island, Timor Leste and has built a connection with the local village school. This has been a life-changing experience for the students who have taken part.

With the trip currently unable to run, two members of the College community have gone to great lengths to ensure that the relationship between the College and the people of Ataúro Island remains strong. Emmanuel's 9@RICE Program Coordinator, James Laidler and his wife Clare Batten, have been instrumental in developing Emmanuel's

Schoolies program. "How can we greater support this community?" was one of the questions Clare asked in the early stage of the program and she asked herself this question again when COVID affected the region. The island is home to a small fishing community who live on a subsistence economy. The only other employer on Ataúro is the Boneca de Ataúro Cooperative, which employs sixty-eight women in making handcrafted items. The women earn about USD \$120 per month.

"It took a couple of years for the idea of the Bonecas producing the laptop covers (for some 1,500 Emmanuel College laptops) to come to fruition," says Clare. "The women developed three different prototypes to meet the requirements needed to provide sufficient protection for the computers, with adequate padding and zips. They needed to completely redesign the way they were made."

The bags are normally transported back in the luggage of students on the Schoolies trip but when COVID hit and the trips were cancelled, transportation posed a problem. Freight companies wanted \$9,000 just to get them to Darwin. Without being able to transport the laptop bags how were these women going to be able to send their kids to schools or even provide enough food to eat?

Eventually Clare and James were able to find a solution, with help from a former Timor-Leste ambassador to Australia, and the laptop bags finally completed their 3,758k journey to Warrnambool on the first day of the August lockdown, after an incredible journey that included being submerged in water during the devastating floods of Cyclone Seroja. In the Year of the Family and in the midst of a global pandemic it is all the more important to remember that we are part of the international family.

Jean Christie, Director of Marketing
Emmanuel College Warrnambool

Commissioning of Michelle Brodrick as Principal of Loreto College

On Thursday, July 15, 2021 Michelle Brodrick was officially commissioned as the thirty-first Principal of Loreto College Ballarat in a beautiful culturally significant ceremony and whole school Mass. With special thanks to Sr Wendy Hildebrand ibvm, Loreto Province Leader, Fr Justin Driscoll, Aunty Gwen, Wadawurrung Elder and Macaylah Johnson, Wadawurrung and Loreto Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer, Luke Dunne, College Board Chair, special guests, students, staff and all involved in the planning and conduct of the Commissioning.

Judy-Ann Quilliam, Director of Marketing & Development - Loreto College Ballarat



Catholic Education Ballarat officially welcomed the following staff at their July staff meeting. Pictured L-R with Tom Sexton, CEB Director.



- Eugene Dalton Education Consultant: Southern Zone covering Lee Schlooz's Long Service Leave for Term 3
- Mary Ann Delima Payroll Officer
- Patrice Rickard Psychologist: Northern Zone
- Brooke Nester Education Officer: Wellbeing Secondary (Diocesan)
- Kelly Pails Visiting Teacher: Central Zone
- Jo Huntley HR Advisor
- Paul Jans Assistant Director: Business Services

Since July, CEB have also welcomed the following staff:

- Sally Anderson Speech Pathologist
- Meagan Becker Education Officer: English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Tegan Bell Psychologist
- Mel Willis Education Officer: Learning and Teaching
- Janette Trento Psychologist

DOBCEL farewelled the following personnel during Terms 3 and 4. We thank each individual for their contribution to Catholic education in the diocese and wish them every blessing for the future.

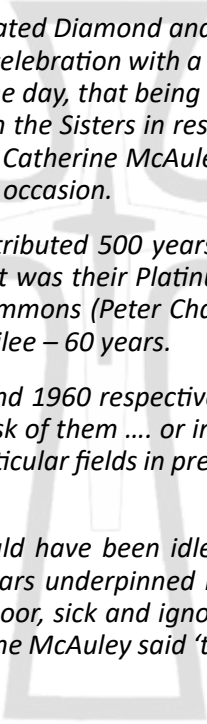
- Fr Andrew Hayes DOBCEL Board Director and Deputy Chair
- Anne Anderson Principal, St Mary's Primary School, Donald
- Mark Maloney Interim Principal, St Mary's Primary School, Donald
- John Meneely Deputy Director: Catholic Education Ballarat
- Sandra Harvey Assistant Director: System Improvement
- Chris Robarts Education Consultant: Northern Zone
- Lucia Bongiorno Psychologist: Central Zone
- Lesley Price Psychologist: Northern Zone
- Micky Robarts Administration Assistant
- Trish Wilson Payroll Administration Officer

MERCY JUBILEES

The Sisters of Mercy Community South B celebrated Diamond and Golden Jubilees on October 24, 2020 (Yes, 2020 not 2021). Because of 'lockdown' it certainly was a celebration with a difference. Zoom was the central point around which we gathered; it certainly was not the focus of the day, that being the Sisters. Some gathered in homes and fortunately some were able to gather in Mercy Place to join the Sisters in residence. Wherever we were, there was of course 'the comfortable cup of tea' of which our foundress Catherine McAuley spoke, along with the glass of bubbly to toast the Sisters and a variety of eats suitable for such an occasion.

The Sisters whose celebration it was have contributed 500 years, all told, to the 'works of Mercy'. For Sisters Anne Forbes (M. Stanislaus) and Marie Louise Foley it was their Platinum Jubilee – 70 years – and for Sisters Helen Forbes (Cabrini), Carmel Setford (Paulinus), Trish Fitzsimmons (Peter Chanel), Mary Nuttall (Jacinta), Margaret Kelly (James) and Kath Grant (M Faustina) their Diamond Jubilee – 60 years.

When these women left their homes in 1950 and 1960 respectively, at a guess, they would not have imagined what was ahead of them and what the 'call' would ask of them or in some cases what they would be told to do! Thrown in with this was their own education in their particular fields in preparation for their ministry which took them to places in the Ballarat Diocese and beyond.

*Rest assured, not many of their moments would have been idle! There was, beside their ministry, the practises of Religious life as it was lived in those earlier years underpinned by the Mercy Vows of their commitment - 'poverty, chastity and obedience and the service of the poor, sick and ignorant'. One has only to reflect on what these women were involved in for all those years - as Catherine McAuley said 'the poor need help today, not next week' and 'we can never say "it is enough"'.
*

Geraldine Mugavin rsm

REST IN PEACE



Fr Kevin Liam Condon OP

Fr Kevin Condon died in a nursing home in Camberwell on Monday, June 14, 2021.

Fr Kevin was born on January 31, 1932 in Glenroe, County Limerick. He was christened Liam and took the name Kevin when he joined the Dominicans.

He joined the Irish Province of the Dominican Order on September 14, 1949 and was ordained a priest in July 1956. Kevin came to Australia in November 1960 and travelled under the assisted passage scheme. He was Prior in a number of Dominican communities including in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne. He spent many years working as a parish priest in Dominican-run parishes. In 2008 he was appointed Chaplain at Nazareth House Ballarat, but due to ill-health he had to retire. He duly recovered and was told by his consultant that it was God and golf that were responsible for his recovery.

The Funeral Mass for Fr Kevin was held on Wednesday, June 23 at St Dominic's Parish Church, Camberwell. The Funeral Mass and burial can be viewed at <https://www.stdominics.org.au/remembering-our-dead.html>



Fr Denis Dennehy

Fr Denis Dennehy of Killarney and formerly of the parishes in the Ballarat Diocese, Australia and Papua New Guinea, died peacefully on Friday, October 15 at University Hospital Kerry, Ireland.

Denis was born on June 12, 1944 to Cornelius and Lena. He was ordained a priest at All Hallows Ireland on June 16, 1968. Denis was one the many Irish priests who served in our diocese and was incardinated into the Ballarat diocese in June 1965. During his time in the diocese, Denis served in many parishes: Ararat Assistant Priest (1968 – 1973), Swan Hill Assistant Priest (1973), Maryborough Assistant Priest (1981) and Colac Assistant Priest (1997). Denis was Parish Priest of Mortlake (1982), Charlton (1987) and Camperdown (1998) and retired on July 28, 2009. During 1987 he was appointed Diocesan Chaplain to the CWL. He also served in Papua New Guinea (1975 - 1981). In 'retirement' Fr Denis ministered in the Kimberly in the Diocese of Broome, WA until 2011.

On a visit to Ireland nine years ago he suffered a stroke and he has been in care in Ireland since then. His funeral was held at Sacred Heart Church, Barraduff on October 16 and burial followed at Killaha Cemetery.



Sr Mary Luke (Kenna)

25.02.38 - 20.06.21

Sr Luke 'found' her way to the former Sisters of Mercy, Ballarat East (her school years were with the former Sisters of Mercy, Melbourne Congregation in Warrnambool) in February 1958 and was professed in February 1961. Most of her ministry was in both Primary and Secondary Education 'from the Murray to (nearly) the sea' as is said. Along the way she took it upon herself to produce educational resources to assist her work with young people, who needed that extra interest and encouragement to be able to succeed in their learning.

In her later years she contributed to the work at Centacare Ballarat where she continued assisting those who struggled in the area of learning. When McAuley House opened in Ballarat she again found a niche to be of assistance wherever there was a need. As Catherine McAuley said all those years ago – 'never see a need without doing something about it'.

Sr Luke died peacefully on June 20 in St John of God Hospital, Ballarat and her funeral was held on June 25 at St Alipius Church, Ballarat East.

Sr Geraldine Mugavin rsm



Sr Rosemary Kelly (Sr Mary Basil)

26.09.34 - 14.06.21

Sr Rosemary's association with the Sisters of Mercy began in primary school in Penshurst where she was born, and was followed by her time at Sacred Heart College, Ballarat East. She subsequently joined the order in 1952 and was professed in 1954. Rosemary's ministry was a little like Sister Luke's 'from the Murray to (nearly) the sea'. She used to relate that after ten years with the Mercies she was posted back to Penshurst, her home town, to live and teach with the Sisters who had taught her!!!! (Keep in mind – I think she would not have been ducking to her old home for a visit or cup of tea!) Along the way she made the most of opportunities for further education updating herself both professionally and spiritually, all of which stood in good stead as life was lived. Some of this on-going education led to work in pastoral care and at another time in the formation of the young women who had joined the Sisters of Mercy. This was at the time when the reforms of Vatican II were making an impact on the life of Religious and in many ways this ministry would have been very challenging! Well done good, faith-filled and faithful woman of Mercy!

Sr Geraldine Mugavin rsm

OLHC *Laudato Si'* Garden

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Wendouree has combined with Gardens for Wildlife Ballarat, a two year project, to obtain indigenous plants to add to the garden around the carpark and near the Parish House. ***Laudato Si' Care for Our Common Home*** is the

Encyclical released in 2015 expressing solidarity with the poor and the need to care for creation. The carpark and its landscaping was put in place many years ago replacing a plantation of eucalypt trees. This garden now needs some refreshing and maintenance, so the new planting commenced during the ecumenical ***Season of Creation*** (September 1 to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4), a time promoted by Pope Francis for action and prayer towards a healthier world for future generations. In 2020 the encyclical ***Fratelli Tutti*** was released on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, also presenting a radical challenge, offering a blueprint for a world after coronavirus. It's writing turns the world upside down, placing human dignity at the centre, and links back to the message of interconnectedness which was also at the heart of ***Laudato Si'***. Pope Francis said just before ***Fratelli Tutti*** was released, "The signs of the times clearly show that human fraternity and care of creation form the sole way towards integral development and peace."

The garden will continue to have the many beautiful plants placed by generous parishioners who were the original landscape planners and gardeners by having a combination of plant types, indigenous (from the region), native (from around Australia) and exotic (linking us with the global community). It will also link us to ancient worlds with such plants as the Michelia bush flowering beautifully now in front of the Church, a member of the Magnolia family (Magnoliaceae), an ancient plant family, fossils of which date back to ninety-five million years. While the roses near the front fence are thought to have originated in central Asia, and are one of the oldest flowers, being cultivated some five thousand years ago. Our flowering Rosemary, from the Mediterranean region, has been used since the time of the early Greeks and Romans and is presently covered in numerous bees, a reminder that globally bee populations necessary for pollinating fruit trees and other plants are collapsing to a worrying extent.

Our previously planted native shrubs, hakeas, callistemons, orange-flowering grevilleas, thryptomene are combining with the currently flowering ornamental pear trees to provide food and safe havens for honeyeaters, rosellas, butterflies, other birds and insects. Amongst the recent indigenous additions are kangaroo grasses, longifolias, dianellas, native geraniums, golden spray shrub, tree violet and common everlastings that connect us to the indigenous communities who have lived on this land for tens of thousands of years. We hope that this carpark will provide a reflective and beautiful welcome to all who come to OLHC.

Sandra Dillon

Winter Woolies Day



In term 3 Mercy Regional College Camperdown held a 'Winter Woolies' day where staff and students dressed up in order to raise awareness, funds and collect winter items for some important local and international causes. Our community was also treated to a complimentary hot chocolate (made and served by our VCAL team) as part of the day.

The College raised \$509 from the casual clothes day with all funds to be donated to the Caritas International - Gaza Appeal. Also put together were a number of bags of winter clothes, coats, blankets as well as some non-perishable food items. These items have been donated to our local St Vinnies.

Kellie Wilson – MRC Camperdown

FULL OF AMAZING PEOPLE

Mercy Health residential aged care homes are full of amazing people with incredible stories to tell, including Mercy Place Colac resident Les “Trigger” Trigg. Les has spoken many times about his long life and is a seasoned storyteller.

In April this year, coverage of his 100th birthday party at his Mercy Place home made its way onto the front page of the Colac Herald and he was interviewed on ABC morning radio. Because of the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic and visitor restrictions, the milestone celebration was partly held online but also featured the presentation of a gorgeous cake with Les surrounded by his wife Pam and a number of his great-great-grandchildren. Les lost his mother when he was a baby and by the age of seven, his father had also died. After these devastating events, he and his sister Jean moved into foster care. “As children, Jean and I lived with a number of families. For a time we were fed not much more than rabbits and spuds but we made do,” Les says.

Les was sent to fight for Australia and the Allies in World War II. “In my 20s, I joined the transport unit in the army but I was transferred to the infantry, which meant spending months in the jungles in New Guinea. It was interesting, to say the least,” Les says. While he is proud of his service, the post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) he developed from his wartime experiences in New Guinea remained and caused deep emotional stress for much of his adult life.

Les has often spoken of the PTSD he suffered as a result of war service. He says the first relief he felt was when he returned to New Guinea and visited the Lae War Cemetery where many of his army mates were laid to rest decades earlier. Throughout his life, Les has followed the motto: ‘Never lose sight of each other.’ The cemetery visit, he says, was pivotal in his recovery. “Life hasn’t been easy. I’ve had lots of kicks but I’ve only known one way and that’s to keep on going,” says Les.

Text and photos used with permission of Mercy Health “Our Voice Winter 2021” online publication.



I can hear the bell

On Sunday, September 26, 2021, Cororooke parishioners and friends gathered with Fr Michael O’Toole for the blessing of the refurbished church bell at St Brendan’s. The restoration was made possible with the assistance of generous donations from parishioners, Keith and Les Lenehan and John Miller. A memorial plaque was unveiled in loving memory of Michael Baggott (the first bell-ringer), the Lenehan family and the Hugh Ryan Family.

The bronze bell, mounted on a steel tower, was originally blessed on Sunday morning, January 24, 1937 to perpetuate the memory of Fr Tim McCarthy, the inaugural parish priest. Fr McCarthy’s brother, a priest in New York and his sisters in Ireland, sent a donation of 200 pounds. Other donations made up the balance of the money for the bell and the tower. The bell was moved from its original position near the convent because of the building of the current school in the mid-fifties. Today it remains a landmark beside St Brendan’s Church.

Around 2.00am on Easter Sunday night, 1938, St Brendan’s Church was destroyed by fire. Mr Ed Carmody, who lived nearby, saw the glow and raced across to ring the bell and raise the alarm. An electrical fault in the ceiling was the cause of the building being completely destroyed. This resulted in the current church being blessed and opened on January 29, 1939. The bell was always rung before Mass and as the Angelus bell, three times a day.

Now it continues to be a tangible sign of generations of faith in a country community where the community aspect is so visible. Upon leaving the church at the time of farewell for the Sisters of the Good Samaritan on August 31, 2008, the bell was rung for each of the Good Samaritan Sisters who had contributed so much to the life of St Brendan’s and the wider community. Today, it is still rung for special occasions, weddings, funerals, for weekly Sunday Assembly of Word and Communion. By ringing the bell, we are declaring – we are here. We continue to bear witness to the fact that our faith is something we celebrate in common, reminding each other that we are a community, as well as individuals and that we must “remain” in God’s love.

Pat and Marita O’Shea, parishioners of St Brendan’s Parish Cororooke
Photo: Fr Michael O’Toole blessing the new refurbished bell

Our Diocesan Community - November 2021

OLYMPIC FUN

On August 3, the Olympics came to St Patrick's School Nhill. The children marched behind their class flags and followed the Olympic flame as they participated in the Opening Ceremony. Following the raising of the St Patrick's Olympic flag, Jack lit the cauldron and the Games were underway.



All students competed in sprints and the winners of each of the heats qualified for the Handicap Sprint Final where Ben won narrowly from Thar Shue and Tessa. Senior students then participated in a round robin Basketball competition while the Juniors had a Potato Race and Equestrian events. Competition concluded with a relay with all students participating.

At the conclusion of competition, medals were presented, the Olympic flag was lowered, the Australian flag raised and the National Anthem was sung, and the cauldron flame was extinguished. In keeping with the Olympic theme, we readied ourselves for the 2024 Paris Olympics by having some breakdancing – an event which is to be added to the Olympic program in three years time. Thank you to Mrs Dickinson for her organisation of the day's activities.

We have also been fortunate to have Nhill's Olympic Gold Medalist, Lucy Stephan, visit the school to share a part of her story and her Gold Medal with students. Lucy spoke of her journey from growing up in Nhill to becoming a dual Olympian and a member of the Gold Medal winning Women's Four in rowing. Lucy mentioned how happy she was to have received the letters that the students had sent to her and to other Olympians during the recent Tokyo competition. It was truly wonderful for the children to meet Lucy and to be reminded that it doesn't matter where they start, there is a big world out there in their future.



Kingsley Dalgleish – Principal

FROM THE ARCHIVES



A highly significant illuminated manuscript was recently organised for storage in preparation for the archives relocation to the Bishop's Office in early 2022. Presented to the Archbishop of Melbourne, Rev James Alipius Goold, it remains in the Catholic Diocesan Historical Commission archives. Produced by FW Niven, the manuscript is painted in gold leaf with blue, green and red highlights. The main text has been delicately written in a gothic revival style in black ink. Dated December 20, 1874, this manuscript signifies the Archbishop of Melbourne's visit to Ballarat and the installation of the first Bishop to St Patrick's Cathedral, Most Reverend Michael Francis O'Connor, DD.

On this day, thousands of people waited at the Ballarat train station whilst onlookers lined the streets to St Patrick's Cathedral. Accompanied on the train by Very Rev Dr Fitzpatrick, Vicar-General (Melbourne), Ven Dean Slattery, Rev W Kelly, SJ and Rev Dr Bleasdale, they were greeted by Very Rev Dean Moore, the local clergy and the leading Catholics of Ballarat. The illuminated manuscript was signed by dignitaries such as Ballarat City Councillor, Daniel Brophy, James Coghlin JP, John McCafferty and many others from the local community. Today, the illuminated manuscript stands testament to this significant day when St Patrick's Cathedral received its first Bishop.

Dr Samantha Fabry

IN MEMORY OF POLDI MIMOVICH

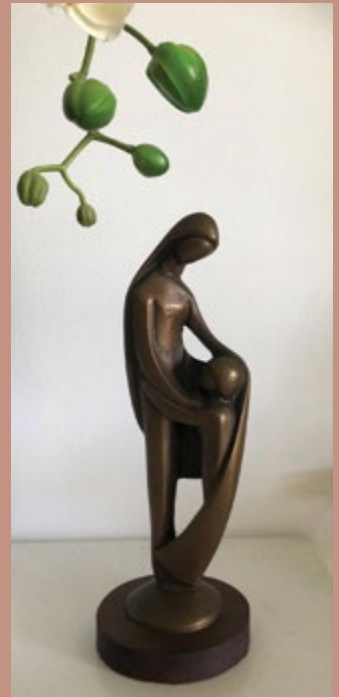
Following World War II thousands of European displaced persons sought a new home in Australia. Leopoldine "Poldi" Mimovich was among this group and with her she brought her artistic talents.

Poldi was born the second of five children on June 25, 1920 in Italy. Poldi's artistic talents were recognised early in her life. After leaving school at 14 to support her family, she became an apprentice to her father who taught her gilding, sign-writing and stencil work. Poldi continued to work with her father until 1940 when she moved to art school in Vienna. In 1944 the school was closed by the Nazis and Poldi was conscripted to work for the German war effort as an accountant in a munitions factory. Following the war she resumed her studies and graduated in 1947 as a qualified teacher with a Diploma of Art. In 1948 she married Ljubisa Mimovich, a stateless Serbian officer who had been a prisoner of the Gestapo, and in the following year they set sail for Australia.

Upon her arrival to Australia, Poldi was assigned to two years work at the Pelaco shirt factory where her sympathetic employer, on seeing her drawings, gave

her early release to pursue her sculpting career.

Poldi's work is found in homes, churches, schools and convents throughout our diocese, Australia and the world. She has received numerous awards, including the Order of Australia Medal for services to sculpture and the certificate of Merit for Distinguished Achievement from the World Who's Who. Poldi died Christmas Day 2019 aged ninety-nine years. In 2020 Australia Post honoured Poldi by producing two religious stamps that combined her traditionally painted icons with native fauna and flora.



Julie Boyd

<https://www.anart4life.com/christmas-stamps/>
<https://art.catholic.org.au/2020/04/06/leopoldine-mimovich-immigrant-artist/>
<https://mswps.com.au/leopoldine-mimovich-oam-1920-2019/>

Left: Crucifix at Sea Lake
Right: Mary and Jesus

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

St Joseph's Primary School, Hopetoun was recently involved in tree planting around Lake Lascelles. The school participates in National Tree Day each year, however it postponed the participation this year due to the recent snap lockdowns. Since National Tree Day commenced in 1996, twenty-six million trees have been planted nationally by volunteers through their involvement in National Tree Day. This is an important day for the St Joseph's Community to participate in, as they contribute their bit to sustaining God's creation for future generations.

By Lena (Grade 6)

St Joseph's Primary School Hopetoun
Clay, Tamani, Ava, Popi





FAREWELL ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH NULLAWIL

A Final Farewell Mass, recognising ninety-two years of faith, was held at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Nullawil on Christmas Eve 2020. The final Mass was originally planned for earlier in the year, however the COVID-19 pandemic put an end to these plans.

With ongoing COVID-19 restrictions limiting numbers in churches, it was decided that two final Masses should be held before the departure of Fr Eugene McKinnon, who relocated to Redan in January. One of the last two Masses was held on December 5 and the final one was held on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Eve, Denis Ryan welcomed all in attendance to the farewell Mass. Denis is a direct descendant of Eddie Ryan, one of the pioneers of the church ninety-two years ago. Signage at the front of the church is a reminder of the heritage of St Joseph's. "We are standing on the shoulders of those who came before us". St Joseph's Catholic Church was so much more than a building. Throughout the years people gathered and shared in a faith community that sustained at least four generations. The church has been an integral part of people's lives in many ways; a special place for worship and friendship. Throughout the years, families have gathered for significant milestones, both happy and sad, such as Weddings, Baptisms, Reconciliation, Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation and Funerals. Memories of times spent at St Joseph's Catholic Church will continue to hold a great place in many people's hearts.

Fr Eugene McKinnon celebrated the final Mass saying, "It is with sadness we come to this night, but it is with joy we once more rejoice in the birth of Christ into our world."

In his homily, Fr Eugene said, "Sadly, the physical days of this church are coming to an end, with the building showing signs of deterioration over recent years. Words can't describe what we feel tonight. Memories take us back to the memories created in this church throughout its ninety-two years. There has been sadness, with some no longer sitting in the seats in which they once sat. There has been joy, with new babies born. We rejoice as this has been a meeting place, the building that has expressed our faith life. However, as things change, we need to be willing to accept change. As People of Hope, we anticipate that the faith life which has developed here will continue. The church has been built on faith, hope and love, and will continue as we pick up what we have learnt in the church and take it into the community."

A "Ritual of Closure" brought the Mass to an end. Fr Eugene prayed at significant areas within the church and finished with a procession out the front door. Leading the procession was Narelle Rafter, carrying the bible, followed by Fr Eugene and Denis Ryan carrying the Paschal Candle. One by one those remaining in the church followed behind, many with a tear in their eye.

A cake, made by Kaylene James and decorated by former resident Jan Brown, was cut by Fr Eugene and Denise Hogan. Denis Ryan presented Fr Eugene with a farewell gift on behalf of the St Joseph's community, thanking him for his ministry within the district. A final group photo was taken outside the church, signifying the end of an era.

Thank you to all parishioners and people involved over the years at St Joseph's.

Psychology 101



Year 11 Psychology students at Damascus College Ballarat participated in a variety of different activities where they were able to confirm some of their learnings about Taste and Vision.

Some activities involved the dissection of a bull's eye to help students' understanding of the structure and role of the eye in visual perception and the processes of sensation in vision. Students smelled lavender while sucking on a musk to see how flavour can influence taste. They assessed the width of their peripheral vision and tested to see if they were colour blind.

Students definitely enjoyed some welcome hands-on learning after most of the content was taught remotely during our last lockdown.

Sarah Boswell – Leader of Marketing and Development



NAIDOC Celebrations

St Paul's Primary School Mildura students finally participated in activities to celebrate NAIDOC day. Original celebrations were postponed due to lockdown 5. Due to restrictions, the celebration was unable to begin with a whole school liturgy with parents invited. Instead it was the students and staff gathered as one in classrooms for a virtual liturgy. Students were able to wear casual clothes which reflected indigenous culture in colour (red, black and yellow) or indigenous design.

The students were engaged in the discussions that we had on the importance of NAIDOC week to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. All students looked deeply into Indigenous artwork for NAIDOC week and were able to create a wonderful display to show their learning.

The Foundation students learnt about different hunting tools and decorated a boomerang using some symbols found in Aboriginal art. The Junior students worked together to create a collaborative Rainbow Serpent after learning about the significance of Dreamtime stories to Indigenous people. The senior students learnt about the importance of the sky in Aboriginal culture and how the people have been using it as a survival tool for thousands of years. They studied some Aboriginal astrology art pieces for inspiration and they created their own artwork.

The artwork which was on display in the walkway to the staff room looked AMAZING!



Vince Muscatello – Principal

The Catholic Education Ballarat Speech team work in both primary and secondary schools across the diocese, to support students with varying communication difficulties including speech, language, reading, writing, voice and fluency problems. They work individually with students, in small groups, in boost groups, as well as in classrooms alongside class teachers. They partner with schools through consultation, teacher planning, professional learning for teachers and Learning Support Officers, parent workshops, Dynamic assessment and 'Wrap around the Learning' (WATL) meetings.



The team has been engaged in the Oral Language Supporting Early Literacy initiative across the diocese since its inception into the diocese over ten years ago. The professional association, Speech Pathology Australia (SPA), has produced this resource for speech pathologists who work in schools. There are 1.2 million Australians with communication disability. The diocesan Speech Pathologists work to ensure that communication is everyone's right.

Speech Pathology Week, held from August 22 - 28, was an opportunity for the Diocesan Speech Pathology team to highlight the week's theme: Communication is everyone's right. The Catholic Education Ballarat Speech team are proud to focus on the critical importance of communication in all lives and its foundational role in academic, social and emotional wellbeing and learning.

Emma Newman - CEB Marketing and Communications Officer

Strolling along Park Lane, Old Kent Road and Trafalgar Square



Residents at Mercy Place Ballarat took a stroll along Park Lane, Old Kent Road and Trafalgar Square recently, and some of them even ended up in jail!

It wasn't for breaching COVID distance restrictions, though, it was all part of playing active Monopoly at the home. What a great way for residents to walk the famous streets of London from the comfort of Mercy Place Ballarat.

Mercy Health Facebook Page

BRIGHTENING UP SOMEONE'S DAY

Recently, senior students from Our Lady Help of Christian's School Murtoa wrote letters to the residents at Dunmunkle Lodge in Minyip. This was a magnificent reaching out activity for students to be involved. The students certainly did brighten up the day of many people.

The school received a very welcome and thankful letter from the Business Manager at the Lodge. It's lovely seeing the smiles and the joy on the resident's faces. It just goes to show us all, it doesn't take much to make a difference in someone's life.

Cathy Grace – Principal



JJAMM week



What a fantastic start to JJAMM Week on Monday, August 2 with the grand opening of the MK Wardrobe. An initiative from the Faith and Mission Committee saw around twelve students come through the doors to browse clothes on offer. There were lots of positive comments from everyone and most left very happy with clothes in hand! JJAMM stands for Julian, Joseph and Mary MacKillop [Julian Tenison Woods, who helped to found the Josephite order, Joseph for the Josephite Sisters and Mary MacKillop for our founding saint] and we celebrated with various activities.

Tuesday, August 3 - Prayer Service

During Lesson 3, an individual prayer service was held in each homeroom. It began with a message from Principal, Michelle Haeusler reflecting on how the Sisters of St Joseph continue to provide much assistance to those who need it, particularly in this time of the global pandemic. She reminded us that although we have been restricted in our movements due to COVID-19, we have still had our homes and been able to access an education. How truly privileged we are to live in a country such as ours. We heard the beautiful gospel reading from

Matthew asking us to not worry about our life, what we will eat or drink, our bodies or what we will wear. If we all strive to live out the teachings of Jesus, we will be provided. St Mary MacKillop's life was a great example to all of us to trust in God's providence. She was a woman who always kept her troubles in perspective - "do what you can and leave the rest to God".

Following the prayer service, all homerooms began decorating Mary MacKillop silhouettes. Some absolutely fabulous designs were created! Other students made a Mary chatterbox, whilst others coloured pictures of Mary. It was lovely to go into each homeroom and see 'community' in action! Our Marys were displayed around Penola Square (until the rain came) and afterwards in the College Chapel.



Wednesday, August 4 - pJJAMMa Day Fun!

It was great to see so many students and staff wear their pjs to school on Wednesday. From the traditional flannel pjs to lots of Oodies, many of us were very comfortable for the day! A lunchtime "dance" of the Nutbush and other dances proved to be a highlight. Thanks to the wonderful Year 11 students who danced with us!

Thursday, August 5 - Hot Jam Donuts

They are always very, very popular and this year was no exception. Students lined up at lunchtime to purchase a hot JJAMM donut. All proceeds will go to the St Vinnies Winter Appeal.

Friday, August 13 - Casual Clothes Day

A casual clothes day was held to raise money for one of our school families - the Hill family, whose son had been badly hurt in a motorbike accident. As a school community we took on the quote from St Mary MacKillop herself - "never see a need without doing something about it". We hope the money raised will help the Hill family in some way.

Thanks to Max and Deaken for providing some live music at lunchtime. What a fabulous way to finish off JJAMM Week for 2021. Many thanks to everyone who helped the Faith and Mission Committee in any way throughout this week. It has been wonderful to be able to celebrate (onsite) this year.

Alison Wright - Director of Mission

Our Diocesan Community - November 2021

A MIGRANT STORY

*In a celebration of **Migrant and Refugee Sunday** on September 26, 2021, **Renata Byra**, from Sacred Heart Parish Mildura, recounted the story of her family and their arrival in Australia.*

Seventy one years ago in August our ship, the Fairsea steamed towards Fremantle at the end of a four week sea voyage. It was a lovely ship compared to some of the tubs that now bring desperate people to our country. On board were my parents Basil and Julianna Byra and their three small children, Renata, Halina & Bohdan, just a few possessions, including a potato masher and a deep Catholic faith. We were on our way to a new life in a new country, along with hundreds of other families.

In 1940, my father was seventeen and living in a small rural Ukrainian village. It was a hard life but idyllic too, as the community shared work and music, poetry and dance and a deep respect for long-held traditions. The centre of community life was the church and the school, where students held the teacher in high esteem. So when the teacher gathered the young teenage boys together, they paid attention to the solemn words she spoke. "Boys," she said, "if you want to be free men you must leave this country immediately." The boys, including my father, gathered together in secret to plan their escape. Already, wire fences were being erected so they wasted no time. Early one morning around fifteen of them gathered in the forest having told no one of their plans. That day and many more to follow they ran for their lives, evading the guards and dogs, eventually reaching Germany. Germany was glad to see them as they provided labour for the farms because Germany's young men were now away at war.

Mum was twenty in April 1941 when German police knocked on her parent's door in Debница in Poland and asked for Mum to come with them. She too had grown up in a small tight-knit community with Church the centre of village life. Mum was given twenty minutes to pack her things and she never saw her parents again. Mum was taken to work as forced labour on a farm in Brake Germany for the next four years. Mum and Dad married at war's end and with no-where to go after the war, lived in displaced persons camps in Germany for five years.

In Germany, outsiders, called *auslanders*, were forbidden to mix socially with the Germans and had to wear a band on their arm to signify they did not belong. Punishment was harsh for breaches of this ruling.

On 18 August 1950 our ship, the Fairsea, finally berthed in Melbourne where we disembarked for Bonegilla. A couple of months later we were separated when Mum and the children travelled to Mildura, while Dad was off to work on the Rocklands dam site to fulfil a two-year contract labouring in Australia. We often asked Dad why he chose to come to Australia. We could have gone to Canada, or England as some of his friends had done. He told us when he looked at a globe of the earth, Australia was the furthest country from all the troubles in Europe and that is where he wanted his family to be. Dad managed to wriggle out of the second year of his contract by telling a sympathetic doctor how much he missed being with

Our Diocesan Community - November 2021



his family and soon we were together again. While Dad had been working at Rocklands Dam, Mum worked at the camp hospital as a nursing aide along with many of her friends. My parents both worked hard. Soon Dad was building houses with a friend and together Mum and Dad and their friends also picked grapes, beans, oranges and did other seasonal work on fruit blocks. Dad also had building work on sheep stations and quickly grew to love the bush and the Aussie way of life.

The first ten years in our new country saw many changes. Peter, Margy and Julie were born, Dad became a master builder, we moved four times into new homes Dad built and we officially became Australian citizens. Somehow we all gradually learned to speak English – Mum would write her grocery lists in Polish and send me off to the shops where I had to interpret the list into English words I wasn't always sure of. One day I told Dad about the Ukrainian card game being held at Sacred Heart School. And you had to bring a plate. OK Euchre and Ukrainian sound a bit similar and Dad turned up to the euchre night with an empty plate. We also learnt a plate meant with some food on it to share.

Our parents also had a wide circle of friends from their own countries and we gathered together weekly over the years. It was such fun but there were no old people or relatives at our gatherings. Every so often the Ukrainian priest would travel to Mildura to be with the Ukrainian community and when in Melbourne we sometimes attended Mass, which typically goes on for over two hours, in the Ukrainian Cathedral.

A lot of letter writing and tears over many years was the only contact between home and Australia. My mother always felt the separation from her family deeply. Mum and Dad often told us stories about "home" and there were lots of photos to try and understand who everyone was. Mum and Dad did eventually travel back to Europe .

Our family eventually moved to a little farm in Irymple - this was Dad's paradise - with cows, pigs, oranges, grapes, fruit trees, vegetables. Over the years Mum and Dad became very involved in the community at Irymple Church and after Dad died, Wilma and George Schmidt would bring Mum communion weekly until she went into care. Our life in Australia has been a good one. We have been very fortunate in the opportunities which have come our way, and the welcome we have been shown. My only hope now is that all of us continue to appreciate and celebrate and make welcome the newcomers to our land who are looking for the same freedom and the same opportunity to live a life with hope.

SHARING STORIES OF COMPASSION TO INSPIRE POSITIVITY

Compassionate Ballarat and Loreto College Ballarat launched a new e-book "Compassion Heroes Ballarat" on September 21 as part of the National Day of Compassion. It features eighteen stories, including a girl facilitating letter writing to people experiencing homelessness, a boy making free masks for people in aged care and a girl creating a social justice magazine for children.

Year 12 students Eliza McCrum and Chloe Stevens worked on the project team to collate the stories and said they hoped they brought feelings of hope and positivity for the future. "This project has proven to us that you should never underestimate the impact of a kind action, no matter how small," they wrote in an introduction to the book.

The National Day of Compassion, led by Charter for Compassion, included an online launch and Facebook streaming of more than sixty video conversations, some including Ballarat people. This inaugural National Day of Compassion was organised by the Australian Compassion Council (ACC) – as part of its intention to **Deep Dream Australia A Continent for Compassion**.

Australian Compassion Council and Compassionate Ballarat steering group member Dr Lynne Reeder said hearing other people's stories was inspiring. "In these unsettled times, it can seem there is not a lot of goodness in the world," she said. "We have found when you put your attention on how people are supporting each other, there is a lot to be hopeful about."

Dr Reeder said Ballarat made a significant contribution to the national day with the launch of the book and the release of a peace poem video by Megan J Riedl. Ballarat music performance videos were played during the Facebook stream, including the Concert for Compassion and Ballarat Arts Academy's "What a Wonderful World."

"In our polarised world where we are still struggling with COVID, putting our focus on the things that connect us rather than the things that divide us, is very important," Dr Reeder said. "Particularly in this time when we are moving out of lockdown and not sure what the next stage of COVID will be like. That focus on seeing the good things in the world really supports us and our mental health".

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Rochelle Kirkham and photo by Kate Healy
You can read the complete book at this link: https://issuu.com/loretocollegeballarat/docs/cb_booklet_20_sep_21
Below: Year 12 students Eliza McCrum and Chloe Stevens



BOOK WEEK 2021

Each year since 1945 the Children's Book Council of Australia has brought children and books together across Australia through CBCA Book Week. During this time, schools and public libraries spend one glorious week celebrating books and Australian children's authors and illustrators. Classroom teachers, teacher librarians and public librarians create colourful displays, develop activities, run competitions and tell stories relating to a theme to highlight the importance of reading. You will often see parades with students dressed as their favourite book character. The 2021 theme was **Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds**, celebrated in Term 3: August 21-27. (<https://cbca.org.au/cbca-book-week>)

St Alipius Parish School, Ballarat East:



To celebrate Book Week, the idea was to get creative and have a bit of fun! Students were invited to send in their best #bookface photo. #bookface is when you find a book at home and place yourself behind it to complete the picture. One of the learning dispositions is 'Creativity' and this challenge required students to use it! It's not as easy as it looks! It was so much fun!

Eileen Rice - Principal

Sacred Heart Primary School Mildura:



While expecting that we could celebrate the Children's Book Council of Australia Book Week awards with a dress up day and activities at school, once again, restrictions put a slight damper on this. However, not even Remote Learning 7.0 could stop us from celebrating with our wonderful students!

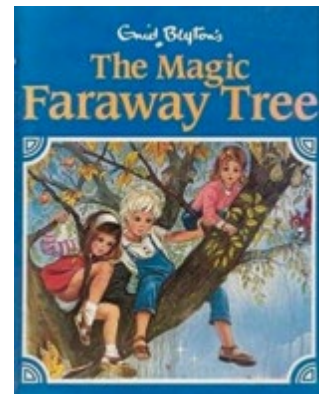
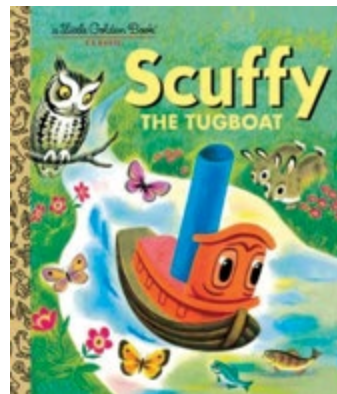
Watch this link for more wonderful pictures of our celebration: <https://youtu.be/kUWOiN9ib1A>.

Mark Gibson – Principal

St Brendan's Primary School Coragulac:



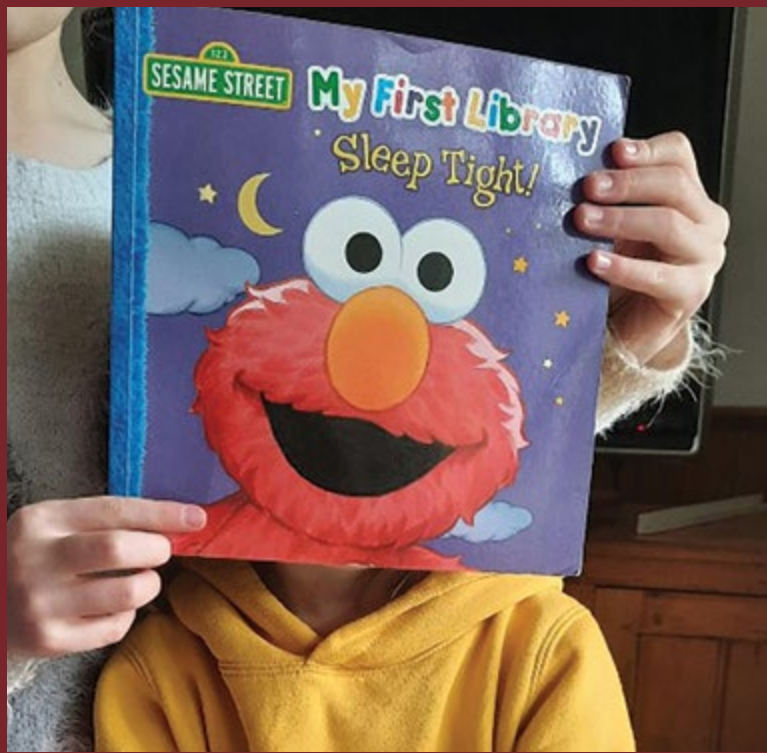
Schools across Australia celebrated Book Week and we were definitely a part of this celebration. Staff at St Brendan's were asked, 'What book did you read as a child that really inspired your love for reading?' Some of the answers are in the images below:



The lockdown wasn't going to stop us from celebrating Book Week for 2021 at St Brendan's. Thanks to our families who were able to join in from their homes. There were certainly some very fancy Mad Hatter Tea Parties going on. We had so much fun celebrating the joy we get from reading!

If you have Facebook more creative photos can be seen at this link: <https://fb.watch/8hxWgZpDUB/>.

Leanne Eastman - Principal



Where to next? The First Assembly of the Plenary Council was the start of a nine-month journey, a focused nine-month period of further discernment for the Catholic Church in Australia. With the closing of this First Assembly, the Plenary Council process now enters a time of prayer, reflection and development. This will involve continuing reflection by the Members of the Council and consultation with the wider Church community. The development of propositions for presentation to the Second Assembly of the Council next July is part of the next step in the journey. This will be coordinated with Australian preparations for the 2023 Synod, *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*. The Second Assembly is scheduled to take place in Sydney from July 4 - 9, 2022.

Photos: Front cover: "Holy Family – The Flight into Egypt", Painting by Patrick O’Carrigan msc. Commissioned for the centenary of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Tasmania. Used with permission of the artist and the Trustees of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Must not be reproduced without permission of the Trustees. Back cover: 1. St Brendan’s Parish Cororooke Bell restoration. 2. St Alipius Parish School, Ballarat East Book Week 3. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons Project, St Joseph’s College, Mildura. 4. JJAMM Day at St Mary’s MacKillop College, Swan Hill.

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.