



OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



News around the Diocese

No. 67 July 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Bishop
Laudato Si' Week
Environmental News
Monivae College Cadet Camp
Jean Orval
Woovookarung Dementia Friendly
Forest & Sensory Trail
Celebration of Service to
Catholic Education
The Way of the Cross
Farewell to Jan Healy
School News
In the Parishes
Celebrating the Sacraments
A Truly Valiant Woman
The "Amoris Laetitia Family Year"
Young Vinnies looking for members
to support vulnerable Ballarat
Youth
A Special Event
Jubilee Celebrations
Expression of pastoral
responsibility
Diversity and Inclusion
ACU top notch training ward
Faith and War
Wendouree West Exodus
Community

OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY (ODC)

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Catholic Education Ballarat.



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The next ODC will be in October 2022.
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Coming Soon: Plenary Council Second Assembly



As I write this message, I am looking ahead to the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council. Nearly three hundred people from all around Australia will gather in Sydney for a week of prayer and reflection about our mission as the Church in this country. The celebration will begin on Sunday, July 3, with Mass at the shrine of St Mary MacKillop in North Sydney. In the following week, there will be Mass each day at St Mary's Cathedral. The meetings will be held in the college next to the cathedral.

The Plenary Council members will be considering some basic questions about the life of the Church in Australia. What is God asking of us? How can we follow Christ more closely in our own lives? How can we be a more missionary Church, sharing the good news with our society? Many people have been pondering such questions over the past few years in preparation for the meetings of the Plenary Council. People have gathered for prayer and the sharing of faith in parishes in our own diocese and all around Australia. They have made their suggestions about how we might be more fully the Church that Jesus wants us to be. They have spoken of their hopes for the Church and for our whole Australian community. The Plenary Council will draw on the wisdom that so many have shared.

Throughout the week of the assembly, the Plenary Council will be discussing a document called "Framework for Motions". This was published at the start of June. It brings together numerous points from the consultations of the past few years. It includes reflections on various aspects of the life and mission of the Church. It also includes proposals for action.

The introductory section of this document traces the steps that have led to the Plenary Council, including the nation-wide consultation that began in 2018. This consultation revealed a desire to become more Christ-centred as individual Catholics and as communities of faith. People spoke of the need to reflect more clearly the image of Jesus in the worship and ministries of the community and in the witness and service that Catholics offer Australian society. The document goes on to spell out what this would mean in particular areas of the Church's life.

Part 1 refers to the first inhabitants of Australia and quotes from a talk by Pope Saint John Paul II in Alice Springs in 1986. There the Pope addressed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and said that the Church in Australia "will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others." Echoing those words of Pope John Paul, the document proposes that the Plenary Council joyfully receive several recommendations from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, including, for

example, the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander symbols, where appropriate, in Catholic liturgies, to enrich the celebrations and promote a welcoming environment for Indigenous Peoples.

Part 2 expresses sorrow at the tragic history of abuse in the Church. "As the Plenary Council of the Church in Australia, we express our profound sorrow that children and young people and vulnerable adults have been abused by clergy, religious and lay workers of the Catholic Church, and that religious leaders have failed to act sufficiently to prevent abuse. To the survivors of abuse and their families we offer our unreserved apology. We commit to doing whatever we can to promote healing for those so gravely harmed and to make the Church a truly safe place for everyone."

Part 3 is entitled "Called by Christ – Sent forth as Missionary Disciples". This section highlights Christ's call to us to follow him and to share the joy of the gospel with those around us. The document quotes Pope Francis on the value of listening so that we might be the missionary community that Christ wishes us to be. "A Church which listens . . . realises that listening is more than simply hearing. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn. The faithful people, the College of Bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of Truth' (John 14:17) in order to know what the Spirit 'says to the Churches' (Revelation 2:7)." We can share the gospel not only in words but also in acts of service, such as in the contributions that the Church makes to Australian society in health and education and many forms of community assistance. Working together in our parish and diocesan communities and in collaboration with others, we can build a society of respect and compassion, with special care for people on the margins.

Part 4 is entitled "Witnessing to the Equal Dignity of Women and Men". This section begins with a reference to Saint Mary MacKillop, Eileen O'Connor and Mary Glowrey as examples of women who have made outstanding contributions to the Church in Australia. The document celebrates the leadership of women in fields such as education, social services and healthcare. Yet, the document also recognises that "women's dignity has often been unacknowledged" and that there is a need to enhance the role of women in the Church. This would involve, for example, ensuring that women are appropriately represented in decision-making structures of Church governance at the parish, diocesan and national levels, and that the experiences and perspectives of women are heard and considered. The document also proposes "considering women for ministry as deacon should Pope Francis authorise such ministry in light of the findings of the reconstituted Study Commission on the Female Diaconate."

Part 5 reflects on the central place of liturgy and other forms of prayer in the life of the Church. The document recalls the teachings of the Second Vatican Council about the Eucharist being the source and summit of the Christian life. The document also highlights the importance of the Liturgy of the Word and the need to promote a "warm and living love for Scripture". During the consultations for the Plenary Council, people voiced concerns about the state of

preaching. The document encourages efforts to foster good quality preaching, both by priests and lay people. There are also proposals to promote a better understanding of the sacraments of Penance and Marriage and to support married couples and families in living out their vocations according to the teachings of Christ.

Part 6 is entitled "Formation and Leadership for Mission and Ministry". This section emphasises the need for formation for laity as well as clergy, so that everyone might be able to develop their gifts and contribute as God wishes to the life of the Church and society. There are proposals to support parents as teachers of faith and to recognise the role that families can play as schools of Christian formation. There is a reference to the use of technology in providing formation, particularly in rural and regional areas. Among the subjects to be addressed in formation programs, the document makes special mention of formation in a synodal style of leadership, in which people work closely together, and formation in Catholic Social Teaching, which addresses questions of social justice.

Part 7 continues the reference to a synodal style of leadership in treating the topic of governance in the Church. "Governance in the Catholic Church should be exercised in a synodal manner, with the appropriate participation of various bodies. For a diocese, this would mainly involve the participation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Council of Priests, the College of Consultors, the Diocesan Finance Council and, at times, a Diocesan Synod. For a parish, this would mainly involve the participation of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee". There is a proposal that each Diocese will conduct a Diocesan Synod within five years following the closing session of the Plenary Council.

Part 8 begins with a message from the first book of the Bible about the goodness of God's creation (Genesis 1:20-4) and moves on to a message from the Bible's last book – a vision of creation made new (Revelation 21:5). The document draws on Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si'*, with a sense of human beings belonging to the community of life and being interdependent with all other creatures. Consequently, we have a duty to care for the earth as our common home. One systematic way to do this is to take part in the *Laudato Si'* action plan that has been proposed by the Vatican department that promotes overall development.

From these notes on the "Framework for Motions" document, we see that the Plenary Council will be considering a wide range of topics in the life of the Church. If the Council is to do this fruitfully, the members will need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I invite you to pray for that guidance. As the Holy Spirit came upon the first followers of Christ in the early days of the gospel, so may the Holy Spirit come upon us in our day. May the Spirit come in a special way on the members of the Plenary Council and give them true wisdom.

To conclude, I would like to draw on a prayer written especially for the Plenary Council. Many have prayed this prayer over the past few years. At this stage, we might pray this prayer with extra urgency as the Plenary Council prepares to meet.

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

+ Paul Bird

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Laudato Si' Week, a celebration of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and a call to action for Catholics around the world, was celebrated on May 16 – 24, 2022.

This year's celebration was the seventh anniversary and is celebrated in Australia with Catholic Earthcare (Australia). As part of the celebrations, Catholic Earthcare hosted an online screening of the newly released 'Regenerating Australia'. A short film – a fictitious news segment set on New Year's Eve 2029, examining the decade that 'could be'. The film challenges people to consider how to respond to the *Cry of the Earth*, the 2021-2022 Social Justice Statement.

After the screening there was a panel discussion and a question and answer segment with Bishop Ken Howell, a Bishop from Brisbane and a range of guest speakers dedicated to finding ways to respond to the Cry of the Earth as the Catholic Church in Australia.

Internationally, *Laudato Si* Week is May 22-29. However, in Australia, our Bishops decided to celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week from May 16-24 during each year of their seven-year *Laudato Si'* Action Plan journey. These dates allow both *Laudato Si'* Week and National Reconciliation Week (May 27–June 3) to be celebrated appropriately by Australian Catholics.

A focus on the questions "What is the *Laudato Si* Action Platform and what is the journey?" was an opportunity for discussion during *Laudato Si* Week. On Pentecost 2020, an Interdicasterial Working Group of the Holy See published "Journeying towards Care for our Common Home: Five years after *Laudato Si'*". The introduction began with the exhortation of St Paul to the inhabitants of Corinth, "The time is running out" (1 Cor 7:29), today sounds as urgent as ever.

Laudato Si' Week

The result of this study was that in November 2021, at the end of the Special *Laudato Si* Anniversary Year (May 24, 2020 – May 24, 2021), Pope Francis launched a multi-year *Laudato Si* roll-out plan for a 7-year journey with 7-goals, a program and public commitment to make communities, institutions and organisations around the world, journey to total sustainability in the spirit of *Laudato Si*.

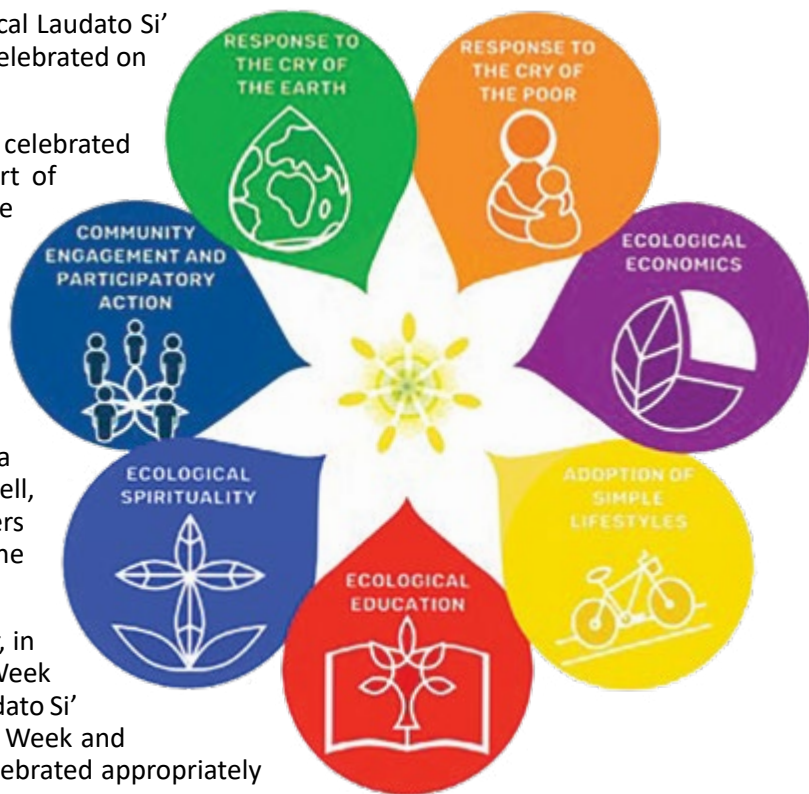
These included invitations to (1) Families, (2) Dioceses and Parishes, (3) Schools, (4) Universities, (5) Hospitals and Healthcare Centres, (6) Businesses and agricultural farms and (7) Religious Orders and Provinces.

In Australia, Catholic Earthcare has implemented programs to assist families, parishes and dioceses in this journey. The basis of the programs is using the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching to encourage us to: look at the social justice issues as they affect society locally and globally (SEE), understanding what is happening and why it is happening (JUDGE), and discerning the actions needed to respond (ACT).

Globally, the *Laudato Si* Movement has for many years given opportunities, through the online ZOOM platform, to dialogue with community members around the world and it has been a privilege to speak to people from the Philippines, Oceania, Africa, South America, USA, Asia and Europe who are sharing their concerns for the way we are caring for our world, their experiences now and their concerns for the future. These sessions always include prayer and reflection and have included many speakers from across the world. Zooming is not such a big deal now after many using it through the pandemic. You can still check out these zoom opportunities.

Sandra Dillon

Our Diocesan Community - July 2022





The World of WORMS

Sacred Heart Parish Primary School's Junior Group in Casterton are learning about the world of worms in Art and Sustainability to link in with their Sustainability Unit about Waste.

They recently watched "Superworm", studied compost worms and learnt about how they can help us recycle food and organic waste such as paper and green waste. They then drew the worm's Wiggly World that they imagine is underground.

The students have set up our Worm Farm, so the worms can recycle our recess and lunch food waste and scrap paper.

Ms Chris Cooney - Specialist Teacher

Living Sustainably

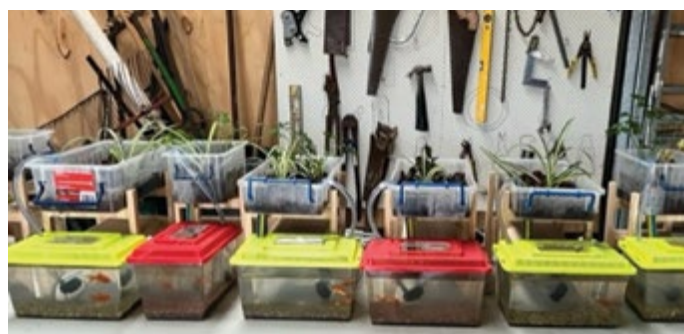
The introduction and transition to sustainable living and permaculture practice elective this year at Emmanuel College Warrnambool has seen the first class experience a very busy and productive first semester. Based on the twelve guiding principles of permaculture, students initially planted out the garden beds with the intention of rotating main crops to ensure key nutrients are either replenished or utilised with each rotation, reducing the need for synthetic fertilisers. Students selected key vegetables and herbs that will complement their chicken dinner later in the semester. Yes, that's right. We're raising both egg laying and meat chickens who were kindly donated to the school by Kaz's Googs at Heywood and Humpy Creek Produce. The ten egg laying Isa Browns should begin laying eggs shortly and the meat chickens, which arrived during May Race week, will be ready for production in the next month just in time for students to also harvest their vegetable crops and create their chicken dinner. By doing so students learn how they can be self-sustaining, reduce the energy consumption required to do so and produce a yield with little external input e.g. fertilizers.

In addition to raising the chickens, the students have created a deep leaf litter system in the coop to create compost, which will then be utilised throughout the school for adding nutrient rich soil to the gardens. We have also continued the focus on nutrient cycles by exploring aquaponics. Aquaponics is a fusion of hydroponics and aquaculture, which harnesses the nitrogen created by the fish in the water to feed the vegetable and plant crops in the adjoining growing beds. Students began with a small scale version using goldfish, herbs and ornamental plants and have most recently upscaled to rainbow trout in an identical but enlarged system. We hope to harvest the fish at the end of year in addition to the vegetable crops this system produces throughout.

With a focus on consuming what you produce students have created herbal teas, dehydrated apples making apple chips, brewed kombucha and flavoured it with the fruits they already grow at home, and finally they have tried their hand at making their own yogurt, which was a complete hit! Most recently we visited the Warrnambool Community Garden to gain further knowledge and ideas as to how we can continue to develop our skills and add to

our garden. This has led to the creation of an assessment task that will see the students work in groups to develop a proposal for a committed permaculture garden as part of the continued works in the development of the McAuley and future 9@Rice campus. Students will consider how our elders at Mercy Place and the wider school community could access and use the garden to benefit their health and wellbeing and studies. This task will challenge students and encourage them to take all they have learned throughout the unit and apply it to a real life situation, knowing the benefits to people and places of following the principles of permaculture.

Suzie Wellens - Science & Laboratory Coordinator



Environmental Education



St Francis Xavier Primary School in Ballarat East offer a holistic approach to environmental education for an environmentally sustainable future. Environmental sustainability is about reducing our ecological footprint while simultaneously improving the quality of life that we value and the liveability of our society.

Our school is focused on creating a culture in which teaching and learning for environmental sustainability are continually reinforced. Our school fosters environmental practices and incentives within our community, such as wrapper free lunches, recycling, building with reclaimed materials, re-vegetating our unique wetlands and growing our own organic produce, with an aim to help build knowledge and access skills and tools. These practices equip students to act individually and collectively, in ways that can contribute to community, local and global environmental sustainability. We anticipate that through our actions and incentives we may inspire a

strong community spirit where the wider community's knowledge of environmental issues is also deepened, tools and practices are shared and environmental sustainability becomes a norm, rather than something extra that we have to think about.

Each week, the children participate in weekly Environmental Education lessons, which encourage them to think sustainably, reduce waste and care for the environment. These important concepts are also followed up in the classroom. Since the program's inception in 2006, there have been many successes and achievements – all of which have come about through the commitment of the students and staff to making a difference. Laudato Si Week is a time where we can recognise this commitment and continue our focus of bringing awareness of our environment and sustainability practices to our community.

Paul Bissinella - Principal (former)

National Eucalypt Day

National Eucalypt Day was observed on Wednesday, March 23 and in recognition of this day, Damascus College Ballarat received twenty trees and recyclable tree guards from Lachlan Andrews and Civica-ArborSafe, the largest arboricultural consulting company in Australia, to raise awareness of this icon group of Australian trees. Students spent their Horticulture class planting these native trees with Lachlan's assistance and guidance, along the Commemorative Walk, located out back of the campus. During the planting, students dug holes and gained a greater insight into how large the trees might grow and their uniqueness to this area. Many thanks to Civica-ArborSafe for their generosity. This gift and the work the students completed will improve the natural environment at Damascus and engage staff and students in the numerous, positive physical, mental and environmental aspects they foster. We hope to inspire a strong community spirit where the knowledge of environmental issues and practice of sustainability is carried with students for life.



The species planted was *Eucalyptus aromaphloia* (scent-bark). This species is a small to medium-sized tree endemic to Victoria, occurring roughly west from a line between Daylesford and Anglesea, and further west towards Casterton. It has a small natural distribution but is locally common in several areas in and around Ballarat such as Mount Helen, Mount Clear, Canadian and Creswick. The species is also common across the Damascus College campus, hence its selection for planting. In natural ecologies it can form pure stands, but is often seen growing in association with other Eucalypts such as *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Messmate Stringybark) and *Eucalyptus dives* (Broad-leaved Peppermint).

Sarah Boswell – Damascus College Ballarat

MONIVAE COLLEGE CADET CAMP

The Monivae College Hamilton Cadet Unit was introduced to the school curriculum in 1963 by the then Principal, Fr Tony Prentice msc. Since then the cadet program, which is supported by the Australian Army, has seen many students grow in self-confidence and further their leadership skills during their time in cadets. Monivae College Year 8 students join the cadet unit, then from Years 9 – 12 students may choose to remain in the unit to continue their training and form part of the leadership group.

From May 2–6, 2022, the Monivae Cadet Unit participated in the Annual May Camp, held in a bush setting nestled next to the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park. During the camp, students undertook lessons in self-defence and bush engineering, built obstacle courses, learnt to abseil, participated in SES and CFA training, marching and much more. A highlight of the camp was an Evening Mass where cadets were joined by their families for the evening. This atmospheric service was held under the stars and by firelight, with the surrounding majestic red gum trees lit up with spotlights. The Mass began with the cadets marching in their platoons to beating drums. Officiated by Fr Paddy Mugavin, Co-Pastor and Moderator of St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border, the Mass celebrated the sense of community nurtured by school programs such as the cadet camp and how blessed all are to be able to enjoy the magnificent gift of nature.

Kylie Schurmann - Marketing Co-ordinator



Caritas Colour Run

St Patrick's Primary School St Arnaud organised another Caritas Colour Run, following its success in 2021. Students had a lot of fun running through an obstacle course on the oval, completing the circuit as many times as they like while being splattered in colourful powders along the way! While this is an exciting afternoon for the students, it is also a great fundraiser for Caritas. In the lead up to the Colour Run, students make connections to Catholic Social Teachings, exploring the stories of people from different cultures and communities that are disadvantaged. Students develop a better understanding of how Caritas' Project Compassion supports people in developing communities – and how our fundraising can help make a difference.

Andrea Molloy-Drum



Jean Orval

Jean Louis Eugene Orval was a renowned Dutch Stained Glass Artist who emigrated to Australia with his family. Jean was born in Tegelen, Holland in May, 1911 and died in Hamilton, Victoria in March, 1987.

After graduating with a Diploma of Art in Venlo, Holland, he worked for three years as a painter and sign writer followed by employment as a decorator and display artist from 1930-1942. He worked and trained with famous Dutch artists such as Marius de Leeuw, Daan Wildschut, Jan Dyker, Charles Eyck and sculptors Frans Timmermans and Piet Killaars amongst others. In 1942, he was forced to work in Germany during World War II.

In May 1944 he commenced his own commercial art business operating until 1947. It was during this period that he began to design stained glass windows. He studied in his spare time at the Arts and Crafts School at Maastricht, Holland as well as portrait painting at a private school in Venlo. During 1947-1953 he worked at two stained glass studios in Holland.

In 1953 he arrived in Australia with his wife Josephine, whom he married in 1934, and their nine children, settling in Port Fairy for three years before moving to Hamilton.

He began work as a sign writer and window display artist with John Thomson and Co, while supplementing his income as an art teacher at Hamilton High and Technical Schools in 1958. He also gave many lectures on stained glass art in Victoria and South Australia.



At John Thomson and Co, Jean's duties extended to sign writing, Christmas decorations and even producing large murals in the meat and other departments. His artistic talents had some opportunity to flower. It was still some years, however, before he was able to make a full-time living from work in stained glass.

Following this, during one of his most productive artistic periods, from 1961 to 1967, he designed and made windows for many churches in the Western District, Wimmera, Melbourne and South Australia.

Some of Jean's outstanding stained glass windows can be seen in the historic **St Mary's Church, Hamilton**. This was his first church window commissioned in Australia. "The Nativity" (pictured above) is the large window between the entrance fronting Lonsdale Street and was installed in 1961. The finished panels measured 21 feet by 10 feet, consisting of 2000 pieces of glass, 600 yards of leadstrips and six months of labour. Jean was commissioned by Fr Dunworth in 1959 for the sum of twelve hundred pounds.

The following information was provided by his son, Noel Orval. "Starting from the top depictions one can see the four "Tetramorphs". These depict: St Matthew as man, St Mark the lion, St Luke the ox and St John the eagle. All paralleling the divine nature of Christ (Book of Ezekiel) Revelation 4:7; the Tablets as the ten Commandments; the stars above signifying the tremendous light that appeared when Christ was born; the Angels appear above each window - starting from the west side – depiction of a cornucopia that expresses the gift of life. The horn depicts the voices and music heard by the shepherds in the fields at the birth. Angel holding the star directly above the stable and as the light of the world. Angel with the golden urn; the actual windows from the west side are the shepherds kneeling as worshippers; Mary and the child Christ with manger in the foreground; Joseph and the three wise men.

The window stimulated further design and production for other churches in Victoria and interstate. Jean's other works in churches of the diocese include:

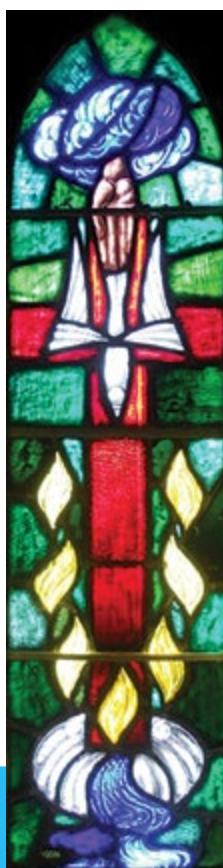
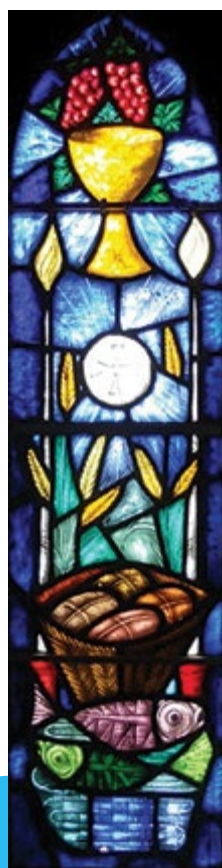
Creswick: One of Jean's earliest commissions in Australia was of a bas relief for St Augustine's School Creswick in 1959. Showing up Jean's many artistic qualities apart from stained glass, this piece was constructed for a little niche in the school that would be exposed to the elements. The building was yet to be finished when Monsignor J. McInerney approached Jean on April 27, 1959 requesting some assistance and ideas about a permanent memorial to St Augustine of Hippo. Jean visited the site and the Monsignor showed him where his relief would be positioned and by late July, the bas relief was finished. Monsignor McInerney was happy that they were able to take a photo of the school and the art work to put on the front cover of the September issue of "The Light", a christian publication, "and you would have a first class advertisement," he said. This was one of Jean's great creations which has stood the test of time. (pictured left below).

Koroit: Designed by William Wardell, the first section of the Infant Jesus Church in Koroit was completed in 1870 with additions made in 1915-1916, then designed by W. B. Tappin. On May 30, 1968, Jean was commissioned for repairs to some existing windows in the church, including two leadlights. These commissions led to further work, requested by Fr Downes in 1970. After numerous alterations to designs and sketches, Jean was finally given the go ahead on October 10, 1970 to proceed with new windows - "The Eucharist" and "The Baptism". The request was then extended to Jean that these new windows be completed by November 15 "as the windows are being presented in memory of an outstanding parishioner and the windows are expected to be in for the centenary". The windows were installed on November 11, 1970 in time for the dedication. (pictures middle below).

Stawell: St Patrick's Church Stawell was constructed in 1873 in a Victorian Gothic Revival style typical of the influential English architect, Charles Hansom. However this church design is attributed to Henry Caselli. In 1972, the church sustained severe wind damage which led to Jean being approached to do some windows for the Catholic Church in late February of 1972. Jean sent up numerous sketches as requested, of the figures of Mother Mary MacKillop, St Francis Xavier, St Therese and St Patrick as well as the Holy Trinity. On April 3, 1973 Jean was given his first payment for the windows by Fr J Conway and finally commenced these stunning windows. Fr Conway visited Jean in his studio during the construction and said he was "looking forward to seeing the windows in the church as I think it will be an added attraction to this Gothic structure and will enhance the building and make it more attractive." That they did and the windows were dedicated in October 1973 (pictured right below).

Jean was described in the 1970s as "among the six top stained glass artists in Australia." His works are listed in the Lexicon of Dutch Artists 1750-1950. For further information on the works and life of Jean Orval – visit www.orvalstainedglass.com

Noel Orval



Woookarung Dementia Friendly Forest & Sensory Trail

A short distance from the centre of Ballarat you will find native bushland with majestic grass trees, walking tracks and so much more for visitors to experience. An Australian first, it is the Woookarung Dementia Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail (WD-FF&ST). It is on Wadawurrung land. Woookarung means "Place of Plenty". Once plundered for gold and timber, the forest needed healing. A \$15,000 grant from Dementia Australia in February 2018 created the spark to do just that. It was officially launched in June 2021 and it has had around four hundred visitors to the Trail each week since.

The project partners are Parks Vic, Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance and Ballarat and Friends of Canadian Corridor. To ensure the result was indeed dementia friendly and dementia inclusive from the outset, people living with dementia and carers were engaged in co-designing each aspect of the project. Hundreds of people worked on the project to build special features and planned installations to enhance the sensory experience. Local companies supported in different ways, including making donations for specific features.

The Welcome Shelter offers detailed mapping of the Trail and heralds the beginning of the first 450m, the Welcome Wander. It is disability friendly with wide walking tracks able to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility aids. Dogs on lead can wander with you. The Forest Trek occupies the next 650m and is more suitable for those able to walk further distances.



The WD-FF&ST was a blessing to many during lockdown. Increasing numbers of groups are visiting since restrictions have lifted. Residents from aged care homes enjoy the gentle first section of the Trail. Children and adults with special needs feel safe and stimulated. Primary and secondary school groups are enjoying bush learning.

One of the joys of Woookarung Dementia Trail is to witness the creative responses of talented locals, adding even wider interest. **Magic in the Forest (Instagram)** visits each week and "finds" signs of fairy life and writes about it. It is magical.

Another wonderful ecological response to WD-FF&ST is the magnificent drawings of botanicals and arthropods by talented local artist Georgina Gould-Hardwick. Her drawings formed part of a month-long exhibition of local women artists called "13 Moons" held at the Art Space, 14 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat from June 11, 2022. For more details visit www.gould-hardwickart.com.au

Green Scripts is a project developed by members of the Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance to highlight the many health benefits derived from walking the Trail and is attracting worldwide attention. You can find out more about this project on our webpage.

Two final year IT students from Federation University worked with Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance to create a project using barcodes and a smart phone to follow the story of Nanna Kookaburra and locate all the native animals living in the trees, except one, who resides at ground level. When you find all the animals you can hear the end of the story. There are clues to help.

Mercy Associates and Sr Geraldine Mugavin rsm recently gathered for reflection at the Stone Circle, and to explore the Dementia Trail. The photograph below is taken at the Bush Window.

The Dementia Friendly Forest & Sensory Trail at Woookarung is a beautiful, inclusive space to be alone in peaceful solitude, or to wander the Trail with others enjoying the benefits of retreating to nature. The Trail is a spiritual place, one of beauty, peace and magic. You can feel it.

Magic in the Forest can have the last word: "I just hope that people will go to the Trail with wonder, open hearts, eyes, and minds. Look for what they can find with their eyes but also what they can feel with their souls."

Anne Tudor OAM



Celebration of Service to CATHOLIC EDUCATION

On the evening of Friday, May 27, over one hundred Diocesan staff and partners gathered at the beautiful Ss Peter and Paul's Church in Buninyong and then Damascus College Ballarat to recognise twenty eight staff who have served thirty years of service to Catholic education, along with honouring those who received The Partnership Award, The Catholic Leadership Award and The Fullness of Life Award.

Tom Sexton, DOBCEL Executive Director, at the celebratory dinner said "We honour and acknowledge your contribution and dedication, which has played an important part towards shaping the lives of our future generations. As we work together in partnership to achieve our vision of pursuing fullness of life for all in God's presence, we acknowledge your contribution to the partnership between families, schools, parishes, local communities and DOBCEL.



The 30 year award recipients were:

- Kelli Baird - Loreto College, Ballarat
- Jo-Anne Bond - Catholic Education Office, Ballarat
- Michelle Brodrick - Loreto College, Ballarat
- Richard Brodrick - St Patrick's College, Ballarat
- Deanne Dacey - St Mary's PS, Swan Hill
- Marie Ewing - St Thomas' PS, Terang
- Wayne Forster - Damascus College, Mt Clear
- Mark Gercovich - St Joseph's PS, Warrnambool
- Stephanie Greet - Loreto College, Ballarat
- Sharyn Grinter - Mercy Regional College, Camperdown
- Julianne Hampson - Emmaus PS, Mount Clear
- Suzanne Kent - Our Lady Help of Christians PS, Wendouree
- Bernadette Lynch - St Aloysius PS, Redan
- Paul McDowell - St Patrick's PS, Gordon
- Michelle McIntyre Hand - St Joseph's PS, Warrnambool
- Vince Muscatello - St Paul's PS, Mildura
- John O'Sullivan - St Malachy's PS, Edenhope
- Jarrod Ryan - St Patrick's College, Ballarat
- Meredith Ryan - Sacred Heart PS, Colac
- Sofia Vearing - Monivae College, Hamilton
- Louise Chesterfield - Ss Michael & John's PS, Horsham
- Miriam Collins - St Mary's PS, Colac
- Tony Duggan - Trinity College, Colac
- Inez French - Bungaree Parish Schools
- Nicole Lynch - Sacred Heart PS, Colac
- Barbara Anne Newton - Our Lady Help of Christians PS, Murtoa

- Jane O'Donnell - St Pius X PS, Warrnambool West
- Mary O'Driscoll - Loreto College, Ballarat



Diocesan Leadership Awards

The 2022 Diocesan Leadership Awards were presented to three outstanding educators in our community. These awards recognise the exemplary service, leadership and innovation of each awardee, and are an acknowledgement of their demonstration of one or more aspects of the Diocesan Education Vision.

The Partnership Award

- For commitment to and facilitation of partnerships within the education, parish, diocese and/or local community that enhance learning for students.
- For ongoing witness to partnership in Catholic education and active presence in the education, parish, diocesan and/or local community.
- For promotion of Catholic education as partnership in local and/or extended community.

Recipient of this award is The Structured Literacy Partnership - Rebecca Thurman, St Paul's PS, Mildura; Emma Rutherford, St Paul's PS, Mildura; Breeana Wade, St Joseph's PS, Red Cliffs & Catholic Education Ballarat.

In 2019, The Structured Literacy Partnership (formerly known as The Phonics Cluster) was formed between St Joseph's PS Red Cliffs, St Paul's PS Mildura and Catholic Education Ballarat, in response to the growing evidence around teaching children how to read and write and school literacy data. After the selection of a specific training program, teachers were trained and the program was implemented across both schools. The collaboration between all parties has seen great results, with an increase in teacher confidence when planning and teaching structured literacy, which can be evidenced by significant improvements in students achieving expected literacy benchmarks.

The Catholic Leadership Award

- For leadership that provides active witness to God's presence in the education, parish and/or diocesan community and that enhances the education community's Catholic identity.
- For excellence in leadership around Religious Education, spirituality, liturgy, religious art, social justice, the founding charism, evangelisation and/or ecology.

Recipient of this award is Martin Ryan, Religious Education Co-ordinator, Damascus College.

Martin has completed forty consecutive years of service to Catholic Education with a significant portion of this time in Religious Education leadership. Some of Martin's various activities include supporting teachers with the development and implementation of the RE curriculum, being a member of the writing team for the "Awakenings" curriculum and "Through Courageous Actions and Courageous Voice" program, teaching the "Pathways to Catholic Schools" and supporting communities across the diocese with their sacramental programs. Martin was the former chair of the Damascus College Board and currently holds a position on the Catholic Culture Sub-Committee. Martin went above and beyond during remote learning, ensuring that staff were well supported during the challenging circumstances.

The Fullness of Life Award

- For leadership that leads to fullness of life for colleagues and/or students.

- For excellence in education, staff formation or professional learning, student learning and/or educational innovation.
- For demonstrated commitment to evidence-based practice in education.

Recipient of this award is Andrea Hadley Literacy Coordinator, St Patrick's College Ballarat.

Andrea, in her role of Literacy Co-ordinator, has led Heads of Faculty through the ILSP program. Her leadership has invited many students across different discipline areas to realise and seek to fulfil their capacity. Her expertise and leadership show the way colleagues may name the values that motivate them to action. Andrea's personal qualities continue to inspire colleagues to persevere in all challenges for the sake of excellence in education.

Special mention must go to the Food Technology students at Damascus College who acted as servers for the evening - they were a great credit to their school.

Kerrie Zammit - DOBCEL

The Way of the Cross



The Way of the Cross event took to Ballarat streets on Good Friday as part of the Easter observance of Ballarat's Christian community, returning in 2022 after the pandemic halted the tradition in recent years.

Celebrant Bishop Paul Bird said it marked a period of remembrance. "Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday - three days remembering that last part of Jesus' story - and people have done that in different ways, whether in art and/or music, and also in action in processions," he said.

The Ecumenical pilgrimage has been performed in Ballarat for about fifty years and symbolically recreates the trials of Jesus Christ as he walked to Mount Calvary in Jerusalem. "That's a good way of course, if we're thinking of someone carrying a cross going on the journey through the streets, that's a very vivid way of doing it,"

Bishop Paul said. "That's how it's been quite a long tradition in Ballarat for people to have the Way of the Cross, but it's true around the world in so many different forms."

Starting at St Columba's Parish in Soldiers Hill, the procession took a route through the streets of Ballarat North and Black Hill - stopping for fourteen symbolic Stations of the Cross per the Easter story - finishing at the Black Hill lookout.

Worshipper Chris Crockett has been coming to the Ballarat Way of the Cross with her family since she was a child, now bringing her own children. "It's become a very commercial world, with chocolate and eggs and all that, but we have always kept our tradition that you've got to look out and care for each other," she said. "It's part of our Christian faith, and I think it teaches our kids to be good people and be disciplined. That's what we do." Ms Crockett said the tradition was a chance to slow down and reflect. "It's very special ... we always gather together and it just makes you look at the big picture, it makes you think about what's important," she said. "I think it's a really important part of life, to be able to do that - we don't do it enough. I think the world goes way too fast and we need to slow down and we need to appreciate what's going on around us and care about each other. The Way of the Cross does that for me."

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier, text by Ellie Mitchell

Our Diocesan Community - July 2022

RIP Sr Tricia Vagg

Tricia was born in Colac and lived her early years in Pirron Yallock where she attended the Catholic School in the hands of Miss Kelly, followed by time as a weekly boarder with the Sisters of Mercy (the former Melbourne Congregation) in Colac. Her secondary education was undertaken at Sacred Heart College, Ballarat East (the former Ballarat East Congregation).

Tricia joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1955 and at Reception took the name Dominic. After teacher training, Tricia's ministry was at schools around the Ballarat Diocese.

Tricia's health issues over a period of some twenty years did not inhibit her active participation in the life of many communities. Her teaching skills held her in good stead as she moved to roles as an assistant to the Speech Therapist at Ballarat Health Services, to Pastoral Ministry in parishes, and work with the 'Movement for Better World' – a parish orientated formation program to educate the laity in the outcomes of Vatican Council II. This work took her to many places throughout Australia.

In more recent times Tricia spent eleven years in Cobar – central west NSW. Here she engaged herself in the parish specifically, and to wherever there was a need – even to a call from the hospital at night to sit with the sick and dying. Life was not always easy! Whilst meeting, greeting and supporting she found time to enjoy her passion for drawing/painting, card making, crocheting and embroidering. The products of her passion were sold in a Cobar gallery and MercyWorks (an agency of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua and New Guinea) was the beneficiary of the proceeds.

Health again dictated a move from Cobar back to Ballarat where after a time she went into care in Mercy Place.

Tricia died peacefully at St John of God Hospital, Ballarat on April 4, 2022. Tricia, may you rest in peace with the God to whom you were so faithful.



In reflecting on our Mission journey, it is evident by the wonderful response of our community, that we all know the importance of giving and the impact that these contributions, big or small, can have on the lives of others. When we lend a hand to someone in need, they will go on to help others and make better opportunities for our future generations. Compassion is contagious and creates a ripple effect of kindness and prosperity.

During our Lenten Journey at St Aloysius Primary School, Redan we learnt:

- *how communities over the world have been supported by Caritas Australia;*
- *how donating vital essentials (like toiletries) can show our support for those in need in our community;*
- *to recognise the dignity of our friends without a 'home';*
- *that small contributions, like donating coins to our class Caritas box, can assist those in need elsewhere;*
- *to design a class section of the story in Holy Week.*

We are proud to present our donations to Caritas Australia and to the Ballarat Soup Bus. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to think about what we have discovered on this journey. Hopefully we gained an understanding that we are very lucky to have what we have and that we should not take this for granted. Most importantly, we acknowledge that we do not all live in the same conditions, eg. fresh water, clean clothes, waterproof homes and access to nutritious foods, but through our actions and awareness we can make a difference.

We may also have discovered that giving to others makes us feel good. We, too, can live like Jesus who always helped those in need. Let us continue making a marked difference in our local community.

Bev Baxter, Coordinator on behalf of our Mission Team,
St Aloysius Primary School, Redan
Photo: Zara, Madi, Kelsie and Jed

Farewell to Jan Healy



Living in one town for seventy years accumulates many memories and a lot of friends. It is probably a significant philosophical and psychological statement that we tend to accumulate things rather than shed them in our lives. After just over seventy years of a busy life in Ouyen, Jan Healy is finding that down-sizing is a difficult and time-consuming pastime. Jan is making a sea change, to the more gentle and milder climate of Melbourne and as such needs to take stock of what she wants, what she needs and what will fit!



Born in Heyfield, Janice was the youngest of three children. Her father, a Bank manager, had relocated the family to Swifts Creek and then Numurkah before coming to Ouyen. Jan arrived in Ouyen at the age of sixteen where she began work in the CBC bank. She could not but help notice how flat the Mallee was, and of course there was the heat and the dust. However, the early 1950's must have had some rain as Jan says the mosquitos were shocking in those days.

Like most young people of the time Jan's life revolved around the Church, work, sport and dances. Jan recalls how everyone used to play tennis in the summer and it was nothing to be playing in the 40° heat or more; that was just part of life. She remembers "The Catholic Younger Set" was a popular social group at the time and that there were always dances and balls of a Saturday night. (Left: Jan pictured with Fr Wally Tudor)

Often everyone would pile into the back of Frank Lonergan's truck and away they would go to wherever the dance was. It was at this time that Jan met Frank Healy and as she says, "The rest is history." She and Frank lived in the same house in Ouyen for sixty-four years and it is from that house full of family, faith and friends that she is trying to reduce her belongings.

When asked about the challenges of raising a family at that time Jan speaks of the cooking they did for the newly arrived Sisters at the convent and the tuck shop cooking for the children at St Joseph's. She recalls how at one stage she had children in kinder, primary and secondary school all at the same time and how she was perpetually helping for fundraisers and cake stalls of one or other, or all.

Jan has always been one to get involved and has been an active part of whatever was happening. Her involvement with the Catholic Women's League has been tireless over many decades and has left her with some wonderful memories and friends. Jan has held the positions of branch President, Secretary and Treasurer. She was also on the Diocesan Committee for nine years, Publicity Officer for two years and Social Questions Liaison Officer for five years, for which Jan has received a certificate of recognition from Pope John Paul II, as well as other Certificates of Appreciation from the League itself.

Jan has contributed to our parish in so many ways over the last seventy years that she will be dearly missed. She has been our parish organist on and off over many years until a broken shoulder put paid to that and up until COVID, played at the Church Services in the Nursing Home and Hostel each month. Jan was also a key part of St Joseph's Parish over the years in administration and as secretary of the Finance Committee.

Over the years many funny incidents have taken place but one in particular stands out of the parish priest's underwear going missing - all quite innocently of course but not without consternation at the time! Her fondest memory was of the opening of St Joseph's School in 1953 and the saddest memory was of the closing of St Joseph's School. As she says though, "You can't dwell on the bad things" and so it is that Jan is looking on the positive side of her move. She knows that she will be well cared for and so much closer to family. She is looking forward to the heated pool for her arthritis, the wonderful library and the new friends and groups she will meet and join. We will miss you Jan but no doubt you will have many calls and visits from your family and friends in the Mallee!

Marie Shaddock - Ouyen

Celebrating the SACRAMENTS

The Immaculate Conception Parish of St Arnaud welcomed seven children as they celebrated the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation in late 2021.

The group included five students from St Patrick's Primary School and two students from St Arnaud Primary School. Thanks to Fr Gerry Prunty for presiding over the celebration.

Andrea Molloy-Drum



A Truly Valiant Woman



Cathy Dunbar, a truly valiant woman and a great treasure, recently retired from her role at Catholic Education Ballarat after some forty years of remarkable service to Catholic education in the Diocese of Ballarat. She was acknowledged and farewelled by grateful colleagues (past and present) in a small gathering at the Ballarat Golf Club on her last formal day of work, Friday, April 22, 2022. It was my honour to speak about Cathy – who was my executive assistant for 8 ½ years – at that formal (surprise) gathering.

By way of technicalities, Cathy’s service record indicates that she joined the secretarial staff of the Catholic Education Office Ballarat in 1978, took leave in the late 80s to raise her family, returned part time and then moved to full time as a receptionist/clerical assistant until 2010, when she was promoted to the role of Executive Secretary to the Director. What we cannot read in the impersonal lines of that service record, is that Cathy has been dedicated throughout her career to the service of others.

Toward the end of the Book of Proverbs, God’s wisdom is personified in a description of “Lady Wisdom” - a living, breathing woman, often referred to as “the virtuous woman”. She is described as valiant, joyful, strong, patient, loving and sharing. In her ministry of service within Catholic education, Cathy Dunbar has been very much a model for Lady Wisdom and generations of education colleagues have been blessed to have some of that wisdom rub off on us.

Lady Wisdom is valiant. Someone who is “valiant” is noble and brave and courageous. Whilst I am sure Cathy would never use these words to describe herself, I have always admired her courage and determination in taking on new challenges, dealing confidentially with difficult behaviours or using her considerable professional skill to deliver on a ridiculous deadline - and all behind-the-scenes in a way that has never drawn attention to herself.

Lady Wisdom is joyful. Cathy’s way of being in the world is optimistic, positive, encouraging and joy-full. Many of her colleagues recall a time when she has quietly acknowledged their achievement, pointed out a good-news story from the local media, passed on praise she has heard or offered a word of encouragement at just the right moment. Cathy’s words and actions have encouraged us all to be Easter people.

Lady Wisdom is strong. Many colleagues have leaned on Cathy’s strength at some time. As Director of Catholic Education, I leaned on her doorjamb frequently and always came away feeling that she had somehow lifted away elements of the worries and cares that I carried.

Lady Wisdom is patient. It has been said that patience is an exercise of self-control that reflects a high moral standard in life. When I worked with Cathy, she always showed patience in working through a crisis, staying committed to the solution and helping to do whatever was needed to reduce the pressure for everyone. I know that I benefitted from her self-control and patience many times and I appreciate that holding a calm demeanour at such times both honoured those around her and provided the opportunity for the Spirit to intervene.

Lady Wisdom is loving. I have learnt so much from Cathy over the years by the way she speaks about her family – and especially her precious grandchildren – with such warmth and love. We have all seen her show that love and warmth to her colleagues without distinction, to distressed callers on the phone and to any one who needed a quiet moment of pastoral recognition or care.

Lady Wisdom is sharing. Some executive secretaries don’t make coffee, or duck out to grab your lunch when you’re snowed under, or put their shoulders to the wheel when there are menial tasks to be done. It is said that a problem shared is a problem halved – so Cathy must have taken quite a load of worries with her when she left the office for the last time.

It was a great blessing for me to work with Cathy from 2012 - 2020, to benefit from her wisdom as an executive assistant and as a woman deeply committed to Catholic education. In gathering to acknowledge her retirement, those present spoke words of blessing from Proverbs 31 in the hope that Cathy might understand the blessing she has been to each of us as a colleague and friend.

May Cathy now enjoy a long and healthy retirement with husband Chris, her much loved family and the many others who are sure to recognise Lady Wisdom in their midst.

Audrey Brown

Celebrating *Mother's Day*



A full gathering of people came together to celebrate and listen to God's love for mothers and the lovely singing and reading by the children. It was a wonderful celebration of being together and sharing family time.

The liturgy was followed by each child receiving a flower for their mum and a lovely afternoon tea shared in the gathering space.

We thank all those who prepared and attended the day.

Therese Winter - Religious Education Leader



On Wednesday, May 6, 2022 St Brigid's Primary School in Ballan warmly welcomed back to our school community a gathering of mothers, grandmothers and special people in the lives of the children to celebrate Mother's Day.

The theme of the liturgy was to celebrate the special events we like to do with our mums - from reading together, going to the footy or having special hugs time.

Anzac Day

As a nation, we stopped on Monday, April 25 to remember all who have served our nation in time of war. ANZAC Day is a day to pay our respects to those who have died in battle or as a result of war, and to recognise those who have returned.

As we acknowledge ANZAC Day in 2022 it is sad to reflect that over one hundred years ago, World War I was believed to be the war to end all wars. Sadly, there have been conflicts and wars in some part of the world every day since that time.

This year's ANZAC Day commemorations took place as conflicts and war continue in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Syria and other parts of our world. We pray that our combined prayers may be loud enough to silence the guns of war and that we may indeed achieve peace in our world. We pray that God, the source of all peace, together with the Spirit of ANZAC, may give us the courage to strive for peace in the world.

In Nhill on ANZAC Day morning, St Patrick's School students marched as part of the procession from near the Tourist Information Centre to the Cenotaph, where a wreath laying ceremony took place. All St Patrick's School students were invited to participate in the march with families encouraged to attend the Commemorative Service. One of our senior students laid a wreath on behalf of the St Patrick's School Community and our choir combined with students from Nhill Lutheran School to sing two hymns during the wreath laying. Our students practised during lunchtimes and had a combined practice session with NLS. We experienced a reflective and respectful celebration of ANZAC Day.



Kingsley Dalglish - Principal

Stations of the Cross

St Brendan's Primary School Coragulac celebrated the Stations of the Cross with students, teachers, parents and community members. We reflected on four Stations as we moved around our school grounds. Each Station had a focus and each class led us in readings and reflections followed by an activity.

Station one was the Garden of Gethsemane and the focus was prayer. After the reflection we placed prayer rocks in our garden. Station two was the courtyard and Peter's denial and was set in our court area around a fire. The focus was making good choices. Everyone had a stick and as they silently thought about a wrong choice they had made, they broke the stick and threw it in the fire.

Station three was the Crucifixion around our bell tower. Our focus was the cross as a symbol of God's love for us and after our reflection, we all made and placed crosses at the foot of the bell. Station four we moved to the front of our school where we stood in front of the closed tomb (an old tank that we use for our Christmas Nativity!). Our focus here was hope. Hope in hard and sad times, hope for ourselves and others and hope for the future. We then planted some flower seeds.

Led prayerfully and respectfully by the students, all of us enjoyed the opportunity to take this time to reflect on the Good Friday story.

Elizabeth McGuane - St Brendan's Primary School, Coragulac



Remembered fondly



Margaret Suckling, a well-respected past teacher of St Michael's Primary School Daylesford for many years, died on May 11, 2022. Margaret was the first lay teacher to be employed at St Michael's, teaching at the school's previous site in Daly Street.

Margaret will be remembered fondly by her past colleagues, students and school families, many of whom are still associated with or attending St Michael's today. Margaret was a dedicated and talented teacher, whose students gained an excellent and well-grounded education, especially within the areas of Mathematics, English, Religious Studies and Music. She expected each student to strive for their best and show respect and cultivated in her students a diligent, organised

and independent attitude to their studies, sending them off well prepared for their next stage of learning. Margaret was also passionate about music and taught piano and singing at the school. Indeed, she started a school choir, training the students who won at the Royal South Street Society, Ballarat, in 1989.

After Margaret's retirement from teaching, she generously volunteered her time returning to continue teaching singing and piano with students, as well as contributing her musical talents within St Peter's Parish and the town community. She often played the piano or organ at many past student's and colleague's weddings. As many would know, she was very proud of her past students and their achievements.

We send sincere condolences to her daughter Michelle Teague, also a past teacher at the school, her grandchildren who attended here as students and her great grandchildren, one of whom is a student here and to her extended family who are still involved in the school.

Leah Monaghan, Business Manager St Michael's Primary School, Daylesford



All Saints Parish Portland

Over the weekend of August 27 & 28, 2022, celebrations will be held for the 175th anniversary of All Saints Parish Portland.

All Saints Portland is one of the oldest parishes in the Diocese of Ballarat.

If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, please contact the Parish Office by email portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by posting copies of items to: All Saints Parish, PO Box 210, Portland, 3305.

The construction of All Saints Catholic Church began in 1857 and was completed in 1862 - the same year that Mary MacKillop arrived in Portland. Mary was closely involved in the life of the church. She worshipped here with her family and also became sacristan, accepting responsibility for the care of the church.

When Mary MacKillop was beatified on January 19, 1995, the parishioners installed a stained glass window at the southern end of the building in honour of the Australian saint who had lived and worked amongst the people of Portland.

The window depicts the young Mary teaching her beloved students beneath the Southern Cross. It was designed by local artist Terry Eichler and produced by the Portland Leadlighters Guild.

<http://www.visitmarymackillop.com.au/all-saints-catholic-church.html>



Amoris Laetitia
Family
Year 2021 - 2022

The "Amoris Laetitia Family Year" was an initiative of Pope Francis, which aimed to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals. The experience of the pandemic highlighted the central role of the family as the domestic Church and the importance of community ties between families. Such ties make the Church an authentic "family of families" (AL 87).

The family deserved a year of celebration, so that it could be given a central place in the commitment and care of every pastoral and ecclesial reality. The year ended on June 26, 2022 with the X World Meeting of Families, the theme focussing on "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness". Also each year, we celebrate National Families Week (May 15-21) - Australia's annual celebration of families. The aim of National Families Week is to celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society.

National Families Week is a time to celebrate with your family, make contact with your extended family and friends, and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. It is a time to celebrate the meaning of family and to make the most of family life.

Let's take the time to reflect on the critical role that families play in teaching, supporting and nurturing children, especially as they grow.

<https://nfw.org.au/about/>

<https://catholic.org.au/amorislaetitiayear>

Reflections on families can be read below:

On April 15, 2022, Easter Sunday morning, the Baptism of Clementine Pearl Prockter, daughter of Megan and Christopher and younger sister to Harvey, took place. The ceremony was held at St Mary's Church in Swan Hill and officiated beautifully by Fr James Kerr. There is nothing like a Baptism at Easter time to signify new life and bring family and friends together to celebrate the beginning and confirm the meaning of our faith's journey.



Our Diocesan Community - July 2022

Clementine's Baptismal Ceremony brought four generations of family together including parents, godparents, grandparents, great grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts and cousins to celebrate this special celebration. The most senior family member present at the baptism was great-grandmother Margaret Lowry who fittingly celebrated her 87th birthday as we began the week of National Family Week. Margaret has lived and celebrated her faith all her life in the Ballarat Diocese where she married Leo Lowry and had six children, twenty-two grandchildren and two beautiful great-grandchildren. She has been a wonderful mentor, educator and leader over four generations living and showing the true meaning, significance and upmost importance of Family and Faith. Pictured right is Clementine's great grandmother Margaret Lowry holding her with her mother, Megan next to them.



The christening gown that Clementine wore was worn by her mother, Megan, in 1992 and her great-great grandmother, Clarice Paige in 1909. The gown was first reported to be worn by Clarice's older sister Roberta in 1899. Also, this was the first time Fr James had baptised two siblings within the same family. Clementine's great grandmother, Cathie Berry and great grandfather, Kevin Berry (pictured left below) were in attendance as well. They are part of St Patrick's Parish, Lilydale. Clarice was Cathie's Mother.



Bernadette O'Donnell, with Megan Prockter holding Clementine, are pictured left. Bernadette is Megan's aunty and godmother. Megan's cousins left to right: Gabrielle O'Donnell (Bernadette's youngest daughter), Zara Lowry, Megan and Keira Lowry are pictured middle. A wonderful family occasion.



*My name is **Renita**. My beautiful family consists of my husband Mick, two daughters Macey (9 years) and Ava (6 years) and 9 months ago our latest addition Zachary was born. Nothing fills my heart more than the love that I see between them every day. In our family we value hard work, caring for and supporting each other and inclusivity.*

As our family has recently expanded it is really important to value and celebrate each family member as an individual and also to value the everyday contributions we make to strengthen the family. Mick leads by example with his work ethic and the girls have a great sense of pride in their contributions of work around the house. As we are watching Zac learn and grow, he is validating the love and care we show towards him with his smiles and actions. Through my teaching and volunteer work with children, I am able to bridge the gap between family and community.

It is our hope as parents that the values and lessons that our children learn in our family will spread to how they contribute to the wider community.

Vinnies Fundraiser

St Brigid's College Horsham Young Vinnies organised and catered for a staff luncheon recently as a fundraiser for the local St Vincent de Paul Society. The food was beautifully presented and tasted amazing!

The students involved did a fantastic job and are very proud to say they raised over \$300! A big thank you to Mrs Leanne Sotiriadis for donating her valuable time and cooking to help our Young Vinnies with this event. It is very much appreciated.



*Rhiannon Abernethy - School Development Officer
Our Diocesan Community - July 2022*



Mercy Regional College Hosts Community Lunch

On Wednesday, March 23, 2022, Mercy Regional College Camperdown VCAL students hosted a community lunch at the Camperdown Uniting Church.

The church facilitates weekly community lunches which offer home cooked meals for people of all ages and life circumstances. Mercy Regional College is among other local groups and organisations who put their hand up to cook and serve meals to the public.

Community lunches are one of the many community-focused initiatives that MRC students participate in throughout the year. They are special occasions for both students and staff as they provide a great opportunity to meet people of different ages and backgrounds and listen to their stories. The students appreciate the inclusiveness and the giving spirit of the lunches where everyone in the community is welcome.

Over the past two years community meals had to be modified due to the ever-changing COVID guidelines. Mercy Regional College worked hard during the pandemic to ensure that those in need could receive homemade food, but the community meal volunteers were looking forward to the opportunity to serve lunches in person once again. Needless to say, when the College was able to resume participation in the Camperdown Uniting Church community program in April, it was a significant event for the students and staff involved.

Delicious lasagne, salad, and rhubarb and apple crumble were cooked by Year 11 VCAL students under the guidance of their teacher, Mrs Danae Fraser. The meals were then delivered to the church and served by the Year 12 VCAL class with the help of Mrs Wendy Gleeson and Mrs Rose Henry. The lunch was warmly received by the 42 community members who praised the skills and commitment of MRC students.

Katya Belokon
Marketing, Communications & Community
Engagement Officer
Mercy Regional College

YOUNG VINNIES LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE BALLARAT YOUTH

A student-run volunteer organisation is calling for new members to help support vulnerable Ballarat youth and families. Aquinas Young Vinnies, based out of Australian Catholic University's Ballarat campus, is a volunteer group that runs activities and events for children aged 8 - 12 and whose families are receiving assistance from the St Vincent de Paul Society.

With some members entering their final year of university, the group is in need of new members to continue the work of Aquinas Young Vinnies. Past activities have included trips to Scienceworks and Xtreme Bounce in Delacombe.

Aquinas Young Vinnies President, Lucy McNamara said volunteering with Young Vinnies was a rewarding experience and helped give her skills to complement her teaching degree. "It's been such a rewarding experience for me, personally. It's just great. I'm doing teaching at uni, so it's good skills for me in terms of interacting with kids and parents," she said.

"It's very rewarding and just getting to see the kids have a lot of fun is also great, and to build those relationships with them."

Ms McNamara said, "We're just looking for any youth or students who would like to volunteer with us. The kids have been identified as needing a little bit of support. Normally it's through the St Vincent de Paul Society, so their parents might have interacted with the society in a way or a school might've identified them and they're just referred to us through those pathways. The feedback we have received is the parents are usually so happy for us to have them. Because of COVID, we haven't been able to do much in the last two years, which has been so sad, so this year we are looking for new members. We're really starting back up which we're very excited about."

*Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier,
text by Jackson Russell*

*More information can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/ACUAquinasYoungVinnies/>*



A Special Event

Catholic Education Ballarat was excited to offer the opportunity to meet with and hear from Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann AM during National Reconciliation Week, May 27 – June 3. National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to come together to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann AM, 2021 Senior Australian of the year, is a renowned Aboriginal Artist, Activist, Writer and Public Speaker who is dedicated to creating bright and fulfilling futures for Aboriginal children and youth. She was the first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher in the Northern Territory and is the founder of the Miriam Rose Foundation. Miriam Rose speaks five local languages along with English and is responsible for establishing the highly successful Merrepen Arts Centre in Naiyu.



In 1998, Miriam Rose was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, for her services to Aboriginal education and art, and her services to the Naiyu community. Miriam Rose has worked as Principal at the St Francis Xavier School at Daly River.

The event held at St Patrick's College Pavilion Room was well attended with Matt Byrne, Deputy Director: Catholic Education Ballarat introducing Miriam Rose and Michelle Brodrick, Principal of Loreto College Ballarat, hosting a question and answer session.

Miriam Rose told us a little about her early years growing up in the Northern Territory in the 1950s and 1960s, about what life was like for her as the first indigenous teacher in the Northern Territory and about some of the challenges that her community faces today.

Miriam Rose talked about an ancient Indigenous spirituality, called 'Dadirri' and how it can be used as a form of meditation and mindfulness in today's busy world. 'Dadirri' is a word that describes inner deep listening, awareness and connection to nature. Miriam Rose shared something of this 'Dadirri' gift in the context of reconciliation. Miriam Rose has said previously that "our Aboriginal culture has taught us to be still and to wait. We don't like to hurry. There is nothing more important than what we are attending to. There is nothing more urgent that we must hurry away for. We wait on God, too. His time is the right time. We wait for him to make his Word clear to us. We don't worry. We know that in time and in the spirit of Dadirri (that deep listening and quiet stillness) his way will be clear."



As there were many teachers and people working in education in the audience, another topic covered with Miriam Rose was what needs to be done to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families that are under our care, both locally and remotely. Miriam Rose stressed that we needed to be so aware of what could be happening back home and the ways Aboriginal culture deal with life and issues.

Miriam Rose challenged us to 'be brave and make change', building on the theme from National Reconciliation Week, that understanding of who we are must go both ways.

For more information on Miriam Rose see: <https://www.miriamrosefoundation.org.au/about-miriam-rose-foundation/>
Photo credit: Glenn Fisher St Patrick's College Ballarat



FAREWELL ANNE BEER

Following 8.30am Mass at Beaufort on Sunday, May 22, we took the opportunity to have a Morning Tea to farewell Anne Beer, who will soon be leaving for Queensland to be nearer family.

It was pleasing to see that members of other Beaufort churches accepted the invitation to come along and say their farewells to Anne. We also welcomed former parishioners in Sr Helen Murphy and Judy O'Connor back for the occasion. A number of apologies were shared during a brief reflection on the different areas of expertise that Anne has demonstrated over many years. Jim Mahony spoke very highly of Anne's work for the church and also commended her on her many strengths of involvement in our local community, including her work on the Pyrenees Advocate, Rotary and the Annual Art Show.

Bernadette Franc endorsed Jim's remarks and paid attention to the many aspects that Anne has been a part of since coming to St John the Baptist Catholic Community Beaufort in the late 1970's. One highlight was her initiative in being involved in many ecumenical gatherings and also her ministry in the local health settings such as the Hospital and the Hostel. In true Anne style, she indicated that she wouldn't be leaving town until after the Art Show in June. The whole town and district wish Anne all the very best.

Bernadette Franc



Emmanuel College Caritas K's

Emmanuel College Warrnambool Year 12 students planned and participated in Caritas K's as part of their 'Search for Meaning - Religious Education' studies. In many parts of the world people walk long distances every day to access clean water – a basic human right.

To gain a deeper understanding of this hardship, students participated in a walk where they carried heavy buckets of water around a course that included a flight of stairs. It was a fun activity during which students collectively walked fifty kilometres over thirty minutes.

This activity linked strongly to their work in RE classes, discovering more about the life and actions of Jesus, and how we can apply his example to our lives as global citizens.

Caroline Garner - Home Liaison Co-ordinator

At this time of celebrating my sixtieth Jubilee of Profession as a Sister of Mercy, I am wondering, as I often do, where have all the years – with their ups and downs – gone? I was born in Edenhope. My first school years were at Bringalbert Primary School and in 1953 when the Sisters of Mercy (of the former Ballarat East Congregation) arrived, I attended St Malachy's Primary School as one of their first students. On leaving school I worked at St John of God Hospital, Warrnambool before joining the Ballarat East Sisters of Mercy Novitiate on Easter Sunday 1959 and was professed on February 3, 1962. Over the years I have taught nearly 'from the Murray to the sea' as they say, even returning to Edenhope!

Life took a turn and I found myself back in Ballarat helping to care for our Sisters in 'Emmaus' – a small Care Hostel. During that time I completed a 'Home and Community Care Course' at the Gordon Institute in Geelong which enabled me to work with the Boroondara Council for six years, while living with the Faithful Companions of Jesus Sisters in Richmond.

Back in Ballarat now, I find I am available where there is a need – one of these being a visitor to homes in Creswick where I feel people enjoy a visit. As Catherine McAuley said all those years ago 'Be ever ready to praise, encourage, to stimulate...'

Sr Marie Flynn rsm



Jubilee Celebrations

Chicago

After months of hard work, Loreto College Ballarat presented a dazzling performance of the hit Broadway musical, *Chicago*, at the Mary's Mount Centre, Loreto Abbey Theatre in May.

About seventy cast and crew, including students from Year 7 to Year 12, brought to life the 'school's version' of the sassy story of the rise of the concept of 'celebrity criminal' and the corruption of the American justice system in the 1920s.



VCAL students studying a Certificate II in Creative Industries also helped with different aspects of the production, including producing the show's official program and gaining a valuable insight into the intensity of a workplace in the arts.

Director, Lindy Crowe-Procaccino said, "Our cast and crew have been working for months to bring this show together. It's a story about murder, greed, corruption, violence, exploitation, adultery and treachery...all the things we hold near and dear to our hearts!" With thirteen lead roles in *Chicago* many students were able to showcase their singing, dancing and acting talents. Every future star first shines on the stage of a school production, and those behind the scenes are no exception, with students also excelling in stage management, lighting, costume and set production.

The Loreto College production razzle dazzled the audience from start to finish over five polished performances and it was wonderful to welcome a full house back to the Loreto Abbey Theatre!

Judy-Ann Quilliam - Director of Marketing & Development

DOBCEL

On May 9 and 10, the DOBCEL Board met at St John's Primary School, Dennington. Thank you to Ben van de Camp and his staff for their warm welcome.

Whilst travelling to Dennington, the Directors stopped to visit several Southern Zone schools. These visits provided great insights and are a highlight for the Directors. Throughout the year, it is the intention to visit as many schools as possible to keep a connection between the schools and the Board.

Over the two days, many topics were covered, with a number of hours dedicated to the Child Safe Standards and new policies being rolled out to all Diocesan schools for implementation by July 1, 2022. Much work has been done on these policies by Catholic Education Ballarat staff including Jacqui Righetti, Ange Jones, Megan Ioannou and Matt Byrne; the Board were grateful for their work. Another important topic discussed was staff attraction

and retention. The Board are very aware of the strain that schools are under with the current teacher shortage and are looking at different and creative ways to combat this issue.

The Southern Zone Principals, Parish Priests and School Advisory Council Chairs were invited to join the Board Directors for dinner in the evening. During the dinner, guests were asked to discuss the topic of governance, specifically, 'How has the new governance structure affected your school?' Conversation was very positive with the majority of feedback being that schools are comfortable with the new structure, schools are grateful that DOBCEL is handling and reviewing policies and School Advisory Councils are happy with how the structure is working.

Kerrie Zammit - DOBCEL





‘BE BRAVE, MAKE CHANGE’

To mark National Reconciliation Week with this year’s theme ‘Be Brave, Make Change’, Damascus College Ballarat ran a host of morning activities including: PA announcements, didgeridoo music, explanation of the colours on the Aboriginal flag, Book Club with a reconciliation focus. The activities culminated in a Reconciliation Week whole school photo with the Aboriginal flag. Funds were raised to donate to the ‘Clothing The Gap Foundation’, which is an Aboriginal led foundation aiming to improve life expectancy of First Nations people.

Acting Assistant Principal - Student Wellbeing, Daniel Jans said that this year’s theme is a challenge to all Australians to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation and to create change. “We asked students to wear

an accessory in one of the colours of the Aboriginal flag such as a bracelet, a scarf or a beanie. We then gathered to take a photo of everyone in their accessories surrounding the Aboriginal flag to display solidarity with and support of the First Nations People,” he said.

It was a symbol of our College’s brave and committed effort to make change, to gather around the Aboriginal flag and face inward towards it. We asked everyone to hold their hands in the direction of the flag above our heads, symbolic of our commitment, as individuals, families and community, to reconciliation. A central focus and mission for the Damascus community moving forward.

“Our vision for reconciliation is to see a country that meaningfully acknowledges its past and a country that listens to First Nations People. By learning, listening and collaborating with First Nations People, we hope to shape a better understanding of the injustices experienced and create change through education,” Daniel said.

Damascus College is establishing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which is a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation underpinned by key themes of Relationships, Respect and Opportunities.

A RAP will assist Damascus College to foster an enabling environment that promotes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ empowerment. By making this commitment, Damascus College will be guided by a vision in which our community truly values and shows deep respect for, and understanding of, the First Peoples of Australia.

Sarah Boswell - Leader of Marketing & Development

A wonderful gift
from the
Sisters of St John



When the Chapel of St John of God Hospital was de-commissioned in one of the hospital’s earlier expansions, the Sisters of St John of God were approached by OLHC Parish Wendouree regarding a possible purchase of the stained glass windows for their new church. In a magnificent gesture of generosity the Sisters donated the window to the parish. The OLHC Church was officially opened on July 4, 1998.

Sr Assumption Neary writes of the background to the windows.....

“In early 1969 twelve stained glass windows were commissioned by the Sisters of St John of God Ballarat for their Chapel of Christ the King which was opened and consecrated on December 8, 1970. The windows are the work of Harvey Clark Stained Glass Limited, 67 North Frederick Street, Dublin, Ireland. The glass used as raw material purchased from England, and all the artwork and labour involved in the cutting of glass, painting it and assembling it in lead being done in Ireland. The windows travelled in a container aboard the ‘Botany Bay’ that sailed for Australia on June 19, 1970. The symbols of the windows: The Holy Spirit; Passion of Christ – Cross with Crown of thorns and nails; Heart of Jesus; Lamb of God; Precious Blood - Pelican; Mary, Mother of all Nations; Christ the King.”

OLHC Wendouree History - Mary Miller, in collaboration with OLHC parishioners



Leadership Day

proud to show off their lovely school grounds.

On Monday, May 2, 2022 the Catholic Education Ballarat Leadership Team held its meeting at St Mary's Primary School, Donald.

It is the intention of the Leadership Team to continue to hold the majority of these meetings in a school setting so as to be a presence throughout the Diocese.

The day began with an Acknowledgement of Country presented by Grade 6 students Libby and Sophie. The Team was then taken on a tour of the school by Libby, Elijah, Sophie and Skye. Students in the classes visited were engaged with their learning and our tour guides were very

Kerrie Zammit - DOBCEL



Expression of pastoral responsibility

The Sacred Heart Mildura Parish Soup Kitchen began its operations in 2013 from the Fleming Room (a small room in the church car park!) Over time and with increased numbers of clients using this service, it was then moved to the beautiful Monaghan Centre which is part of our Sacred Heart Church. It was named in honour of Fr Frank Monaghan who was a much loved Parish Priest in Mildura for many years.



The Soup Kitchen operates on Monday and Wednesday nights and is managed and staffed by volunteer groups within the parish. Sacred Heart Primary School staff and children from the Student Leadership Team are responsible for coordinating this event once a month. As well as a healthy, hearty two course meal and a warm or cool drink (especially appreciated on hot nights in the middle of our Sunraysia Summer) clients are also provided with 'take home' packs that include fruit, bread, biscuits and a second meal with dessert, to have at a later date. This is all served up in a warm, friendly and safe environment.

The Sacred Heart Parish Soup Kitchen is an expression of the pastoral responsibility of the parish, which takes into account our special commitment to the poor, the elderly, the unemployed, migrants and the homeless people and their families within our society.

The Soup Kitchen's main responsibility is to provide a safe, clean and uplifting environment for those in need of food and fellowship. The role of all volunteers in the Soup Kitchen is primarily one of service and to treat all guests with respect, dignity and compassion according to the values of the Gospel.

Sacred Heart Parish Vision Statement: Our Parish is a Eucharistic Community united by our faith in Jesus Christ. We work together in the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news of God's Kingdom.

The Soup Kitchen builds community spirit through donations of bread, rolls and pastries from local businesses who recognise and support the charitable role of the soup kitchen. There is also the opportunity for individuals to volunteer their time, gifts and donations of simple things such as plastic bags, food containers and vegetables.

When it is our rostered month, the Sacred Heart School staff are responsible for cooking the main meal and dessert, which is always healthy and delicious. They are assisted on the night by two of the Student Leadership Team members and their parents in serving food and drinks to our guests, providing friendly chats, washing dishes and helping to pack up. This is an important part of our social justice program here at Sacred Heart School in Mildura and we are honoured to be able to assist those less fortunate than ourselves.



Christine Carmichael - Sacred Heart Primary School



Diversity and Inclusion

A rainbow glowed throughout Mercy Regional College Camperdown when they recognised MRC Diversity and Inclusion Week. Inclusiveness, Community, Justice and Mercy and Care are some of our Mercy Core Values and are lived through our kindness towards all others in the immediate community of our staff, young people, parents, carers and families and our wider communities. Through the week we recognised specifically the cultural, gender, religious and neurological diversity of our community. Students participated in activities designed to enhance inclusion, respect and awareness of diversity and we welcomed Bree Gorman to speak with our staff on Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace - turning good intentions into meaningful, measurable change - which for staff in schools includes educating and creating safe, inclusive places of belonging for our young people. Shared below is a small part of the extended piece written recently by College Social Worker, Matthew Crane.

“When we talk about diversity, we are talking about a fact of life: we are all different. When we talk about inclusion, we are talking about a deliberate act or choice in words and actions that enrich and enhance our community (Morgan, 2021). Whilst Mercy Regional College may seem mono-cultural, and certainly this has been the case in the past, the truth is that as a community, we come from a variety of backgrounds made up of different ethnicities including First Nations people, family structures, socio-economic backgrounds, neurodiversity as well as students and families who identify with the gender diverse community. Members of our community would once have been majority Catholic; now, our community is made up of many different expressions of the world’s religions, and indeed, people of no faith. No two people in the MRC community are the same. We are as diverse in our backgrounds as we are in our interests, our tastes in music, our gifts and our talents. This diversity enriches our community.”

Every day during this week, we focussed on a particular aspect of diversity on our social media, starting with Cultural Diversity. The world is filled with people who have different beliefs, religions, traditions and ways of living. It is within our differences that we find beauty. Both in educational and professional environments, diversity benefits everyone. It paves the way to a diversity of thought and perspectives that make interaction between people more interesting and dynamic. It builds strength of character, pride and confidence. It teaches us to treat each other with empathy and compassion.

Cultural Diversity: *Our Mercy community is vibrant and multi-cultural. We all have different backgrounds that determine our values, norms and behaviours. Our cultural diversity opens the door to new learning opportunities and the blending of ideas. As a College community, we create an environment where every culture is seen as unique and worth celebrating.*

Gender Diversity - IDAHOBIT Day: *Our students and staff at both campuses were involved in different activities to mark IDAHOBIT Day - the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia. They wore bright colourful funky socks to raise awareness of LGBTQIA+ people in our community and make them feel included. Rainbow cupcakes were a big hit. The cupcakes were creatively decorated by students and staff and symbolise the diversity of human gender. A rainbow flag flew all week at our campuses in support of the LGBTQIA+ community.*

Sharon Gillett – Principal



Only in the Country!

Meet Cassie and her cow, Biscuit. At times, it seems that Biscuit is confused as to whether she is a cow or a horse! As you can see, Cassie rides Biscuit and can even go over small jumps on her. What a cow! (or horse).

“This is Biscuit, my Hereford and Friesian cow. I got her from Billy McGuane’s farm as a calf and trained her to lead and be ridden. The Campbell’s helped me a lot by giving me halters, a bridle, a saddle and much more. We now round up other cows and do lots of jumping and much more. Biscuit is the best cow, no other cow will ever be better.” Love Cassie

Gracesyn Perrett - St Brendan’s Primary School Coragulac

Our Diocesan Community - July 2022

Disaster Relief Medical Equipment on-route to Tonga



After the devastation of the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai eruption, a shipping container full of donated medical equipment was sent to the people of Tonga. Tonga was left devastated after the underwater volcano Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai erupted, causing a tsunami in January this year.

Approximately 85% of Tonga’s population was impacted by the tsunami, which saw many injured, and three people sadly lost their lives. Water sources and crops have also been seriously contaminated by the ash and volcanic rubble. Communication with Tonga has been difficult as the country’s international fibre optic cable was severed due to the eruption.

The St John of God Health Care Community Responsibility Fund donated \$25,000 to Caritas Tonga as a first response to the disaster that was unfolding. After being able to finally make contact with the Ministry of Health in Tonga, their biggest need was hospital beds and hospital-grade mattresses. Thanks to donations from Ballarat Base Hospital, St John of God Ballarat and Bendigo Hospitals, Lake Imaging and Deutscher’s Healthcare, the list of donated goods includes more than twenty hospital beds, over twenty-five hospital-grade mattresses, an examination trolley and baby cots. There is also a large quantity of linen being donated thanks to Eureka and Gouge Linen.

Once the medical equipment arrived, it was distributed to areas of need which included the Vaiola Hospital in Tongatapu (main island). The equipment was also distributed to other areas of need, including community health centres, and areas of need in the outer islands.

St John of God Ballarat Hospital has a long standing partnership with Tonga through the Tonga Twinning Program. This program has allowed much needed medical equipment and training to be provided to the Vaiola Hospital over the last three decades. Tonga Twinning Program Coordinator, Carolyn Mornane, said it was so important to be able to help. “We are very thankful that we were able to provide equipment to Tonga, and that other organisations in the Ballarat community have rallied to support [Tonga] by donating equipment as well.”

<https://www.sjog.org.au/our-locations/st-john-of-god-ballarat-hospital/news>

Photo: The shipping container full of beds and medical supplies ready for Tonga. Left to right: Maureen Waddington, Carolyn Mornane, Alex Demidov of St John of God Ballarat Hospital.

A red poster with white and yellow text. It features several small photos of people and a globe. The text reads 'THANK YOU PROJECT COMPASSION FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS'. At the bottom, there is a 'DONATE NOW' button and contact information for Caritas Australia: 'Visit caritas.org.au', '1800 034 412', and '#projectcompassion'.

150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On the weekend of September 17 & 18, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 150th anniversary of St Augustine’s Church, Creswick. Events planned over the weekend will include a Dinner on Saturday evening, September 17 which will be an opportunity to socialise and catch up with parishioners and friends from Creswick. A Mass will be held on Sunday, September 18 at 12.00noon celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird. As well a display of photos and memorabilia is being organised with many items already being given by parish families. Members of the organising committee, David Preston and Neil Doolan wish to let all parishioners, former parishioners and descendants of the pioneers of St Augustine’s know that they are warmly invited to attend the celebrations. Save the date. Spread the word to your families and friends who have had a connection with St Augustine’s Parish. If you wish to attend the dinner, be present for the Mass or if you have any photos or memorabilia which you wish to share, please contact the St Augustine’s Parish Office on creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 0448 220 685 to make arrangements.

David Preston and Neil Doolan, Members of the 150th Organising Committee



Top notch training ward opened

Fully automated mannequin patients bring to life the newest nursing training lab at ACU's Ballarat Campus. Featuring the layout and facilities of an actual hospital ward, the ward doubles the existing capacity for pre-clinical training nurses at the campus, providing industry-relevant skills to our students. The facility features sixteen beds across the simulation wards, a simulation suite, control room and observation room, steri room, drugs room, pan room and updated AV equipment.

Bishop Paul Bird joined Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison, ACU Vice-Chancellor Professor Zlatko Skrbis, ACU Ballarat staff and students to open the \$1.9 million nurse training ward and simulation suite on March 31. Drawn from the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund, the grant is a key part of the State Government's \$8.7 million investment to improve learning at ACU's campus and build a pipeline of skilled workers, and part of a larger \$350 million for capital works, research infrastructure projects and applied research across the state's higher education sector.

The project will also boost teaching capacity and allows for a more tailored approach to the delivery of learning. Ms Addison said funding to local universities was a priority

for the government to support a strong pipeline of locally trained professionals. "Nurses have played a heroic role in Victoria during the pandemic and we're strengthening the local workforce even more by providing world-class training opportunities to the next generation of healthcare experts," she said.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Zlatko Skrbis said the funding helped nursing and paramedicine students develop their skills further, becoming even more job ready to meet the growing demands across the healthcare industry in our region and beyond. "The generous investment by the Victorian Government allows us to double our capacity to train pre-clinical nurses here in Ballarat."

"ACU is Australia's largest educator of nurses, and at a time when the importance of our frontline health workforce has been so strongly highlighted, we remain committed to meeting the growing demand for nurses, paramedics and other healthcare workers, especially to communities throughout regional Victoria," Professor Skrbis said.

Media contact: Jen Rosenberg Pictured above: Vice-Chancellor Professor Zlatko Skrbis, Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Juliana Addison MP, Professor Karen Nightingale and Professor Bridget Aitchison



LORETO COLLEGE CULTURAL DAY

Loreto College Ballarat Year 8 students gathered together for a dedicated Cultural Day at the end of Term 1. The students first listened to past pupil and current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer, Macaylah Johnson, speak about Indigenous Culture. The students were captivated as Macaylah shared one of the Wathawurrung Dreamtime stories and conducted a wonderful interactive demonstration of the history of Indigenous Peoples on the land.

The students then moved into smaller groups to complete a range of Indigenous activities, including creating an artwork that reflected the Dreamtime story. The students learned and used Indigenous symbols to create their images. They then went into the gymnasium to learn and enjoy some traditional Indigenous games run by Macaylah and the team from Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative (BADAC).

Judy-Ann Quilliam
Director of Marketing & Development



NAIDOC WEEK

On June 7, St Joseph's School Red Cliffs gave thanks to God for the traditional owners of this land and for their rich history and culture that we were fortunate to learn about through a day filled with enjoyable activities.

We began with a Traditional Smoking Ceremony to start the day, led by Uncle Will Hannah. We shared a short liturgy in recognition of the Indigenous communities who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years, and their descendants who maintain these spiritual connections.

Following this we launched into rotational activities. Mrs Southwell led an art activity using leaves to decorate an Australian Eagle; Mrs Tiller showed students the making and eating of tasty Nhiki Manhu (Johnny Cakes); Mr Darby guided some skillful Indigenous games; Mrs Williams directed an activity that involved the creation of a nature walk bracelet and Mrs Thompson joined Uncle Will Hannah as he shared stories and demonstrated the use of some Indigenous artefacts.

After lunch, we were delighted to welcome visiting performer, Sean Choolburra, who entertained and enthralled us with a range of traditional dances, stories and artefacts from his Indigenous community in Northern Queensland, around Cairns.

To finish the day, the juniors were thrilled to have a visit from Aunty Colleen, who came to tell the Emu story, with help from her grand-daughter, Sidnie. Aunty Colleen brought in many artefacts and props to support the telling

of the Emu story and the juniors were excited to be able to pass these around and look closely at these items. Meanwhile, the senior students were given the privilege of trying their hand at throwing a boomerang on the oval with Uncle Will Hannah.

A big thank you to Sean, Uncle Will Hannah and Aunty Colleen for sharing their culture with us on this day. As always, it is wonderful to have members of our local community share their culture and stories with us.

Naomi Kennedy – Principal



60 Years of Care & Service

The parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish Casterton have been so grateful of the Mercy traditions of Catherine McAuley in education, compassion and development and dignity over many years. Numerous Sisters of Mercy have ministered in our school, parish and community all leaving their own legacy as they walked in Catherine's shoes and lived her understanding and values of Faith, Growth and Unity.

Sr Anne Cossar is one of those Sisters. Whilst she now lives in Bendigo, she is a member of the South B Community; born in Charlton, and joining the Mercies in the former Melbourne Congregation, this diocese has at different times been the beneficiary of her ministry – from the Wimmera to Mildura, Edenhope and Merbein and the rolling hills of the Wannon and Glenelg Rivers.

In 1983 and for seven years Casterton was the recipient of Anne's ministry – answering the call of the community no matter the time of day or night, 'giving to all – regardless of age, beliefs, life story, their situation, along with the sad and joyous times. Built into this was time for love, laughter, socialising, whether that be in the local hospital, school, a home or the community; many still to this day can tell an 'Anne story'! As Catherine McAuley once said 'never see a need without doing something about it'.

Warmly 'opening the door' to whoever may knock, Anne's service and compassion was for all - no questions asked, no judgements made!

Well done Anne! Sixty years of commitment to the Mercy way of life wherever you were and whatever the need; congratulations and thank you.



From the writing of Sharon Gill, Casterton

Plenary Council at Creswick

At the invitation of Fr Justin Driscoll, Felicity Knobel came and spoke during Sunday Mass to St Augustine's Creswick Parish Community about her experience of being involved as a Ballarat Diocesan delegate at the Plenary Council of the Australian Church. It was very interesting to hear Felicity speak of her experience. Felicity spoke of her personal journey as a wife, mother and educator in Catholic education, currently at Loreto College Ballarat. She shared memories with us of how her parents participated in their church and how it was very much a time of connecting with neighbours and friends.

The previous Plenary Council was held in 1937. Fifty years ago, we had the Second Vatican Council and it is interesting that it has taken us this long after Vatican II to hold another Plenary Council. Hence this is a truly momentous and amazing time for our Catholic Church. We are called to be a Christ centred church that is committed to Conversion, Renewal and Reform. Many parishes in this diocese responded by gathering together and submitting their items for discernment. Six themes arose from these gatherings: Missionary and Evangelising; Prayerful and Eucharist; Humble, healing and merciful; A joyful, hope-



filled and servant community; and Open to conversion, renewal and reform. These themes were the topic of discussion at the First Assembly of the Plenary Council which was held in October 2021.

We prayed for Felicity that her optimism and enthusiasm continued for the next meeting of the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council held in Sydney in July. We look forward to receiving the final report expected in August and to explore together how we, as the People of God, can be inspired to take on the expected challenges of this report and new ways of being inclusive, participatory and synodal.

Maria Marco and Pauline Stapleton
(St Augustine's Parish Creswick)

Photo: Irene Martin, Felicity Knobel and Fr Justin Driscoll

SEVENTY YEARS OF MERCY



I was born in Warrnambool and grew up, along with three brothers, on the family sheep farm in Hawkesdale. At an early age I began school at Sacred Heart College Ballarat; this was followed by completing my teacher training. In 1949 I entered the Sisters of Mercy (of the former Ballarat East Congregation) and so began my Mercy journey. Teaching took me to many school in the Ballarat area along with appointments in the Ballarat Diocese. Following my teaching appointments I worked as a Pastoral Associate.

I was fortunate in having two significant study opportunities – one at the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila, Philippines and the Columban Missiology Course at Turrumurra, Sydney. This latter experience led me to ministry with our First Nation People. Subsequently I moved to the Bellbrook community 60kms from Kempsey NSW and there was involved in adult education, Pastoral Care and a few months teaching in a small boarding school – Mirrawinni - Gardens run by the Seventh Day Adventists. This Bellbrook experience led me further afield to Woorabinda, an Aboriginal community 200kms west of Rockhampton. There I taught in the Wadja Wadja High School and was also involved in Adult Education.

A move to Darwin followed and then to Apollo Bay – the top of Australia to the bottom! After sixteen years in 'the Bay' I returned to Ballarat – the place where this Mercy journey began!

A Seventieth Anniversary of Profession is a time for reflection on what has been. I have been greatly blessed with a rich, peace-filled, challenging life for which I thank God, my family and my loving supportive Mercy family.

Sr Pat O'Brien (Sister M Augustine)

WENDOUREE WEST EXODUS COMMUNITY

The Wendouree West Exodus Community were able to celebrate its eighteenth birthday on March 6 with a community BBQ. The community situated within the Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Wendouree was formed to be among the people of Wendouree West, to walk with the people. Fr Frank Smith who originally set up Exodus both at Wendouree West and Heidelberg West, was able to return to visit for the first time since he retired due to ill-health four years ago and was greeted enthusiastically by many people from the community. Bishop Paul Bird and Juliana Addison, State Member for Wendouree, and her daughter were also welcomed.

Prayer and formation continue to be included in all ministry teams. The move for outreach activities from 8 Primrose Street to the Wendouree Neighbourhood House four years ago, and the pandemic over the last two years, has given us many challenges. Logistically it has limited the time we have been available for community engagement, and given us extra challenges to the preparation of food for drop-in meals and take-away food during lockdown times. Transporting from preparation and storage sites to and from the venue has now to be included in any planning. We continue to plan for the annual family camp next January to cater for sixty community members. This has been postponed twice now due to COVID, but we remain optimistic.

After nearly two years of the pandemic, during which we provided take-away meals on Saturdays, we opened up with a wonderful BBQ celebration a week before Christmas in 2021, an opportunity for the community to gather and see each other after a long period of isolating carefully. We are grateful for all networking opportunities that enable us to connect to people and resources throughout the community. Thank you to fellow leadership Team members Elly Green, Katrina and Malcolm who enthusiastically continue to drive the mission of Exodus.

Sandra Dillon
Wendouree West Exodus Leadership Team

WENDOUREE WEST EXODUS COMMUNITY



Activities at *St Mary's Donald*

Staff and students at St Mary's Donald worked hard to deepen their understanding of the Liturgical season of Lent. The Junior Class explored the concept of COMMUNITY while the Seniors focused on the theme of CHOICES. Both of these concepts provided a perfect basis for exploring Lent!

On Harmony Day, students were invited to dress in the colour orange or in the costume of their country of origin. It was wonderful to see our very small but diverse body of students dressed in all the colours of the rainbow. The theme of Harmony Day was explored throughout the day and students donated to Project Compassion as part of the day's activities.

On April 1, Romina and Jillian from Caritas Australia visited our school to facilitate a Caritas Just Leaders Day. Grade 4, 5 and 6 students from St Mary's attended, together with some Grade 5 & 6 students from St Patrick's Primary School, St Arnaud. An enjoyable day was had exploring the concepts of fairness and equality. Students were called on to explore ways in which they may be able to help our world be more caring, fair and equitable for all. The day was really thought provoking and very worthwhile.

Mary Hogan - Religious Education Leader



The Enhancing Catholic School Identity (Project)



The Enhancing Catholic School Identity (Project), conceived and directed in Belgium by Prof. Dr Didier Pollefeyt (Head of the Centre for Academic Teacher Training of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL)) commenced in 2006 in Victoria, with the guidance and support of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV).

A catalyst for the development of ECSI was a generally recognised and expressed concern for Catholic identity slippage in schools. The Tablet (2016) asked, “So what does it mean to be a Catholic school and to engage in Catholic education when students and teachers are today more religiously, culturally and ideologically diverse than ever before?”

It had become apparent that school staffs for instance, once assumed to be unanimously Catholic both in faith claim and practice, were no more. In reality they spanned the spectrum of religious traditions, philosophies and worldviews.

In response to the reality of this religious, cultural and ideological diversity and in order to achieve an objective and gaugeable identification of both current and hoped for features of Catholic identity, KUL developed three theoretical models of attitudinal scales for allowing a Catholic school’s identity to be quantified in a statistically accurate way:

- *Understanding styles of religious belief: Post-Critical Belief Scale*
- *Understanding ways Catholic schools give shape to their identity theologically: Melbourne Scale*
- *Understanding how Catholic schools perceive themselves pedagogically: Victoria Scale*

Two questionnaires also formed part of the ECSI suite:

- *Focusing upon the religious profile of the individual respondent: Profile Questionnaire*
- *Enquiring into the religious profile of the school: Doyle Questionnaire*

Bishop Paul Bird, in 2016, endorsed ECSI for the diocese. In his endorsement, Bishop Paul cited the speech that opened the Second Vatican Council in 1962, and Pope John XXIII’s reference to the Church’s mission to present the ancient teaching of Christ in a way that takes account of the situation in the modern world.

It is necessary first of all that the Church should never depart from the sacred patrimony of truth she has received from the apostles. But at the same time she must ever look to the present, to the new conditions and new forms of life introduced into the modern world which have opened new avenues to the Catholic apostolate.” The schools of our diocese share in this mission. They have a role to play in communicating the message of the gospel in ways that engage with our current varied culture. In doing so, schools will be enhancing their own Catholic identity while entering into dialogue with the people of our time. As a means to this, the schools of the diocese, in common with Catholic schools throughout Victoria, are participating in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project... It also involves an approach to teaching and learning that encourages dialogue with one another and with the world around us. It seeks to understand and present the Catholic faith in the context of our present society. I confirm that this is the approach to be followed in schools throughout the diocese.

Subsequently, the Awakenings Core Document for the diocese acknowledges that:

“Educators in Catholic schools and colleges teach in a context where cultural and religious traditions no longer pass as easily from one generation to the next, if at all. Subsequently the religious and nonreligious identity claim of students challenges religious educators (in all classes at every level) to provide witness to Jesus Christ and the gospels in ways that engage and influence our students in their search for identity and meaning. ECSI is based in sound theology and the traditions of the Church, together with appreciation for the changing needs of students and cultures.”

It is with great hope, trust and support of our diocesan community that Catholic Education Ballarat proceeds.

BELONGING

As part of the 'Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project', the preferred stance for our schools in the Ballarat Diocese is to be a place of 'dialogue'. An authentic 'Dialogue School' invites all members of the community into dialogue about some of life's big concepts.

As Foundation students begin their education, the obvious question is - what is it to 'belong' at my Catholic primary school? The team at Siena Catholic Primary School Lucas have skilfully attended to this question, welcoming, celebrating and learning from the diversity of their community, before exploring the wisdom of the Catholic Christian tradition.

The children were ready to learn that prayer, ritual, symbol, scripture and liturgy were all essential components of 'belonging' for Catholic Christians. The beautiful passages of scripture "where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among you" (Mt 18:20) and "in everything do to others as you would have them do to you," (Mt 7:12) offered an entry point into exploring 'belonging' from a Christian perspective. No doubt the ongoing reciprocal sharing of wisdom within this school community will be both meaningful and life-giving.

Jo-anne van der Voort - Education Officer - Religious Education



In Term 1, Siena Primary School Lucas Foundation students were learning that the Church community gathers in many places and ways to celebrate faith and share God's love. The unit began with a discussion on belonging: what does it mean to belong? The focusing activity invited the students to bring in a family photo, as we know that this is the first place of 'belonging' for our children. The children enjoyed sharing and appreciating each other's photographs, while building classroom relationships and a sense of belonging. The students suggested that we display their photographs on a wall so they could share their families with the school community. The children displayed their artwork around their photographs and everyday a new piece was added to our 'Belonging' wall by the children. Families were drawn to the wall when dropping off their children at school, it became a place

to gather and make connections. Families were invited to write the word 'Belonging' and what it means to belong to them in their first languages. During a recent Foundation learning walk before entering the classroom, families were immediately welcomed by the 'Belonging' wall. Our families enjoyed sharing their photographs all while growing their own sense of belonging to our school community. Prior to the learning walk, we don't think we understood the loss of connection some families felt due to the pandemic. This was clearly evident through discussions with families that they appreciated the sense of connection they immediately felt when entering our Foundation learning environment. It is with great pride that we continue to grow our 'Belonging' wall as belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who we are and who we can become.

Carly and Tamara – Siena Catholic Primary School Lucas

Blessing of Mercy Heritage Centre

St Joseph's College Mildura had the honour of hosting Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat, when he visited to officiate the blessing of the Mercy Heritage Centre.

The Mercy Heritage Centre houses over 115 years of local Mercy history. Our Mercy Heritage Curator has created beautiful displays using photography, keepsakes and historical records in an expertly renovated space within the Convent at the Enright Campus. With room for future additions to the collection, the Centre honours and preserves the legacy of compassion and learning built in Mildura by the Sisters of Mercy.

The Bishop's blessing of the Mercy Heritage Centre marked the final step in a labour of love that spanned three years and involved the efforts of committed professionals. What began with Principal Marg Blythman's initial vision of a



home for our treasured history has become a reality, thanks to Mercy Heritage Curator Belinda Gemits' dedication and our maintenance team's expertise.

Tracy Aston - Admissions & Communications Manager

2022 THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLASS

The United Nations declared 2022 to be the International Year of Glass, “2022 will celebrate the essential role glass has had and will continue to have in the world. It will highlight the historical, present and future technological, scientific, artistic and economic importance of this often unseen, transparent and enabling material, and its potential to facilitate the growth of just and sustainable communities across the globe.” (IYoG2022)

Brief History of Glass: Glass as an independent object (mostly as beads) dates to about 2500 BCE. It is thought to have originated in Mesopotamia and was brought later to Egypt. Vessels of glass appeared around 1450 BCE. Glassmaking using the basic soda-lime-silica composition travelled to Phoenicia, along the coast of present-day Lebanon. From there the art spread to Cyprus, Greece and, by the ninth century BCE, the Italian peninsula. After the conquests of Alexander the Great in the 4th century BCE, glassmaking skills spread to the East, including the Indian subcontinent, glass beads and bangles characteristic of the Hindu culture appeared about 200 BCE. Glass continued to develop through the ages and by the first century CE, we see sheets of glass in the Roman Bathhouses to provide both light and heat from the sun’s rays. The use of glass and the science behind its manufacture continued to develop through to the chemical revolution of the 18th and 19th century CE. Throughout history glass as an art form was always evident.

Glass in Ballarat: On the local scene one local company W.J. Robson has been paramount in creating and preserving the glass industry in Ballarat. William James Robson worked in the glass industry in England at Newcastle on Tyne before his emigration to Australia in the 1880’s. In an interview with the local newspaper ‘The Courier’ in 1926, William Robson claimed to be one of the pioneers in the stained-glass industry in Victoria and laid testament to working in England with many renowned artists. After gaining his trade as a glazier and specialising in lead lighting in England and Melbourne, he came to Ballarat and established his own company in Dana Street, Ballarat and then to Main Road where a branch of the company still exists today. The W.J. Robson firm now trades with an unbroken record with the fourth and fifth generations of the Robson family involved in the enterprise in various roles and locations.

In the 1926 interview, Mr Robson stated that his company was a great importer of glass from Great Britain. He commented on the skill of the leadlight technique which the company used, and their work can be observed throughout Ballarat and District. A brilliant example of their artistry can be seen at the Observatory in Cobden Street, Ballarat East. In recent times, many of our churches have had leadlight windows replaced or in some cases relocated as with the windows from the former St John of God Hospital Chapel to Our Lady Help of Christian Church in Wendouree. The company also relocated the leadlight windows in the present Chapel at St John of God Hospital Ballarat and in the hospital foyer.



The Church of the Immaculate Conception Ararat has an incredibly beautiful leadlight window which was created by Nicholas Robson, following the fire at the church in 2007 (pictured right).



In recent times restoration work has been carried out by the Robson company on the beautiful St Patrick’s Cathedral window at the rear of the choir loft and at St Alipius Church in Ballarat East.



The Industry Today: As our world has become more aware of a vast number of environmental issues in recent times, most industries have explored the most effective environmentally friendly solutions. The last few years are known as the pinnacle of glass history. With the advent of chemical advances, we find such terms as laminated glass and double-glazing part of our everyday vernacular. The double glazing machine (pictured left) at the Howitt Street site provides the use of the latest in glass technology. Glass is also recognised as a commodity that is one hundred percent recyclable, which enables it to get the tick of approval from environmentalists.

The firm of William James Robson is one of the largest multi-faceted glass businesses in the region and the company has survived two World Wars, the challenges of a pandemic, together with ongoing staff shortages and still thrives to meet the needs of the Ballarat and district communities with loyalty and commitment.

Nicholas Robson



Synod of Bishops 2021 - 2023

As the first phase of the Synodal Process, 'Listening and Discernment in the Local Churches', concludes, Mass was celebrated by Fr Kevin Maloney, Vicar General at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat on Sunday, May 15, 2022. With wide representation from across the local church, it was a celebration of the Ballarat Diocesan response. Through prayer, listening, reflection and discernment, this Diocesan Mass looked to the synodal path along which God's Spirit is calling the local church.

Pope Francis celebrated Mass on October 10, 2021 to mark the global launch of the Synod of Bishops with the theme **For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission**. By invoking this Synod, Pope Francis invited the entire Church to participate in this Synodal Process that began at the diocesan level, to reflect on this theme that is decisive for the Church's life and mission: Synodality denotes the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly, summoned by the Lord Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel.

In Australia the diocesan phase has culminated after discernment and discussion. We were invited to reflect on how we are united with one another in the communion of one people of God. We were encouraged to think about how each one of us has a role in the Church's mission to share the Good News of Christ in what we say and in the way we live. We were invited to share our reflections with others and listen to others as they share their reflections with us. The Synod will be articulated in four phases (diocesan, national, continental and universal) through consultations and discernment, concluding with the October 2023 Assembly in Rome. We continue to pray that God will grant us listening hearts as we share in the process of our Australian Plenary Council and the worldwide Synod over the next couple of years.

Fr Kevin introduced the celebration with words about the Synodal Process, "Today, we gather in the Pre-Synodal Meeting of our diocesan family, to listen to the Word of God, to listen to each other, to reflect upon what we hear, and to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to us. Today we place ourselves humbly in the presence of God, who gathers us as one, that we might together step forward on the synodal path along which God's Spirit is calling us. Our walking together, our praying, listening,

reflecting and discerning, all help us to become the Church Jesus wants us to be."

The readings were proclaimed by Cathy Prunty and Simone Kyatt. A litany took place to help the diocesan community in their prayer, listening and reflection. The Litany was read by Cathy Prunty, Patrick Kennedy and Bernadette Lynch and included submitted responses from people around the diocese. Some of these included: Every baptised person is called to give as well as receive. We focus on what we receive but are often unaware of the part we should be playing in the missionary activity of the Church, especially our local church; Honest, critical and collective self-reflection is necessary so that clergy and laity can work together towards renewed institutional processes, practices and structures that can more reflect both the Church and the changing world; Embrace diversity in ministry. Women welcomed into all levels of ministry; Allow and support diverse models of Catholic community to emerge as possible ways in which the Gospel might light the spark of faith within people; The need to acknowledge the current context of our young people and what reaches them. We could show far greater sensitivity in the areas of culture, music, leadership, language and technology; Give particular emphasis to and promote integral ecology and ecological conversion, place importance on care of the earth.

Also included in the Mass were dismissals for children celebrating their sacraments and two children presenting for baptism. As Fr Kevin said, a great celebration of synodality and welcoming to the local church.

Exhortations to the ongoing work of discerning the synodal path were read by Patrick Kennedy and Bernadette Lynch as part of the celebration: The Exhortations reflected key elements of the diocesan synthesis submitted and called all to listen to each other with hearts and minds that are open. Another element of the Exhortations was the hope that the power of the Synod and the Plenary Council will support the diocese in taking steps to make concrete changes towards synodality which may include but not be restricted to: a new governance structure that could involve a renewed diocesan pastoral council and renewed parish pastoral councils; women in leadership on the different governing bodies; diversity in ministry; parishes that are proactive rather than reactive in their decision making; formation for all that reflects the signs of the times; a focus on ecology and environment; more ways to respond to young people's involvement; and so many more important points that have been recognised as the call of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese of Ballarat.

Peter Morris issued a warm welcome to all joining in the celebration and the Cathedral Choir sang beautifully. Thank you to all who participated in the Mass.





For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission. Pope Francis invited the entire Church to participate in this Synodal Process that began at the diocesan level, to reflect on this theme that is decisive for the Church's life and mission: Synodality denotes the particular style that qualifies the life and mission of the Church, expressing her nature as the People of God journeying together and gathering in assembly. In Australia, the diocesan phase has culminated after discernment and discussion. The Synod will be articulated in four phases (diocesan, national, continental and universal) through consultations and discernment; concluding with the October 2023 Assembly in Rome. We continue to pray that God will grant us listening hearts as we share in the process of our Australian Plenary Council and the worldwide Synod over the next couple of years.

Photos:

Front cover: St Mary MacKillop Stained Glass window at All Saints Church, Portland.

Back cover: 1. Monivae College Hamilton Cadet Camp. 2. St Mary's Primary School Donald Catholic Education Leadership Day. 3.

Pre-synodal Mass Celebration at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat 4. St Patrick's Primary School St Arnaud Caritas Colour Run.

We are the Catholic Church of the Ballarat Diocese. We gather in the name of Jesus from the Murray to the Sea in interwoven faith communities. Spirit-filled, we celebrate and share our journey; reaching out to nurture all God's people.

Vision Statement for the Diocese