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“When they saw the star, they were very happy”

(Matt 2:10)

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**Christmas Mass times will appear
on the Diocesan website when
available**

www.darwin.catholic.org.au

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Front Cover:

"When they saw the star, they were very happy"

(Matt 2:10)

Translation from Eastern Arrernte

Background photograph of the Santa Teresa night sky by Marcus Williams.

Saints Corner

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DEADLINE for submission
of articles/photos for the
March edition is

FRIDAY, 15 January, 2021

This date will be strictly observed

**Wishing all our readers a
very happy Christmas and
every blessing in 2021**





Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have now been a Bishop in this Diocese for over two years. I love being here, and I know that I am part of a family, the Diocesan family, the Catholic Church of the Northern Territory.

2020 is a year in which the lives of so many have been impacted in a very significant way.

The Coronavirus has certainly made things not normal. However, what is 'normal'? I believe that it is normal for things not to be normal!

The Holy Father says that the pandemic has created in many people a sense of the interdependence of communities, and the fragility of human beings left to themselves.

Further, a commentator has noted that "Pope Francis's message is clear: we cannot



just switch on the reset button and go back to 'normal'."

As Christians we are called to live out our faith. We know that Jesus is true to His promise to be with us always.

With the wisdom that comes from the Holy Spirit we know that challenges and problems are an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth.

I gently remind all of us to take time for prayer and reflection. We can share all of our challenges with Jesus, with God.

Thank you to all who do so much in the service of God and God's people. And I look forward in the coming year to minister in partnership with you in the service of spiritual renewal for all our people.

This Christmas may you and your families be blessed with the hope, the joy and the peace that the birth of Jesus brings.

Blessings for Christmas,

+Charles Gauci



50 Years of making Jesus known and loved The Canossian Sisters in Darwin 1970-2020



Opening of the Community at Nightcliff (1983)

"Jesus is not loved because He is not known". These words of St Magdalene of Canossa, Foundress of the Canossian Daughters of Charity, have been part of the inspiration of the Sisters who have served in Darwin for the past 50 years. The desire to make Jesus known and loved motivated the first missionary Sisters to embark on a ministry to the people of Darwin, which has seen a variety of services to those in greatest need in the local area.

The first two Canossian Sisters, Teresina Franguelli and Irene Motta, arrived in Darwin on the 31st of October 1970. At the invitation of the late Bishop John O'Loughlin, they were asked to establish Bakhita Village, a complex of five family type homes for children in need of long and short term residential care.

On the arrival of the Sisters, Bakhita Village was not yet complete. In the interim, while waiting for its completion, the two sisters - who were soon joined by a third, Sr. Susanna Castelli - were given lodging in a house at the Catholic Mission Headquarters where they lived for 14 months. During those months, since the Sisters were all missionaries from Italy, Bishop O'Loughlin entrusted to them the pastoral care of the Italian migrants who had made Darwin and other towns in the Northern Territory their new home. While some of the migrants had been in Darwin for quite some time, others had only recently arrived from Italy and were still struggling to adjust to the new country. The Sisters were greeted with warm hearts and great joy, a God-send in the struggle towards acculturation. The needs were many, so, even after Bakhita Village was opened in January 1972 and children started to come into care, the sisters decided to continue their service to the

Italian community. This service, which has evolved over the years, still continues to this day.

It was also around this time that the Sisters began offering their services to the Parish of St. Paul's Nightcliff, which included teaching catechism at Sunday school and in Government Schools in Darwin.

Cyclone Tracy in 1974, and the subsequent destruction of Bakhita Village, saw an abrupt end to the Sisters' service of residential care for children. The service had lasted just three years. However, the convent was repaired for the Sisters who continued to live at Bakhita Village, carrying out their ministries from those premises for another nine years. In 1983

they moved into the present convent purposely built for them on the grounds of St. Paul's Parish. The property of Bakhita Village, returned to the Diocese, was passed on to the St. Vincent de Paul Society which transformed it into a hostel for homeless men.



Sr. Irene Motta with some of the children at Bakhita (1971)

Throughout their time in Darwin, the Sisters have always been open to respond to emerging poverties and needs. This was again the case when, shortly after the plans for Bakhita Village were halted, a n o t h e r great need in the local area became

evident - assisting the Timorese refugees who fled to Darwin to escape the 1975 civil war. The city of Darwin readied to welcome them, as did our Sisters, who provided invaluable support to the various Timorese communities. This service is another ministry that continues to this day.

In the past 50 years, 34 different Canossian Sisters have served in Darwin in a variety of ways. With hearts open to the local needs, Sisters have not only provided pastoral welfare for the



Sr. Ersilia Casiraghi - Bakhita Village (1972)

Italian, Timorese and Portuguese migrants and refugees, but have spent many years in Parish Pastoral work. This has included sacramental programs and catechesis; serving Aboriginal communities; religious education in both government and Catholic schools; supporting Antioch and Marriage Encounter movements; visitation to the female jail, and more recently service with the St Vincent de Paul Society and primary school education.

During 2020 we celebrate fifty years of the presence and service of our Sisters here in Darwin. On this day we remember, with gratitude, not only the 34 Sisters who have lived and worked in Darwin over these years, but also the many people that God put on our path. We express gratitude to the various Bishops of the local Church who have constantly supported the Sisters in their ministry, as well as the Clergy, Religious and countless lay people who have journeyed alongside us across the years. In a special way we thank God for the constant support we have experienced from the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart with whom we



Srs. Maria Luisa Serafini, Angela Bott and Irene Motta - Darwin

Sr. Anna Molinari fdcc

have collaborated for many years. As we thank God for fifty years of presence in Darwin, we remain uncertain of what the future holds. However, we continue to trust that God who has led us to Darwin will surely continue to accompany us as we strive to serve Him with all our hearts.

Sisters who have served in Darwin over the past 50 years:

- Sr Teresina Franguelli – RIP
- Sr Irene Motta (Brisbane)
- Sr Mabel De Souza – RIP
- Sr Susanna Castelli – RIP
- Sr Piera Tosoni – RIP
- Sr Maria Farina – RIP
- Sr Ersilia Casiraghi – RIP
- Sr Vanda Frizzarin – RIP

- Sr Agnese Sampieri (Italy)
- Sr Judith Brivio – RIP
- Sr Erminia Cazzaniga – RIP
- Sr Elda Sbarra (Adelaide)
- Sr Laura Maier (Italy)
- Sr Felicity Plodari (Brisbane)
- Sr Leonia Amaral – RIP
- Sr Maria Luisa Serafini (Brisbane)
- Sr Rosa Vazzano (Adelaide)
- Sr Maria De Roza (Singapore)
- Sr Angela Sambusida (Trebonne)
- Sr Angela Freitas - RIP
- Sr Rosina Luchetti (Brisbane)
- Sr Anna Bosio (Italy)
- Sr Severina Sattin (Italy)
- Sr Anna Molinari (Darwin)
- Sr Fatima Pereira (East Timor)
- Sr Bridget Foo (Brisbane)
- Sr Aurora Pires (Portugal)
- Sr Amelia De Jesus (Adelaide)
- Sr Odete Moreira (Darwin)
- Sr Rita Zuccher (Trebonne)
- Sr Jacinta Do Santos (East Timor)
- Sr Eufemia Lacerda (Sydney)
- Sr Lucy Kert (Darwin)



Sr. Maria Luisa Serafina with the Catechists and St. Paul's School Principal

NEW DATE - ASSEMBLY 1
October 3-10, 2021
ADELAIDE

NEW DATE - ASSEMBLY 2
July 4-9, 2022
SYDNEY



Plenary Council
 Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Darwin delegates commissioned!

During the Chrism Mass on 29 September, our Diocese became the first local Church to commission delegates for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, the first assembly of which will open in Adelaide in 12 months' time.

Given the postponement of the Plenary Council assemblies by a year due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel and public gatherings, the Chrism mass was the opportune time for our local Catholic community to pray for our delegates.

The aim of the Plenary Council is to discern the future of the church of Australia through listening and dialogue with the local churches. "We must work towards always renewing the vision of the Church; we cannot continue with 'business as usual'," Bishop Charles said.

"We need to reach out to people and to nurture people. We need to know who we are not connecting with at all and with whom we are not connecting adequately." That will include reflecting on "the quality of our connections".

"We need special emphasis on connecting with young people in effective ways. We also need to ensure that we have a special outreach and connection with our Aboriginal people. We need to provide ministry to all from the cradle to the grave," Bishop Gauci said.

"As part of the larger Australian Church through the Plenary Council, we want to listen to the Holy Spirit calling us to be the Church that God wants us to be in this country. During the Chrism Mass, we commissioned our Plenary Council delegates to this same Council. We also committed ourselves to serving God where we are, here in the Northern Territory, according to the heart and mind of God.

"Our continued reflection and review of ministry across the diocese will be an integral part of our participation in the Plenary Council."

The Darwin Diocese Plenary Council Journey map to the right shows that in the coming weeks the Diocesan Working Group for the Plenary Council will, through each Parish be providing more information on the recently released six Thematic Papers to be broken open for prayerful reflection.

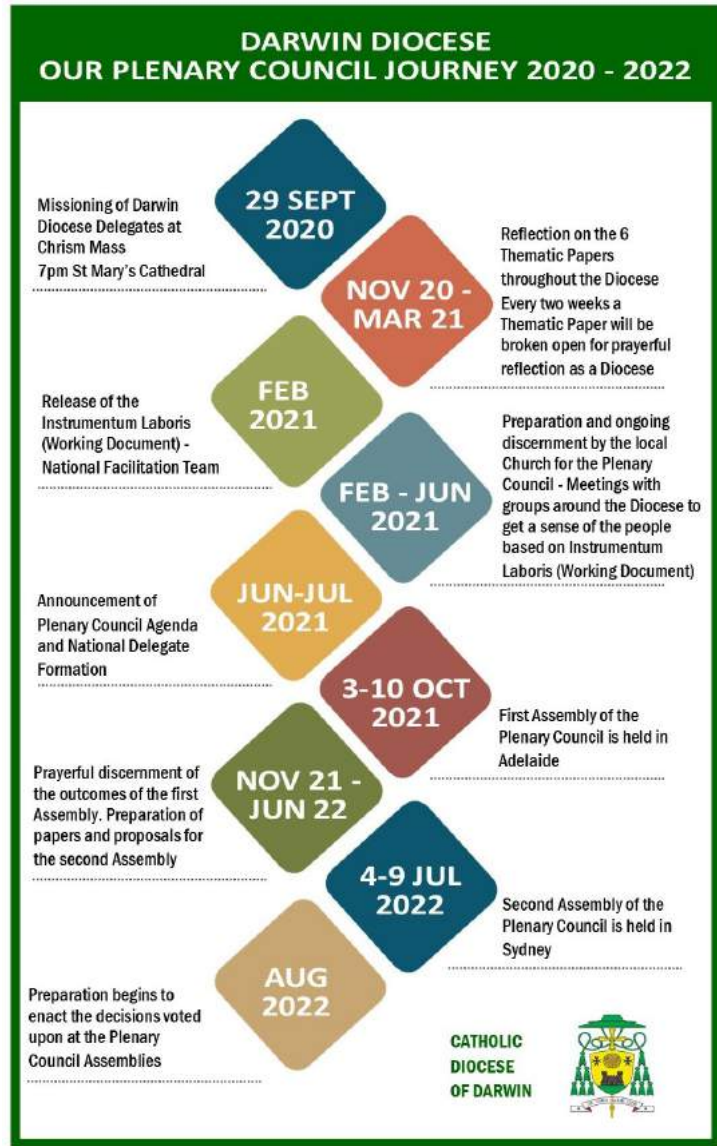
The written and audio versions of the Thematic Papers are currently available online at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au.

Your reflections on these papers and the subsequent Working Document which will be released in February 2021 are welcome. They will assist in preparing for the two assemblies in October 2021 and July 2022.

Contact with our Diocesan Delegates can be made by email to: plenary2020@darwindiocese.com or contacting the Diocesan office on 08 8942 6000.



Darwin Diocese Plenary Council Delegates (left to -right): Fr Malcolm Fyfe (Vicar General), Fr Prakash Menezes (Episcopal Vicar for the Southern Region), Bishop Charles Gauci, Mrs Clalia Mar and Mr Shaun De Zylva



Discernment papers help sharpen focus for Plenary Council



Six Discernment and Writing Groups, one each for the six national themes for discernment that emerged from the Council's Listening and Dialogue phase, were tasked with writing papers to bring some major themes and issues into focus. The papers will be foundational to the next stage of discernment toward the Plenary Council – the development of the working paper, or *Instrumentum Laboris* – and ultimately the agenda for the Council assemblies.

"The papers are the fruits of communal discernment. The aim of the discernment process was to draw upon the lived faith and experiences of more than 220,000 Australians, the living tradition of the Church, sacred Scripture, papal teachings and additional insights from outside the Church," said Archbishop Costelloe, the Plenary Council president.

"While not the final word on the six thematic areas which emerged from the Listening and Dialogue process, I encourage everyone to receive them in the spirit of faith and discernment with which they have been written," he said.

Each paper provides a reflection on some elements of the relevant pastoral reality, articulates a theological vision, outlines a number of challenges to be overcome, suggests prioritised questions to be answered and develops some proposals for change.

HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS **Missionary** & Evangelising?

'Mission' is God's initiative and proceeds from the Trinity, whose love overflows in creation and redemption. The Word and Spirit are present and active in the unfolding of the universe and in all human history, as evidenced in the goodness and truth found in all cultures and societies. The incarnate Son of God through his life, ministry, death and resurrection revealed God to us and redeemed us in a unique and unsurpassable way through his paschal sacrifice. His evangelising activity gave birth to the Church which is the visible manifestation of the Gospel command to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28:19).



HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS **Inclusive, Participatory** & Synodal?

The Church, founded by Jesus Christ, is a form of welcome to "the great multitude from every tribe, tongue and nation". This biblical image invites us to imagine anew the ways in which the diversity of unique gifts can contribute to an organic and authentic common building of the Church. This is especially crucial in

Australia, where the Church is manifest in the great multitude of ecclesial expressions from East and West. The words that St John Paul II spoke to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples may be applied to all Catholics in Australia: "the Church herself 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."

HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS **Prayerful** & Eucharistic?

The Listening and Dialogue responses revealed the deep faith, integrity and sincerity of all the people who gave of themselves in their offerings. The responses demonstrated a commitment to living the gospel of Christ and sharing the gospel with others, even in the midst of a largely secular culture. They expressed a love for the community of the Church, despite the well-documented failings of members of the community. They showed a desire to be a Christ-centred Church that is prayerful and Eucharistic.



HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS **Humble, Healing** and Merciful?

On Holy Thursday 2018, Pope Francis celebrated the Mass of the Last Supper in the Regina Coeli Prison in Rome. During the Mass, the Holy Father washed the feet of 12 prison inmates from different cultural and faith backgrounds. Pope Francis was not concerned with their crimes, their religion, their race or their sexual orientation. After kneeling before each one, washing and kissing their feet, Pope Francis said to them, "I am a sinner like you. But I represent Jesus today...This is service. This is Jesus. Before giving us himself in his body and blood, Jesus risked himself for each one of us – risked himself in service – because he loves us so much."

HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS **Open to Conversion, Renewal** and Reform?

The "call to conversion" is "the indispensable condition of Christian love." (TMA 50) Christians respond to this call when they openly acknowledge personal and communal failings and experience the joy of reconciliation shaped by renewed relationship with the Trinitarian God. Ongoing conversion is the source of renewal and of authentic reform. Catholics in Australia experience the riches of the Church's traditions, through liturgy, parish life and the Church's contributions to welfare, education and healthcare. At the same time, they acknowledge hindrances to personal and institutional conversion toward Christ. The need for formation in and access to sacramental reconciliation (particularly the Third Rite) is central for the conversion, renewal and reform of the church in Australia.



HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA THAT IS **A Joyful, Hope-Filled** & Servant Community?

Australia has been blessed with great natural beauty, an abundance of resources, democracy, peace, prosperity, freedom and equality. However, mental illness, sickness, loneliness, family or financial pressures afflict many Australians. Many lack the hope and joy that are features of a good life. The church of Australia is urged to contemplate the Gospels call to be a servant church for the good of all people, to express a faith-filled hope in being a follower of Christ and in being loved unconditionally by God. To express joy in the many good works done by the people of God and to be a strong witness of faith, especially by priests, young people and female leaders in parish and school ministries.

Read the full versions of the Thematic Papers (including audio versions) at www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Catholic Identity Day at Daly River

Our Community, Our Stories



Staff spirituality

After lunch, we set out on a bus trip to see where some of our elders were born out on country. Along the way we saw different trees and discussed their uses as well as that of the abundant bush tucker beginning to appear, coming into the Wet season. We also saw some burial sites, discovered men's and women's areas and even spied some grazing buffalo near a billabong.

It was a day to reflect on our past, present and future both personally, through the Examen, as well as listening to the stories of our elders. It was a day to reflect, share

On Monday 31 August, the staff of St Francis Xavier, Daly River, held their Catholic Identity Day with the focus on "Our Community, Our Stories."

We began with the story of St Francis Xavier and St Ignatius Loyola and how they started a new order of priests called the Society of Jesus or the Jesuits. These stories are important to our school as Fr Donald MacKillop SJ (Saint Mary MacKillop's brother) spent some time at Daly River.

memories, lessons and experiences and to learn about the importance of, and connection to, country.



Jesuit Altar

We prayed an Ignatian Examen down at an old Jesuit altar, set amongst the backdrop of the bush with only a soft chorus of bush birds breaking the silence of the still morning.

As the morning began to warm up, we returned to the comfort of air conditioning for storytelling, which began with a movie called "Daly River Story." Then some of our elders shared local stories, stories from their experiences at St Francis Xavier as students and stories explaining some of the beliefs that local people have relating to different aspects of life and the environment.



Mosaic



Cross



Storytelling prayer space

Leahnore Wright - Religious Education Coordinator and Year 4/5/6/ teacher



Painting Bush Retreat



Social Justice in Action



Ignite: One Night



YYAM Training



YYAM Training



Wadeye Team

Hey There!

I'm Kathryn the Youth Coordinator for the Darwin Diocese. You might remember me from previous editions of the Unity Magazine. In March my secondment (from teaching) to the Diocese started where I am now working full time in Youth and Young adult ministry across the schools, parishes and diocesan levels. It is a role I am very passionate about, and having been a youth Coordinator in Adelaide, it's great to be back in a Ministry role. You may remember that a few years ago we had the wonderful Benita in a very similar role, and I am grateful to her for the foundations she has set.

During the Covid-19 months, my job looked very different. Schools weren't accepting visitors, the NET team had gone home, and our Churches were closed. Even the annual youth camp, Breakaway, had been cancelled! However, as we know, God always gives us a rainbow after the storm. During the shutdown, I developed a Youth and Young Adult Ministry Handbook. This covers many practical and logistical aspects of running Youth groups, as well as the legal side with the relevant policies, procedures and risk assessments included. This handbook has been checked by the Professional Standards Office and will be available shortly.

When schools and Churches reopened and were accepting visitors, our NET team also came back. This saw some school and community visits, and I worked closely with schools and their Social Justice groups.

The end of September/start of October was an incredibly fruitful few weeks. It started with Ignite One Night which saw in-house events in Alice Springs and Darwin, as well as other centres across Australia, and online. The night was full of music, a national game of heads and tails, a thought-provoking talk by Nattasha Mierendorf, and the chance to write another young person a letter of encouragement. These letters were sent back to Ignite HQ, and they will re-distribute the letters to those who attended (Australia wide).

The NET team, Harry, and I then travelled to Wadeye for the Annual Wadeye Bush Retreat. The retreat was run by the Young Church leaders of Wadeye, together with Elders, Fr Steve MGL and Fr Leo MSC. The retreat started on Sunday and went until Wednesday, and over the four days it was evident that the Holy Spirit was truly present. We all painted two images: the first was 'Our relationship with God' and the other was, 'who is God to us?'

On the last night we stayed up until 1:30am singing and dancing around the campfire so full of joy, love, peace and happiness. A big thank you goes to Mark, Fr Leo, the Youth leaders, the 50+ attendees, the Traditional Owners who welcomed us onto their country, and to Benita for having helped establish the retreat many years ago.

On our return from Wadeye, I then hosted a two-day Leaders Training for our Diocesan Youth and Young Adult leaders. We had leaders from Shine (African Youth Group), Limitless (Casuarina Youth Group) and the Catholic Young Adults Committee. Christine Smith, who is our Diocesan Safeguarding and Integrity Officer, presented a course on Safeguarding, Safe Churches, and risk analysis. We then looked at our own gifts and how these can be used in Ministry, and finished by writing SMART goals specific to each ministry group for a 1 year and 5 year timeframe. These goals just blew me away. Keep your eyes and ears peeled over the next year to see some of their goals become reality!

Follow the Youth Office on Social Media: Facebook: Darwin Diocese Office for Youth and Young Adults and on Instagram: @NTCatholicYouth



Merry Christmas and may you and your family have a Happy, Safe and Holy Christmas.

Kathryn



It was the 23rd of July around 6pm and we had just finished a five day road trip from Brisbane. We had crossed these border in the uncertain times and had finally made it to Darwin, our new home, the place we would minister for the next four months. We were super keen, all of us with big dreams of what these months would entail. So many ideas were being spoken about, so many opportunities were in front of us, and we just wanted to dive straight in. Now I sit, almost at the end of those four months, reflecting on our time and I realised that so many of those dreams came true, and so many dreams that were never dreamed were realised. Our time in Darwin has been one full of blessings, challenges and a realisation that God is so much bigger than everything else.

We have had the honour to go into 12 schools in the Diocese, immerse ourselves in 9 or more parish communities, and never once did we feel like outsiders.

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We were welcomed in straight a w a y , and were greeted with a b s o l u t e generosity and o p e n h e a r t s . In the schools and parishes, we have run r e t r e a t s , y o u t h g r o u p s , class room activities, participated in liturgical music, and been able to hang out with the young p e o p l e during their

lunch and recess activities. Throughout all of these activities we have had one goal and one goal only, that isto share the love of Jesus with all the people we have met in Darwin.

Whilst striving to share this truth we have come to learn so, so much more about this love that Jesus has. We have had the honour to spend time in the Aboriginal communities of Wadeye and the Tiwi islands, and there we

found our faith challenged. Not challenged in a bad way, but challenged in a way that made us want to know Jesus more intimately and more fully. We saw the way that the people of these communities loved God, and loved God's creation so much, and we were inspired to love Jesus more and more. I think that sums up our experience, our time in Darwin has taught us to love Jesus more and more, to rely on him in every aspect of our daily lives.

So, yes, our time in Darwin is up. It's going to be a very hard place to leave, and there are many, many thankyou's that need to be said. I don't have enough room to write every name, but we need to thank every teacher, Principal, APRE and ISA at every school; every Priest in the Diocese; all the CEO and diocesan staff; every family we have met, every single young person we have had the absolute joy to minister to. In a very special way we would like to thank Bishop Charles for allowing us into the Diocese and trusting us to work with the youth of Darwin. Last - but certainly not least - we would like to thank Kathryn Pettersen who has been our contact person and scheduling coordinator as well as the Diocesan Youth and Young Adults coordinator this year. Without her tirelessly following up schools, answering our phone calls and emails at all hours of the night, nothing this year would've been possible.

Once again on behalf of myself, Bree, Jess, Crescent, Matt and Mariah we say thank you and God bless.

Peter Munns

"Dear Young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair, or live your life behind a screen Make a ruckus!"

Pope Francis



provide an opportunity for the members to deepen their faith through service.

The core Limitless leaders team consists of young people from both high school and university with the pastoral care and guidance of Kathryn Pettersen, Fr. Brian Steele MGL and Fr. Dave Callaghan MGL. The different coloured shirts represent the levels of leadership development: blue for student leaders, yellow for adult leaders and black for pastoral care.

Through various training days, event planning and execution, the Limitless team has vastly grown in their faith and practicality.

Limitless Youth is a gathering of young people from Year 7 to Year 12 seeking to learn more about the Word of God.

They meet fortnightly at Holy Spirit Parish for 'Youth Night'. This program consisting of games, fellowship, talks and sharings provide opportunities for reflection by engaging methods relative to the age group of those attending.

Every last Sunday of the month, Limitless also plans and celebrates a 5pm 'Youth Mass' at Holy Spirit Parish. The Mass roles in this youth-driven service are filled by leaders and members of Limitless together with the NT Catholic Young Adults communities combined. This is a way for Limitless leaders and members to connect with the greater parish congregation and

Adult leader Sam Santos adds, "Limitless has been an integral part of my year as I am actively making a difference in the community and strengthening my faith whilst facilitating the faith journeys of these young people."

Limitless Youth can be reached via their Instagram page, @limitlessnt or their FaceBook page, Limi+less.

In the coming few weeks and months, this youth group is definitely one to watch!

*Samantha Santos
Adult Leader*

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

Mother Teresa



A few good men needed to wear the white habit and make a difference.



Community | Apostolate | Prayer

www.norbertines.org.au

Email: priory@norbertines.org.au



Vocations Mythbusters

In the United States a study conducted in 2009 revealed a number of myths about Vocations. They titled one of their releases, “Mythbusters!” While there is a difference between the United States and Australia, and the research is just

over 10 years old, it is the best study to date and is relevant for us here. Enjoy...

Myth #1: No one is entering religious life anymore.

Fact: More than 70 percent of all religious communities (both men’s and women’s) report having new members in formation. Nearly 20 percent have five or more people in some stage of formation. These numbers do not reflect the large number of entrants in the 1950s and ‘60s, although many people have used this period as a point for comparison. The 2009 NRVC/CARA Study on Recent Vocations sets the benchmark for the current century.

Myth #2: Most vocations are coming from older/second-career candidates.

Fact: Our study indicates that the average age of men who entered religious life since 1993 was 30. For women the age was 32. The data also shows that 71 percent of those in initial formation are under 40. Although there always has been, and always will be a place for older or second career candidates in religious life, our study results have confirmed what we have tracked in our Vocation Match Annual Trends Survey, which is that an increasing number of younger people are looking at religious life as a possible life option.

Myth #3: Conservative/traditional communities are the only communities attracting new members.

Fact: Religious institutes that have

a focused mission, who live in community, who have regular prayer and sacramental life, and who wear a habit show a higher proportion of newer members. The study indicates that men and women are also drawn to other types of religious life.

Myth #4: Women entering religious life want to wear habits.

Fact: Both men and women seem to be drawn to habited communities. About two thirds of the newer members say they belong to a religious institute that wears a habit. Among those that responded affirmatively, a little more than half indicate that the habit is required in all or most circumstances.

Interestingly, almost half of the men who belong to an institute that does not wear a habit say they would wear it if it were an option, compared to nearly a quarter of the women respondents.

Myth #5: Entering religious life is a last resort.

Fact: New members to religious life report having rich options available to them—in terms of career, education, and personal life choices. Seventy percent of respondents had at least a bachelor’s degree before entering, with one third of these respondents also having degrees in higher education. Nine out of ten respondents said that they were employed prior to entering their institutes.

Myth #6: Younger religious are not interested in traditional devotional practices.

Fact: Newer members have ranked highly daily Mass as very important to them. Their prayer style also expresses a strong preference for Liturgy of the Hours, faith-sharing, nonliturgical common prayer, Eucharistic adoration, and common rosary and meditation.

Myth #7: There are fewer religious communities.

Fact: The rise and diminishment of religious institutes has always been part of the continuum of religious life. Once a need is met, unless a community adapts its founding charism to addressing the changing needs in the Church, it is not uncommon for the community to end. Many congregations today that share a same charism are either consolidating or merging into new religious institutes. One little known fact is that since the end of Vatican II in 1965, approximately 175 newer religious communities have been founded in the United States alone. Some were only short-lived, but others are canonically recognized as religious institutes by the Church today.

Myth #8: Religious communities are homogeneous and lacking in ethnic and cultural diversity.

Fact: This may have been the case previously, but newer members are definitely changing the face of religious life in this country. Fifty eight percent of newer religious are white Anglo, compared to 94 percent of the finally professed men and women religious in the US. Nearly 20 percent of newer entrants were born in a country other than the United States. Hispanic/Latino vocations make up 21 per cent of the newer religious while 14 per cent are Asian/Pacific and 6 per cent are African or African American.

Myth #9: New members would prefer to live alone.

Fact: Newer members are coming to religious life not just for ministry, but also for common prayer and community living as well. Respondents were much more likely to indicate a preference for living in a large (8 or more) or medium-sized (4 to 7) community than living in a small community and especially living alone. This is especially true of younger members.

Myth #10: New members want to live with younger members.

Fact: Although having a peer group of their age cohort is extremely important to younger members, the evidence shows an extremely high percentage (93) of newer members who prefer to live in community with people of different ages. In addition, newer members also show a preference for living with people of different cultures and who do different ministries.

Bonus:

Myth #11: New members are drawn to the ministries of a community.

Fact: Newer members indicate that they are drawn to religious life because of the example of the members, the spirituality, prayer life, community life, and mission of the institute. In fact, more than half of the newer members surveyed indicate that they were previously involved in either some liturgical ministry or other volunteer work in a parish or other setting. Since newer members were already previously involved in some type of ministry, clearly, they are coming to religious life not just for ministry—they are coming for a way of life that is different from what they were living before.

*Fr. Peter Hendriks MSC
Vocations Director*

Chrim Mass



Following many months of waiting, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Diocesan family finally celebrated the Chrism Mass on September 28, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Three big events in St. Pauls Parish Nighcliff

Parish Picnic



Our parish motto is "Bound Together in Love" and on Sunday, August 9, we celebrated together with what has become our Annual Parish Picnic. At this celebration, our parishioners came together as one Family. This event provided various ways for our different Mass communities to come together as one and to get to know each through shared conversations, food, and refreshments and general caring for each other. We had different kinds of games for children and adults, and it all culminated with the fellowship meal. We thank the Lord for giving us the opportunity to celebrate this Parish Picnic successfully.



Parthalomai Paniyadimai msc - Asst. Priest

First Holy Communion

On Saturday August 22nd, the Sacrament of First Holy Communion was celebrated at St. Pauls Church. 17 school students received their First Holy Communion from Fr. Peter Hendriks.

The young children are well prepared to receive the First Holy Communion by their families with the support of the Parish Sacramental team. It was really a wonderful celebration. On the big day our priests, the Sacramental Team, the school staff and many parishioners all came together to prepare the church and support the candidates. The celebration was central to the Holy Mass. We thank all who supported and lead this celebration making it a successful and memorable one for all the communicants.



Sacrament of Confirmation

Receive the Spirit and Strengthen the Church. On Saturday September 12th, the Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated at St. Pauls church. 25 candidates were anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit by Bishop Charles.

The young people were again well prepared for the Sacrament by their families with the support of the Sacramental Team. They each made a commitment to their faith, and they each presented to the community of St Paul's on just what this meant to them. The commitment of families and the young people made this a special celebration and one the candidates will not forget. All joined in to share the celebratory cake that was decorated with the symbol of the Holy Spirit.



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St. Augustine

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Isabel's Story



When Isabel was little, we always knew she had some issues, but nothing too serious – trouble with change and a tantrum or two. A bit worse than a normal kid, but we could cope just fine.

Then we had a huge personal upheaval. We moved to Darwin for a fresh start. It started out fine and without knowing much about the schools we selected a school - not to be named - with a campus that both of our children could attend. Brodie (our eldest) was put into year 11, and Isabel attended transition at the same school, initially at different campuses, but after six months we were able to switch them to the same campus and everything seemed to be going ok.

Until the meltdowns started.

Isabel was having daily meltdowns and the whole class, after school care, and our family were suffering. The teacher was helping us the best she could, but the principal was a different story. It had been decided that due to Isabel's issues with change, she wouldn't attend Music, PE, Chapel and Assemblies. This was without our knowledge or consent. I was also being called back to the school almost daily, as Isabel was to be excluded for the remainder of the day (and quite often the next day as well) because of a meltdown.

The principal would lie in wait – or so it felt – to talk to us and tell Isabel off before we had even entered the school grounds. Work suffered because my wife was taking so much time off and was having panic attacks taking Isabel to school and at work, waiting for the dreaded phone call.

It got to the stage where the school was not making Isabel do her schoolwork, but letting her colour in so she would remain calm. Any progress in reading and writing went down the tube. Maths surprisingly was still ok (and is still her best subject!!)

It was hard on all of us, both emotionally and financially as Debbie had to go to part time work so she could be available whenever the school called, in addition to all the unpaid leave we both had taken. I was taking time off as well and having to work excessive hours to keep up with my workload. This added further stress as we were becoming less of a family unit when it finally culminated in the worst meltdown yet. We had been trying to get appointments in Darwin, because by this point we knew something was seriously wrong and we needed help, but from whom we were unsure. The principal decreed that Isabel could not return to school until we had a behavioural action plan developed by a paediatrician. Hours of frantic phone calls in Darwin were met with "maybe in 6 months".

Luckily, we could get an appointment the following week with Isabel's paediatrician in Adelaide, then a psychologist appointment the next day. We jumped on a plane, hoping to get the help we needed and finally get Isabel's schooling back on track. Our paediatrician agreed that it was likely she was autistic as well as having ADHD, but was not able to do a formal diagnosis due to time constraints.

We headed back to Darwin with our action plan in hand, hoping to get a diagnosis soon. This unfortunately did not change anything at school, and we were soon considering home schooling with no idea where to go for support.

I discussed with work colleagues the issues we had been having at school, and they all came back with the same answer... "St Marys".

An appointment was made with Jacquie Langdon, and we outlined our concerns and hopes for Isabel. Her office became very familiar to us, working together with the school to get the best outcome. Almost immediately we were given support including a recommendation to attend seminars through NT Families with a child behavioural expert. Although it was the first step it proved valuable to us not only with ongoing support sessions in home and out but the referral of a tutor to get Isabel on track. The tutor worked with Isabel within school hours, and she soon started to show confidence and understanding of the basics.

Although mentioned, Isabel was 'the most challenging student we have ever had'. Not nice to hear, but we knew it was a struggle for her teacher and the staff.

They worked so hard for us and with us. Never once giving up on Isabel. I don't know how

they kept going on when we were having such a difficult time. There was always something else we could try, more funding for support staff; the classrooms turned into safe havens for when it all became too much. a difficult time. There was always something else we could try, more funding for support staff, the classrooms turned into safe havens for when it all became too much.

The school's referral to the Catholic Education psychologist and the assessments conducted were the key to supporting a diagnosis. The supporting evidence that this provided created the picture for the paediatrician and the diagnosis quickly followed.

Slowly, we all started to see progress. Isabel's classwork improved. We could go a whole day, then a whole week without a meltdown. Diagnosis followed – Autism and ADHD. We decided to go down the medication route and everything turned around. The light at the end of the tunnel appeared – just a small glimmer at first, but the wonderful help and support we received made it brighter and brighter.

The diagnosis and supporting evidence then lead to the NDIS application. This process did not take long and we were accepted and ready to establish the plan. We requested the Deputy Principal (who was also her first-year teacher the year prior) to attend the planning session with us to ensure the plan we were establishing not only supported Isabel's home, but her school life as well. Again, the support provided by all has, and is, above and beyond, proving essential in getting Isabel the right support.

In just over two years we have gone from a little girl who could not read or write at all to one who is reading complete novel series with each book in excess of 350 pages, whose writing and expression has improved, and who is doing really well in maths. She has now finished year three and has also undertaken her NAPLAN with minimal support or considerations, something that would not have been possible not all that long ago. Her results showed her development and where she rates, both of which are way above our expectations

We are by no means going perfectly and we celebrate the small victories with the staff who have become friends. But most of all we know we have the right support and Isabel has a future.

So now if any parent mentions they are having trouble with their kids, and their schooling, we are the ones with the same answer we received: "St Marys".



Isabel - Year 1

Michael and Debbie Tanti (parents)

*Blessed are those who give
without remembering.*

*And blessed are those who
take without forgetting.*

Bernard Meltzer



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We say Farewell.....



Fr. Mauri Heading SJ with Fr. Stephen Fletcher MGL

We say farewell to Fr. Maurice (Mauri) Heading SJ

After 29 years of faithful service in our Diocese, Fr. Mauri is retiring because of ill health. He has now gone to Melbourne to stay with the Jesuit Community there.

Fr. Mauri has contributed in so many ways to our Diocese, especially in regard to ministry to Aboriginal people, and with celebrating Masses and other Sacraments for many years, in multiple locations. Prior to his departure he was Chair of the Council of Priests.

We extend to Fr. Mauri best wishes in the Lord, and are comforted to know that he will get the support of the Jesuit Community in Melbourne, as well as members of his family who live there.

We thank God for Fr. Mauri, and pray for him as he continues to address his health issues.



ADVENT

Advent is a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. And the term the coming includes three references: first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second,

to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to his second coming at the end of time.

Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.



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begin.*

Mother Teresa

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Doctor John Hargrave AO MBE - RIP



Earlier this year, August 6 to be precise, Doctor John Hargrave passed away in Hobart, where he had retired following on his lifetime of commitment to surgically improving the conditions of some of the most disadvantaged and disabled people in the Northern Territory. John was not a Catholic, but I have heard him plausibly described as a Saint. I knew him from my earlier time in the Territory (1978-1983) when on a number of occasions I said Mass out at the East Arm Leprosarium for the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters who were the day-to-day carers of the lepers.

I had a long talk with John when he revisited Darwin in May 2008 for the Centenary celebrations of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sisters. On that occasion a representative group of us visited the Monument to the East Arm Leprosarium out at its original site. John shared with me his enduring admiration for the work that numerous OLSH Sisters had done for the patients there during the many, many years when he had been working there as a microsurgeon employing innovative techniques to restore sensation and movement to improve the quality of life of the Indigenous patients.

As most would know, Leprosy is an infectious disease that has been known since biblical times. It is characterised by disfiguring skin sores, nerve damage, and progressive debilitation. Leprosy was first observed in the Northern Territory in 1882, and soon after, cases of the disease were noted among Aborigines although no action was taken in respect of Aboriginal sufferers. From 1884 Chinese lepers were confined on Mud Island in Darwin Harbour, pending their repatriation to China.

In the late 1920's the government adopted a policy designed to confine all Northern Territory lepers, and it was resolved to establish a leprosarium on Channel Island (in Darwin Harbour), which had been the site of the Commonwealth's only Northern Territory quarantine station since 1914. In 1955 the Channel Island Leprosarium was closed, and all inmates were moved to the East Arm Settlement on the mainland.

And so, the East Arm Leprosarium opened in 1955, and replaced the Channel Island Leprosarium. Situated several kilometers south-east of Darwin it was run by the Northern Territory Administration and was staffed by nursing Sisters from the Congregation of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Patients isolated at the Leprosarium

included children as young as four years of age.

Improvements in treatment, and changing attitudes towards the disease, led to the closing of the East Arm Leprosarium in 1982, after which patients were treated in regular hospitals.

Sister Kathleen Leahy OLSH, currently living and working in Alice Springs, wrote:

"Those of us who worked with Doctor John Hargrave over the years experienced a man totally given to researching, studying, teaching, experimenting and learning how the lives of those with the stigma of leprosy - even in the 20th century - could be lived to their full potential."

John was not one to keep his knowledge to himself. He encouraged patients and families to become involved in the care and treatment of their family members. John's vision was to have Aboriginal men and women with the knowledge and training to treat patients, and to ensure that their home community would carry on with the treatment when patients returned home. To witness the friendship and trust between both parties was startling for those of us coming from working in hospitals in the southern States.

Actually, it was during my time at East Arm that the number of actual leprosy patients began to decline. When the new Royal Darwin Hospital opened, Aboriginal patients preferred to go to East Arm with its openness, lawns, freedom of movement and weekend activities, such as hunting or shopping. We not only saw cured leprosy patients preferring East Arm for general medical care, but also their family members.

Working alongside John have been many generations of Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart".

Sister Kathleen added:

"It may be some years since East Arm existed, but the 'East Arm Mob' comes together at times such as now to thank our God for having given us the privilege of working with and learning how to bring to those whom society is unable to accept, because of their race or illness, a knowledge that they do matter and that we are there for them. Thank you, John, for having taught me so much about Aboriginal people, and also encouraging me to go forward with the gifts I have been given".

Fr. Malcolm Fyfe msc

The NET Team Reflection by Charlie Doyle

On Thursday the 10th of September, the NET team came into Room 11 for a retreat day. The day was full of surprises. We played lots of games and even learnt a lot about stepping up to be a leader and a role model, which is so important as we are next year's leaders. The NET Team was based on having fun, stepping up and following in Jesus footsteps. The morning was amazing. Everybody there encouraged each other to step up and be the best version of themselves.

Games

The games were teaching us about watching with our eyes and listening with our ears. This teaches us about following in Jesus' footsteps and that making mistakes is okay. The game was called the unknown maze, which entailed not knowing the way through the maze. However, one of the NET team knew the way through the maze. You couldn't talk or else you got a strike and if you got five strikes the maze were reset. The next game we played was evolution. It was a fun game. It started with an egg, chicken, monkey, fashion model, old man and an immortal. The purpose of the games meant that life does not always go to plan all the time and sometimes obstacles can come about it. We all need to remember to be resilient and stand your ground.

Small Groups

The small groups were little groups that you were placed into with your leader from the NET Team. Everything in the group that was said was kept confidential by the leaders of the group. The boys were split up into two groups and girls split up into three.

Mass

In the afternoon we all came together for Mass with

Mrs Aspinall, Father Tom, Miss Emerson and the whole of the NET Team for the Eucharist. It was such a beautiful way to end the day. Peter, one of the NET team leaders, played his guitar and sang some songs, which was really special.

Over all the whole day with the NET Team was very exciting. Room 11 would love to love to thank each of them for coming! They have reinforced the importance of being faith filled, respectful and resilient learners.



Stars at Santa Teresa

Stars are important to all Indigenous People, and no less the Eastern Arrernte People at Santa Teresa. Stars have been used to navigate across country. Different stars hold cultural stories and cultural law.

As Christians, we are reminded each Christmas that our calling is to follow the 'star' of Christ.

As is customary at Santa Teresa, in 2020 the Parish will distribute a Christmas Card and a small gift to each home in the community. This year the gift will be an illuminated star lantern which families will be asked to hang inside a window of their home. The hope is that, as people drive around to see the Christmas lights, they will also see an illuminated star in each home.

Sr. Liz Weimers - Santa Teresa



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News from Mother Teresa Catholic School



On Friday, September 4th we celebrated our school feast- the feast of St Teresa of Calcutta. We began the day with a Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Charles Gauci, and concelebrated by our Parish Priest, Fr Tom English. Students from each year level took on lead roles in reading, the offertory procession and dramatizing the Gospel. We were fortunate to have the director of Catholic Education NT, Mr Greg O'Mullane attend this special celebration along with other representatives from the Catholic Education Office. The principal and student leaders from MacKillop Catholic College also attended our Eucharistic celebration.



Following the Mass, our students participated in various games, which were led by high school students from MacKillop Catholic College. We are fortunate to have a very positive partnership between our schools, which makes the transition to MacKillop Catholic College a smooth process for our families.



After lunch, all students were treated to an icypole as a special treat!

St Teresa of Calcutta, our patron Saint, devoted most of her life to working with the poor. This includes not only those who are financially poor, but also those who are physically and spiritually poor. She shared her faith with people of many nations and faiths, and famously said, 'Be the living expression of God's kindness'. This is the genuine devotion that we hope to instil in our students



as they journey through our school.

Justina Fernandes
Religious Education Coordinator



A Thoughtful Place

Bringing my gaze down to just the space around me and centring my thoughts on the candle in front of me, I feel a deep sense of peace and a stillness within. I am in the Prayer Garden created at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic Primary School, Bathurst Island, by Sister Anne Gardiner fdnsc in 2016 in an unused part of the school yard.

The Prayer Garden is dedicated to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and her statue and various images help those who come here find a likeness with themselves. There is a central, mature, shade tree and carefully arranged but simple, weatherproof materials used for seating in this circular, sand covered, sacred space.

Sister Anne still fulfils her lifetime's mission of teaching Religious Education to the Tiwi children of this remote island where she has spent her adult life. Many children's prayers have been spoken here. This Year a week long Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was organized by Sister Anne, Fr. Pat and Fr Dahn for the staff and children of the school .

The candles flicker in the quiet soft breeze. As I sit here and reflect on the day ahead, I find that instead of resignation I am energized to the mission ahead of me, and as I say the last line of Her prayer " Show yourself always our Mother" my Amen is one of gratitude .

Anita Pacey - MCPS's Workforce Coordinator



News from Holy Spirit Catholic School

Mini Vinnies Update

On Friday 4th September our Mini Vinnies team visited the St Vincent De Paul Society in Casuarina. Our team enjoyed a tour of the shop with Store Manager, Heather Malone. President, Fay Gurr, also took the time to show us around the head office and introduce our students to the wonderful staff who keep this wonderful organisation running in Darwin. It was great for our students to learn more about what the SVDP Society do and the support services they offer. Our team are very excited to continue to raise funds for SVDP. They will lead the Christmas Appeal at our school in Term 4.



Mini Vinnies Team with Store Manager, Heather Malone, and Kathryn Petterson



Mini Vinnies Team with SVDP's President, Fay Gurr

Channel 7's Sunrise Quiz Winner!



Francesca Hilario

The Holy Spirit school community is super proud of one of our Year 4 students, Francesca,

who recently appeared on Channel 7's Sunrise program and won Sam Mac's Virtual Pub Quiz. Francesca competed, via Zoom, against all of the other States and Territories representing Catholic Education in the Northern Territory. Francesca's parents, Ruby and Derek, did an amazing job preparing Francesca for the show, making a beautiful 'tropical' backdrop and Northern Territory sign. Well done Francesca! You've made the Territory proud!

Sacrament of First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation

This term we saw many of our students prepare for and make their Sacrament of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We congratulate the following Holy Spirit students and staff who participated in the Sacramental program:

Sienna Ammerlaan, Kylie Ammerlaan, Laurence Arellano, Adeline Coco, Davin Gilligan, Darius Krajsek, Luka Krajsek, Francesca Hilario, Gianne Gaspar, Kayden Mendes, Johan Siby, Daniel Liberato, Molly King, Sophie Matejic, Karys Sheridan, Phoebe Hennessy, Max Hennessy, Lachlan Doherty and William Stokes.



First Reconciliation Candidates



First Holy Communion Candidates

Emma McDonald
Specialist Teacher/Religious Education Coordinator

Parent and Friend's Trivia Night

During Term 3 our Parent and Friend's committee hosted a trivia night at the Beaver Brewery which is owned by one of our families. A wonderful night was had by all with lots of laughs courtesy of our fabulous MC, Deacon Tony Cunningham. A huge thanks to all the local businesses who donated prizes for the night. The night would not have been possible without your generous support.



Father's Day Breakfast



Annual SIRF Awards

Congratulations to our School Improvement Renewal Framework Recipients for 2020:

Mr Stephen O'Shannessy - Leadership

Miss Veronica Niland - Catholic Identity

Mrs Alicia McManus - Teaching and Learning

Miss Sinead Walsh - Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Miss Jessica Musgrave - Community and Culture



Caritas 'K' bike ride



On Friday 11th September 2020, the St Paul's staff, students, parents and friends joined together for our annual Caritas K's bike ride. It was a wonderful event, and great to see so many people on the bike ride including our local MP Natasha Fyles. We rode from Jingili Water Gardens, along the foreshore all the way to school. The ride was 7km long.

I would like to make a special mention to the 1st Combat Service Support Battalion - Australian Defence Force who ran beside the students and helped them safely cross the roads, and to the NT Police who also helped the students cross the roads safely by stopping the traffic. We also had the NET team keeping non-riders entertained with games and music at school.

This event is an opportunity for the students at St Paul's to reflect on the plight of others. Rather than merely donating the money, it is an opportunity for students to stop and think about the millions of people across the world, who everyday have to travel many kilometres to fetch water, to obtain food, get to school or markets, or simply to survive.





Christine Smith
Diocesan Integrity Officer

Power of Kindness

Child Protection Week was held in the first week of September. Many events were planned around Australia. At the promotion in Darwin, the NT Acts of Kindness Challenge was launched by NAPCAN and 'Dolly's Dream'. 'Dolly's Dream' was set up in memory of Dolly, who was 14 years old when she took her own life after an extended period of bullying and cyberbullying.

At the launch, Dolly's parents, Tick and Kate Everett, spoke of their commitment to spread the message of being kind to each other. It is interesting to note that research on bullying shows that teaching kindness is more effective than punishment approaches. The Acts of Kindness Challenge is aimed to highlight the power of kindness as a tool for creating safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.

In the Challenge, adults and children were encouraged to write about, or take photos of, acts of kindness and submit these to NAPCAN. Many entries have been posted. It is great to see what have been recognized as acts of kindness. Some of the acts shown are 'playing with my sister', 'inviting someone to join in', 'complimenting someone', 'greeting people when you see them', and 'asking someone if they are okay'. These examples show that kindness revolves around the love for, needs of, and concern for others.

Being kind benefits the receiver and the giver. Being kind is good for our health, as well as good for the wellbeing of those around us, and especially good for children and young people. Kindness activates the areas of the brain linked to happiness; feeling good about oneself, and other positive emotions.

Take a moment to reflect on something that you do for someone; what is done for you, or something that you hear about. It may involve being grateful, seeing good in others, caring for others and valuing the actions of others.

The following are some small acts of kindness:

- Smile
- Hold a door for someone
- Let someone in your lane while driving
- Compliment someone
- Clean up after yourself

Each month, the Pastoral Care & Wellbeing Officer sends the staff at the Catholic Education Office a calendar from the 'Action for Happiness' website. The thought for the month of August was: 'In a world where you can be anything, be kind. Every act of kindness makes a difference'.

Think of what you can do for someone else today. Plan acts of kindness that will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of others. Let's repeat the message: Every act of kindness makes a difference!

Christine Smith
Integrity Officer / Child Safety Co-ordinator



CatholicCare NT introduces their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Educators

Introduced by Sr. Leone Wittmack rsc, General Manager Mission & Culture

Since 2015 CatholicCare NT has outlined its commitment for working with our First Nations Peoples, their Communities and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Staff through our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Our RAP is developed and approved in partnership with Reconciliation Australia. There is an expectation by Reconciliation Australia that we report annually on our outcomes. Currently our STRETCH RAP shows that 30% of our staff come from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Heritage. You will find them on our Executive, in our Programs, Human Resources, Finance, Information Technology and in the NO MORE Programs against family violence. They make up 66 of our 220 staff. Our RAP also shows that we have a strong commitment to ensure that all our staff have good knowledge of the Aboriginal cultures in which they work. To do this we have engaged Cultural Educators.

Below is a profile of our Cultural Educators. Their stories told in their own words.



Back Row-left to right: Phil Brown, Hamish McDonald
Front Row-left to right: Francis Storey, Carol Manfong, Caroline Busch, Aunty Pat Braun

Francis Storey

I was born in Mount Isa QLD and in 1988 our family moved from Mt Isa to Tennant Creek NT. My Mother's language group is Wombaya (Barkly Tableland) and my Father's side is Wakaya (Barkly Highway). Tennant Creek is where I grew up and have lived there from 1988 – 2017. I have 3 children of my own and through kinship I have a 11 year old child who is a part of my family since she was 5 months old. I'm a proud grandmother of 2 beautiful children.

In 2007, I first started work with CatholicCare NT in the Tennant Creek office as a Money Business worker and finished in 2011.

I returned two months later as an Administration Officer in the Tennant Creek Office from 2011 until 2018. I left for family reasons, however in July 2019, I commenced in the Katherine Region as a Financial Wellbeing & Capability Case Manager.

I really enjoy working for CatholicCare NT, working with the clients, staff and the community, that's why I keep coming back.

Carol Manfong

I was born in Katherine and I come from a strong line of Jingili Women from my mother and grandmother. I am Mudburra from my grandfather from the Alum family group – a well-known Strong and Proud family, who worked in the cattle industries and related through family connections and kinships across the Northern Territory.

Growing up at Newcastle Waters and Wave Hill Settlement now called Kalkarindji was an adventure and still have fond memories. I recall that most weekends, we spent on country, camping, fishing and hunting with my grandparents. My grandmother and mother taught me lots of cultural knowledge. I am very proud that I was taught at an early age to care for country, culture and my people.

My grandparents took care of my sisters and myself at Newcastle Waters where we attended school, until we were old enough to attend school in Katherine and Kalkarindji and back to Newcastle Waters because my parents travelled around the NT working on various cattle stations.

A few years later, my two older sisters and I then attended a Boarding school in Charters Towers QLD and my parents moved to Katherine in 1985 so that we could get better opportunities for our family. I come from a large family and I am one of eight siblings. I have three children and I am a grandmother of two, all whom live in Sydney. Two of my older siblings were part of the Northern Territory Stolen Generation.

I have been employed with CatholicCare NT for 2 years and I work in the Financial Wellbeing and Capabilities Team as a Case Manager, based in the Katherine Office. What I really love about my job is that I get to travel to 16 remote communities in the Katherine region. I am a strong advocate for the people who I work with and the Katherine Community.

Caroline Busch

I have been employed with CatholicCare NT for 12 years and I work in the Human Resources area as the Cultural Development Coordinator. I am based in our Berrimah Office, however I do travel frequently to the other regions.

I am a Larrakia woman from the Briston family group – a well-known sporting family. My mother Alice is a Larrakia Senior Elder & part of the stolen generation. Our family language group is Marrathiel and my mother's father is from the Shepherd family group (one of the 8 family groups that makes up the Larrakia language group).

Growing up our family spent most weekends on country, except when it was football season. My family were taught how to clean geese at a very early age of their lives. My Father grew up on the Tiwi Islands and he was taught a lot of cultural knowledge, he knew how to speak and dance Tiwi. My parents taught the family about their country, culture, hunting and how to cook geese, crabs, turtles and fish.

As a Larrakia woman, I enjoy interacting with people and sharing my cultural knowledge.

Aunty Pat Braun

I was born in Tennant Creek to Arrente Father and Warrumunga mother.

I spent my younger years growing up in Central Australia where my parents worked on Cattle stations. At aged five years, myself and two older siblings went off to boarding school in Alice Springs, at the old OLSH Convent. It was very emotional being away from our families and Tribal nanas for the first time. We found English language very hard to speak as it was our third language at that time and as an adult I still find English hard.

I have worked for CatholicCare NT for many years and I enjoy and believe in their connections to family, country and community.

Phil Brown

I am a local Darwin person who was born in the old Darwin Hospital at Myilly Point. I attended various primary schools in Darwin from 1966 through to 1970 and then my family moved to QLD where I completed senior schooling. After school, I worked on the QLD Railways prior to returning to Darwin when I was 19. In QLD, I lived in both the Torres Strait Islands and Aboriginal worlds. I grew up learning the Torres Strait Islands traditions and learned how to make Kup Murri, which is cooking food in the ground on special occasions. In Darwin, I enjoyed playing Australian Rules and Rugby League for local Darwin clubs.

I am a descendent from the Wadeye/Daly River region, an area called Rak Tjindi (Chindi) near the Moyle River, also known as the black soil plains. This is my Great Grandmother's country where she roamed between Wadeye, Rak Tjindi and Nauiyu (Daly River) communities and other outlying outstations.

In 2017, I commenced employment with CatholicCare NT as the General Manager Workforce & Partnerships. I am also the Chairperson of the Reconciliation Action Plan Committee and I enjoy travelling across our sites working with and supporting staff. I certainly enjoy meeting staff from diverse backgrounds and sharing my experiences and knowledge, so staff can feel comfortable and enjoy Aboriginal cultural in their workplace.

Hamish McDonald

I was born and grew up on Arrente Country in Alice Springs. I am from the Eastern Arrente, Luritja clan group. My Mother's side is the Swan/Kenny families from the Luritja and Pertame (Southern Arrente) Language group and my Father's side is the McDonald/Clements families from the Eastern Arrente and Alyawarra Language group.

My Grandmother was part of the Northern Territory Stolen Generation and I was always intrigued to hear her stories growing up with local families at the St Mary's Hostel in Alice Springs. I did all my schooling in Alice Springs and played sports, football and today I still enjoy watching the local footy games on the weekends.

One of my favourite childhood memories was hunting Kangaroo and learning from my Grandmother and Uncles. I still enjoy hunting Kangaroo with family and friends today. Kangaroo and Alangkwe (Bush Banana) is my favourite bush tucker.

As an Arrente person, I like to share my people's knowledge and history. I have been employed with CatholicCare NT for four years in the position as Lead Practitioner in the Intensive Family Parenting Service.

*Sr. Leone Wittmack rsc
General Manager Mission & Culture*



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CatholicCare NT

Reimagining Work

What a year it has been! It began with devastating bushfires in many parts of Australia, then the global Coronavirus pandemic. No one could have foreseen the effects this would have on employment, families, communities, organisations and our whole way of life.

We were all compelled to deal with the challenges brought on by the pandemic, none more so than employers. For some this meant asking their whole workforce to work from home and making the appropriate arrangements in a matter of days. For others it meant adopting new standards of safety, including physical distancing, cough and sneeze hygiene and enhanced cleaning regime at work. Unfortunately, it also meant record job losses especially in the hospitality, retail and entertainment industries.

Add to this a social movement demanding racial equality - "Black Lives Matter", which took hold in many parts of the world including Australia. The need for diversity, inclusion and equity in all areas of life, including the workplace, became an immediate priority.

Perhaps the word that best describes 2020 is "disruption". This term is usually used to describe innovation to a business model which is brought about through a rapid change in technology. In this case rapid change in workplaces and the way we conduct business has been brought about through a world-wide pandemic.

However 2020 is more than a year of crisis - it is a year of opportunity to re-examine work and workplaces and to prepare for the decade ahead. We know that workplaces will look quite different post pandemic.

What will be different?

Hybrid ways of working - At the onset of Coronavirus many of us have found ourselves working from home. Surveys of employees both in Australia and overseas have indicated that people have mostly enjoyed working remotely. One Australian survey has found that 67 per cent of workers "expect" to work remotely more frequently. There were two main reasons given for employee preference to work remotely. These were autonomy and work-life balance. Ability to have a flexible schedule and control over how they work equates to autonomy. Ability to spend more time with family and in other pursuits equates to work-life balance. Research broadly shows that individuals are more productive when working remotely, while teams are more efficient working in-office. Given this, for most organisations the future will most likely involve a blend of both types of work.

Use of technology - Many organisations have been pushed to upgrade their technology to deal with the numbers of people working from home. Most organisations have adopted platforms such as Zoom and Google Meet to allow face-to-face interactions. This has meant a significant reduction in travel costs and virtual meetings are expected to continue into the future. There is also evidence to suggest that the level of automation increases after an economic recession. Organisations will be looking to invest in new technology that will enable employees to keep connected to each other and to those they serve, and to conduct their business

in new ways. Skilling up employees to embrace new technologies will be a challenge for employers.

Wellbeing - The importance of wellbeing has grown because more employees feel stressed, disconnected, and lonely at work. There are still many sectors where employees are reluctant to talk about stress and mental health issues. There is some data to indicate that HR, food service, engineering, and not-for-profits are the most comfortable in talking about their wellbeing. Working from home has brought its own stressors - the blurring of work/life boundaries, the inability to switch off from work and the pressures of supervising home schooling while working. These stresses are to be recognised and employees will need to be supported to deal with the additional pressures.

Organisations will need to create an environment of inclusivity, work/life integration, and connection to foster a comprehensive approach to wellbeing, caring about the employee as a whole—their physical, emotional, social, and financial health. Wellbeing ensures employees can be their strongest, most capable, most authentic selves at work.

Opportunity - There is an opportunity for organisations to become more agile so that they can respond to changing conditions quickly. One way to do this is to identify employees at all levels in an organisation who already have agile leadership skills, then to develop those employees and others. This is also an opportunity to harness the power of diversity and inclusion. Diverse perspectives can lead to greater innovation and ability to navigate through changing circumstances.

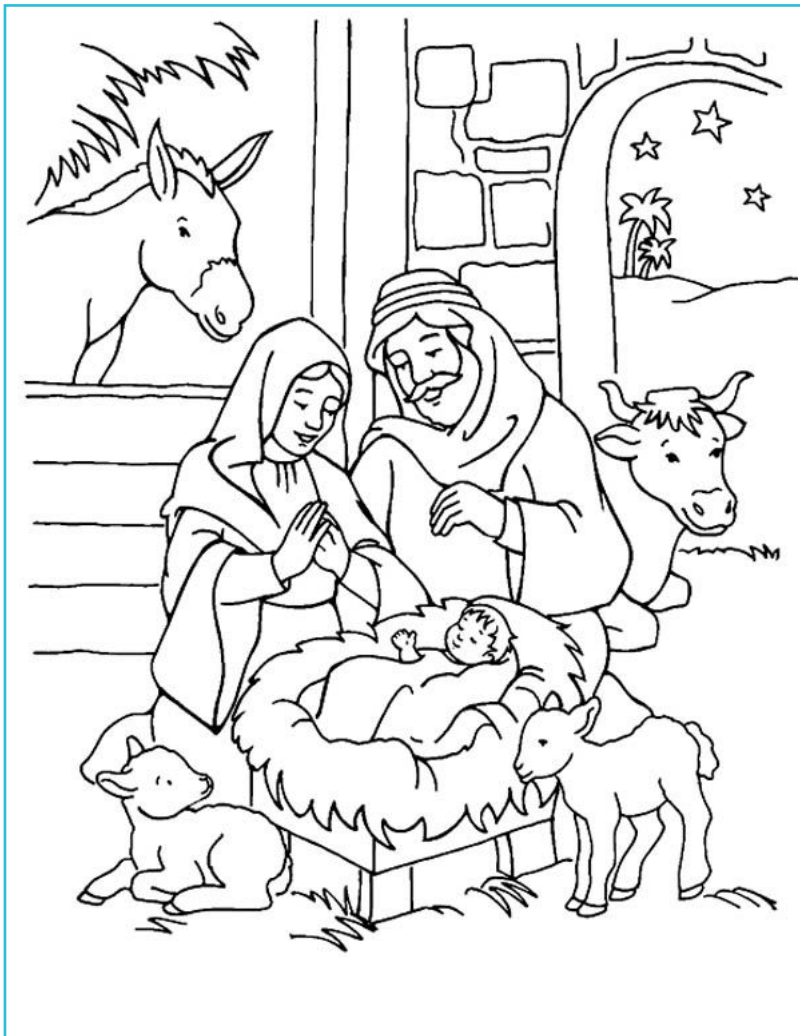
Opportunity will be more about preparing and empowering employees to make decisions, and offering them work that will expand their skills and relationships. Organisations will need to offer employees the chance to develop new skills, contribute to meaningful work, feel challenged, have a voice, and grow.

These are just some of the predictions that have been put forward by experts in the field of employment. Some may eventuate and there may be other changes which are yet to be seen. The only certainty is that work and workplaces will change post Coronavirus, and with a little imagination and some hard work, the change will be for the better.

The Office for Employment Relations can provide you with assistance on this and other employment related matters. Please visit our website: <http://employmentrelations.catholic.org.au> or contact Jane Bashiruddin at the Office for Employment Relations on 0447 238 432

This document is written as a general guide only. It is not intended to contain definitive legal advice which should be sought as appropriate in relation to a particular matter.

1 November 2020



Christmas Word Search

A	N	J	E	S	U	S	E
L	D	N	G	A	D	H	P
P	C	W	M	E	R	P	G
O	M	B	A	N	G	E	L
A	A	Y	N	I	U	S	X
U	R	T	G	K	F	O	C
R	Y	I	E	N	D	J	H
S	T	A	R	G	S	I	I
F	P	E	E	H	S	L	O

Jesus
manger
angel
Mary
Joseph
star
sheep



Christmas Quizz

1. Where were Mary and Joseph on their way to before Jesus was born?
2. Why were they travelling there?
3. Where was Jesus born?
4. Who came to see Jesus first - the shepherds or the wise men?
5. What sign were the shepherds told to look for when searching for Jesus?
6. Who followed a star to find baby Jesus?
7. Can you name the three wise men?
8. What gifts did the wise men bring?
9. Who told Mary and Joseph to return home a different way?
10. What did Herod ask the three wise men to tell him?



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