

TRAGEDY AND MURDER IN PNG

DEVASTATING tribal violence has escalated in the remote highlands of Papua New Guinea, hampering Catholic relief efforts after earthquakes destroyed crops and displaced an estimated 35,000 villagers.

The February 26 earthquake and aftershocks that followed killed 125 people and some of the region's most remote areas are still cut off from assistance.

Tremors have continued since the quake, causing distress for already grief-stricken families, while heavy rain and landslides have lashed the area.

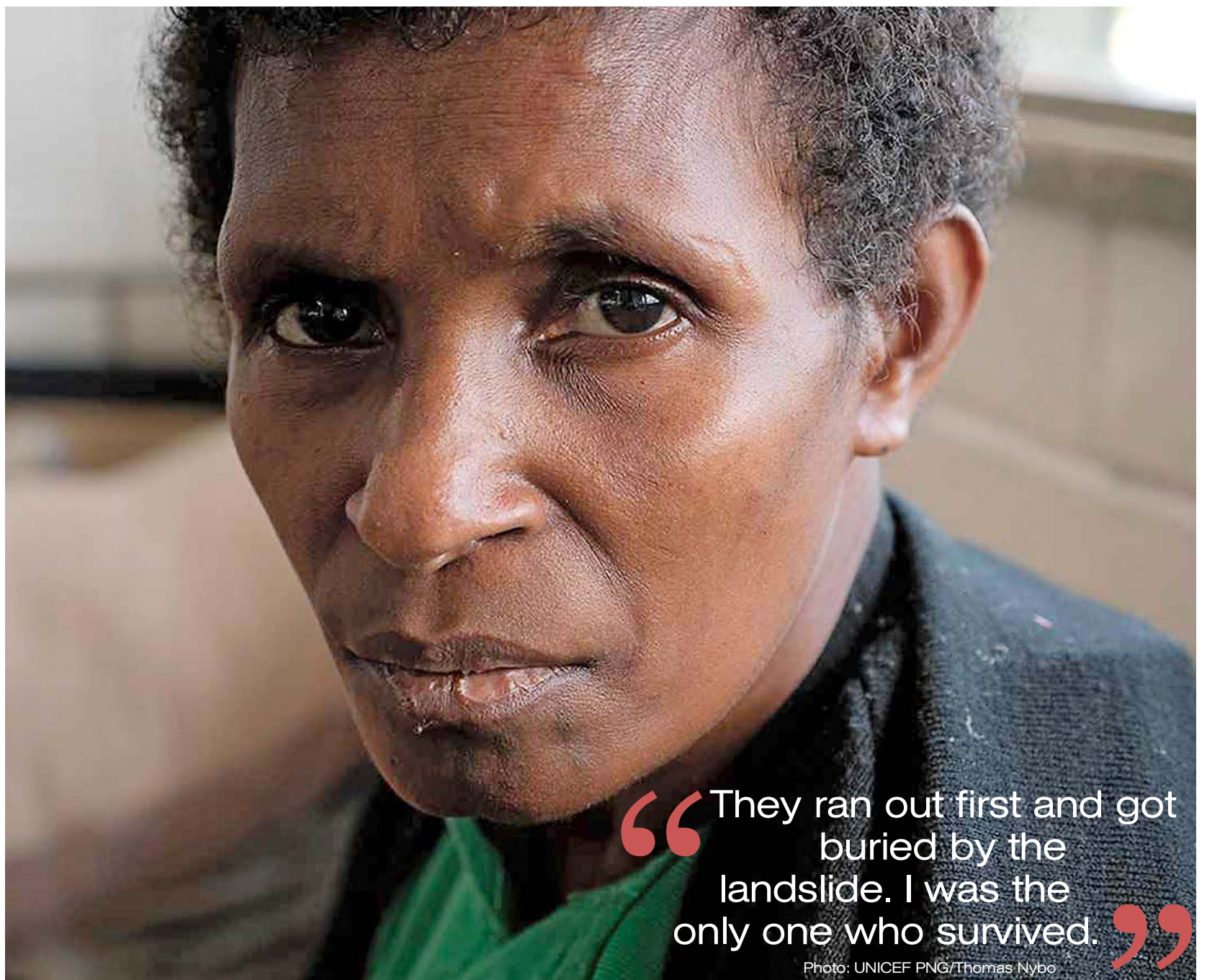
Fighting has also claimed at least seven lives in Hela province, as aid agency Caritas Australia and church partners try to deliver food and medicines to communities.

Prowling gangs have terrorised towns killing people.

They have razed buildings and forced families to flee.

The United Nations has suspended relief efforts after an attack on one of its doctors, and several aid agencies have pulled out.

FULL STORY PAGE 14



“They ran out first and got buried by the landslide. I was the only one who survived.”

Photo: UNICEF PNG/Thomas Nybo

This mother lost all seven of her children and her husband in an earthquake in Papua New Guinea. UNICEF and Caritas are supporting women and children to begin to cope with the emotional and physical trauma of the crisis

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FAITH IN LIFE

BY SR MELISSA DWYER

Being a witness for the Lord



God's promptings: "Surely it will lead us on a journey through valleys and over mountain tops, but God will never abandon us in our striving to seek His will and serve Him with our lives."

"Each one of us is called to become a witness of the Lord, here and now."
(Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 22, 2018)

THIS Sunday, the Church commemorates the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

It's a day when around the world we are invited to fulfil the Lord's instruction to "pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest" (Matthew 9:38).

Conscious that our first vocation is our baptismal call, each one of us is called to radical missionary discipleship.

Pope Francis reminds each one of us, "The Lord, the Church, the world are waiting for your answer to the unique call that each one receives in this life. Do you accept the challenge?"

Each one of us, no matter our age, has been given a mission in the Church and in the world. This mission, to be witnesses of our personal relationship with the Lord, necessitates that we courageously step out into the deep, push away from the shore, allowing Jesus to take us by the hand and lead us to places where sometimes we would rather not go.

Often it's not easy to hear the voice of God. In the midst of a world where everything is loud and instant satisfaction remains a priority, spending time in silence and waiting for God's time becomes increasingly difficult.

Yet this is the challenge for each one of us – each day, to rely on the Lord and to wait patiently for His promptings.

Too often we run the risk of waiting to be perfect before embarking on the radical journey of following Christ in whatever vocation we are called to.

However, in order to be a disciple of Christ, there is no expectation of perfection.

Just ask some of his own followers from scripture – Peter, Mary Magdalene, Zacchaeus and Paul, to name a few.

Jesus reminds us time and time again that he calls us in the midst of our brokenness and sinfulness to rise up and follow him.

Yes, God calls each one of us, wherever we are and at whatever age, to live out our faith and be witnesses.

He doesn't ask for perfection, but rather that we do the very best we can – that we strive to live our faith in credibility and authenticity, conscious that at times we will make mistakes and fall.

But what matters most is not the falling down, but the courage to get up and keep going.

What's encouraging about living out our vocation, is that nothing is wasted.

If we look at our lives in the light of learning from every experience, we are consoled by the certainty that God's grace comes with us, giving us the strength to live the challenges of the present moment and the courage to step into an unknown future of embracing the vocation God reveals to us.

Confident that God will lead us where we need to be, discovering God's call might take longer than we hoped.

Surely it will lead us on a journey through valleys and over mountain tops, but God will never abandon us in our striving to seek His will and serve Him with our lives.

God has a dream for each one of us. God calls men and women of our time to follow Him.

He stands at the door of our hearts and knocks, inviting each one of us to live our personal mission of witnessing to His love with our lives.

It's up to us to play our part in the story that God wants to write with us.

Sr Melissa Dwyer is a religious sister of the Canossian Daughters of Charity in Brisbane.

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Ambassador to the Holy See gives insight into Vatican life

Stronger voice for women

By Mark Bowling

AUSTRALIA'S first resident woman ambassador to the Holy See Melissa Hitchman has described Pope Francis' papacy as a "unique moment in history".

"He is willing to dialogue on issues that the Church has previously not been prepared to do," Ms Hitchman said at the start of a mid-term tour during which she will be speaking with Australian Catholic leaders and agencies and reporting on progress during the first half of her three-year posting.

The head of Australia's resident mission to the Holy See, Ms Hitchman said Pope Francis had a clear message to send, and was not afraid to be "the voice of the voiceless" on issues such as migrants and refugees, climate change, and even some of the more controversial issues facing the international community.

"He's showing a courage, and values-based leadership," Ms Hitchman, a Catholic herself, said.

Ms Hitchman described an historic set of circumstances linking Australia and the Holy See.

"I'm delighted to be there at this moment in history," she said. "It is a great congruence with our foreign policy and the Holy See's policy, which is only limited by imagination and resources.

"Australia and our partners in the international community have much in common in terms of service to humanity and the global commons, and so we are able to partner with him (Pope Francis) in a way that maybe we aren't with other global leaders in the world today.

"He is making a difference, and populations are looking for that leadership, someone who they can turn to who can articulate a sense of values. And we are delighted to be able to work with him on that."

After briefing the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania, Ms Hitchman flew to Brisbane, where she spoke to clergy and seminarians at the Holy Spirit Provincial Seminary, Banyo.

"I have come directly from the Oceania bishops' conference in Port Moresby ... and I was the only woman in a room of about one hundred men there, and I think if I did nothing else, I achieved that," she said. It was part of a speech, in which the career diplomat and mother described her efforts to lift the profile of Australia's Holy See mission, encourage the participation of women and promote indigenous culture.

Introducing her speech, Brisbane vicar general Monsignor Peter Meneely said he believed it was the first time an Ambassador to the Holy See had officially visited the archdiocese, let alone the seminary.

Ms Hitchman acknowledged that most Australians knew little about Australia's diplomatic mission in Rome.

She described her day-to-day work brokering high-level meetings with members of the Curia, networking to obtain vital information, and promoting Australian interests in the heart of the Church.

"Our job as diplomats is to shape and influence and to seek outcomes," she said.

Ms Hitchman has promoted the interests of the Australian Catholic University, which offers short-course scholarships and exchanges for students at its Rome campus, and supported projects with Caritas Australia and Catholic Health Australia.



Seminary visit: Australia's ambassador to the Holy See Melissa Hitchman (third from left) is at Holy Spirit Provincial Seminary with (from left) Verbum-Dei Sister Maeve Heaney, former Holy See ambassador John Herron, indigenous elder David Miller, vicar general Monsignor Peter Meneely and Australian Catholic University Associate Vice-Chancellor Professor Jim Nyland. Photos: Mark Bowling

And she has hosted indigenous artist Deborah Cheetham, and launched the Australia Catalogue during Reconciliation Week at the Vatican Anima Mundi Museum.

Ms Hitchman also described how early diplomatic aspirations to break through the "glass ceiling" within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, had now come to fruition.

One of her assignments as a trainee diplomat had been to prepare and deliver a hard-edged speech to improve her public speaking.

"We had about nine per cent of women as heads of mission – you couldn't really aspire to becoming an ambassador, and it was never my goal, and secondly we didn't have a resident mission to the Holy See," she said.

"I wrote my speech on becoming the first female Ambassador to the Holy See."

Since arriving in Rome in 2016, Ms Hitchman said she had witnessed "some positive developments" for women working in and around the Vatican.

She said a new group known as "donna in Vaticana" or DIVA now offered women official recognition "that they exist and that their work is valuable and appreciated".

"It represents the women working in the Vatican, and this group gives them a voice in a way they have not had before," Ms Hitchman said.

"There are now opportunities for women.

"They have some very educated, intelligent,

highly networked women working in the Vatican, advising the Curia ... some of them are Harvard Law graduates; they feel a calling to the Church and are using their skills and talents in that way.

"Some of those women in the Vatican are working on issues as diverse as arms control,

humanitarian aid and assistance through Caritas, all sorts of areas. "There are so many issues we could be working on and at times we become exhausted trying to cover them all."

Visitor: Ambassador Melissa Hitchman with David Miller.



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Online discovery awakens Anzac spirit

Internet reunites lost soldier with descendants nearly 100 years after his death

By Emilie Ng

MATTRESS maker Private Frank Percy Hanlon was waiting in the trenches for his call of duty on a railway line when a mortar shell exploded near him and another soldier.

Fellow soldiers wrote eyewitness reports confirming the “rather slim and rather quiet” 20-year-old was killed “instantaneously” on April 23, 1917, around 800 metres away from Bullecourt, France, where days later emerged one of the bloodiest battles the Australian army had endured.

Private Hanlon had only turned 20 three months earlier, enlisting in the army when he was only 19.

Private Victor Harry Carby was in the burial party, and made a cross for his mate near where Private Hanlon had died.

Within weeks that site was destroyed, as the battle between the Australians and British Army against the Germans that killed thousands of men left nothing in the ground behind.

Though his body was never found again, he was honoured at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

Fr Edward Sarsfield Barry, a Catholic chaplain to Australian soldiers and the first priest at Our Lady of Victories Church, a war memorial in Bowen Hills, notified one of Private Hanlon’s nieces about the tragic death.

Almost one hundred years later, The Gap parishioner Tom Vanderbyl jumped on the Internet and discovered letters pinpointing the precise location where his great-uncle, Private FP Hanlon, had died.

“We got a fair bit of stuff from the web; there’s a great access to great materials now and resources online,” Mr Vanderbyl said.

“If you know the name of the person you’re connected to and you list it in the search, there’s a lot of websites and resources available to you.

“That’s all we really did, once we became interested, we just started to research online.”

Among the official documents detailing Private Hanlon’s deployment, which began in Egypt and ended in Bullecourt, were letters from his “friends in the trenches” who reported where and how he died.

After contacting the National Archives of Australia in Canberra, Mr Vanderbyl learnt the digitised documents accessible online were just the tip of the iceberg.

“There was a mud map attached to one of these letters, drawn by one of his comrades, and it



Anzac remembrance: Tom and Saskia Vanderbyl and their three sons Oliver (then 15), Jeremy (then 11), Ben (then 17) outside the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in 2015. The family travelled to northern France to locate the site where Mr Vanderbyl’s great-uncle was killed in Bullecourt during the First World War. Photo: Tom Vanderbyl

shows exactly where it was,” Mr Vanderbyl said.

The mud map was not available online, but Mr Vanderbyl obtained a hardcopy of it from the Archives.

“I took that mud map and took up a Google Maps of the whole area,” he said.

“He was basically blown up next to an old railway line, and this no longer exists, but when you look at Google Maps you can still see the location of a railway line just by the trees and different colours.

“So I was sort of measuring it out on the Google maps, based on the information that’s in these documents, and we were able to pin-point just about where it happened.”

But it wasn’t enough to see the site on the computer – Mr Vanderbyl decided to tack on a side trip to Bullecourt during a family vacation to Europe.

“When we were going on a trip to Europe to visit family and friends ... we thought we’d take a side trip to go to the place where Frank Percy Hanlon was killed just to get a sense of it,” he said.

“You go to Anzac Day parades and Anzac Day commemorations but we never actually connected more directly than that.

“We were interested to do that, to go and see if we can find out and visit where it was.”

In December 2015, the Vanderbyl family drove within metres of the site that took the life of his great-uncle 100 years ago this year.

The thick mud – which Mr Vanderbyl said ran three metres deep – kept the family from standing on the actual site of Private Hanlon’s death.

“Not traversable even by a car like that,” Mr Vanderbyl said, pointing to a photo of his family in the car just metres from the special site.

“That’s as close as we could get because of



Heavy casualties: Troops billeted in a sunken road near Bullecourt on May 19, 1917

that mud (which) you hear about it in Anzac stories.

“We stopped both this side and on the other side, we stopped there and we were about to get out and walk; we were approached by a local farmer, he told us that was a not a good idea.”

The Vanderbyl’s oldest son, Ben, was 17 at the time, just two years younger than when his great-great uncle enlisted in the First World War.

“Imagine being out here doing this?” Mr Vanderbyl said.

“His mother, Sarah Hanlon, who must have been my great-grandmother, she never really got over his death.

“There was a letter, of which the first page is

online, the rest must be in the files in Canberra, where you get the sense she hadn’t got over it years later.

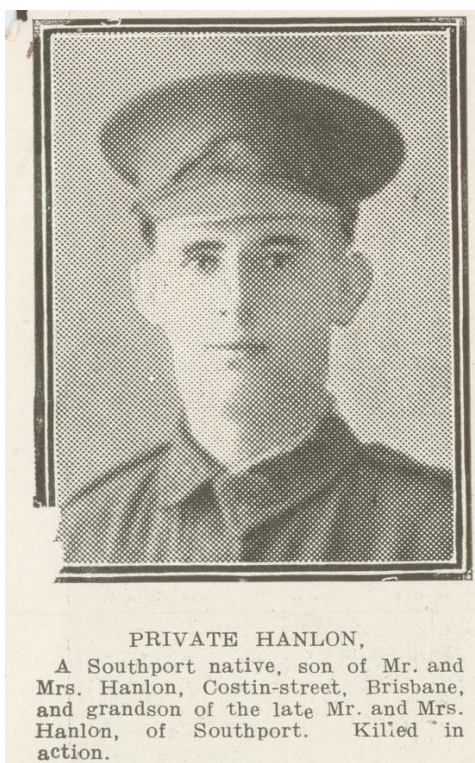
“You can see the anguish come through in her letters back and forth with the war office, trying to get more information.

“Obviously, he had the world in front of him.”

While in Bullecourt, Mr Vanderbyl said he could sense the appreciation the French of that town had for the Australians.

“They still have a special place for Australians,” Mr Vanderbyl said.

“You just feel how much appreciation there is for the Anzac’s effort and the importance the Australians had at the time in terms of their action.”



Family moment: In December 2015, the Vanderbyl family drove within metres of the site where Tom Vanderbyl’s great-uncle 100 years ago this year. The thick mud kept the family from standing on the actual site of Private Hanlon’s death. The site is the top left of the photo.

Brisbane man uncovering 'surprising' war stories of dad and uncle

Honouring brave Anzacs



Bowen Hills parish memorial Mass



Tragic history: Our Lady of Victories Church parish priest Fr Andrzej Kolaczowski with the historic roll of honour that bears the names of nearly 2000 Queensland Catholics who died fighting for Australia between 1914 and 1918.

The parish will hold a memorial Mass for the 2000 Queensland soldiers and reinstate the historic honour roll before a side altar in Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church.

Where: Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church, Bowen Hills

When: 8am, Sunday April 22.

Family memories: Noel Synnott holds a photo of his uncle, Corporal Bartle Patrick Synnott, who was killed in action in Lagnicourt on May 24, 1917. He only learnt of his uncle's service in the war nine years ago. Photo: Emilie Ng.

By Emilie Ng

NOEL Synnott almost lived his entire life without knowing his dad's fingerprints are on the infamous Amiens Gun captured by Australian soldiers in 1918.

The 79-year-old Dutton Park parishioner only found out nine years ago that his father and uncle were heroes in the First World War.

Mr Synnott said nine years ago a schoolmate found the military records for his uncle Lieutenant Bartle Patrick Synnott and his father Corporal James Hardy Synnott.

Their part in the horrible war, which nearly wiped out an entire generation of young Australian men 100 years ago, was never talked about at home.

A former student of St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, Mr Synnott also found out at the school's "Vintage Terracians" morning teas that his uncle was a member of the 1906 Terrace First Fifteen and another uncle a dux of the college.

"It was all a surprise to me, really," Mr Synnott said.

"I've had these war records, eight or nine years, and I can't remember where they came from except I think an old classmate of mine was at the war memorial and just as a matter of interest he got these for me.

"Perhaps the older members, my aunts, thought I knew these things, but I didn't really."

Corporal Synnott enlisted in the war on May 20, 1916, and a year later fought in and survived some of the worst battles on the Western Front in Bapaume, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Bullecourt, Ypres, Ancre, Amiens, Albert and Mont St Quentin.

"See all the battles my father was in," Mr Synnott said, looking at his father's military record. "I never knew it."

Amazingly, Corporal Synnott was a member of the platoon that captured the infamous Ami-

ens Gun, a German 28-centimetre railway gun, the barrel of which stands out the front of the Australian War Memorial.

"My brother used to say that (their father captured the railway gun) but I thought he meant Dad's battalion, but it was Dad," Mr Synnott said.

"It was his platoon, the platoon is about twenty men, so Dad was in the thick of it."

Corporal Synnott died in 1944, when Mr Synnott was just five years old.

"He was gassed (in the war) and that shortened his life to some extent," Mr Synnott said.

His memories of his father are vague but he remembers that his parents "were strong churchgoers".

Lieutenant Synnott did not live to see his older brother's achievements on the Western Front, having been killed in battle in Lagnicourt on May 24, 1917, the feast of Our Lady of Help of Christians.

Five years after his uncle's death, that Marian feast day inspired the name for the Bowen Hills war memorial church, Our Lady of Victories, where a plaque in honour of Lieutenant Synnott

– with his name misspelt – was bolted above the old baptistry.

Mr Synnott, who worked for 40 years as a canon lawyer for the Brisbane archdiocese, received a phone call from the parish last month notifying him of the plaque.

It was the first time he had heard about it.

He stood beneath the plaque last week, laughing at the misspelling of his surname.

"Which makes me think that maybe that was donated by someone else because I would have thought Grandma and Granddad would have got the spelling right," Mr Synnott said.

He also recently found photos of his uncle, one of his tombstone and two of him in military uniform "rustling around in the house" where he has lived for the past 40 years.

One military photo is signed in gold pen, "Your old cobbler. Bart Synnott".

This weekend the parish will hold a memorial Mass to honour the nearly 2000 Catholic soldiers, sailors and nurses who died in the war, and whose names are listed in an honour roll now reinstated in the church.

Mr Synnott, born 23 years after his uncle died in France, was among the descendants who would kneel down to pray for the family members whose lives were forever changed by the war.

"It's very thoughtful of people in the parish to be thinking of people, perfect strangers basically, who died 100 years ago," Mr Synnott said.

It's now up to Mr Synnott to spread word of his uncle and father's heroic role in the First World War to the next generation.

“It's very thoughtful of people in the parish to be thinking of people, perfect strangers basically, who died 100 years ago.”

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Lost family remembered

Soldier's body never found, but his memory has not been forgotten

By Emilie Ng

CHARLES Mitchell and Gordon Mitchell would have been brothers-in-law were it not for a war that took the lives of thousands of Australian men.

Gordon Mitchell was engaged to marry Isabella Mitchell, the sister of Charles Mitchell, and the men would have been brothers-in-law if they had not taken up the call to serve in the First World War.

They were from St Lucia, which in the early 1900s was farming land, and they made time to pose for a photo on a horse-drawn buggy just before heading off to war.

Private Gordon enlisted in the war in 1914, and was placed in the 9th Australian Infantry Battalion, eventually making the landing on Anzac Cove, on April 25, 1915.

A month later he was shot in the back of the head and survived.

He was given a medical discharge but, being born in Scotland, was nabbed by the British Army to serve in the Irish Guards as Lieutenant Mitchell.

On February 12, 1916, Private Charles signed up for battle despite resistance from his mother who worried about a previous head injury the 22-year-old had sustained when he fell from a horse-drawn cart.

But the army took him in, seeing only a strong soldier, one who had crossed the Brisbane River from St Lucia to West End several times.

Private Charles was also shot in battle at Lagnicourt but, unlike his future brother-in-law, died on the Hindenburg Line, Germany.

His body was never identified and while there is no known grave for him, he is listed in the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France, and on the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

In 1919, John Moir Mitchell, owner of fencing company K wire, wrote a letter to the Australian military base in Melbourne, requesting his son's kit-bag be returned to the family "as we will be pleased to have as many of my son's belongings as possible".

One of those items, his British War Medal and a Victory Medal, did come back home to



Friendly outing: Charles Scott Mitchell (left) and Gordon Murray Mitchell pose for a photograph in a horse-drawn buggy at St Lucia. The photograph, possibly taken by Charles Mitchell's father, was taken just before the pair went to war.

Brisbane, and remain in the home of his niece, Sandgate parishioner Janet Simon, the daughter of Lieutenant Gordon Mitchell.

Her niece Helen Price will remember her great-uncle Private Charles Mitchell at a memorial Mass at Our Lady of Victories Church, Bowen Hills, built in hon-

our of the Queensland Catholic soldiers, sailors and nurses who died in the First World War.

One of the Stations of the Cross paintings has a plaque honouring Private Charles Mitchell.

"I said to Auntie Janet, Uncle Charlie wasn't married and he had no family, but we remember him," Mrs Price said.

"It's nice that they're thought of still."

"It's a very good idea," Mrs Simon said.



“His body was never identified and while there is no known grave for him, he is listed in the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in France, and on the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.”



Fegan photo.
PRIVATE C. S. MITCHELL.
14th Reinforcements, 25th Battalion.
Now in training in England. Only son of Mr. J. M. Mitchell (Club Member, C.T.A. of Queensland).

Longest-serving army chaplain in Great War cared lovingly for fallen soldiers and their kin

WHEN soldiers on the Western Front made the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War, Catholic priest Fr Edward Sarsfield Barry was often the first to know.

The young priest from Rockhampton put his hand up to serve the spiritual needs of Australian soldiers on the frontline in France between 1916 and 1918.

According to Tom Johnstone, author of *The Cross of Anzac: Australian Catholic Service Chaplains*, Fr Barry experienced more frontline service on the Western Front than any other Australian chaplain.

When the First World War broke out, and Australian men were answering the call to serve their country, Fr Barry also volunteered, enlisting on May 16, 1916.

He was 27 and had been ordained just three years earlier in Dublin, serving at St Stephen's Cathedral and St Patrick's Church, Fortitude Valley, before leaving for France from Sydney.

He served in the 9th Battalion of the 5th Brigade and the 28th Battalion of the 7th Brigade, serving continuously with Australian infantry until his service termination.

In a news story for Fr Barry's silver jubilee,

The Telegraph described how the faithful army chaplain "saw the flower of Australia's manhood die gallantly in action, (which) made him a staunch champion of the 'digger' and an ardent advocate for peace".

His spiritual attention to the soldiers, especially those whose lives would never be known after 1918, was no more evident than in a letter one grieving mother forwarded to The Catholic Press Sydney.

"Dear Mrs Hoban, I had intended writing to you before to sympathise with you on the recent death of your son. You, doubtless, have heard how it occurred.

"A shell burst in or near where he was and wounded him so severely that he died very soon afterwards, and was buried nearby.

"His grave is known and marked and as well looked after as possible.

"My particular desire is to let you know that once at least during the week before we went into the line that time he was at Confession and Communion.

"I am inclined to think that he went twice.



"At any rate he was certainly at the sacraments a few days before he died.

"This I know is the greatest consolation a Catholic mother could have.

"I knew your boy when he was an instructor at Rollestone, and also here in France.

"Everybody liked him, and he had the admiration and respect of everybody. He seemed certain to get a commission before very long.

"I felt his death very much.

"Everybody unites with me in sending you sincere sympathy.

"I have not forgotten him at Mass and assure you of my prayers that God may be good to you in your trouble. Edward Barry."

On June 26, 1918, a cablegram from Rockhampton arrived at the Australian Imperial Forces office from Archbishop James Duhig, requesting in eight words that Fr Barry return home.

"REQUEST RETURN BARRY APPOINTED ANOTHER CONTINUOUS ARCHBISHOP DUHIG," the Archbishop wrote in the

cablegram, held in the National Archives in Canberra.

The request for his termination of service was approved a month later, and he returned to Australia on September 15, 1918.

He honoured his fallen Anzacs serving as chairman of the Anzac Day Committee of the Church for several years.

He was eventually installed as the first parish priest of a new church in Bowen Hills, built in 1924 "to the Glory of God and in memory of the Catholic Sailors and Soldiers of Queensland who fought and died in the Great European War 1914-1919".

Fr Barry remained the pastor at Our Lady of Victories Church and his last appointment was as parish priest of Wilston in 1947.

He was made domestic prelate in 1944, becoming a member of every organisation in the archdiocese.

He died in 1956, aged 66 and a priest for 43 years.

— Emilie Ng

Devoted: Fr Edward Sarsfield Barry.

Brisbane doctor gives first medical check-up to disabled children in Flores GP offers gift of healthcare

By Emilie Ng

DISABLED children who were neglected and given to the permanent care of a group of religious brothers in Flores, Indonesia, have received their first visit from a doctor.

The Missionaries of the Poor in Labuan Bajo, a small but poor fishing town in Flores, welcomed Dr Naomi Moss from Jindalee to their apostolate, a home for children with severe disabilities.

The children's disabilities range from Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, severe autism, and there is also one boy who cannot walk at all.

Several other children have undiagnosed disabilities because they have never been assessed by a doctor.

Missionaries of the Poor Brisbane associate Trevor Lambkin, who is on his fifteenth mission trip with the Brothers, said Dr Moss heard about the apostolate from her patient, Indoeroopilly parishioner Georges Lefevre, and offered to provide medical assistance to the children.

Mr Lambkin said this was the first time a doctor had performed an assessment on the children since the apostolate opened in 2013.

"It's the first doctor visit, and the first doctor assessing the children too," Mr Lambkin said.

"She will assist the children in the home the Brothers have in the monastery land.

"These are the children no one else wants."

Dr Moss left for Indonesia on April 6 joined by her patient Mr Lefevre, and Joan Ebzery, a physiotherapist from Indoeroopilly parish who will also provide voluntary treatment for the children.

Mr Lambkin and his wife, Tina, left for Indonesia on April 8, and spent one day in Denpasar to buy shoes for the children in Flores.

Following the children's diagnosis, the volunteer medical team hope they can one day bring the children to Australia for further treatment.

Mrs Lambkin said many of the children were malnourished when they came into the Brothers' care but "by the love the Brothers give them" are becoming healthier and stronger.

Six boys living at the apostolate received their First Holy Communion in September last year.

The Missionaries of the Poor, one of the fastest-growing orders in the world, established their mission in Flores in June 2010 and set up the apostolate in 2013.

They welcomed their first intake of orphaned children in 2014.

Indoeroopilly parish priest Fr Neville Yun became the first priest to visit the Flores mis-



Gift of life: Trevor Lambkin has a laugh with a young boy from the Missionaries of the Poor apostolate in Flores. The children, who all have various disabilities, receive full-time care from the Brothers.
Photo: Trevor Lambkin.



Precious life: Br Sherwin and Dr Naomi Moss with a small boy from the Missionaries of the Poor apostolate looking after disabled children. Photo: Supplied.

sion when he visited the Brothers with parish missionaries in April last year.

His group visited the home for disabled children run by the Brothers and was moved by their ministry, promising to establish a link with the community.

Mr Lambkin said Fr Yun was "the angel" sent for the Brothers, who profess a life of radical poverty, chastity, obedience and free service to the poor, meaning all their apostolates are offered for no income.

Mr Lambkin also said the Brothers in Flores were in the process of building a new chapel and required a monstrance for adoration and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Any parishes that can donate a monstrance to the Brothers can contact Trevor Lambkin on mopbrisbaneassociates@hotmail.com.

Australia's talent pool shines at Commonwealth Games

AUSTRALIAN athletes are letting their weary muscles rest after a successful two weeks of competition that put the host nation on top of the Commonwealth Games medal tally.

The team was shy of 200 medals at the Games, topping the tally board at 198 medals including 80 gold, 59 silver and 59 bronze.

Supporters from Queensland Catholic schools and universities joined in celebrating the athlete's great achievements.

Carmel College principal Stephen Adair commended Year 11 student and para-swimmer Paige Leonhardt after she took out silver in the SB9 100m breaststroke.

"She's a wonderful kid and deserves every success," Mr Adair said.

"Well done Paige."

Mr Adair said the school would make "a full song and dance" about Ms Leonhardt's winning swim at the school's assembly.

Ms Leonhardt was thrown from inside a car when she was five, an accident that caused severe injuries and required four years of recovery.

She has hemiplegia on her right side as well as intracranial hypertension, epilepsy and autism, but started swimming as therapy when she was 12.

Fellow para-swimmer Lakeisha Patterson left the pool with a lucky streak of two gold medals,

competing in front of her family for the first time.

Elite athletes studying at Australian Catholic University through the Elite Athletes and Performers Program also raised the bar at the games.

Demi Hayes and Emma Tonegato's Rugby 7s team came agonisingly close to winning the final, taking out the silver medal on the final day of competition.

Swimmer Clyde Lewis also took out the gold in the men's 400m, and bronze in the 200m individual medley in two tight finishes.

Ellie Cole earned silver in the women's S9 division 100m backstroke and bronze in the 100m freestyle, chasing the tail of fellow Australian and gold medal winner Lakeisha Patterson.

Gymnast Georgia-Rose Brown's performance earned her a silver medal in the women's balance beam and a bronze in the women's team final.

Brandon Starc has raised the bar, winning a gold medal in the men's high jump, with a final jump of 2.32m.

Rachel Lynch also earned player of the match in Australia's women's hockey team after some amazing saves as goalkeeper. Hammer thrower Alexandra Hulley claimed silver in a strong performance, while Kyle Cranston fought hard in the decathlon to secure fifth place.

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VATICAN NEWS

Conference honours women religious who put their lives at risk



TODAY'S women religious belong to "a long line of courageous women" whose faith in God and love for humanity led them to put their lives at risk, Irish Loreto Sister Patricia Murray said.

In situations of war and conflict around the globe, women religious faced the same dangers as the women they lived and worked with, including rape and murder, Sr Yudit Pereira-Rico, a member of the Religious of Jesus and Mary and executive director of Solidarity with South Sudan, said.

The two sisters and several others spoke on April 11 at a symposium, Women Religious on the Frontlines, sponsored by the United States Embassy to the Holy See, the International Union of Superiors General and Solidarity with South Sudan, an international project of women's and men's religious orders.

The US ambassador Callista Gingrich opened the conference saying women religious were "often the unsung heroes of the Catholic Church" and that their service to people and their contributions to peace and justice "should be emulated and celebrated".

CNS

Proposal for Latin America synod on women

THE Catholic Church in Latin America must recognise and appreciate the role of women and end the practice of using them solely as submissive labourers in the parish, members of a pontifical commission said.

At the end of their plenary meeting at Vatican City, members of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America proposed that the Church hold a Synod of Bishops "on the theme of the woman in the life and mission of the Church".

"There still exist 'macho', bossy clerics who try to use women as servants within their parish, almost like submissive clients of worship and manual labour for what is needed. All of this has to end," the final document from the meeting said.

L'Osservatore Romano reported on April 11 that the theme of the four-day meeting, "The woman: pillar in building the church and society in Latin America", was chosen by Pope Francis.

In addition to 17 cardinals and seven bishops who were members of the commission, the Pope asked that some leading Latin American women also be invited; eight lay women and six women religious participated in the four-day meeting and in drafting its pastoral recommendations, the newspaper said.

CNS

Blessed Romero's canonisation probably in Rome in October

Saintly: Salvadorans carry an image of Blessed Oscar Romero in San Salvador to commemorate the anniversary of his murder. Photo: CNS



DURING an April 11 homily in Washington, Salvadoran Archbishop Jose Luis Escobar Alas said the canonisation of Blessed Oscar Romero would "probably" be in Rome and "probably" take place at the end of October after a meeting of bishops.

He also said the final decision was up to Pope Francis.

"Soon we will have a canonisation," the archbishop said to a crowd of mostly Salvadoran immigrants gathered for Mass at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart.

"On May 19, we will know the date and the place."

That's the date cardinals will gather at Vatican City for a meeting known as a consistory, where they're expected to decide the details.

CNS

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Warning: A Syrian soldier walks amid destroyed buildings in the war-torn town of Ghouta. Lebanese Cardinal Bechara Rai appealed to world leaders to stop the war in Syria and to work for comprehensive peace through diplomatic means.

Photo: CNS

Cardinal warns against 'new drums of war'

LEBANESE Cardinal Bechara Rai appealed to world leaders to stop the war in Syria and to work for comprehensive peace through diplomatic means.

"As the great powers are beating the drums of a new war against Syria, we regret the absence of a language of peace from the mouths of senior officials in our world today," Cardinal Rai, patriarch of Maronite Catholics, said in an address directed to the international community.

In reference to the stance of world leaders toward Syria, the cardinal said, "Most tragically, their hearts are devoid of the slightest human emotion toward the millions of innocent Syrians who have been forced to flee their land under the fire of war, its crimes, destruction, terror and violence."

"We appeal to the conscience of the

great powers and the international community to work to end the war and to bring about a just, comprehensive and lasting peace through political and diplomatic means – not military," Cardinal Rai said.

"The people of the Middle East are entitled to live in peace and tranquility."

"The declaration of war is very weak," Cardinal Rai said, adding that peace-building was the ultimate in heroism.

"Among the great powers, you will remember that we all know how to start wars, but we do not know how they end."

Noting that Lebanon has hosted more than 1.1 million refugees, or nearly half of its population, "at a time when most European countries have closed their doors", Cardinal Rai said: "We ask today, did these countries which are beating the drums of

war bear a fraction of the hardship due to the displacement of the Syrian population?"

Cardinal Rai's appeal came amid threats of military retaliation against Syria over the alleged use of chemical weapons against civilians in the Ghouta region.

United States President Donald Trump has said "missiles will be coming".

But on the morning of April 12, Trump tweeted, "Never said when an attack on Syria would take place. Could be very soon or not so soon at all."

Opponents of unilateral US action scheduled an emergency closed-door meeting of the United Nations Security Council for April 12, and Britain also scheduled an emergency Cabinet meeting, the Associated Press reported.

CNS

Chilean abuse victims welcome Pope's letter Call for zero tolerance

VICTIMS of clergy sexual abuse welcomed Pope Francis' letter in which he apologised for under-estimating the seriousness of the crisis in Chile.

James Hamilton, Jose Andres Muriillo and Juan Carlos Cruz, victims of Fr Fernando Karadima, released a statement saying they appreciated the Pope's letter and were "evaluating the possibilities" for meeting with the Pope.

"The damage committed by the hierarchy of the Chilean church, to which the Pope refers, has affected many people, not just us," the victims said.

"The purpose of all our actions has always been about recognition, forgiveness and reparation for what has been suffered, and will continue to be so, until zero tolerance against abuse and concealment in the Church becomes a reality."

Pope Francis' letter, released on April 11, asked "forgiveness of all those I have offended" and said he hoped to "be able to do it personally in the coming weeks".

Mr Cruz said he was grateful for the Pope's "unprecedented" apology and expression of shame, and he hoped to have a frank discussion with Pope Francis about the pain suffered by victims of abuse.

"We want to talk with him and humbly speak to him about forgiveness and tell him not only everything we have experienced, but also to speak with him about the situation that many people have suffered, what we have suffered," he said.

"It happened not only in Chile but also in the United States, in Italy, in the whole world."

Abuse victims alleged that Bishop Juan Barros of Osorno – then a priest – had witnessed their abuse by his mentor, Fr Karadima.

In 2011, Fr Karadima was sentenced to a life of prayer and penance by the Vatican



Abuser: Chilean Father Fernando Karadima leaves after attending a hearing at the Supreme Court building in Santiago. Photo: CNS

after he was found guilty of sexually abusing boys.

Fr Karadima denied the charges; he was not prosecuted civilly because the statute of limitations had expired.

During his visit to Chile in January, the Pope sparked controversy when he pledged his support for Bishop Barros and said: "The day they bring me proof against Bishop Barros, I will speak. There is not one piece of evidence against him. It is calumny."

He later apologised to the victims and admitted that his choice of words wounded many.

A short time later, the Holy See announced Pope Francis was sending Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta and his aide Fr Jordi Bertomeu Farnos to Chile to listen to people with information about Bishop Barros.

Spokesman for the parishioners in Os-

orno Juan Carlos Claret said Catholics in the diocese "value the Pope's willingness to restore trust".

"That is precisely the task that must unite all believers in Chile," he said.

After the release of Pope Francis' letter president of the bishops' conference and head of the military ordinariate Bishop Santiago Silva Retamales said the bishops of Chile would travel to Vatican City in the third week of May.

The bishops, he said, shared in the Pope's pain.

"We have not done enough," he said. "Our commitment is that this does not happen again."

In the past few months, Catholics in Osorno have become increasingly divided.

Some continue to support Bishop Barros, while others hope for change.

CNS

Pope, Christian leaders condemn use of violence against Syria

Appeal for lasting peace



Plea for peace: Internally displaced Syrians at a camp outside Damascus. The United States, France and Britain launched airstrikes in Syria to punish President Bashar Assad for an apparent chemical attack against civilians and to deter him from doing it again. Photo: CNS

SHARPLY criticising a failure to find nonviolent means of bringing peace to Syria and other parts of the world, Pope Francis appealed to world leaders to work for justice and peace.

"I am deeply disturbed by the current world situation, in which, despite the instruments available to international community, it struggles to agree on joint action in favour of peace in Syria and other regions of the world," he said after praying the Regina Coeli with people gathered in St Peter's Square on April 15.

"While I unceasingly pray for peace and invite all people of good will to keep doing the same, I

appeal once again to all political leaders so that justice and peace may prevail."

The Pope's appeal came after the United States, France and the United Kingdom launched missiles on Syria on April 13, targeting sites intended to weaken the nation's chemical weapons capability. The missile strikes came one week after an alleged chemical attack in the Ghouta region, outside Damascus.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow telephoned Pope Francis after the missile attack, he told reporters on April 15 at his house outside of Moscow.

"We shared the common concern about the situation in Syria, and we talked about how Christians should influence this situation to stop violence, war and so many tragic victims as we

have seen in these days," he said.

The patriarchate launched an initiative to unite Christian leaders from the East and West to promote peace and prevent a humanitarian crisis in Syria, Father Aleksandr Volkov, spokesman for the Russian patriarchate, said.

Christians "cannot be silent when things like those of these days are taking place in Syria," Patriarch Kirill said.

The Syrian Catholic and Orthodox patriarchs of Syria also publicly condemned the "brutal aggression" of the US-led allied missile attack and called upon all churches in the countries that participated to likewise condemn the attack and urge their governments to work toward international peace.

In a statement issued from the Syrian capital

of Damascus – the patriarchal seats of their respective churches – the patriarchs said they "condemn and denounce the brutal aggression that took place this morning against our precious country Syria by the USA, France and the UK, under the allegations that the Syrian government has used chemical weapons."

The statement was signed by Melkite Catholic Patriarch Joseph Absi; Syriac Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II and Greek Orthodox Patriarch John.

The brother of Patriarch John X – Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Boulos Yazii – is one of two bishops who were kidnapped near the Syrian city of Aleppo April 22, 2013, and whose fate is still unknown.

CNS

Australian religious Sr Patricia Fox detained in the Philippines

A 71-YEAR-old Australian missionary sister has been detained by authorities in the Philippines, after taking part in a human rights fact-finding mission in the country's troubled south.

Sister Patricia Fox, mother superior of the Our Lady of Zion congregation in the Philippines, faced deportation, after she was taken from her mission house in Quezon City and brought to the immigration bureau in Manila for questioning on April 16.

After working in the country for 27 years helping impoverished farmers and indigenous peoples, Sr Fox recently joined an international fact-finding and solidarity mission that investigated alleged rights abuses against farmers in the southern Mind-

anao province.

"I've been in and out of the country several times but I've never been questioned," Sr Fox told the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. "The immigration bureau has not said anything on what to do with my missionary visa."

Human rights advocates and church leaders including Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo raised the alarm over Sr Fox's arrest.

He visited the nun after she was taken for questioning at the Bureau of Immigration, and said her arrest may be part of a crackdown against government's critics.

"There's no martial law yet but they are already going after people who oppose them," Bishop

Pabillo said.

In December last year, a retired priest and known human rights advocate was killed in Jaen, Nueva Ecija province.

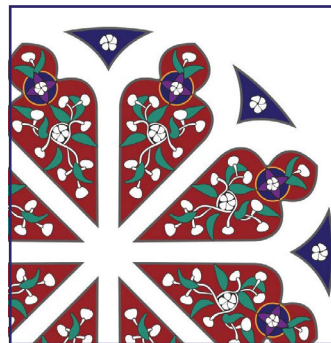
Fr Marcelito Paez, 72, was gunned down by still unidentified men after he facilitated the release of a political prisoner.

The Sisters of Zion have a presence in Sydney and Mildura and in eight Melbourne suburbs. In 1990 two Australian Sisters founded Zion in the Philippines.

The community has six members.

An international Congregation, the Sisters have a presence in 22 countries. – Mark Bowling

Detained: Sister Patricia Fox.



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Cardinal Parolin urging bishops to encourage alternatives



Colourful visits: Bishops attending the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania meeting with locals in Papua New Guinea.



Bishops called to keep battling

By Mark Bowling

HUMAN rights, climate change and environmental protection have topped the agenda as Australian bishops joined more than 70 bishops from across Oceania for meetings in Port Moresby from April 11-18.

In a keynote address to the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania, held every four years, Holy See secretary of state Cardinal Pietro Parolin challenged the Church to identify and promote true alternatives to harmful ways of life that prevailed in society.

Cardinal Parolin shared his reflection on *Laudato Si'*, the second encyclical of Pope Francis, and called on bishops to fight the ideology of individualism that harmed people and the environment.

"Individualism of course has very deep roots coming from the times of the enlightenment and which encouraged a separation from each other," he said.

"A separation from community brings us towards other means of individual and independent living."

The Assembly of FCBCO is a meeting of four bishops' conferences of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, and Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

Under the theme, *Care of our Common Home of Oceania: A sea of possibilities*, the FCBCO studied the environmental and social challenges they were facing and tried find concrete solutions to the needs across the Pacific region.

Concerns included the care of the ocean ecosystem, the protection of human rights and the environment, threatened by an economy of intense exploitation of this vast geographical area.

An assembly work session discussed the plight of more than 600 asylum seekers stranded on PNG's Manus Island.

An Australian detention centre was set up on the island after a controversial political agreement between PNG and Australia.

Thousands of asylum seekers from all over the world were brought to the detention centre, and although the centre was closed last October, hundreds of would-be refugees remain, living in a legal limbo.

They were moved to "transitional structures" on the island following a ruling by PNG's Supreme Court.

CONTINUED PAGE 11



Senior visitor: Holy See secretary of state Cardinal Pietro Parolin addressing the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania.

“ Individualism of course has very deep roots coming from the times of the enlightenment and which encouraged a separation from each other. ”

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OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENTS FOR BRISBANE'S BISHOPS

ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

April 25: 8am, Anzac Day Mass, St Stephen's Cathedral

April 26: 8am, Mass, St Stephen's Cathedral; Episcopal Council meeting

April 28: Noon, blessing of senior leadership team and community council of Emmanuel Community, Holy Family Church, Indooroopilly

April 29: 10am, Mass, St Stephen's Cathedral.

BISHOP KEN HOWELL

April 24: Episcopal Council meeting; Duchesne College Formal Dinner

April 25: 9am, Mass, Anzac Day, St Benedict's Church, East Brisbane

April 26: Episcopal Council meeting

April 27: ACL meeting

April 28: 10am, Confirmations, St Mary's Church, Upper Coomera; 6pm, Mass, St Benedict's Church, East Brisbane

April 29: 9am, Mass, St Joseph's Church, Kangaroo Point; Duchesne College Council Planning Day.

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St Stephen's Cathedral

to individualism and ways harming people, environment



Queensland group: Representing Queensland at the assembly in PNG are (from left) Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Bishop Robert McGuckin, Bishop Ken Howell, Bishop Michael McCarthy and Bishop Tim Harris.



Colourful affair: Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge snapped this photo of a dancer at the St Charles Lwanga Church during the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania assembly in Port Moresby. "Gave me ideas for a new mitre," Archbishop Coleridge posted on social media, Twitter.

hate, ideology

FROM PAGE 10

During the conference, environmental scientist Professor Chalapan Kaluwin, from the University of PNG, delivered a presentation on the science on deep seabed mining and outlined the known risks associated with this experimental form of resource extraction.

He urged the PNG government to reconsider the controversial Solwara project – a proposal by Nautilus Minerals Inc, a Canada-based company primarily owned by Russian and Omani mining firms, to extract gold and copper deposits from 1.6km below the surface of the Bismarck Sea, using a seabed mining technique never before used in commercial operations.

Prof Kaluwin told the bishops the project was

based on flawed research, an absence of proper health and economic analysis, and a lack of protection of traditional landowners.

A group known as the "Solwara Warriors" presented to the bishops, setting out concerns about the mining project and the long-term damage it could impose on the environment, including marine life.

On Sunday, April 15, Cardinal Parolin was the main celebrant at a Mass for laity and youth.

A congregation of 1500 filled the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Boroko.

Cardinal Parolin blessed a large painting of PNG martyr Blessed Peter To Rot.

Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge was among bishops who celebrated Mass in 14 parishes across Port Moresby.



Ambassador visits: Australia's ambassador to the Holy See Melissa Hitchman chats with Archbishop Mark Coleridge (left) and Bishop Tim Harris.

“ A separation from community brings us towards other means of individual and independent living. ”



Joyful gathering: Bishop Ken Howell after celebrating Mass at St Charles Lwanga Parish. More than 1000 people attended the Mass.



Local customs: A member of a dance group performing for the Federation of the Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania assembly in Port Moresby.



Joyful games: Chaplain Helen Day with members of the Ugandan team before the opening ceremony; and (below) members of Sierra Leone team.

Faith champions farewell Games

CATHOLIC chaplains Helen Day and Columban Father Warren Kinne have been at the forefront of Catholic evangelisation to a large portion of the world for the past few weeks.

Mrs Day, a member of the Coolangatta-Tugun parish, spent each day as a volunteer chaplain inside the Commonwealth Games village on the Gold Coast, offering pastoral care

and support.

Fr Kinne joined chaplains and representatives from 16 religions and faith organisations, providing services and pastoral care at the athletes' village – a home away from home for an estimated 6600 athletes and support staff from 70 Commonwealth countries.

“There will be surprises on the track and in the pool, and there could well be surprises of the spirit,” he said before the Games.

The Games came to a close on April 15.



VINNIES VIEW

BY CHANELLE SANDERSON

Carrying on a long tradition of volunteering

THE St Vincent de Paul Society is a unique organisation whose value is in the priceless work carried out by Vincentians (volunteer members) and volunteers.

The mission of the society is to see Christ in those who are helped and to provide “a hand up and not a hand out”.

For more than 185 years, “good works” have been carried out by Vincentians.

Their spirit and dedication have consistently answered the call of the poor and needy.

The ongoing and growing success of the society has been that it has always stayed on course and never deviated from the spirit of dedication displayed by St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Each day Vincentians measure their success not in key performance indicators or dollars but by the ways they have been able to help.

This help comes in many ways – food, vouchers, goods or perhaps a kind word and a willing ear to listen.

Every day within the walls of the society, Vincentians carry out the necessary good works to support the many programs provided by the society – always aiming to give “a hand up and not a hand out”.

Some of these good works may be tutoring for refugees through VoRTCS (Volunteer Refugee Tutoring and Community Support), or Palm Island Immersion through Vinnies Youth, or in the form of a loan from the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS).

These loans are just one of many small yet meaningful ways Vincentians carry out the society’s mission in helping the poor and disadvantaged.

These loans truly provide a hand-up to people living on low incomes when they need it most, by lending up to \$1200 to eligible recipients to help them buy essential electrical white goods such as refrigerators and washing machines.

When appliances break down or stop working it can be a cause for distress and anxiety for people on low incomes, as they start to worry about where they can store refrigerated food items or wonder how they will get their washing done, and then grow concerned about how they will find the money to pay for a replacement.

People who receive the loans are required to repay the loans from as low as \$20 per fortnight, ensuring they can get the goods they need while not greatly impacting their income and their ability to feed, clothe and house themselves and their families.

Without this service many people on low incomes would simply go without, miss the deadline to pay other bills, or unfortunately even turn to a payday lender, further entrenching them into the



Lending a hand: Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society's No Interest Loans Scheme committee are part of a team helping poor and disadvantaged people obtain loans to allow them to buy essential white goods.

cycle of poverty.

NILS loans can be a game changer in the life of a struggling family and are facilitated through caring Vincentians who ensure documents required to verify income, expenditure, identification and loan purpose are provided.

Vincentians also go into homes, hostels, hospitals, prisons and anywhere there is a person crying out for help.

The Vinnies shops are a common part of our retail landscape, staffed by wonderful and committed volunteers who take great pride in giving donated goods a second chance, serving their customers, and seeing funds return to support vital programs and services.

Why is this spirit of dedication so contagious?

A Vincentian’s reward is to see the positive changes in the lives

of those they visit – a blessing which often gives them more than they have given.

In today’s world where most things have little value and everything seems interchangeable, it is refreshing to see a group of people who are carrying on a long tradition of volunteering their time, their skills and their shoulders to those in need.

This spirit of dedication not only changes the lives of the people Vincentians help, it also binds together a disparate group who are blessed to be able to reach out to help others.

If you too can see Christ in the needy and would like to provide a hand up, contact us at membership@svdpqld.org.au.

Chanelle Sanderson is the NILS co-ordinator with St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland.

Israel Folau's right to speak freely about his Christian faith

By Mark Bowling

ON Tuesday, April 10, Rugby Australia did not sanction one of their star players Israel Folau for his controversial anti-gay comments made on social media.

Rather, they told him to go away and “think about that”. He has since said he was prepared to walk away from rugby if his situation became untenable due to his Christian beliefs.

The three-time Australian Rugby Player of the Year and devout Christian had been summoned to Rugby Australia headquarters in Sydney to explain his recent Instagram post, in which he said gay people were destined for hell “unless they repent of their sins and turn to God”.

Folau's comment had outraged Australia's LGBTI community, divided opinion amongst politicians and media pundits, and perhaps most importantly for rugby officials, caused a backlash with major game sponsors.

“He's gone away to think about that ... He's proud of who he is and what he stands for,” Rugby Australia boss Raelene Castle said after the meeting with Folau, who she described as a “strong role model”.

Ms Castle said Rugby Australia had taken no immediate action against Folau, but described their talks as just the start of a process, with no commitment yet from Folau to tone down his social media views.

“He wants to make sure we are not asking him to compromise on his beliefs,” she said.

“But at the same time ... we explained to him

that this is challenging for us, and any comment he makes ... how can he find a way that makes sure he's not disrespectful, but doesn't compromise his own personal beliefs.”

Sponsors, so important to the game, had made it plain to RA that Folau's comments were at odds with their company policies of inclusiveness.

They included Qantas, Asics and Land Rover.

His comments appear to breach Rugby Australia's inclusion policy, designed to stamp out discrimination and homophobia in the game.

But after his initial social media post, Folau would not be silenced.

Raised as a Mormon, and later joining the Assemblies of God, Folau posted a tweet a few days later, citing the New Testament reading of Matthew 5:11-13 which states “blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.”

“Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

The words of the biblical extract, appear to suggest he was being persecuted for his Christian views. After he was summoned to rugby headquarters in Sydney to discuss social media policy, Ms Castle stressed the importance of Folau, one of the biggest names in Australian rugby, but whose playing contract was up for negotiation.

“He is a great player, he has delivered some great outcomes for us and has been a really strong role model in the Pacific Islander community and we would like to see he stays in rugby,” she said.

While Folau “thinks about that”, many community leaders have backed his right to express



Under attack: Israel Folau.

his views.

Sydney Anglican Archbishop Glenn Davies said the way Folau was treated would be a test of Australian Rugby's inclusion policy.

“Israel Folau should be free to hold and express traditional, biblical views on marriage and sexuality without being penalised, just as other players have spoken out with their differing views,” he said.

Former human rights commissioner, now federal Liberal MP Tim Wilson suggested those lashing out at Folau “take a chill pill”.

“Respecting diversity includes diversity of opinion, including on questions of morality,” he said.

Guardian sports columnist Paul Karp wrote: “If Rugby Australia sponsors don't like Folau's views they can pull their support, but the only real solution is to talk people around so there is less hate.”

“However much I disagree with him, Israel Folau should be allowed to express the opinion that gay people are going to hell, without being punished by Rugby Australia.”

Rules on buying Bibles in China tightening up

BIBLE Society Australia has fast-tracked an appeal to provide Bibles for China, following media reports that Bibles are being removed from Chinese online bookshops.

After the apparent move to tighten central control over religious expression across the nation, the New York Times reported that “Internet searches for the Bible came up empty on leading online Chinese retailers, such as JD.com, Taobao, and Amazon, although some retailers offered analyses of the Bible or illustrated story-books”.

Bible Society Australia chief executive officer Greg Clarke said “the availability of online Bibles seems to have been modified – probably in keeping with the regulations that were revised towards the end of last year by the Religious Affairs department”.

“You can still get hold of a Bible legally by going to the approved outlets – mainly in churches,” Mr Clarke said.

“But there does seem to have been a tightening up of availability of digital versions of the Bible.”

The explosion in recent years of online stores has offered easy access to Chinese residents who wanted Bibles.

However the apparent Bible ban comes as China and the Holy See have been working out a framework accord on the appointment of bishops, which eventually could lead to diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Beijing.

The Holy See has said the deal was not imminent.

Catholics in China are split between those in “underground” communities that recognise the Pope and those belonging to a state-controlled Catholic Patriotic Association where bishops are appointed by the government in collaboration with local church communities.

Despite the ongoing diplomatic rift, the number of Christian adherents has grown rapidly, with predictions that in as little as 10 years, mainland China will be, demographically, the most Christian nation in the world.

Mr Clarke said the Bible Society Australia, which has subsidised Bibles and Bible paper to China for more than 30 years, recognised the current need for Bible funding was larger than ever.

“There are still many who do not have a copy of the Bible,” he said. “The vast majority of Chinese people are not buying up Australian real estate – they are rural or new urban poor. And they cannot afford to buy a Bible.”

Mr Clarke estimated a rural worker in China would have to spend the equivalent of “many weeks' pay” to buy a Bible.



God's grace: Pope Francis blesses an infant during the baptism of 26 babies in the Sistine Chapel. Pope Francis said the sacrament of Baptism was “the foundation of Christian life”.

Photo: CNS

Baptism opens door to Holy Spirit's action

PARENTS who prefer not to baptise their children in the hopes that they will “understand and ask for baptism” as adults lack faith that the Holy Spirit will act in their child's life, Pope Francis said.

While some believed there was no need to “baptise a child that does not understand” the meaning of the sacrament, the Pope said doing so would deny the chance for “Christian virtues to grow within that child and blossom”.

“Always give this opportunity to all children: to have within themselves the Holy Spirit that will guide them in life,” the Pope said during a weekly general audience in St Peter's Square.

“Do not forget to baptise your children.” In his talk, Pope Francis reflected on the sacrament of Baptism as “the foundation of Christian life”.

As the first of seven sacraments, he

said, Baptism “is the door that permits Christ the Lord to make his dwelling in us and allows us to immerse ourselves in his mystery”.

While being immersed in water was a common ritual “in various beliefs” that signified the passing from one condition to another, Pope Francis said Christians must never forget that just as the body was immersed in water at baptism, so was the soul “immersed in Christ to receive forgiveness from sin and shine with divine light”.

“By virtue of the Holy Spirit, Baptism immerses us in the death and resurrection of the Lord, drowning the old man – dominated by the sin that divides us from God – in the baptismal font and giving birth to the new man, recreated in Jesus,” the Pope said. “In Him, all the sons of Adam are called to new life.”

The Pope, who often tells people to look up the date of their baptism, called on those who did not remember the date to ask their family and to celebrate it like a birthday and “give thanks to the Lord because it was on that day when Jesus entered” in their lives.

“We should all know the date of our baptism. It is another birthday, it is the day of our rebirth,” he said.

Although Baptism occurred only once in a Christian's life, Pope Francis said, “it illuminates our entire life, guiding our steps until (we reach) the heavenly Jerusalem”.

“No one deserves Baptism, which is always a gift for everyone, adults and newborns,” the Pope said.

“But like what happens to a seed full of life, this gift takes root and brings forth fruit in a land nourished by faith.” CNS

'They ran out first and got buried by the landslide. I was the only one who survived'

Murder and mayhem after PNG quake

By Mark Bowling

DEADLY tribal violence has escalated in a remote highland province of Papua New Guinea, hampering Catholic relief efforts after multiple earthquakes that have destroyed crops and displaced an estimated 35,000 villagers.

Fighting has claimed at least seven lives in Hela province, as aid agency Caritas Australia and its PNG church partners try to deliver badly needed food and medicines to earthquake-ravaged communities.

Marauding gangs have terrorised towns, killing people. They have burnt buildings to the ground and forced families to flee.

The United Nations has suspended relief efforts after an attack on one of its doctors, and several aid agencies have pulled out.

The provincial government of Hela has also suspended relief operations because of the escalating violence. "I think this highlights the critical role the Catholic Church and its partner churches play in being first responders and being on the ground and in the community with humanitarian response and support," Caritas

“More armed men came to Tari secondary (school) checking classrooms for ‘enemy’ students to kill. At least three men killed in or near Tari town... who will stop this madness?”



Full of hope: The earthquakes turned Abel's life upside down, damaging his home and forcing the 10-year-old student out of school. Instead, he spends his day among the ruins of his community in Mendi. UNICEF is setting up child-friendly spaces where children like Abel can rest, play and simply feel like children again. Photo: UNICEF/James Mepham

Australia's Pacific humanitarian co-ordinator Felicity McCullum said.

Caritas still has an earthquake disaster assessment centre operating in Hela, but Ms McCullum said activity had been reduced as the risks of violence had escalated.

"As the conflict is coming into the town centres, no one's completely safe in this area," she said.

Remaining doctors in the hospital in the town of

Tari were operating under armed military protection.

Bishop Donald Lippert of Mendi diocese, which includes Hela Province, has taken to social media to describe escalating violent attacks during recent weeks.

"More armed men came to Tari secondary (school) checking classrooms for 'enemy' students to kill. At least three men killed in or near Tari town... who will stop this madness?" Bishop Lippert, a Capuchin, posted on Twitter on March 28.

Two days later, on Good Friday, Bishop Lippert posted: "They've come to the Mission primary school



Unstable: Mountain slides caused by quakes are changing the mountainous landscape.

and burned down four staff houses. Most people have run away carrying their belongings on their backs and dragging their pigs behind them.

"When will people realise that the fighting in Tari is not traditional tribal fight, but rather conflicts between criminal gangs? Another question: Who is benefitting from this chaos, murder and terror?"

Ms McCullum said the effects of the earthquakes – food shortages and the movement of displaced villagers – had exacerbated "underlying tribal conflicts in the area".

A massive magnitude-7.5 earthquake struck the remote highland provinces of Papua New Guinea on February 26.

Since then, many aftershocks and powerful tremors have added to the crisis, including a 6.3 tremor which triggered landslides on April 6.

The initial quake claimed more than 130 lives and injured more than 500.

Even though it occurred on Australia's doorstep, the tremors and the violence have not generated widespread media coverage.

"Water sources are contaminated, their staple crop, sago, has been destroyed and their food gardens also destroyed," Care Australia PNG director Justine McMahon said.

"Australia and PNG have a long and close relationship. I'm sure if the Australian people were more aware of the incredible hardship that these people are experiencing then they'd certainly be keen to provide assistance," Ms McMahon said.

CARE Australia, working alongside Caritas Australia and its partner church agencies, is focusing aid efforts in Hela province.

"Most of the damage was from the initial quake. It occurred at night, and as you can imagine the community was quite traumatised. The earth continues to shake and whenever there's a tremor people become nervous and agitated," Ms McMahon said.

"Most of the people travel by foot, which can be a couple of days' walk to the nearest town.

"For us, we are chartering light aircraft to get our relief supplies in. So far we have distributed food, hygiene kits and bed nets – needed to reduce the risk of malaria – and basic medical equipment."

She said long term Care Australia would call on shelter experts to assist local communities build earthquake-resilient houses.

Ms McCullum said the displacement of villagers – due to both the earthquakes and violence – was exacerbating efforts to maintain basic health standards.

"We're seeing increases in diarrhoea and dysentery, and, because the UN and the provincial government have suspended their response efforts, we know now there is an ever increasing need to get food and assistance for medical supplies in there as soon as possible," she said.

"We know food and water and medical supplies are the most immediate issues right now as well as insuring the safety of those peoples who are displaced."

Ms McCullum said an Australian Government \$1.5 million grant would be used to send shelter and tool kits, water and sanitation kits to remote communities in Hela and Southern Highlands provinces.

"We are hoping to reach 37,500 individuals across 12 remote villages," she said.

To help Caritas efforts in PNG visit Caritas Australia's online Pacific Emergency Appeal at www.caritas.org.au/donate/online-donation?DonationCode=APAC



Quake damage: This family and their neighbours were lucky to escape when an earthquake collapsed their homes in Mendi and forced two boys to leap from their bedroom window. UNICEF is working to set up child-friendly spaces where children can stay safe and get psychosocial care to recover from profound stress.



Helping hands: Australia is leading aid efforts flying in emergency supplies to remote communities.



Recovery: This little packet will make a big impact for baby Austria. She is suffering from diarrhoea and in serious need of fluids but these rehydration salts – together with some clean water – will help her recover. Photo: UNICEF PNG/James Mepham



PNG disaster: Barbara, 8, lost her elder sister and her cousin when a boulder struck their house. She has been living in difficult conditions at the makeshift camp with her father, Iso Putap, since February 27. Photo: UNICEF/PNG-2018/JamesMepham

Congo's 'humanitarian disaster' unfolds as gunmen murder priest

THE latest shooting death of a Catholic priest in the Congo has highlighted the dangers in a country described by a leading Australian aid advocate as "one of the world's worst human-made humanitarian disasters".

Fr Etienne Nsengiunya, a priest in Kitchanga, was shot at point-blank range soon after celebrating Mass on April 8.

Vicar of the parish in Kitchanga Fr Emmanuel Kapitula said an armed man entered the room where Fr Nsengiunya was eating with parishioners.

"An armed man entered his house, pointed a gun at him and shot several times, killing him instantly," Fr Kapitula said. "Those who were sharing the meal ... could not believe it."

Fr Kapitula has asked the government to protect the people.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a brutal conflict between tribal militias and the government armed forces has spilled over to claim civilian lives.

A food crisis is a direct result of the armed conflict and corruption, and is affecting an estimated 13 million people.

Sexual violence has been widely used as a weapon of war in the DRC, and efforts by the Catholic aid agency, Caritas Australia have focused on supporting thousands of women and girls raped by the armed groups, as well as child soldiers, and communities affected by conflict.

World Vision, Save the Children, Oxfam, CARE, and ActionAid are urging the Australian Government to make a strong donor commitment, in a country the United Nations has declared as a Level 3 emergency crisis – the highest emergency classification – reserved for only the most urgent crises.

"If we're serious about addressing one of the world's worst human-made humanitarian disasters then Australia must do its fair share," World Vision Australia chief advocate Tim Costello said.

"It's unforgivable to turn our backs on people desperately in need of our help.



Survivor: Rachele Ngabausi, 2, who was injured by militiamen when they attacked his village in Tchee, Congo, looks at the photographer at a camp for displaced people in Bunia. Civilians in eastern Congo have been brutalised by militias, rebels and military units.

Photo: CNS

"The humanitarian consequences of the DRC conflicts are devastating but preventable.

"Yet every year, aid agencies must plead with governments to fund the most basic needs of those in crisis."

Save the Children, working in the Congo for many years, said there had been a serious escalation in humanitarian needs in the past year.

"Our health centres and malnutrition clinics are inundated with cases, but there is a lack of donor funding to scale up our response," Save the Children Australia's director of policy and

international programs Mat Tinkler said.

"Clearly, more needs to be done to avert a major loss of life."

The murder of Fr Nsengiunya occurred three days after a second priest abducted on Easter was found unharmed.

Villagers from Bunyangula found Fr Celiestin Ngango blindfolded, although he appeared otherwise unharmed.

Fr Ngango was the sixth priest abducted in the eastern Congo since 2012 and one of the few abductees in the region to be released.

Analysts say competition for mineral resources is the key factor fuelling the violence, but recently succession politics added to the troubles.

Challenging what they termed as an "illegal" third term for President Joseph Kabila and recently moving to broker a deal between the government and opposition parties, the Catholic Church has found itself targeted.

Churches, convents and Catholic schools have been vandalised or looted by armed groups.

Running the race and keeping the faith

By Sr Elvera Sesta

THE signs everywhere were telling us that the Commonwealth Games 2018 were being held at the Gold Coast.

Early in the piece, the streets and the traffic seemed to be just like any other day.

It was only when you actually hit the "hot spots" that you realised that something momentous was afoot.

Some spectators are local; some come from far away as the many buses parked on the streets tell us.

The competitors are also from far and near. Some competitors will leave on a high; others not so jubilant.

My mind travelled back about 2000 years to another shore.

Paul of Tarsus was a Jew, but he grew up in a city that was dominated by the Greek culture of his day.

To these ancient Greeks the male human body was the ultimate in perfection.

Their many sculptures that have been left to us from that period attest to this. Paul was a man of his time.

What better image could he have of a person's striving for a perfect Christian life than that of an athlete participating in these Panhellenic games.

The prize for winning was not monetary, but was a wreath of bay leaves, of pine leaves or of wild celery.

Paul uses the imagery of his time and place.

The Olympic Games were held every four years, the Panhellenic games every two years.

The athletes, just as they do today, had to follow a strict regime – a disciplined diet, rigorous training, self-control, concentration and determination, if they wanted to win the wreath



Following Christ: "It was in Corinth that Paul decided that he would preach mainly to the Gentiles and would no longer preach to the Jews there as they did not seem to be at all interested in his new-found cult – Christianity, as it was later called."

of leaves.

It was a temporary prize that most probably lasted as long as the life of the leaves in the wreath, but self-control and determination were needed.

Paul likens himself to the recipient of such a prize.

When he writes to his dear friend, Timothy, he has already endured many tribulations and trials; he has been thrown into prison on numerous occasions; he has been flogged and shipwrecked.

Truly, he can say "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

Again, he writes to the community of believers in Corinth, a seaside port. Under the Romans, Corinth was rebuilt as a major city in

Southern Greece.

It had a large mixed population of Romans, Greeks and Jews.

It seemed to be an ideal place for Paul to begin his missionary work early in the piece about 49-50 AD.

Today, there is a new Corinth and an Ancient Corinth.

Ancient Corinth was a busy, cosmopolitan city where ships would often dock.

It was to the people of this ancient Corinth, where the Panhellenic games were held at nearby Isthmia, that Paul addressed two of his letters.

Today, one can stroll through these ancient ruins past the stoa where the ruins of different shops are clustered, past the ruins of the temple where Paul would have preached from the

bema, a raised platform.

There was also an arena where horse and other races were held.

Paul is said to have lived in Corinth for about 18 months and supported himself with his trade of tentmaking.

He worked closely with Silas and Timothy.

It was in Corinth that Paul decided that he would preach mainly to the Gentiles and would no longer preach to the Jews there as they did not seem to be at all interested in his new-found cult – Christianity, as it was later called.

Again, in a city that often participated in the Games he uses the imagery of the arena where both cultural and athletic activities took place.

"Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it." (1 Corinthians 9:24)

We may be situated 2000 years on from these games but as we have seen either in person or on our TVs, there is much that is similar between those games and the Commonwealth Games of today.

If we are sufficiently motivated to seize a prize, then we must be prepared to make the sacrifices needed to attain that prize.

But here there is a difference.

It is not by our own effort alone, that we are able to win this race.

Faith is also a gift from God, freely given and freely received.

As well there is more than one winner.

No one is forced to accept God.

If a person was so coerced, then we would not have the gift of free will.

It is almost as if God were the shy giver who waits for us to accept his gift.

Sr Elvera Sesta is a Presentation Sister who teaches at St Rita's College, Clayfield.

In Canada, prayers, tears for victims of Humboldt Broncos tragedy



Tragedy: Mourners pray during an April 8 vigil at Elgar Petersen Arena in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, to honour members of the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team who were killed in a bus accident. Photos: CNS

Rallying help after crash

CRYING, hugging and shaking their heads in grief, the people of Humboldt, Saskatchewan, gathered at the local hockey arena on April 8 for an interfaith service to mourn 15 people who died after the bus carrying the town's junior hockey team collided with a truck.

"I don't want to be here, but it's good that we are," the Humboldt Broncos team chaplain and pastor of Humboldt Bible Church Reverend Sean Brandow said.

Rev Brandow had gone to the accident site soon after the collision.

"I walked up on a scene I never want to see again, to sounds I never want to hear again," he said.

"To hear groaning and panic and fear and confusion and pain. ... All I saw (that night) was darkness, and I had nothing. Nothing.

"I'm a pastor. I'm supposed to have something.

"I've received thousands of texts and even Scripture.

"But I needed to hear from God."

The 15 dead included 10 hockey players between the ages of 16 and 21, the team coach, radio broadcaster, bus driver and other team personnel.

The accident happened on April 6 when a bus taking the team to a playoff hockey game collided with a transport truck on a highway near the town of Tisdale, Saskatchewan.

Fourteen others on the bus were injured.

Police are investigating and have not provided any details about the cause of the collision.

The bus was travelling north on a highway and passing through an intersection, which had stop signs for traffic travelling east and west.

No charges have been filed.

Condolences poured into Humboldt from around the world, including messages from Pope Francis, Queen Elizabeth and United States President Donald Trump.

The Holy See secretary of state sent blessings on behalf of the Pope.

"Informed of the injury and tragic loss of life caused by the road traffic accident in the province of Saskatchewan involving young hockey players, His Holiness Pope Francis sends his condolences to those who have lost loved ones, and commends the souls of the deceased to the mercy of almighty God," he wrote.

"To all in the community at this difficult time, Pope Francis sends his blessing."



In prayer: Mourners embrace during an April 8 vigil at Elgar Petersen Arena in Humboldt, Saskatchewan, to honour members of the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team who were killed in a bus accident.

Saskatoon Bishop Mark Hagemoen, whose diocese includes Humboldt, read the Pope's message during an afternoon service at Holy Family Cathedral in Saskatoon.

"We don't know why tragedy and disaster come, but we do know the one who holds us throughout that tragedy, and we celebrate today that the one who holds us is one of mercy," Bishop Hagemoen said during the service on Divine Mercy Sunday.

Bishop Hagemoen attended the evening prayer service at the Elgar Petersen Arena and Uniplex in Humboldt and offered a final blessing.

"Lord God, you are the light that illumines the darkness," he prayed.

"Continue to lead us into your light."

Earlier, he sent a message of condolences and prayers to those affected by the tragedy.

"God continues to respond to us, and now he responds to the people of Humboldt and other parts of Western Canada who are profoundly affected by this terrible tragedy," Bishop Hagemoen said.

"I am very thankful that, at this terrible time, the people of God here show Christ-like compassion and care through such a community of support."

The interfaith service was live-streamed and watched across the province, including at St Augustine Catholic Church just up the street from the arena.

Pastor of St Augustine Fr Joseph Salihu participated in the vigil.

He said as soon as news of the accident spread across town, "all the ministers came as one ... we drove straight to the Uniplex to be with the families".

"We just stayed with the people and waited," he said.

"We were there all together, and that is what gave us the idea to organise this vigil.

"Coming together tonight is a powerful sign that these families are not alone in their anguish.

"We need to remember that, after the funerals, these people will still need our presence."

A Go-Fund-Me page was set up to collect donations for families.

Organisers hoped to raise \$10,000 but, in less than 48 hours, donations exceeded \$4 million.

The prayer service was attended by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, and Hockey Night in Canada personalities Don Cherry and Ron Maclean.

Large photos of the team brought tears.



Survivor: Humboldt Broncos' Nick Shumlanski, just released from the hospital, is comforted by a woman during a vigil at Elgar Petersen Arena in Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

Grief and crisis counsellors, including grief dogs, roamed the arena.

St Andrew's Anglican minister and vice chair of the Humboldt Ministerial Association Reverend Matteo Carboni led the service.

"We remember the words of Jesus, who told us: 'You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy'," Rev Carboni said.

"We need each other to make this promise a reality."

Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon proclaimed Psalm 23, better known as "The Lord is My Shepherd".

There was a moment of silence at 7.32pm, the time when the puck would have dropped on the Broncos' playoff game in Nipawin.

Reverend Brenda Curtis, of Westminster United Church, led a closing prayer: "Humboldt family and friends, a quilt of love has been placed around our shoulders and our community as our brothers and sisters around the world have held us in their care," she said.

While the largest vigil was held in Humboldt, prayer services for the victims and families were held across the province.

CNS

FAMILY FAITH

BY SELINA VENIER

Never too late to learn from children

HE was writing his name and reading well beyond his age level.

Above all, he was actually asking to do maths. I was told such a mathematical reality was “more a boy thing” and it was true that his sisters were nowhere near as competent at age four.

My preference however was to think it was just “him”; there’s no reason girls can’t be engaged with all things mathematical at any age.

But when the first day of Prep this year rolled around, and the Australian flag was hoisted at the first school assembly with students seemingly confidently singing along to the accompanying national anthem, I wondered if we’d somehow failed our Master Four.

I’ll never forget him standing there in a type of bewilderment, although that probably was mostly to do with the flag-raising itself of which he had a bird’s eye view, the reality being we’d not actually taught him the national anthem.

Writing his name – yes; recognising letters and numbers – sure; reading key words – more gold stars; simple addition and subtraction – he’d done that almost himself; peddling a bike and riding a scooter – of course; swimming, albeit imperfectly, was underway; kicking a ball – that was a given; as was the learning of the prayers and traditions of the Church; but sadly, the anthem – not so much.

Was it a failure? Should such an understanding be hoisted right up there with knowing the Hail Mary, Glory Be and Our Father?

Beyond first knowing anything by rote, I’m a stickler for actually understanding the correct words and their subsequent meaning, for children especially.

In terms of the anthem, the words “girt” and “toil” require time and explanation and as the first school term of the year rolled on, so did the Monday-morning flag and anthem ritual.

While we hadn’t been very good at the instructional part of the anthem I honestly thought the teacher would aid all the Preppies in their correct understanding, other parents concurring.

For a host of reasons, that didn’t quite come to fruition.

So when we arrived at the recent Commonwealth Games flag-hoisting ceremonies, a joy to witness, soon came the accompanying four-year-old-plus lyrics.

“Australians all let us rejoice, for she is young and free. With golden soil and just rejoice, our home is God by sea ... (something ambiguous) ... of beauty rich and rare ... (more ambiguity and asking what’s the next part, then a drawn-out, just like the anthem itself) ... Ad-vance, Austra-lia, D-ay.”

“Oh dear”, was my first reaction although, look, I was glad God was mentioned even though He isn’t ordinarily.

Master-Going-on-Five sang his version of the anthem with such pride and emphasis, imperfectly echoing its melody, and making our hearts melt.

He simultaneously announced he “wants to be in the next Commonwealth Games for backstroke”.

“Right, best get busy about correcting or even attempting both”, was my next thought.

With so many blissful opportunities to witness the Australian flag being hoisted and sportsmanship celebrated, the recent holidays offered fluid chances to improve.

When the Term Two school flag-raising ceremonies now present themselves, I know the parenting role we’d previously failed to complete will take its own strides towards the finish line.

Master-Going-on-Five is also growing in an understanding of has second language, Italian, spoken a great deal in our home.



Learning moments: “I’ll never forget him standing there in a type of bewilderment, although that probably was mostly to do with the flag-raising itself of which he had a bird’s eye view, the reality being we’d not actually taught him the national anthem.”

“ And what is parenting if it isn’t exactly that, encouraging our children to try, to learn from mistakes of any measure, and to try again? ”

I’ve written before about how his absorbent mind can, for example, hear a question addressed in Italian and convert it to respond in English.

It’s fun to witness especially as his Italian phrasing is also gaining confidence so he often flips between the two options or blends them.

When asked to offer the meal-time prayer among family recently he began the Our Father in Italian.

“Padre nostro” translated to, “Our Father”, we heard, “Che sei in piedi,” of which we paused because “che sei in piedi” means, “Who is standing (up)”.

The correct version is, “Che sei in cieli” or “Who art in heaven”, but he’d mistaken “cieli” for “piedi”, convenient that it rhymes.

Essentially Master-Going-on-Five said, “Our Father, who is standing”.

It was one of those moments when it’s not terribly helpful to laugh or over-correct but simply to explain the error, to guide discussions towards the truth.

At any rate we were delighted that he was giving it a go.

And what is parenting if it isn’t exactly that, encouraging our children to try, to learn from mistakes of any measure, and to try again?

As parents we sure make our fair share of mistakes and as a child, teenager and young adult I certainly made enough of my own. But did I learn? Did I try again?

Did I have the type of adults around to not scold but encourage? Did you?

My maternal Nonna (grandmother), whom I often write about and has had the most profound impact of anyone on my life, has a simple almost daily saying, to “keep going”.

She says it in this classic Italian way which is more, “keepa going”, I think you could imagine if you too say it like that.

My paternal Nonno (grandfather), now gone to God, spoke of an unforgettable “coraggio sempre” or “courage always” and I can still hear echoes of his encouragement.

Let’s offer our children and grandchildren, in fact all young people, daily encouragement for everything from imperfect lyrics of an invaluable song, to getting back onto playground equipment after a fall, to turning the figurative “page” after a significant hurdle.

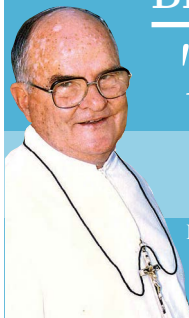
And when we do, it’s likely us imperfect adults will learn something too.



BY SELINA VENIER

Selina Venier is an author and works in faith education.

Br John Venard's latest and final book 'Finally, The Battler's God'



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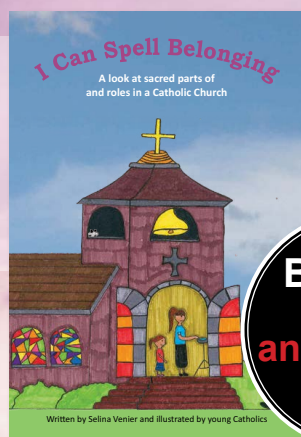
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The immense power of ritual

SOME years ago, we attended a Smart Marriages conference in the United States.

One of the most memorable inputs was from Dr Bill Doherty, a family therapist and author.

Over dinner, he engaged the audience in telling stories about their relationship rituals, before unpacking how rituals work to strengthen marriages.

It confirmed for us some of practices that we were teaching couples in our SmartLoving seminars over many years about the power of ritual in marriage.

Firstly, there's a difference between a routine and a ritual. Routines can be useful in keeping our lives purposeful and organised because they bring rhythm and stability.

Routines simplify life by removing unnecessary decisions. For example, if our routine is to make our bed and brush our teeth each morning, we don't have to think about it or decide whether we will or won't do those things on any particular day.

There's no decision to make, no deliberation or weighing up pros and cons – we just do it.

Routines like this example are generally a constructive contribution to our lives, but some routines might be a negative – such as checking our Facebook feed when we get into bed which can easily lead to us “falling down the Facebook rabbit hole” leaving us tired and with post-event regret the next day.

Rituals are like routines with one important difference – they have positive emotional meaning.

Rituals connect us with deeper values and with others by providing a focus or activity that enables us to interact together in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

In a ritual, an action carries an intended meaning understood by the others involved.

So while on the surface an action may seem simple, to those who understand its purpose it carries added meaning.

Almost anything can become a ritual when we make the focus our relationship.

For example, some couples check in with each other by phone during the day.

It only becomes a ritual, though, if it is used as a connection time rather than just an exercise in exchanging information.

In this way this simple action has added meaning and purpose.

Secondly, practical marriage rituals have important features that distinguish them.

Dr Doherty identifies these essential qualities for successful rituals:

- They need to be time-limited so that the ritual doesn't become long-winded and thus avoided because we “don't have time right now”.
- They need to have a clear beginning and end point so that we know when we are in the “ritual space”.
- Successful rituals are also linked to a natural trigger so that remembering to do it is not required. For example, linking it to the end of dinner or when we make a cup of tea.
- Finally, it should be primarily about being personal with each other and building positive connection. Rituals that get regularly ambushed by difficult discussions will be avoided by our natural fear of conflict.

Thirdly, every marriage needs Essential Daily Rituals.

These Essential Daily Rituals keep our marriages healthy and vibrant.

They serve to connect us on a daily basis and build our sense of belonging and of being a team.

A married couple with children is unlikely to have the opportunity for uninterrupted personal time, unless it is ritualised.

It helps to have a regular gesture calibrated to some event or a set time (as soon as the kids are in bed) that signals the ritual has begun.

To maintain meaning, conversation should be personal and intimate. Avoid logistics and problem-solving: the goal is to connect



Powerful: “Like most things in life, our relationship rituals decline with time unless we actively choose to make them part of our life.”

at a personal level.

Also resist conflict items – this makes the ritual hard work and one or both of you are likely to start avoiding it.

Finally, agree on an exit point (e.g. after 15 minutes), as open-ended rituals are hard to sustain.

One of our daily rituals is our evening walking-talk.

We follow the same route each evening which avoids the unnecessary tension of having to decide which direction to take. It gets us out of reach of the kids (now young adults) and away from distractions.

We can speak confidentially, catching up on each other's lives and we get some exercise – about 4000 steps according to the pedometer.

Fourthly, to make our marriages truly intentional, an Annual Review Ritual is incredibly valuable.

This practice is an opportunity to review how we are going, share our dreams and set goals for the coming year.

Some couples ritualise New Year's Eve or their wedding anniversary to connect with each other by reminiscing on the past year.

If they also use the occasion to make plans for their relationship over the coming year, they will ensure that they stay connected build a resilient and vibrant marriage.

Finally, an “I love you” ritual is also incredibly important – simple, playful habits that remind the other of our devotion.

Some couples write regular, even daily, love letters to each other.

One husband will randomly buy a rose and put it somewhere in the house for his wife to unexpectedly discover.

Another leaves post-it notes in surprise places like the teapot or in her handbag.

What makes these seemingly simple gestures powerful is the way that formative experiences work.

The things we most remember years or decades later are those things that were associated with intense emotion – either positive or negative, like the birth of a baby or the trauma of a car accident – and the things that we repeated day in and day out, like family prayers or getting ice creams after Mass.

Repetition of meaningful rituals is the way that we proactively form ourselves and our children in the values that really matter. But they take effort to establish and commitment to maintain.

Like most things in life, our relationship rituals decline with time unless we actively choose to make them part of our life.

Apathy and indifference are the enemies of rituals, eroding them as a river wears at the shoreline.

On the other hand, commitment to our rituals provides the glue we need to stick together during the times of stress and the seasons of despair.

So choose your rituals carefully and they'll keep giving back to your marriage and to your family year after year.



BY FRANCINE AND BYRON PIROLA

Francine and Byron Pirola are the co-authors of the SmartLoving series. Visit www.smartloving.org for information.

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Jewish history revealed

STUDENTS at a number of Brisbane Catholic Education schools learned about the rituals, festivals, celebrations and traditions of Judaism during a visit by representatives from the Sydney Jewish Museum.

The museum documents the history of the Jewish people in Australia and during the Holocaust.

Dr Ari Lander, from the museum, visited several schools, including St Joseph's School, Kangaroo Point, where he spoke to Year 4 and 6 students about the different Jewish cultures that existed in Palestine at the time of Jesus.

In an interesting show-and-tell, Dr Lander talked about important Jewish festivals, some which were still observed today, such as Passover.

He explored the parallels that existed between early Christian and other Jewish texts and explained the origins of the Tallit, (prayer shawl) and Tefillin (black leather boxes and straps worn during morning services).

Dr Lander said the students at each of the schools he visited were eager to learn.

"They asked fantastic questions, listened intently and responded with an eager excitement to learn more about Jewish culture history and religion," he said.

Dr Lander said the school visits gave the students an opportunity to meet someone with the authenticity of the Jewish faith and that was important.

"They see someone who is just like them, but they have their own faith and culture," he said.

Teacher Jayne Solomon said the presentation matched perfectly with what the students were learning in their religion classes.

"The children absolutely loved hearing what



Jewish presence: Dr Ari Lander, from the Sydney Jewish Museum, with students at St Joseph's School, Kangaroo Point.

(Dr Lander) had to say," she said.

"His presentation allowed for the students to ask questions and to really engage in the content.

"There was so much in there for them that will only assist them in their unit of work."

Year 6 student Romy Peled said she found the

show-and-tell very informative.

"He (Dr Lander) was really clear in what he was saying and answered all our questions," she said.

The museum's outgoing education manager Yotam Weiner said it was special for him to

see the relationship grow between BCE and the museum.

"As I said on many occasions – this type of inter-cultural dialogue is world-changing," he said. "And it's been an honour to be a small part of that."

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Reaping rewards from fine academic results

OUTSTANDING academic results have helped a former student from St Benedict's College, Mango Hill, Bethany Conroy gain a QUT Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship and a place at the National Youth Science Forum 2018 International Program in London.

In the short time since leaving the college, the foundation student and 2017 graduate was one of 120 students who were successful in securing a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship, valued at \$30,000, after obtaining outstanding academic results in Year 12.

Bethany, enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), will join 500 of the world's leading young scientists from more than 75 participating countries after she received an invitation to attend the London International Youth Science Forum.

The two-week residential program, held at Imperial College, London, includes lectures and demonstrations from leading scientists, and visits to industrial sites, research centres, scientific institutions and organisations.



Proud achievement: St Benedict's deputy principal Candi Dempster joined former student Bethany Conroy at the Vice-Chancellor's presentation at QUT.

Bethany said she was honoured to receive a scholarship to study Engineering with honours at QUT's Gardens Point Campus.

"I feel very privileged to be part of this elite group of QUT students who not only receive financial support but exclusive opportunities for networking, support, camps, exchanges and career development," she said.

She said she also was extremely grateful to the staff of St Benedict's College, her parents and her peers who always supported her academic endeavours.

"Being in the first graduating class from St Benedict's College in 2017 provided wonderful opportunities to work closely as part of a small group of Year 12 students and access support and mentoring from exceptional staff – especially my Maths, English and Science teachers who generously supported me with their time, expertise and professional guidance," Bethany said. "These teachers and school leaders, including deputy principal Candi Dempster, encouraged and supported me in applying for many scholarships."

Mrs Dempster said the college community was proud of Bethany's outstanding achievements.

"I feel very privileged to be part of this elite group of QUT students who not only receive financial support but exclusive opportunities for networking, support, camps, exchanges and career development."

Marian devotion is Christ-centred

April 27 is St Louis de Montfort's feast day. The Zenit news agency reflects on Pope John Paul II's message on the 160th Anniversary of "True Devotion" on January 13, 2004.

THE 160th anniversary of the publication of True Devotion to Mary gave Pope John Paul II (pictured) the chance to recall the doctrine of its author St Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort.

It is to the saint that the pope owes his episcopal motto, "Totus Tuus", an expression of his total belonging to Jesus through Mary.

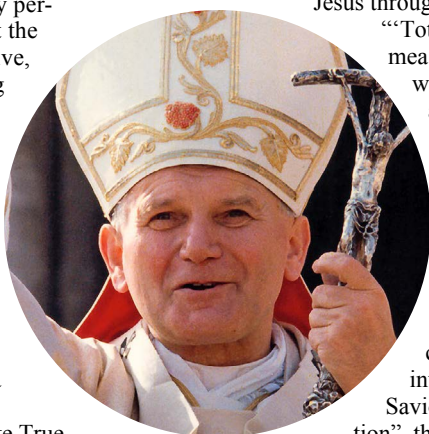
In his youth, Karol Wojtyla received "a great help" from the work.

"I found the answer to my perplexities due to the fear that the devotion to Mary, if excessive, might end by compromising the supremacy of the worship owed to Christ," the Pope said in his message to the religious of the Montfort family.

"Under the wise guidance of St Louis-Marie, I understood that, if one lives the mystery of Mary in Christ, such a risk does not exist," the Pope said in a letter.

St Louis de Montfort wrote True Devotion to Mary at the start of 1700, but the manuscript was practically ignored until it was rediscovered in 1842 and published a year later.

Re-read in the light of the Second Vatican Council, the Montfort doctrine retained "its substantial validity", Pope John Paul II said.



“(Mary) is also the New Eve associated to the New Adam in the obedience that repairs the original disobedience of man and woman.”

“As is known, in my episcopal coat of arms ... the motto ‘Totus Tuus’ is inspired by the doctrine of St Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort,” Pope John Paul II wrote.

“These two words express total belonging to Jesus through Mary.

“‘Totus tuus ego sum, et omnia mea tua sunt’, St Louis-Marie wrote; and he translates: ‘I am all yours, and everything of mine belongs to you, my beloved Jesus, through Mary, your holy Mother,’” the Pope said.

According to the saint's thought, Our Lady “accompanies us in our pilgrimage of faith, hope and charity toward an ever more intense union with Christ, only Saviour and Mediator of salvation”, the Pope wrote.

For St Louis-Marie, true Marian devotion is Christ-centred and becomes a privileged means “to find Jesus Christ perfectly, to love him tenderly, and to serve him faithfully”.

In this connection, Our Lady becomes the faithful echo of God, the Pope said: “Every time that you honour Mary, Mary praises and honours



Marian devotion: St Louis de Montfort statue in St Peter's Basilica, Rome.

God with you.”

“St Louis-Marie contemplates all the mysteries beginning with the Incarnation, which takes place at the moment of the Annunciation”, in such a way that in the treatise “Mary appears as ‘the true earthly paradise of the New Adam’, the ‘virgin and immaculate earth’ from which he has been formed.

“She is also the New Eve,” Pope John Paul II wrote, “associated to the New Adam in the obedience that repairs the original disobedience of man and woman.

“Through this obedience, the Son of God enters into the world.

“The cross itself is already mysteriously present in the instant of the Incarnation.”

St Louis-Marie wrote: “All our perfec-

tion consists in being conformed, united and consecrated to Jesus Christ. ... Now, from Mary being the creature most conformed to Jesus Christ, one learns that, among all the devotions, the one that most consecrates and conforms a soul to Our Lord is devotion to Mary, his holy Mother, and that the more a soul is consecrated to Mary, the more consecrated it will be to Jesus Christ.”

The cross, the Pope said, was the culminating moment of Mary's faith: “Through this faith, Mary is perfectly united to Christ in his despoliation.

“... This is, perhaps, the most profound kenosis of faith in the history of humanity.”

Zenit

SAINTLY LIFE

St Fidelis of Sigmaringen

IF a poor man needed some clothing, St Fidelis would often give the man the clothes right off his back. Complete generosity to others characterised this saint's life.

Born in 1577, Mark Rey became a lawyer who constantly upheld the causes of the poor and oppressed people.

Nicknamed “the poor man's lawyer,” Rey soon grew disgusted with the corruption and injustice he saw among his colleagues.

He left his law career to become a priest, joining his brother George as a member of the Capuchin Order.

Fidelis was his religious name. His wealth was divided between needy seminarians and the poor.

As a follower of Francis, he continued his devotion to the weak and needy. During a severe epidemic in a city where he was guardian of a friary, Fidelis cared for and cured many sick soldiers.

He was appointed head of a group of Capuchins sent to preach against the Calvinists and Zwinglians in Switzerland.

Almost certain violence threatened. Those who observed the mission felt that success was more attributable to the prayer of Fidelis during the night than to his sermons and instructions.

He was accused of opposing the peasants' national aspirations for independence from Austria.

While he was preaching at Seewis, to which he had gone against the advice of his friends, a gun was fired at him, but he escaped unharmed.

A Protestant offered to shelter Fidelis, but he declined, saying his life was in God's hands.

On the road back, he was set upon by a group of armed men and killed.

Fidelis was canonised in 1746. Fifteen years later he was recognised as a martyr.



Martyr: St Fidelis of Sigmaringen.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday - **St George**

Patron of England

Tuesday - **St Fidelis of Sigmaringen**

Capuchin martyr

Thursday - **St Mark**

Evangelist

Friday - **St Louis Grignion de Montfort**

Marian preacher

Saturday - **St Peter Chanel**

Patron of Oceania

Fifth Sunday of Easter April 29

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31
Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24
Gospel: John 15:1-8

Fourth Sunday of Easter April 22

First Reading: Acts 4:8-12
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2
Gospel: John 10:11-18

Next Sunday's readings

BY FR JOHN REILLY SJ

WE believe that the resurrection is God raising the Jesus to life.

God does this by the power of love, the same creative power of God that works in all things.

Love by its nature creates life.

In creation, God loves the evolving world into life; in resurrection, God loves Jesus into the completion of life. It is in this sense that we believe Jesus is the “first-born of the dead” as Paul writes (Colossians 1:18).

God's plan for all creation is achieved first in Jesus.

It is the sure hope that we share for ourselves and with all who open their hearts to the power of God's love.

Sharing God's love in our lives must begin now if with Jesus this love is to be completed for us in the future.

God's love opens our lives to wholeness and mission.

We then begin already now to share the resurrected life of Jesus. We do this in all respectful sharing of our daily lives in service of one another.

In such openness to one another our lives expand into greater and greater wholeness.

The Easter readings are always about wholeness and reaching out: love and mission.

Pondering next Sunday's readings can open more widely our lives to one another and our hearts to God. Let our hearts expand as we feel the power of God's love, and let our lives expand as we help to make love more real in the world today.

The **First Reading**, from Luke's Acts of the Apostles, continues the story of Paul's graced change of heart. He joins the Christian community at Damascus, which he came from Jerusalem to persecute.

Paul begins to share with others the power of God's love which God revealed to him through the risen Jesus, whom he had before believed to be a false prophet of God.

In the Psalm and Response, together in our gathering, we praise and thank God for what love is working in our world.

Our Easter word “Alleluia!” means this – “Praise and thank God!”

The **Second Reading**, from the First Letter of John, tells us that a Christian life is a graced learning from Christ. Love empowers us to live more and more as Jesus lived: open to

God's love in faith, and sharing in our lives this love with others. God's love, the source of all love, is always greater than our hearts can receive.

The **Gospel Reading** is the parable of the Vine and the Branches from John's Gospel.

Its simplicity is staggering. God relates with Jesus and with ourselves in the same way.

We are the branches of the vine. Jesus is the vine. God is the vine-grower.

The sap of divine love flows in all things.

The late Fr John Reilly SJ wrote this commentary in 2012.

 Retweet

A disastrous earthquake that shook Papua New Guinea's remote highlands has left an estimated 35,000 villagers displaced. Humanitarian aid agencies are continuing to provide food and medicine to affected communities.



BISHOP DONALD LIPPERT
Bishop of Mendi, PNG

UNICEF caravan attacked near Nipa today. A medical doctor who came to PNG to help our people was sent to the hospital himself with injuries. Very poor reflection on (some of) our people. After the earthquake relief perhaps we need to work on building the character of our people?



JAMIE ISBISTER
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Humanitarian Coordinator

AUSMAT medical staff have been hard at work treating patients affected by the #PNGearthquake, and today helped deliver the first baby of their mission #AustralianAid



RASMII BELL
Papua New Guinean writer

S/O Emma Griffiths (Panel Facilitator) for highlighting the limited Aus media coverage of events in #PNG. Thank you for informing audience of #PNGearthquake. Sig. event with implications for community conflict.



MARDI STEERE
Global paediatric emergency medicine physician

Makes me happy to see the AUSMAT team working alongside local PNG healthcare professionals to support their system, instead of in some independent medical tent - hopefully #AustralianAid part of ongoing system strengthening after the disaster's over. #PNGearthquake

Prayer List

THIS MONTH
POPE'S INTENTIONS

For those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters – That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

THIS WEEK

Afghanistan – Armed conflict in Afghanistan has killed 763 civilians and injured 1495 in the first three months of this year.

Papua New Guinea – Hundreds of thousands of people are still in need of assistance in Papua New Guinea following earthquakes that have killed more than 150 people.

Mali – Fifteen militants and a UN peacekeeper were killed in a recent attack on a UN base in Timbuktu, Mali.

Syria – After the US, France and Britain launched airstrikes on Syria on February 13, the United Nations called on the international community to avoid actions which could escalate the crisis there and deepen the suffering of the Syrian people.

The views expressed in the Letters to the Editor are not necessarily endorsed by and do not necessarily represent the views of The Catholic Leader or the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Letters are submitted on the condition The Catholic Leader may edit them in a manner which meets publication and style requirements.

Have your Say

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but I – more than most – know that we can't just be there for the good times.

I have many young people with great success stories but the young people who need you the most are the ones who are living a daily struggle – the young people who leave to go to school without food, the young people who don't know where they will sleep tonight, the young people who just can't make it in mainstream schooling.

We need to recognise these young people and uplift them so that they can make a real difference to their own lives and to the lives of others.

Some young people live with serious disadvantage, these are the kids I work with, and they need your support.

In celebrating Youth Week – not only would you be celebrating our young people, but you would be supporting some of Australia's most vulnerable people.

tions of that identity for me?

The issue of same-sex secular marriages has been decided by the Australian public and many, many good people will seek to make such a commitment.

Many of us will come to know such couples, through work or other social engagements and friendships.

The question for Catholics generally is how do we engage and welcome everyone into this dialogue, especially those who seek fellowship in Catholic parishes?

That some Catholics themselves may feel estranged from the Church they otherwise love, because of this issue and other questions, is in itself a scandal we have to address.

From Fr Brennan's wider writings and talks (I did not see the Q&A) I think he gives us a way into such engagements.

Time to celebrate

Fr Chris Riley,
Founder of
Youth Off
The Streets

APRIL 13 to April 22 was Youth Week, a week in which we celebrate the successes, goals and dreams of our young people.

Young people are our future; it is our job as a community to nurture them

as they grow into functioning and valuable members of our society.

I know my organisation Youth Off The Streets offers exciting and engaging services all year round, but we take particular emphasis on giving young people the chance to celebrate Youth Week.

Our Outreach services are hosting many Youth Week-orientated activities to bring community and individuals closer together.

Whether it is at a sporting game at the local park, a barbecue or just hanging out with youth workers, I know that the young people in my services will join in on celebrating this week.

I love being there to celebrate the victories,

Deep respect

Br Lindsay Rust, sac
Kew,
Victoria

I WRITE reflecting on Dr Tim Coyle's letter (TCL, 15/4/18).

Fr Frank Brennan is compassionate and through his calling as priest and lawyer we, in wider communities,

have indeed been blessed by his engagement and insights on many issues over many years.

I worry when we, as lay people, all too often only use the language of sin and condemnation in reflecting on others' lifestyles, especially if they are not Catholic.

We are all called to engage in the secular world and this first suggests a primary need to listen deeply and to adopt a deep respect for the individual.

How do I reflect the compassion of Christ, in today's language – when the other party does not accept my language, and to do this without my denying my Catholic faith, with all the implica-

Call of the laity

M.F. Buttler
Lismore,
NSW

THE call by the youth for the Church to listen to them (TCL, 25/3/18) also calls for the youth to listen to the Church.

With the rapid advance in technology an enormous amount of information is available today.

This requires the setting up of facilities where this information can be analysed as to its accuracy.

It is hoped that today's youth will appreciate the Decree of the Laity (Second Vatican council), which spoke to the laity (including the youth) about its role and involvement in the life of the Church and about the call of the laity to holiness.

No-name letters

THE Catholic Leader reminds writers to Have Your Say that letters should carry a name, address and contact telephone number.

We receive many letters from anonymous writers requesting publication. Without your name and contact details this is not possible.

We will not usually publish a letter that has already appeared in another newspaper, neither will we normally publish anything which is more than 400 words.

We routinely edit contributions for defamation, grammar, prolixity, coherence and style.

“ Some young people live with serious disadvantage, these are the kids I work with, and they need your support. ”



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PORT MACQUARIE

Papal honour for 'Father D' as parish says farewell

The heart and soul of Port



Thanks and welcome: Bishop Gregory Homeming (centre) welcomes the community at the Installation Mass, flanked on the left by Fr Leo Donnelly, now emeritus parish priest, and on the right by Fr Paul Gooley, the new parish priest of St Agnes' Parish. Also pictured, Father Felix Ekeh (far left) and Fr James Foster (far right).

GRATITUDE and good-wishes flowed for retiring parish priest Fr Leo Donnelly, who was presented a major Papal Award by Lismore Bishop Greg Homeming at a Mass held at St Agnes' Parish on March 23.

The same Mass installed the new parish priest, Fr Paul Gooley.

The Croce Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (the Cross for the Church and Pontiff) was established in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII and honours distinguished service to the Church and is only awarded by the Pope.

Tom and Terry Quinn and Brian and Lesley Tierney presented the award alongside the Bishop, who were all closely involved with 'Father D', as he's known, during his tenure as parish priest.

Parishioner Jim O'Brien expressed his gratitude on behalf of the parish for Fr Donnelly, who retired after 48 years of service as parish priest.

"As a parish, we are pleased that Father D has the opportunity to finally retire in his own time," Mr O'Brien said.

"We are delighted that a wonderful priest in Fr Paul Gooley has been appointed as Father D's successor and share Father D's confidence in him.

"We will miss having Father D as our leader and pastor as he is the only (parish priest) most of us have known in Port Macquarie.

"During his nearly five decades as (parish priest), Father D has led the transformation of this Parish into an amazing complex of service and education entities that touch the lives of thousands from the youngest to the oldest residents of the Port Macquarie Hastings area.

"We will miss his visionary leadership, his wisdom and problem-solving ability, his no nonsense pastoral approach and his extraordinary ability to identify a need and reach out to so many in our community to meet that need."

Bishop Homeming said the Croce Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice was a fitting testament to Fr Donnelly's commitment to the parish and the diocese, having served as a priest for the past 68 years.

"The true measure of Father Donnelly's commitment is not in time but through his actions," Bishop Homeming said.

"Father D is a pastor whose love for his parish has been so evident.

"Each time I have visited Port Macquarie I recognise and have been impressed by the work of the Holy Spirit here in the man who has been your pastor."

Fr Donnelly credited many others with the achievements of St Agnes' Parish.

"I can think of no greater privilege than to be called to lead a faith community, but with that comes the responsibility to do your very best for the people of that community," he said.

"Looking back, I think we can claim that, together, we have kicked a few goals.

"None of it would have been possible without the loyalty, support and deep faith of this faith community."

Fr Gooley came to St Agnes' Parish with the skills and know-how of the local region, having spent the last ten years in Macleay Valley Parish, Kempsey and the previous ten at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Wauchope as parish priest.

"I was assistant priest to Father Donnelly at St Agnes' Parish from 1990 to 1995 so it feels like I have come full circle," he said.

"Father Donnelly and I have been firm friends since that time and I am pleased that he now has the opportunity to slow down a bit.

"One of my priorities as I settle in is to get to know the parish community, some are familiar faces but there are also many new ones to get to know."

St Agnes' chief executive officer Adam Spencer said no one deserved the blessings of a peaceful retirement more than Fr Donnelly.

"Our parish is fortunate that a man of Father Paul's calibre has been appointed as Father D's successor – he will be a great asset to the parish," he said.

"I look forward to working closely with Father Paul to serve the needs of our parish and the community." Fr Donnelly has retired close by at The Francis Retreat in Bonny Hills.



Honoured: Fr Leo Donnelly receives the citation accompanying the award from Brian and Lesley Tierney.



Gratitude: Bishop Greg Homeming presents Fr Leo Donnelly with the Croce Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award.

Bishop shares Easter wisdom

By Joe Higgins

CALLING Catholics to see themselves with Jesus during Easter, Lismore Bishop Gregory Homeming's message engaged those stories where men and women met with the Risen Lord.

He focused on the stories – the road to Emmaus; St Thomas in the upper room; and St Peter, St John and St Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb.

"The Easter season runs from Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday, making it the longest special season in the Church's year," he wrote.

"The Sunday gospels of the Easter season are about Jesus' relationship with us and with the Church."

They were stories of Jesus and ordinary men and women who loved, he wrote.

"The journey to Emmaus is a very puzzling story," he wrote.

"Why are the two disciples walking away from Jerusalem?"

"As they talk to Jesus, who they have as yet not recognised, they speak of the women, who going to the tomb and finding it empty, saw angels who tell them that Jesus is alive."

Bishop Homeming recognised the negativity in the disciples.

It was this negativity, he wrote, that often clouded followers, so much so they could not even hear and believe the words, "He is alive".

"Cynicism and negativity, which destroy hope, can so overwhelm us that we cannot see what is

in front of us," he wrote.

Of the story of St Thomas, he wrote that it spoke to rationalists who did not believe something until it could not be doubted.

"There are some things, in fact perhaps the most important things in life, which cannot be proven scientifically," he wrote.

"Love is one example of this.

"It is by love that we know that we are loved, not by calculation."

Bishop Homeming wrote it was through presence that Jesus removed St Thomas' intellectual doubts, but through love that Thomas came to believe.

The final story of the tomb was a message of presence.

St Peter entered the tomb and left it without knowing or believing, the bishop wrote.

When Mary Magdalene met Jesus in the garden beside the tomb, she did not recognise him; when she did, Jesus reprimanded her for clinging to him.

"Jesus says to us 'do not cling' to your memories because if we do, we will not recognise Him today," Bishop Homeming wrote.

"The real issue in each of these events is this – why didn't the disciple recognise Jesus and believe?"

It was St John who believed unconditionally and was the one to be emulated; he knew Jesus was alive because he "recognises the one he loves is alive, not dead".

"The meaning of Easter is love and its lesson is this – Jesus will come into our lives, as He did with the other disciples and will, if we open ourselves to Him, touch us so as to remove the obstacles which we cannot remove," the bishop wrote.



Holistic approach: "St Mary's Catholic College, Casino, focuses on innovative and supportive learning environments for students."

St Mary's offers innovation

ST Mary's Catholic College, Casino, focuses on innovative and supportive learning environments for students, and has the resources to know and encourage each student.

This is what prospective students and their parents will discover at the college's annual Open Night on Monday, May 7 from 5.30pm.

Families can see exactly what St Mary's has to offer their child in secondary education.

"Our school as a community works together to support each other, and to provide a secure place for each student to learn and grow," principal Aaron Beach said.

"We offer unique support services for students, including a homework centre where students have the opportunity to work on their school projects in a supervised environment, after school."

St Mary's has students who represent the college in different sports at regional, state and national level.

"We currently have an Australian-ranked tennis player, a student in the Gold Coast Suns' development squad, representative rugby league and rugby union players, and A-grade

netballers," Mr Beach said.

St Mary's offers a "compressed curriculum" for the Higher School Certificate.

This is where senior students study half of their HSC course in one calendar year through to HSC examinations, and then study the remainder of their course in the following year.

"This 'compressed curriculum' allows double the traditional amount of class time and enables students to better immerse themselves in their course work by focusing on fewer subjects," Mr Beach said.

"We are seeing great improvements within individual student results. Importantly, there seems to be some relief for students from the pressure of doing the HSC."

St Mary's offers counselling services, programs for students with additional learning needs, including literacy and numeracy workshops and programs for gifted and talented students.

"As a smaller secondary school, we are really able to offer individual attention that can often be missed in a larger school setting," Mr Beach said.

Advertising feature

'By the grace of God I keep going'

GEORGE (Bill) Whibberley turned 95 in April.

An unwavering faith in God's love, belief in serving others, and strong self-discipline help this nonagenarian to still say, "There are not enough hours in the day".

Bill thinks nothing of the fact he doesn't need spectacles to read, play music or complete The Catholic Leader crossword each week.

"I am frustrated that my legs can't get me where I need to go as fast as I would like, but I am still able to learn every day through reading and I get real joy from playing music every now and then," he said.

Bill is reading *Life on the Edge, The Coming of Age of Quantum Biology* and the most recently played piano sheet music is *When I'm Sixty-Four*.

Bill is a well-recognised face in the Scarness community near Hervey Bay. He has spent countless years involved in serving the community and says he will always look after others in need, even though he can't volunteer as much these days.

One of the ways that he feels he can help is through a gift in his will to his parish and local charities.

"My wife Anne Marie Therese and I celebrated 60 years of marriage only one month before she passed away," he said. "God gave us five children and I'm humbled to have such a beautiful family; they're all good kids with kind hearts.

"My life has been blessed and I want to share those blessings with others who need a hand."

Bill's strong service ethic most likely stems from his own difficult childhood in Lancashire, England.

He was forced to fend for himself at just 13 and joined the Royal Air Force at age 16 in 1939, just before war broke out.

This was the beginning of a long and distinguished career for Bill, starting as a wireless operator and moving to air gunner and then pilot.

Bill retired in Australia in 1988 after serving as a senior technical instructor in the Navy.

Among his many medals, including the Medal of Ushakov, Bill's most recent accolade was the Quinn Medal awarded by Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge in recognition of his long-term generosity towards charities of the archdiocese – which include the Priests Foundation, Holy Spirit Seminary, Centacare's Pastoral Ministries and the Mary MacKillop Brisbane Catholic School Access Fund.



Bill Whibberley: "My life has been blessed and I want to share those blessings with others who need a hand."



Serving: Bill Whibberley (left), with some of his war medals; and (right) in his Royal Air Force days.



Riveting recount of tragedy

CHAPPAQUIDDICK: Starring Kate Mara, Jason Clarke, Olivia Thirlby. Directed by John Curran. Rated: M (Mature themes and coarse language) 106 mins

By John Mulderig

ON July 18, 1969, commander Neil Armstrong and his crew were hurtling towards the moon aboard Apollo 11 and Senator Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy of Massachusetts seemed to be running on the inside track in the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1972.

By July 20, the astronauts had made it to their destination while it had suddenly become apparent to many that Kennedy never would.

The incident that so drastically altered the fortunes of the last of the Kennedy brothers gets a sombre but intriguing treatment in the fact-based drama Chappaquiddick.

The general outline of the plot will already be familiar to viewers of a certain age.

For the benefit of whippersnappers and those who find history a bore, here's some background.

A year after the assassination of New York senator and presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, his younger sibling hosted a reunion for a group of the slain politician's staffers who had gone by the affectionate nickname the Boiler Room Girls – a moniker that nowadays would probably be deemed a microaggression.

The venue was the small New England island of the movie's title, just off Martha's Vineyard.

One of the legislator's guests was 28-year-old Pennsylvania native Mary Jo Kopechne (Kate Mara).

Shortly after 11pm, Kopechne and Kennedy (Jason Clarke) left the cottage where the party was being held and drove off together in the senator's car.

By 1am, this vehicle had lurched off the side of Chappaquiddick's Dike Bridge, overturned, and was lying submerged in a body of water called Poucha Pond.

Kennedy, of course, managed to extricate himself.

His companion did not.

The accident itself was bad enough.

But Kennedy's behaviour in its immediate aftermath was bizarrely irresponsible.

Returning to his hotel on the Vineyard, he waited about nine hours to report the mishap – by which time the car had been sighted and Kopechne's body recovered.



Disturbing: Joan (Andria Blackman) and Senator Ted Kennedy (Jason Clarke) in a scene from the movie Chappaquiddick.

Screenwriters Andrew Logan and Taylor Allen and director John Curran portray rather than explain this mysterious callousness.

So viewers looking for answers to the riddle of Kennedy's actions will come away dissatisfied.

Yet Clarke does convey with a quiet intensity the conflicted emotions and sense of isolation Kennedy may have been experiencing – as well as the toll his torturous relationship with his impossible-to-satisfy father Joseph (Bruce Dern) may have exacted on him.

Standing in the shadow of two martyred brothers, Kennedy is understandably ambivalent about following them down the path to the presidency.

While Chappaquiddick toys with various pos-

sible motivations – did Kennedy, for instance, subconsciously set out to sabotage himself? – its underlying ethical stance is unambiguous.

Kennedy cousin and family fixer Joe Gargan (Ed Helms) provides the film's moral compass.

Initially willing to help Ted, he's outraged when he discovers that so much time has gone by and the duty to alert the authorities has still not been fulfilled.

Former Defence Secretary Robert McNamara (Clancy Brown), by contrast, wears the black hat.

He leads a whole troupe of spin doctors who, at patriarch Joe's request, descend on the Kennedy compound in Cape Cod's Hyannis Port.

There they consistently, and condescendingly, encourage Teddy to control the situation and limit the damage by playing fast and loose with the facts.

And the fix, it soon becomes clear, is in thanks to the famous clan's far-reaching connections and wide-ranging influence.

Chappaquiddick is all the more disturbing for its muted tone and straight-forward approach, typified by a scene in which Kopechne, a devout Catholic, having found a small pocket of air in the capsized car, recites subdued, but desperate prayers as her prospects for survival dim.

John Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service.



Themes of Francis show in choice of words

KEY WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS

Edited by Joshua McElwee and Cindy Wooden; Bloomsbury; 2018

Reviewed by Br Brian Grenier CFC

TIMED to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the Holy Father's election, Key Words of Pope Francis is a collection of 52 accessible essays, each about four pages in length.

Understandably, most of the diverse group of contributors from around the world (lay and clerical, male and female, young and old, well-known and not so well-known) are involved in (and/or are



astute observers of) the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church.

However, there are also essays by such people as Archbishop Justin Welby (Archbishop of Canterbury) whose chosen word was "sheep" and Father John Chryssavgis, of the Greek Orthodox Church (Archdeacon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate), who wrote on "creation".

The foreword and the preface to the book were contributed by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap respectively.

Each of the writers has focused on a specific word that is highly relevant in determining the personal qualities and pastoral priorities of Pope Francis.

Their essays are presented in an alphabetical sequence determined by the words in question.

This explains why the American edition of the collection is entitled A Pope Francis Lexicon (Liturgical Press).

A selection of the words and authors will give

the reader of this review a better understanding of the content of the volume: "clerical abuse" (Francis Sullivan), "collegiality" (Archbishop Mark Coleridge), "conscience" (Austen Iver-eigh), "dignity" (Tina Beattie), "field hospital" (Cardinal Blase Cupich), "gossip" (Kaya Oakes), "immigrant" (Sr Norma Seni Pimentel MJ), "joy" (Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP), "money" (Andrea Tomielli), "periphery" (Carolyn Y Woo), "sourpuss" (Fr James Corkery SJ), and "women" (Astrid Lobo Gajiwala).

Other words include: careerism, curia, family, leadership, legalism, mercy, prayer, reform, service, tears, and youth.

While their own contribution is not immediately obvious, other than in the choice of "words", congratulations are due to the two editors Joshua McElwee and

Cindy Wooden.

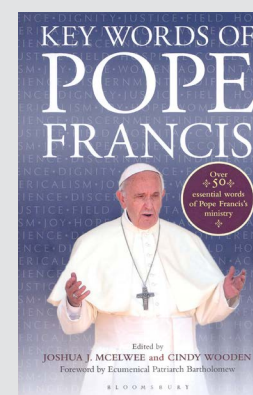
Both are experienced and highly respected journalists in Catholic (and, more specifically, Vatican) circles.

The Key Words of Pope Francis is informative and readable.

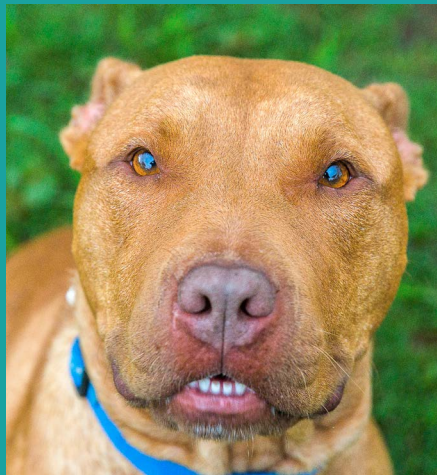
It would be a pity to rush through it; for the content of every essay calls for reflection and invites discussion.

With good reason it has been described by one reviewer as "an essential guide to key themes defining the papacy of Jorge Mario Bergoglio" (Philippa Hitcher).

In passing, I draw the reader's attention to Cindy Wooden's biography of one of the contributors to this volume, often called "the Asian Pope Francis" – (Cardinal) Luis Antonio Tagle: Leading by Listening.



PET OF THE WEEK



DAISY was an abandoned stray dog when she came to the Animal Welfare League Queensland shelter. She was underweight and in need of care. Daisy is a five-year-old tan-and-white American Staffordshire-Rhodesian Ridgeback cross. An AWLQ spokesperson said Daisy "is now happy and healthy, and she has proven to have the most beautiful nature you could ever hope to meet". "Daisy walks well on leash, is social with other dogs and would be an ideal second dog for any family who will welcome her into their fold and meet her every need," the spokesperson said. Daisy is available at AWLQ's Warra Rehoming Centre, 523 Telegraph Rd, Bracken Ridge. Phone 3807 3782.

IN THE GARDEN

KEEP cold-loving tulip, hyacinth and narcissus bulbs in the fridge for winter planting. Avoid pruning of spring bloomers as they will be developing their flower buds about now, if they haven't already.



IN THE KITCHEN

HERE'S a traditional Anzac Biscuits recipe for Anzac Day (April 25).



ANZAC BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup plain flour
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 125g butter
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

METHOD:

Pre-heat the oven to 160C. Line two baking trays with non-stick baking paper. Sift the flour into a large bowl. Stir in the oats, coconut and brown sugar. Put the butter, golden syrup and two tablespoons of water in a small saucepan. Stir over a medium heat until melted and combined. Stir in the bicarbonate of soda. Pour the butter mixture into the flour mixture and stir until combined. Roll level tablespoons of mixture into balls. Place on the trays about 5cm apart. Press with a fork to flatten slightly. Bake for 10 minutes or until golden brown. Set aside on the trays for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool.

COLOUR OF LIFE

Gospel – John 10:11-18
April 22

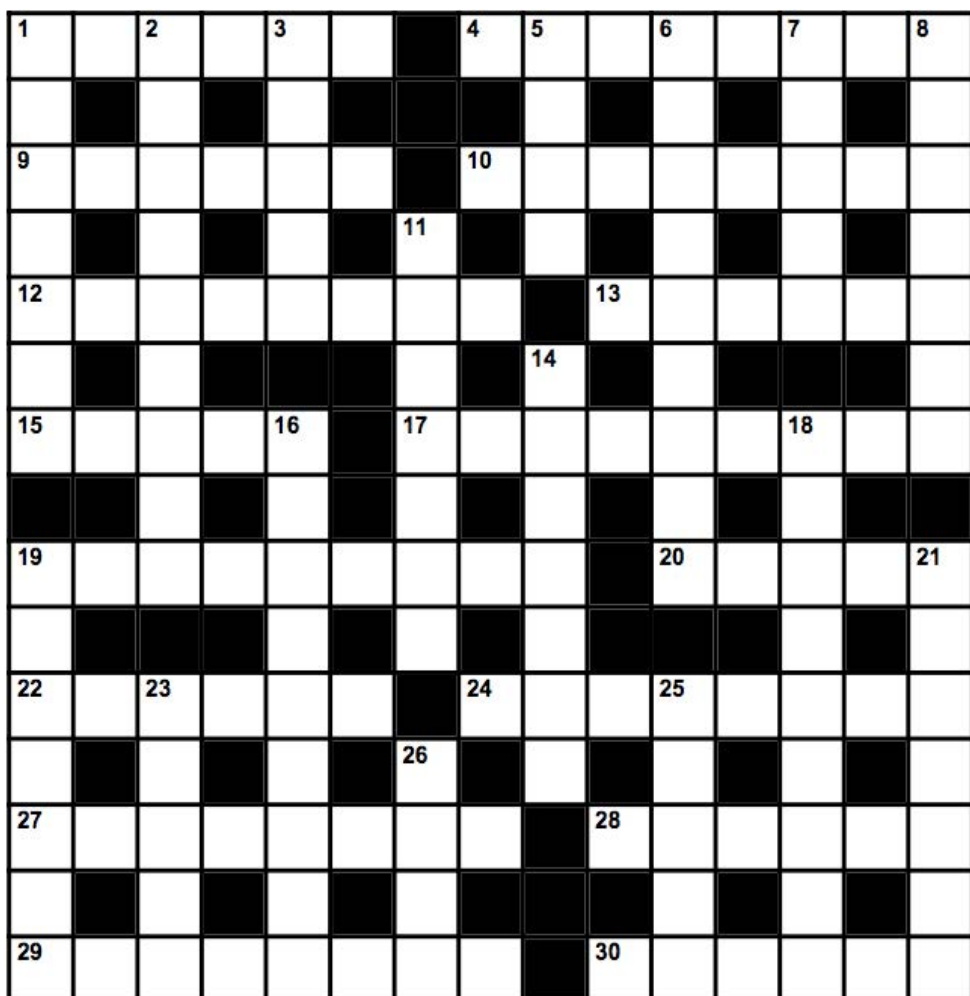
"Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep'." John 10:11



WIN A PRIZE PACK

Send your entry to: New Generation, The Catholic Leader, GPO Box 282, Brisbane, Qld 4001. Entries close on April 30. This week's colouring competition winner is Lillah Cleetus, 6, of Joyner, Qld.

Name _____
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 Age _____



CROSSWORD

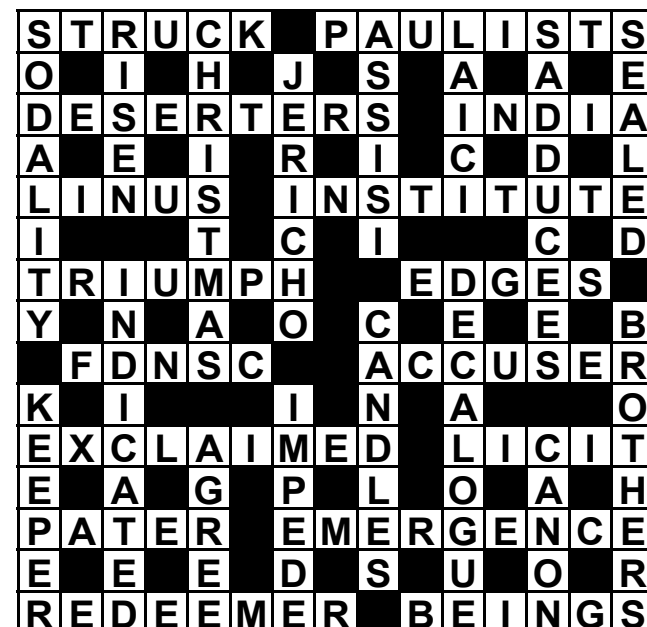
Across

- 1 They found the stone _____ away from the tomb. (6)
- 4 High Priest at time of Jesus' trial (8)
- 9 You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated _____, a people set apart (6)
- 10 Occurred (8)
- 12 Praises God (8)
- 13 Creed used at Mass (6)
- 15 Take this all of you and _____ from it: this is the chalice of my blood (5)
- 17 Nations (9)
- 19 Traditional (9)
- 20 Redemption is _____ : Apostolic Exhortation of John Paul II (5)
- 22 Outcome (6)
- 24 Lifts spirits (8)
- 27 One of the twelve (8)
- 28 Ancient alloy (6)
- 29 Released from burden (8)
- 30 False teaching (6)

- 2 Official church ceremonies (9)
- 3 Methuselah's father (5)
- 5 Husband of Eve (4)
- 6 Assigned (9)
- 7 Door part (5)
- 8 Unhappiness (7)
- 11 Exceptional (7)
- 14 Covering with earth (7)

- 16 Gift of the Holy Spirit (9)
- 18 Unawareness (9)
- 19 Museum keeper (7)
- 21 Topic of rosary contemplation (7)
- 23 Tiny (5)
- 25 Carry no _____, no bag, no sandals (5)
- 26 Evangelist (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Down

- 1 Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being _____ day by day. (7)

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Featured Events

May
6

WOMEN OF VISION: Meet the Grail in Brisbane and celebrate some of the founders of the that lay spirituality movement across the world - Lydwin van Kersbergen (Australia & America); Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo (1st woman PM of Portugal); Imelda Gaurwa (Tanzania). Their stories challenge us to consider what we need to do in our own time. Sundays 2-4pm 6 May, 3 June & 1 July at Justice Place, 6 Abingdon St, Woolloongabba. Info: aboudann@gmail.com or text 0400344921. Well served by public transport. Parking. Afternoon tea. Gold coin. Welcome to one or all sessions.

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Crying boy asks Pope if his non-believing dad could be in paradise

'Is my dad in heaven?'

AFTER circling a massive, crumbling public housing complex on the outskirts of Rome, Pope Francis had an emotional encounter with the neighbourhood's children.

Question-and-answer sessions with youngsters are a standard part of Pope Francis' parish visits.

And, at St Paul of the Cross parish on April 15, there were the usual questions like, "How did you feel when you were elected pope?"

But then it was Emanuele's turn.

The young boy smiled at the pope as he approached the microphone.

But then froze. "I can't do it," Emanuele said.

Monsignor Leonardo Sapienza, a papal aide, encouraged the boy, but he kept saying, "I can't."

"Come, come to me, Emanuele," the Pope said.

"Come and whisper it in my ear."

Msgr Sapienza helped the boy up to the platform where the Pope was seated.

Emanuele was sobbing by that point, and Pope Francis enveloped him in a big embrace, patting his head and speaking softly to him.

With their heads touching, the Pope and the boy spoke privately to each other before Emanuele returned to his seat.

"If only we could all cry like Emanuele when we have an ache in our hearts like he has," the Pope told the children.

"He was crying for his father and had the courage to do it in front of us because in his heart there is love for his father."

Pope Francis said he had asked Emanuele if he could share the boy's question and the boy agreed.

Emanuele asked: "A little while ago my father passed away. He was a non-believer, but he had all four of his children baptised. He was a good man. Is dad in heaven?"

"How beautiful to hear a son say of his father, 'He was good,'" the Pope told the children.

"And what a beautiful witness of a son who inherited the strength of his father, who had the courage to cry in front of all of us. If that man was able to make his children like that, then it's true, he was a good man. He was a good man."

"That man did not have the gift of faith, he wasn't a believer, but he had his children baptised. He had a good heart," Pope Francis said.

"God is the one who says who goes to heaven."

The next step in answering Emanuele's question, he said, would be to think about what God is like and, especially, what kind of heart God has.

"What do you think? A father's heart. God has a dad's heart. And with a dad who was not a believer, but who baptised his children and gave them that bravura, do you think God would be able to leave him far from himself?"

"Does God abandon his children?" the Pope asked.



Pastoral: Pope Francis greets the youngest parishioners, including Emanuele, of St Paul of the Cross Parish in Rome. Photos: CNS



True shepherd: Pope Francis embraces Emanuele, a boy whose father died, as he visits St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Rome on April 15.

"Does God abandon his children when they are good?"

The children shouted, "No."

"There, Emanuele, that is the answer," the Pope told the boy.

"God surely was proud of your father, because it is easier as a believer to baptise your children than to baptise them when you are not a believer. Surely this pleased God very much."

Pope Francis encouraged Emanuele to "talk to your dad; pray to your dad."

Earlier, a young girl named Carlotta also asked the pope a delicate question: "When we are baptised, we become children of God. People who aren't baptised, are they not children of God?"

"What does your heart tell you?" the Pope asked Carlotta.

She said, they were too.

"Right, and I'll explain," the Pope told her.

"We are all children of God. Everyone. Everyone."

The non-baptised, members of other religions, those who worship idols, "even the mafiosi," who terrorise the neighbourhood around the parish, are children of God, though "they prefer to behave like children of the devil," he said.

"God created everyone, loves everyone and put in everyone's heart a conscience so they would recognise what is good and distinguish it from what is bad," the Pope said.

The difference, he said, is that "when you were baptised, the Holy Spirit entered into that conscience and reinforced your belonging to God and, in that sense, you became more of a daughter of God because you're a child of God like everyone, but with the strength of the Holy Spirit."

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