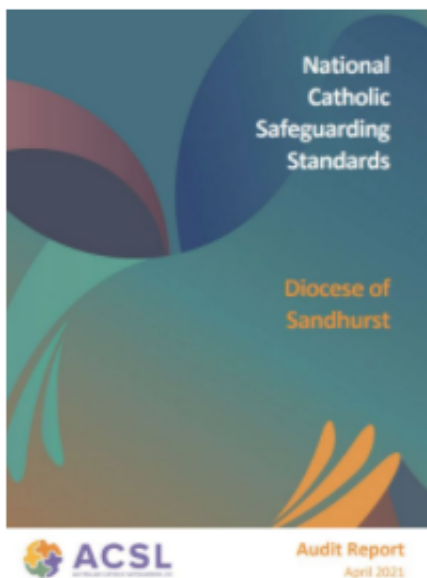




Sandpiper e-News



Sandhurst Committed to a Culture of Safeguarding

The Diocese of Sandhurst has welcomed the report on the Diocese's implementation of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, conducted by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL).

'The results of the audit show not only very high levels of compliance with the safeguarding standards, but also a sustained commitment to fostering a culture of safety and care for children, and adults at risk,' said Bishop Shane.

The overall audit findings showed 96% compliance, with the Diocese demonstrating that it has fully implemented or substantially progressed in implementing 97 of the 103 indicators that are relevant to its operations. The remaining four indicators are in the initial stages of implementation and the Diocese has accepted twelve recommendations from ACSL, all of which were assessed as medium or low priority.

'The audit report is an encouraging endorsement of the safeguarding efforts undertaken over many years across the Diocese by its parishes, led with great dedication by Safeguarding Coordinator, Ms Anne McIntosh and the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee.

'I particularly want to acknowledge the guidance and resources provided by Ms Anne McIntosh, the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator and by the Diocesan Safeguarding Committee' said Bishop Shane. Bishop Shane

also commended the work of the Child Safety Officers, Child Safety Teams and all those involved in Child Safety in parishes across the Diocese.

Bishop Mackinlay expressed his appreciation for the work of the ACSL audit team and the confidence that its report would give to those involved in or visiting the Diocese's parishes and agencies: 'Safeguarding is a critical part of the response to what we have learned about the Catholic Church's failures to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breaches of community trust. I acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families. We must do all in our power to prevent this, and a commitment to safeguarding will therefore remain an essential part of the Diocese's mission.'

The Diocese recognises that ensuring the safety and care of children, and adults at risk, requires that safeguarding be an ongoing priority. The audit report provides valuable insights and recommendations on how the Diocese can improve its practices and policies relating to safeguarding issues in areas including risk management, support for parish safeguarding officers, and online safety. The Diocese is committed to continuous improvement in these and other nominated areas and will work to implement the recommendations of the audit report.

ACSL is committed to fostering a nationally consistent culture of safety and care throughout the Catholic Church in Australia. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) provide a framework to protect and care for children and adults at risk. The Diocese of Sandhurst, due to the scope of its operations, is to comply with 103 of these standards.

The NCSS seek to build a culture of shared responsibility for safeguarding and to ensure that policies, practices and codes of behaviour work in unison to prevent, detect and respond appropriately to potential or actual incidents of child abuse. In this context, the audit processes we have undertaken are intended to provide reasonable assurance that safeguarding controls have been designed appropriately and are operating effectively. Accordingly, this report provides a point-in-time assessment of the safeguarding practices implemented by the Diocese and the extent of its compliance with the requirements of the NCSS. The focus of this audit was on ministries or activities conducted in parishes and the parish volunteer network, which are not subject to external assurance processes.

The full report is available on the ACSL website, along with further information about the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and ACSL itself.

[Download the national Catholic Safeguarding Standards audit report for the Diocese of Sandhurst.](#)



New Model for Complaints and Redress in Victoria - Public Consultation Phase 13 April - 14 May.

The Catholic Dioceses of Victoria have announced the opening of a public consultation period for a new process of response to complaints and redress relating to abuse in the Catholic Church. It is important that voices of those who have experienced abuse are heard, and that their feedback helps to shape this new model.

The proposed model, Pathways Victoria, will provide an operationally independent structure for implementing the Catholic Church's National Response Protocol released earlier this year, and will provide a person-centred and trauma-informed response. This responds directly to Recommendations 7.7 and 16.37 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Pathways Victoria will replace the Melbourne Response and Towards Healing processes that have been in place for nearly twenty-five years and will operate alongside the vital and ongoing services of Carelink.

This new model will offer a set of compassionate, just and appropriately resourced processes to investigate complaints and respond to survivors, as an alternative to existing options such as the National Redress Scheme and civil litigation. It offers a pathway where survivors are listened to, acknowledged, compensated and given care. For those who seek it, survivors have an opportunity to reconnect spiritually, with the restoration of links with the Church community.

Early notification of this announcement was shared with individual survivors and advocacy groups to enable support to be sought where needed, as well as with key stakeholders including the Acting Premier and the Commission for Children and Young People.

Survivors, their support persons and others who have lived with the effects of abuse, or have professional experience in this area, are strongly encouraged to be represented in this consultation phase, which will run from 13 April until 14 May, 2021.

Pathways Victoria will manage complaints about sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults within the Catholic Church in Victoria and their claims for redress. It will be distinct from Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd, which sets standards to avoid or minimise the risk of sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults and audits and oversees Catholic institutions in their observance of those standards. The functions of these two bodies will complement one another.

A website has been established for Pathways Victoria, providing background and updates on the proposal, as well as information on how to participate in the consultation phase: www.pathwaysvictoria.com



Knights gather for Barney's Picnic

On 11 April, the Knights of the Southern Cross Victoria gathered on the banks of the Murray River for their annual 'Barney's Picnic', to their long-standing tradition of celebrating Mass and sharing a meal together on Divine Mercy Sunday.

For sixty years, the Knights have gathered on Divine Mercy Sunday to celebrate Mass and enjoy a meal together at Gehrig Estate Wines, near Barnawatha North. The event known by the Knights as 'Barney's Picnic' has now become tradition. It was started over sixty years ago by late Member and Gehrig Estate Wines owner, Barney Gehrig. The tradition continues with the support of Barney's son, Bernie Gehrig, a Knights of the Southern Cross Wodonga Branch member.

Bishop Shane Mackinlay celebrated the Mass, assisted by KSCV Chaplain Fr Tony Kerin and long-time local Priest Fr John Ware.

The Mass is celebrated on consecrated ground, underneath a tree which features a large cross. Legend has it that the Cross came from a church that was washed away by flood in to the Murray River. It was recovered near Barnawartha, placed on the tree and the ground beneath was then consecrated.

Every year this wonderful day is organised by KSCV Branches of Wodonga, Rutherglen, Myrtleford and Wangaratta; and KSCNSW Branches of Albury and Corowa.



We Remember, Honour and Acknowledge

On 28 March, Bishop Shane Mackinlay led a prayer service for 52 deceased members of the St Aidan's community at their final resting place in the Bendigo Cemetery located in Quarry Hill.. "We pray that God may welcome them among all the saints of heaven," prayed Bishop Shane before blessing their newly restored 'family grave', which features inscriptions of the names of each of the women and children buried at the site between 1907 and 1977.

For many years the St Aidan's plot at Bendigo Cemetery had been left in a gradual state of disrepair; three uneven slabs of cracked concrete, reclining fences, and only a small plaque to acknowledge the deceased fueled urban myths and gothic fantasies that the plot was a mass grave.

Studies preparing for the restoration works reveal that the women and children buried at the site were buried side-by-side. Each person is now individually acknowledged through the design of the gravesite. “Stainless steel pointers are like rays of the sun which highlight each person’s name, date of birth and death, and point to the position where they were buried,” said Mr Len Williams, convenor of the St Aidan’s Grave Restoration and Beautification Group. Fifty-two people are buried at the site; the oldest was 86 and the youngest 18 months old, most were women over 70.

“St Aidan’s had become a home for these people, who were orphans, single-mothers or women with a disability; they had nowhere else to go, so in some ways the St Aidan’s gravesite is a family grave,” said Mr Williams.

The grave upgrade features a polished concrete slab and beautiful central piece showing the image of the St Aidan’s building, with the inscription: ‘We Remember, Honour and Acknowledge, the 52 women and children who died while resident at St Aidan’s Bendigo, and were buried at this site between 1907 and 1977.’

“My initial concerns with the state of the original gravesite . . . have been addressed beyond my expectations,” said Mr Williams, stating that the Restoration Group had carefully chosen landscape designer Lee Adams to design and oversee the project. “We acknowledge and thank her for her respectful design and attention to the details necessary to complete this restoration,” said Mr Williams.

The St Aidan’s Grave Restoration and Beautification Group formed in March 2017 after Len Williams, upon seeing the delapidated state of the St Aidan’s grave site, decided to make sure that something was done to properly acknowledge those buried there. Mr Williams recounts

“It upset me to think that this memorial had fallen into disrepair and didn’t adequately remember those buried here, especially the children.

I was later to find out that there were incorrect spelling of names, some dates were wrong and there was one name not even on the list.

I felt that the site needed to be improved and hoped that I could get some like-minded people to support this.

My initial contact with Remembrance Park Central Victoria was very helpful. I gradually built up a web of contacts and finally had enough interested people to form a committee in March 2017.”

Len Williams, Monsignor Francis Marriott, Sr Joan Murphy, Gendrie Klein-Breteler AM, Jim and Lyn Murtagh, Kath Martin, Gwynn McFadzean, Margaret Tobias and Helen Pentland formed a committee which spent tireless hours working to obtain sponsorship, research and check records, develop criteria for a suitable gravestone and find a suitable design and designer.

At the turn of the nineteenth century, Bendigo had taken a hard hit financially and socially. The production of gold was decreasing, as were dividends so many businesses closed operations in Bendigo to focus on Melbourne. There had been significant loss in miners’ lives due to miners’ phthisis and tuberculosis. In this context, Bishop Stephen Reville saw a need for an orphanage and women’s refuge.

With funds from the estate of Rev. Dr Henry Backhaus he purchased a house on 40 acres of land on which to build an orphanage and invited the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to come to Bendigo to start caring for orphaned children and women in need. The Good Shepherd Sisters arrived from Melbourne in 1904 and the Foundation stone for the convent was laid on 5 May 1904. The orphanage was officially opened on 19 July 1905.

By October 1906 there were 50 children and 18 women living under the care of the Good Shepherd Sisters, who were well supported by the community as evidenced in over 3000 people who attended an annual Garden Fete in October that year.

In many ways Bishop Reville was ahead of his time he was intent that orphaned siblings should not be separated from each other, and stipulated that the Good Shepherd Sisters were to care for both boys and girls, the only orphanage in Australia to do so.

In 1931 a new building 'Maryfields' was opened. Maryfields housed women and girls over the age of 15, while St Aidan's housed girls up to 16 and boys up to 11 years of age. The convent ceased to operate as a residential facility for children in 1981.

In 1981, St Aidan's terminated its involvement in residential child care. A number of women with disabilities remained in care from 1977, until the property was sold to Girton College in 1984. Most of the people buried in the St Aidan's grave site were women living with a disability.



We believe in Life Everlasting

As we pray during Sundays of the Easter season, **Lyn Breen** suggests we may like to focus our attention on the last few words of the ancient creeds.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen. (The Nicene Creed – final words)

I believe in ...the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen. (The Apostles' Creed – final words)

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.
(The Nicene Creed – final words)

I believe in ...the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.
(The Apostles' Creed – final words)

Have you found, as I have, that Easter Sunday brings a reminder to pay close attention to the final words of the Creed prayed during Sunday Mass? Both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, proclaim our belief in the resurrection, not only for Jesus, but also for ourselves because of Jesus. Resurrection and

eternal life with God who loves us and loved us into being – is the true destiny for all whom we have known and loved, and for each one of us.

The resurrection appearances of Jesus reveal that we cannot predict or imagine what that might be like (Mark 16; Matthew 28; Luke 24 and John 20-21). Jesus is risen, still bearing his wounds. He eats with and walks with his friends, yet somehow, he is different. At first, many do not recognize him.

Mary realizes it is Jesus when he speaks her name (John 20:16). The hearts of two disciples ‘burn’ as they walk with him, talking about all that has happened, on the road to Emmaus. It is only when he blesses and breaks bread that they finally recognize Jesus (Luke 24:30-32). A few years later, Saul (later Paul), meets the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. Different accounts speak of a light or a voice. (Acts 9:1-9, 22:6-21; 26:12-18). The New Testament scriptures attest that Christ is Risen and with us – in a new way.

To explain the resurrection of those who have died, Paul used the image of a seed: “What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed ... God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body ...it is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.” (1 Corinthians 15:36-38, 44).

John writes: “Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.” (1 John 3:2) As you listen and pray during Sundays of the Easter Season, you may like to focus your attention on the last few words of the ancient Creed. Bring to mind the hope that Easter brings. Remember loved ones, and all who have died, with hope and trust in God’s loving and eternal future.

Lyn Breen

Adult Faith Education Sandhurst



Urbi et Orbi Message of His Holiness Pope Francis Easter 2021

"In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread throughout the world."

Pope Francis' Easter message focuses on the resurrection of Christ as a means for hope that does not disappoint in a world suffering from conflict, pandemic, extreme economic difficulty and lack of social protection.

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

EASTER 2021

*Saint Peter's Basilica
Easter, 4 April 2021*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, a good, happy and peaceful Easter!

Today, throughout the world, the Church's proclamation resounds: "Jesus, who was crucified, has risen as he said. Alleluia!"

The Easter message does not offer us a mirage or reveal a magic formula. It does not point to an escape from the difficult situation we are experiencing. The pandemic is still spreading, while the social and economic crisis remains severe, especially for the poor. Nonetheless – and this is scandalous – armed conflicts have not ended and military arsenals are being strengthened. That is today's scandal.

In the face of, or better, in the midst of this complex reality, the Easter message speaks concisely of the event that gives us the hope that does not disappoint: "Jesus who was crucified has risen". It speaks to us not about angels or ghosts, but about a man, a man of flesh and bone, with a face and a name: Jesus. The Gospel testifies that this Jesus, crucified under Pontius Pilate for claiming he was the Christ, the Son of God, rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, just as he had foretold to his disciples.

The crucified Jesus, none other, has risen from the dead. God the Father raised Jesus, his Son, because he fully accomplished his saving will. Jesus took upon himself our weakness, our infirmities, even our death. He endured our sufferings and bore the weight of our sins. Because of this, God the Father exalted him and now Jesus Christ lives forever; he is the Lord.

The witnesses report an important detail: the risen Jesus bears the marks of the wounds in his hands, feet and side. These wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us. All those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint.

The risen Christ is hope for all who continue to suffer from the pandemic, both the sick and those who have lost a loved one. May the Lord give them comfort and sustain the valiant efforts of doctors and nurses. Everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us, requires assistance and has the right to have access to necessary care. This is even more evident in these times when all of us are called to combat the pandemic. Vaccines are an essential tool in this fight. I urge the entire international community, in a spirit of global responsibility, to commit to overcoming delays in the distribution of vaccines and to facilitate their distribution, especially in the poorest countries.

The crucified and risen Lord is comfort for those who have lost their jobs or experience serious economic difficulties and lack adequate social protection. May he inspire public authorities to act so that everyone, especially families in greatest need, will be offered the assistance needed for a decent standard of living. Sadly, the pandemic has dramatically increased the number of the poor and the despair of thousands of people.

"The poor of every kind must begin once more to hope". [Saint John Paul II](#) spoke these words during [his visit to Haiti](#). It is precisely to the beloved Haitian people that my thoughts turn in these days. I urge them not to be overwhelmed by difficulties, but to look to the future with confidence and hope. And my thoughts turn

especially to you, my dear Haitian brothers and sisters. I am close to you and I want a definitive resolution to your problems. I am praying for this, dear Haitian brothers and sisters.

The risen Jesus is also hope for all those young people forced to go long periods without attending school or university, or spending time with their friends. Experiencing real human relationships, not just virtual relationships, is something that everyone needs, especially at an age when a person's character and personality is being formed. We realized this clearly last Friday, in the Stations of the Cross composed by the children. I express my closeness to young people throughout the world and, in these days, especially to the young people of Myanmar committed to supporting democracy and making their voices heard peacefully, in the knowledge that hatred can be dispelled only by love.

May the light of the risen Jesus be a source of rebirth for migrants fleeing from war and extreme poverty. Let us recognize in their faces the marred and suffering face of the Lord as he walked the path to Calvary. May they never lack concrete signs of solidarity and human fraternity, a pledge of the victory of life over death that we celebrate on this day. I thank the nations that generously receive people who are suffering and seeking refuge. Lebanon and Jordan in particular are taking in many refugees who have fled from the conflict in Syria.

May the people of Lebanon, who are undergoing times of difficulty and uncertainty, experience the consolation of the Risen Lord and find support from the international community in their vocation to be a land of encounter, coexistence and pluralism.

May Christ our peace finally bring an end to the clash of arms in beloved and war-torn Syria, where millions of people are presently living in inhumane conditions; in Yemen, whose situation has met with a deafening and scandalous silence; and in Libya, where at last there is hope that a decade of bloody strife and clashes may come to an end. May all parties involved commit themselves effectively to ending conflicts and allowing war-weary peoples to live in peace and to begin the reconstruction of their respective countries.

The Resurrection naturally takes us to Jerusalem. On Jerusalem we ask the Lord to grant peace and security (cf. *Ps* 122), so that it can embrace its calling to be a place of encounter where all can see one another as brothers and sisters, and where Israelis and Palestinians will rediscover the power of dialogue for reaching a stable solution that will enable the two states to dwell side by side in peace and prosperity.

On this festive day, my thoughts also return to Iraq, which I had the joy of [visiting last month](#). I pray that it may continue along the path of peace and thus fulfil God's dream for a human family hospitable and welcoming to all his children.

May the power of the risen Lord sustain the peoples of Africa who see their future compromised by internal violence and international terrorism, especially in the Sahel and Nigeria, as well as in Tigray and the Cabo Delgado region. May the efforts to resolve conflicts peacefully continue, in respect for human rights and the sacredness of life, through fraternal and constructive dialogue in a spirit of reconciliation and true solidarity.

There are still too many wars and too much violence in the world! May the Lord, who is our peace, help us to *overcome the mindset of war*. May he grant that prisoners of conflicts, especially in eastern Ukraine and Nagorno-Karabakh, may return safely to their families, and may he inspire world leaders to curb the race for new weaponry. Today, April 4, marks the International Awareness Day against anti-personnel landmines, insidious and horrible devices that kill or maim many innocent people each year and prevent humanity from "walking together on the paths of life without fearing the threat of destruction and death!"^[2] How much better our world would be without these instruments of death!

Dear brothers and sisters, once again this year, in various places many Christians have celebrated Easter under severe restrictions and, at times, without being able to attend liturgical celebrations. We pray that those restrictions, as well as all restrictions on freedom of worship and religion worldwide, may be lifted and everyone be allowed to pray and praise God freely.

Amid the many hardships we are enduring, let us never forget that we have been healed by the wounds of Christ (cf. *1 Pet* 2:24). In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured. Where there was death, now there is life. Where there was mourning, now there is consolation. In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread throughout the world. A good, happy and serene Easter to all of you!



FCJ College Benalla Opens new multi-purpose hall

On 24 March 2021 FCJ College Benalla opened its new state-of-the-art multi-purpose hall made possible by a generous donation from the FCJ sisters to mark the bicentenary of the Faithful Companions of Jesus Society founded by Marie Madeleine d'Houet in 1820; as well as 120 years of the FCJ sisters being involved in education in Benalla (1900 - 1920).

FCJ Sisters from across the state attended the official opening of the multi-purpose hall, which was blessed by Bishop Shane Mackinlay on 19 March. In her speech, FCJ College Principal Joanne Rock said, "It is my absolute honour and privilege to have you with us today as we joyfully give thanks to the FCJ sisters for this most generous of gifts to our learning community – this multi-purpose hall."

To celebrate their bicentenary, the FCJ Society asked all of their schools worldwide to submit a proposal for a gift from the FCJ sisters, which would be a memorial to the Sisters and their legacy in education. FCJ Benalla's proposal was ambitious, proposing a \$3 million multi-purpose hall to be built on their school grounds.

Ms Rock said the school was delighted with the generosity of the Sisters and the opportunity to make a long-lasting legacy to the educational support they have provided to families in the Benalla region.

"The purpose of today's gathering is one of thanks and gratitude. A building like this does not simply appear and is the work of many many people. Some of those people have been involved from start to finish, whilst others have contributed their skills at various points in time, then moved on," said Ms Rock.

In their speech, School Captains Mia Begley and Lachlan Boyle said that the magnificent building will provide FCJ College with an amazing space to hold school assemblies, functions, sporting experiences, music productions and many events for years to come. "This hall will be a meeting place for our school, where we can celebrate our accomplishments. Every time we enter, we will remember the generosity of the FCJ Sisters and the sacrifices their predecessors made to create our school," they said.

“Over the years at the college we have learnt to foster the values of goodness, companionship and truth. Values our foundress Marie Madeline D’Houet displayed in her work. Her achievements in creating a powerful team of women, ‘the Faithful Companions of Jesus,’ who work for others, is representative of the values our school nurtures today ... zest, ambition, compassion, courage and community. These principles have assisted many of us in making decisions in our lives from the smallest acts of kindness to the more significant decisions that impact and shape our future.”

The school thanked the FCJ Sisters for their extraordinary generosity, saying the work the FCJ Sisters do for others is empowering for all of the students who will pass through the doors of FCJ College Benalla.



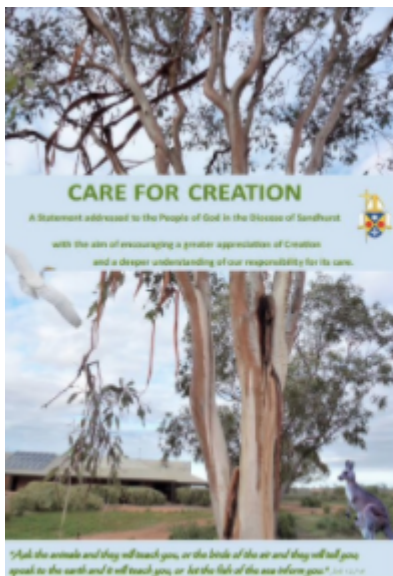
Plenary Council Zoom Reflection

7:30 p.m. Wednesday 28 April

“How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is Prayerful and Eucharistic?”

All are welcome to participate in the the Fifth Diocesan Plenary Reflection via Zoom.

If you would like to participate, please email plenary@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



Care for Creation

Zoom gathering
5.00 p.m. Wednesday 21 April

The work to ‘Care for Creation’ is continuing on the world stage and through the small individual efforts of each of us. To share these things both big and small, you are all invited to join our Sandhurst Network gathering for our first 2021 conversation.

One of our agenda items will focus on how to celebrate the upcoming *Laudato Si’* Week Monday 17 May – Monday 24 May. The Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Global Catholic Climate Movement, as well as Catholic Earthcare Australia, are all making plans!

Further news: A multi-faith statement, calling for a recovery from COVID, which will help create a more just world order, while tackling the climate crisis, has been prepared. Many organisations have signed the

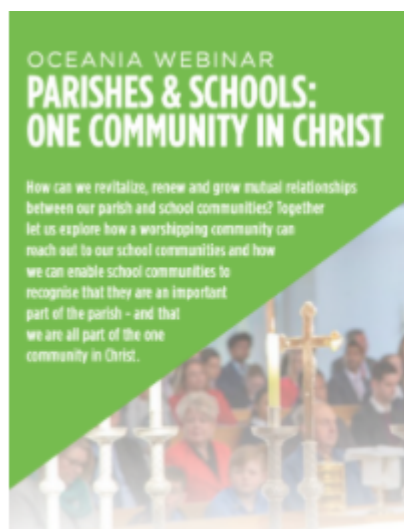
statement, as too have many individual members. Here is the link to sign the [Sacred People Sacred Earth Statement](#).

This invitation for all to join us is coming from me as Lyn Breen had heart surgery on Thursday so please remember her in your prayers. She is looking forward to a positive outcome and rejoining us in a few weeks.

If you wish to attend, please email [Kerry Stone](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Kerry

for the Sandhurst Care for Creation Team



Parishes and Schools One Community in Christ

**Oceania Webinar
11.00 a.m. Tuesday 20 April 2021**

How can we revitalise, renew and grow mutual relationships between our parish and school communities? Together let us explore how a worshipping community can reach out to our school communities and how we can enable school communities to recognise that they are an important part of the parish —and that we are all part of the one community in Christ.

Join with others at this online gathering, where we will be sharing best practice, challenges and initiatives in how parishes and schools collaborate in living out the mission of Jesus Christ.

- What is the identity and role of the parish
- What is the identity and role of the Catholic primary school, secondary, Pre and Post, State School with SRE (Sex and Relationships Education)?
- What is the interrelationship between school and parish?
- What is best practice for how school and parish come to a shared vision, shared engagement, and shared goals – inclusive of students, families, staff, and parish community?

Keynote Presenters

Colin MacLeod

Colin is Director of the National Centre for Religious Studies, which is part of Te Kupenga – Catholic Leadership Institute in New Zealand. He lives in Dunedin and taught at Kavanagh College, there serving in various capacities as Director of Religious Studies and Assistant Principal.

Ms Nichii Mardon

Nichii is Director Catholic Education, Diocese of Port Pirie. Prior to that appointment in 2018 Nichii exercised leadership in Reception to Year 12 Catholic schools for almost 30 years.

[Click here to register and receive Zoom details.](#)



Increasing the experience of the Holy Spirit in your parish

Live Webinar

7.00 p.m. Wednesday 21 April 2021

The Holy Spirit wants to animate our lives and impact the ministries of Catholic leaders. How do we respond to this call? How can we help people in our parishes experience the Holy Spirit in a profound way?

The Holy Spirit wants to animate our lives and impact the ministries of Catholic leaders. How do we respond to this call? How can we help people in our parishes experience the Holy Spirit in a profound way? Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit is one of the three keys of Divine Renovation since we know that parish renewal cannot happen without his power. Join us for a webinar with Deacon Peter Pellican Executive Director, Evangelisation Brisbane, and Kevin Bailey AM as they discuss how to increase the experience of the Holy Spirit in your parish.

To register go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/4888316>



Project Compassion: an Australian Icon

By Kerry Stone

Did you have a Project Compassion box at home, school or church growing up? It's a little box with a big history, and an even bigger impact. A lot has changed in 50 years! Find out more about the rich history of Project Compassion.

Bank details -

Name: R Hayes K Stone Caritas BSB 083-760 Acc No. 66-451-1663.

If you require a receipt please email your address to caritasjustice@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion. The initiative has raised more than \$500 million to support those experiencing poverty and injustice since it began in 1965 – making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns.

For many people, Project Compassion's iconic collection boxes have become a nostalgic part of their lives – a reminder around home, school, church and the community that it is time to support Caritas Australia's annual appeal.

Margaret Moriarty can't remember a time without a Project Compassion box in her house during Lent. "Donating to people in poorer countries was very important to my mother and father. My children have grown up with the same iconic boxes in our home and my gran -children are continuing the tradition," Margaret says.

Throughout five decades of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, Caritas Australia has worked alongside vulnerable communities with the generous support of Australians. Project Compassion has also helped with access to education, health services and agricultural training, and through programs that reduce maternal and infant mortality.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local partnerships have helped Caritas Australia to respond quickly to minimise the spread of the coronavirus.

This year, Caritas Australia has presented five stories from people striving to 'Be More' – just a few stories amongst the millions of people who have been helped through Project Compassion.

As we celebrate this Australian icon, Caritas would like to thank generations of our supporters nationwide for their ongoing generosity, which allows us to move forward with lifesaving strategies to tackle new challenges.

You can support Project Compassion through your parish or school, or you can post to
PO Box 130 Numurkah 3636



Eileen of St Malachy's celebrates her 90th birthday

By Diane Grant

Mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Eileen McDonald recently celebrated her 90th birthday recently. A Nagambie parishioner for most of her life, she's seen a lot of change in the region over the years.

Born in the Nagambie Bush Nursing Home in April 1931, Eileen was the eighth of nine children born to Jack and Christina Phelan. Eileen and her three brothers and five sisters lived with their parents on their 40-hectare property at Goulburn Weir.

Jack worked for the railways and also provided for his family by shooting rabbits, catching fish and crayfish as well as having cows, chooks, turkeys, and some vegetables and fruit trees; the Phelans were self-sufficient.

“Our family never went without food and I remember my mother was a full-time mum who kept the family home buzzing, with no electricity and an old wood stove,” Eileen said.

“We children went to school at the little one-room Goulburn Weir State School that had a little porch and a school bell.

“About 13-15 students attended the school back then. I remember saluting the flag on a Monday and singing “God save the King.”

When Eileen was ten the family moved to Nagambie. She finished her education at St Joseph’s Catholic school and left at 14. She went to work at the Cave’s Café, then at a factory that made raincoats and waterproof equipment.

In 1948 she met a young man at a dance, Jim McDonald. He had served in the latter part of the second world war in the Royal Australian Air Force. He used to come up to Nagambie to help his father on their farm property.

Eileen and Jim found they had similar interests; the same church and they joined in the same local social groups, went dancing and enjoyed other activities together. They dated for a few years then married at St Malachy’s Catholic Church on May 9, 1953 and remained married until Jim’s death in 1987.

Eileen’s sister, Bev Phelan and Mary McDonald were her bridesmaids. Len Tobin was Jim’s Best Man and Bill Phelan his groomsman. Their wedding reception was held in the old St Joseph’s hall and they honeymooned at Lakes Entrance.

Jim and Eileen moved to a farm in Woodend where they lived for 17 years before moving back to Nagambie in 1965 to ‘temporarily’ to look after Jim’s father, Jack, when he became ill.

Two years after moving back to Nagambie, Pop Jack McDonald passed away. By this time, the McDonald children were well settled into their Nagambie school and community, so the family decided to stay. They moved into Jim’s father’s house in High Street in 1967 and farmed their property at Locksley-Longwood Rd.

Over the years, the couple had seven children. The first born in Nagambie, then three in Kyneton Hospital and another three in Nagambie. Their children went to St Joseph’s Primary school, then on to secondary education in Bendigo, Shepparton and Seymour.

Sadly, Jim died in April 1987 after a fight with cancer. Eileen prayed to the Mother of Our Lord to help Jim get through the pain. She promised Our Lady that she would go to Fatima, Lourdes, Spain and Croatia and promote the vision of Our Lady if her prayer was answered. It was and she went to those places and still extols the wonder of it all to this day.

Eileen was on school and church committees and served for 34 years as a volunteer at St Vincent de Paul Op Shop in Seymour, and for 22 years at the Nagambie Mechanics Institute Op Shop.

All of Eileen and Jim's children married and there are now 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Until her eyesight deteriorated a few years ago, Eileen continued to drive, play cards, enjoy linedancing and socialising with her many family and friends.

"I thank God every day for the good life I have had. I feel very blessed. My family says I have always followed the three Fs. Family, friends and faith; and they are right," Eileen said.



Catholic Mission Launches major appeal for the Year

For we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard, Acts 4:20.

Catholic Mission has launched its major appeal for the year, supporting the essential work of the Mother and Babies Home run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok, as they reach out to vulnerable women in their time of need.

National Director of Catholic Mission, Fr Brian Lucas, says that, at a time when there is a lot of attention given to the vulnerability of women in our own society, the work of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Thailand, and in many other places, goes to the very heart of the Christian proclamation of the worth and dignity of every person.

"To be Christian is to be missionary, and to be missionary is to speak out in words and action against exploitation and give new life and hope to those who are vulnerable," he says.

The Catholic Mission appeal offers hope to people like Churai*. As a young girl, she suffered years of abuse and is now pregnant with her third child. Without the Mother and Babies Home, she says she would be alone and helpless, cast away by her partner as he did not want the child.

"This place has helped and given women in need an opportunity to grow," she says. "For women who feel discouraged, who don't know what to do, and who have nowhere to go, this place gives us an opportunity, comfort, and happiness".

The Good Shepherd Sisters provide pregnant mothers and mothers with young children, a refuge with others from similar backgrounds.

"It's about giving a chance to the mothers and the children," says Sr Chalaad, who manages the home in Bangkok.

"And when they get that chance, they will be able to look forward; they will be able to stand for themselves in the society for their future. Even if they have no one, we can stand by them".

The Good Shepherd Sisters also run other outreach programs for women and children in need in Bangkok; they offer pregnant women and young mothers like Churai a helping hand should they be unable to return to their families, by providing them with handicraft skills, training and employment to earn a living to support themselves.

Pope Francis invites each of us to respond to what we have seen and heard – to carry those stories, like Churai's, in our hearts – calling each of us to be missionary disciples by sharing and supporting vital work like this. Help those in need and support Sr Chalaad and the Good Shepherd Sisters by donating at www.catholicmission.org.au/thailand.

Image: The essential work of Sr Chalaad and the good Shepherd Sisters is the focus of Catholic mission's major appeal for the year.



Flooding and landslides, a wave of death and destruction

Over 110 deaths and thousands left homeless after flooding and landslides in Timor-Leste and Indonesia. Since April 4, the small nation of Timor-Leste and southern islands of Indonesia have been inundated by extreme weather from Tropical Cyclone Seroja, one of the most destructive storms to hit the region in years.

However, rescuers continue to search for dozens of missing people, after the floods and landslides uprooted trees, damaged infrastructure and swept away villages in Timor-Leste and Indonesia.

According to preliminary reports from Timor-Leste, approximately 10,325 people have been affected by the extreme weather, with over 76 per cent of the affected people from Dili municipality. The rains have been so heavy in Dili that the presidential palace in the capital has been transformed into a mud pit.

In Indonesia at least 2,655 people over 18 districts have been affected by the flooding or landslides, with significant damage to households, bridges and roads.

The packed shelters across Timor-Leste have increased concerns about a potential spike in COVID-19 cases, as the country is currently experiencing the highest number of COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic. Despite the current lockdown, families were forced to evacuate as a result of the flooding.

“It is critical that we respond quickly to support the people impacted by this emergency,” said Bernice Sarpong, Caritas Australia's Humanitarian Program Coordinator for Asia. “Timor-Leste has experienced a spike in COVID-19 cases over the past month, and the last thing we want is a widespread outbreak that could overwhelm the country's fragile healthcare system.”

Vital infrastructure for fighting COVID-19 has also been damaged, including the main laboratory where testing is conducted and the warehouse where the majority of COVID-19 supplies are stored.

Caritas Australia is working with local partners to assess needs on the ground and provide immediate support to vulnerable communities. Vehicles and staff have been provided to support initial assessment and food distribution in evacuation centres.

Caritas Australia is accepting donations through its Timor-Leste & Indonesia Floods Emergency Appeal to provide support for emergencies like flooding and landslides in Timor-Leste.

Call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to some of our closest neighbours, OR post to PO Box 130 Numurkah 3636.



Lessons Learnt from COVID-19



Catholic health and aged-care operators are calling on government to create clear lines of communication to avoid the confusion that beset the sectors at the height of the COVID pandemic, a review into operations has found. Multiple data requests, junior staff in the bureaucracy as contacts and a surge workforce that was untrained and unprepared to work with COVID-affected patients were also some of the challenges facing the operators, according to the report, *Lessons Learnt from COVID-19*.

The report was compiled by Catholic Health Australia in conjunction with Australian Catholic University, and surveyed executives from four major providers in Victoria: Mercy Health, St John of God Health Care, St Vincent's Health Australia and Villa Maria Catholic Homes.

It found that while Australia's medical system and governments could claim credit for beating COVID-19, the operators and bureaucracies could learn valuable lessons from the experience, which saw them forced to adapt quickly from planned but ultimately inaccurate scenarios.

Unlike Europe and other countries around the world, the vast majority of COVID cases and deaths in Australia occurred in aged-care facilities, particularly in Victoria, and not in hospitals, which had been expecting their intensive care units to be inundated with cases.

The report outlines the following areas in which Catholic facilities performed well during the different waves that hit Australia:

- strong leadership that put in place a centralised team that was able to adapt quickly and efficiently to the different scenarios;
- a willingness to make difficult decisions independent of government;
- good regular communication with staff, patients and residents and their families;

- the purchasing of PPE stocks in advance and the proper training of staff in how to use them; and
- deciding early to implement a policy that banned staff working across multiple sites.

Yet the report goes on to detail how the human factor posed a significant challenge, with a large number of staff early on in the pandemic refusing to come to work, or being furloughed due to an infection in their ranks.

Fatigue among all levels of staff and an abiding fear of infection also took their toll, resulting in a significant burden on management to ensure staff wellbeing was maintained.

The trauma of barring visits to aged-care residents also created problems, even though some operators relaxed their protocols out of compassion to accommodate those who were dying or in distress.

The report goes on to catalogue areas that proved a constant challenge to those operators dealing with the intensity of the second wave that hit Victoria.

- lack of senior expertise in public health units;
- absence of a pandemic plan;
- requests for data from multiple government agencies every day;
- the ability to absorb multiple daily announcements by both the State and Federal Governments; and
- poor training of the surge workforce, and their accommodation at large distances from their allocated temporary workplace.

The report – undertaken by ACU’s Faculty of Health Sciences – lists 12 recommendations for operators at an organisational level; nine for health services and five for government.

Catholic Health Australia CEO, Pat Garcia said the review’s findings would serve as a template for what to do, and what not to do, in future pandemics.

“It’s clear the health and aged-care landscape has changed irrevocably with COVID-19. Our members were forced to adapt in very testing circumstances, and they did very well to do so.

“However, pandemics teach us there is no room for complacency, so this review has been a valuable exercise for us to take stock of what we did well and what could be done better. “Our members are willing and able to work with government on how we can be COVID-prepared for the inevitable third or fourth wave that will hit these shores. We want to share these lessons with government to ensure that next time we are on the right footing.”

Adjunct Professor Stephen Cornelissen, the chief executive of one of the survey participants, Mercy Health Group, said: “One thing that we have learnt from the first stages of the pandemic is that the best approaches to manage the effects of the pandemic involved collaboration between providers, residents, families and the Government. This ensured we used all the various experiences and knowledge to develop effective responses.

“The reported issues with the current vaccination program may indicate that more of this type of collaboration is required, especially if we can draw on the clinical expertise and know-how of front line

providers.

“By way of example, Mercy Health could administer vaccines to residents and staff in our aged-care homes. Like many providers, we provide annual vaccinations to staff and residents as part of our flu vaccination program, so the clinical skill and safety are readily available.”



Daily Prayers to St Joseph

“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”

To help celebrate the ‘Year of St Joseph’, which was declared by Pope Francis in December 2020, the Bishops Conference’s General Secretariat has been publishing monthly reflections. In addition, they have also made available daily prayers to St Joseph, which they hope will be useful to those in pastoral ministry and for personal prayer.

For prayers, please see attachment at the bottom of this e-News.



4 April: Pope Francis delivers his “urbi et orbi” Easter Message after celebrating Mass in St Peter’s Basilica.



4 April: Fr Junjun Amaya celebrates Mass on Easter Sunday as the sun rises over Hume Weir.



11 April: Bishop Shane Mackinlay celebrated Mass on the banks of the Murray River at the Knights of the Southern Cross Victoria's annual 'Barney's Picnic'.



Pope Francis on Twitter

In the midst of the contradictions and perplexities we must confront each day, the din of so many words and opinions, there is the quiet voice of the Risen Lord who keeps saying to us: "Peace be with you!"

Pope Francis 

@Pontifex

9:30 p.m. 13 April 2021

(Pope Francis has over 40 million followers on Twitter)



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"

DAILY PRAYERS

MONDAY

Saint Joseph,
head of the Holy Family,
you worked with Jesus and for him.
Together you knew the hardships and
demands of a daily routine.

Help us to work fruitfully
with one another,
and to make good use of the gifts
God has given each of us,
so that we may model our lives on you
and grow in a spirit of service
and commitment to the mission of Jesus,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

TUESDAY

Saint Joseph,
God the Father chose you,
his faithful and just servant,
to be united in love with Jesus and Mary.

As you served Jesus,
pray that we may serve him in all people.
May we, who honour you
as husband of Mary
and earthly father of Jesus,
always remain true
to what God asks of each of us.

May God grant us, through your prayer,
the acceptance, love and service
with which you responded
when the Father chose you
to care for Jesus, his Son,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

WEDNESDAY

Saint Joseph,
we come to you
with our cares and our worries
and confidently invoke
your prayer for us.

Through the love
which bound you to Mary
and to Jesus, her divine Son,
receive our prayers
and be our intercessor,
that we might know
your patronage and protection
in all our needs.

Unite our prayers to yours
and from heaven assist
us in our struggles and difficulties
until we shall attain
eternal happiness with you.

Amen.