Regeneration
Archbishop Doyle Writes

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past couple of months we have had reason to celebrate some of the great things that draw us together as Catholics and as members of our Tasmanian community.

The ordination of Sri Lankan born Fr Shammi Perera at St Mary’s Cathedral in December was undoubtedly the highlight. The enormously whole-hearted response to the St Vincent de Paul Society’s Vinnies Bushfire Appeal and the assistance provided by Centacare Tasmania was equally inspirational and demonstrated once again that the Catholic community will always rise to the occasion to help those in need.

The first ordination in Tasmania for many years, it was both a personal triumph for Fr Shammi and his mentor Fr Brian Nichols, and a most significant occasion for the Archdiocese. We were able to celebrate in style, with some 40 priests gathering to welcome our newest recruit and Fr Shammi’s mother and other members of his family travelling from Sri Lanka for the occasion. The ordination was followed by Fr Shammi’s first Masses at the Cathedral and Sacred Heart, before he enjoyed a well-earned break with his family in Sri Lanka, where he demonstrated his multilingual skills with his first Masses in Sinhalese (his native tongue) and Tamil.

Fr Shammi’s ordination follows an increasingly familiar pathway for the Church in Australia. While it is not important where they come from as long as they share our commitment as priests for the Catholic faith, are prepared to lead the word of Jesus, it would be extremely rewarding to see more local candidates taking their vows in the years ahead.

To compound the situation, our priests are ageing along with the rest of the population. Many are well past the official retirement age and some like me are continuing to serve well into their 70s.

The Archdiocese of Hobart, along with many others around the country, has been forced to look overseas for priests and candidates for the priesthood in recent times. We have been very fortunate here in Tasmania in the support we have received from our Nigerian priests and we are hoping the ordination of Fr Shammi will inspire a new generation of priests in the future.

While it is not important where they come from as long as they share our commitment to the Catholic faith, are prepared to lead by example and have a strong vocation to teach the word of Jesus, it would be extremely rewarding to see more local candidates taking their vows in the years ahead.

The entry of a new priest comes at an opportune time for the Archdiocese. We know that we will face additional demands from the end of this year when the Marist Fathers bring to an end their pastoral ministry in the Burnie-Wynyard parish. The Marists, who established Marist College in the late 1950s, have provided a priestly ministry in the Burnie-Cooee-Somerset-Yolla areas for over 50 years, and in recent years have taken responsibility for the Wynyard parish as well. We are most grateful for their service and will be truly sad to see them go, but with typical foresight they have given us plenty of time to prepare for their departure. It is most likely that we will need to appoint a priest from the Archdiocese to the Burnie-Wynyard parish from the start of next year.

In the meantime Fr Tony is building up parish resources by training more Leaders of the Celebration of the Word on Sundays as well as those who can conduct funeral services, and identifying potential candidates for the Permanent Diaconate.

The fearsome bushfires which hit Dunalley and other communities across the State left many people homeless and facing an uncertain future. St Vincent de Paul was quick to help through the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal which at the time of writing has raised close to $350,000 in financial contributions. I was privileged to see for myself the mountain of donated goods which overwhelmed the main collection centre at the Hobart Showgrounds.

I was also privileged to meet and thank a number of the hundreds of volunteers who gave so generously of their time to help sort and process the donations to ensure access to priority items for those who have lost everything.

The St Vincent de Paul relief effort and the Centacare offer of professional counselling, housing, clothing, footwear and other assistance provided a practical and effective way for Tasmanians to demonstrate their concern for those affected by the fires. I commend to your prayers all those whose lives have been impacted by the recent bushfires.

Yours sincerely in Christ

ADRIAN L DOYLE AM
Archbishop of Hobart

www.hobart.catholic.org.au
Since arriving in Tasmania in 2007, Dr Joseph Etta and his family, originally from Nigeria, have taken up a residency in Deloraine.

Dr Joseph took up a position as a general practitioner at the Deloraine Medical Clinic. In this picture, sent in by parishioner Chas Canden, the family are dressed in customary Nigerian attire. They regularly attend Fr Terry Yard’s Sunday Mass where Joseph Jr is learning the rules of altar serving.

Called as Josephite Associates

Ten women were enrolled as Josephite Associates at the Emmanuel Centre, Newstead on November 19, 2012.

This inaugural group have responded to the call to live the charism of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, the founders of the Sisters of St Joseph. The common thread that links the Associates and the Sisters is the centrality of the charism and the commitment to friendship, prayer and service.

Sr Mary Fermio rsj who is the Victorian/Tasmanian coordinator for the Associates travelled from Melbourne to officiate at the ceremony with many of the Tasmanian Sisters in attendance. Associates are people who have been called from all walks of life.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Josephite Associates please call the Emmanuel Centre on (03) 6334 1082.

Contemplating the Face of Christ

With the help of Emma Howard’s painting, Fr Michael Tate’s Lenten lectures will contemplate the face of Jesus as a Galilean Jew.

Emma Howard is a second year Fine Arts student at UTAS who has been commissioned to paint this portrait of Jesus more in keeping with his middle-eastern ethnicity.

This year’s Lenten lectures will be held in the foyer of Holy Spirit Church at Sandy Bay at 9.30 am and 7.00 pm on 21, 28 February and 7 March. All are welcome.

Correction

In the Christmas edition of The Tasmanian Catholic (Vol 8, Issue 6), an incorrect caption was placed on a photograph at the bottom of page 12.

The caption should have read: “Bernadette and Gary Dewhurst-Phillips, relatives of Irish convict Brigid Cassidy/Brewster, attended the centenary Mass dressed in period costume.”

The photograph related to the centenary celebrations at St Brigid’s, Wynyard.

We sincerely apologise for this error.

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Pugin panache in Hobart

Parishioners at St Joseph’s Church in Hobart can be rightly proud of their collection of Pugin treasures, now housed in a secure display case in the church. Unique items from the amazing output of English genius Augustus Welby Pugin have survived in Tasmania, often tucked away in back cupboards and in country churches. Chalices, candlesticks, chasubles, crucifixes, and stained glass were designed by Pugin to assist the new diocese from the 1840s on.

There are some interesting tales connected with the items. One chasuble survived because it was originally a Sarum Rite vestment which went out of liturgical fashion within the Roman Catholic Church and was cut down to be suitable for the Roman Rite; a chalice stem was shortened, but when re-assembled the middle section was inverted to read Pugin had a chalice – a gift from the Pope – melted down and remade to his design; and when workers tried to clean the window of the Annunciation they found it was deliberately made to look old.

There are fascinating details to Pugin’s work, such as the sand glazed into the soles of Jesus’ feet on the crucifix. Pugin decorated with great panache – over the top for some tastes, but sumptuous and rich to others. He believed that decoration raises the human spirit – surely needed by the convicts who were cared for by his friend, our first Bishop, Robert Willson.

Bush Walk from The Springs

The John Wallis Foundation Tasmania is organizing a community Bush Walk in Hobart on Saturday March 9, 2013.

Fr John Wallis himself was an avid bushwalker.

This fundraising event, which will commence from The Springs carpark, Mt Wellington, will have two walks offering two levels of difficulty over approximately eight kilometres. A BBQ lunch will also be provided.

Please ensure you have a waterproof coat, hat, water, sensible shoes (sandshoes are fine) and morning tea. Register at 9.00am at The Springs carpark for a 10.00am start.

The cost is $20.00 per adult, $5.00 per student/child: $5.00 and $40.00 per family.

Prior registrations would be preferred to aid in planning: You can register at johnwallisfoundation@gmail.com or contact Penny Edman on 0400 896 191. For more information visit the John Wallis Foundation Facebook page.

The John Wallis Foundation was established in 2010 to continue the work of the Missionary Sisters of Service (MSS), an order of Sisters established in Tasmania in 1944 by Fr John Wallis.

We hope to see you there!

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Fr Shammi Perera is ordained

St Mary’s Cathedral was packed to capacity over the weekend of December 8 and 9 as the Archdiocese of Hobart celebrated the ordination of its newest and youngest priest.

The ordination on the Saturday of Fr Shammi Perera by Archbishop Adrian Doyle was the first in Tasmania for eight years. Archbishop Doyle was joined for the ordination by around 40 priests, including a number who flew in from interstate especially for the occasion.

Fr Perera, 36, was born in Sri Lanka. His father died when he was a child, but his mother, brother, aunt, sister-in-law and other relatives and friends of the family came to Tasmania for the ordination.

In his address to the congregation, Fr Perera spoke of the many sacrifices his mother had made to raise her family and thanked her for her love and support.

The exquisite music, by Cathedral Musical Director Jamie Allen and the choir, was another highlight of the ceremony.

Fr Perera, who is multi-lingual, drew another capacity crowd when he celebrated his first English Mass in the Cathedral on the Sunday morning.

Prior to Christmas, Fr Perera travelled with his family for a homecoming visit to Sri Lanka, where he will celebrate Masses in both Sinhalese (his native tongue) and Tamil.

Upon his return to Tasmania, Fr Perera will take up his duties initially in the Cathedral parish.

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Tasmanians worship together after the fires

By Rev’d Dr Bob Faser, Liaison Officer, Tasmanian Council of Churches

On the morning of Saturday, January 19, 2013, an ecumenical service at St David’s Anglican Cathedral in Hobart provided an opportunity for Tasmanians of a variety of faith traditions to worship God together following the destructive bushfires earlier in the month, particularly in South-eastern Tasmania.

The congregation included a mixture of community leaders, representatives of the emergency services, people from areas directly affected by the fires, and members of a variety of congregations from around the region.

The service of prayers, scripture, and hymns was planned with the intention to pray for those who were fire-affected and to give thanks to God for the courage, compassion, and commitment of those who responded to the emergency.

The service included a homily by the Anglican Bishop of Tasmania, the Rt Rev’d John Harrower, and concluded with a blessing given by Archbishop Adrian Doyle. Clergy from the Uniting and Baptist churches and officers of The Salvation Army also participated.

As the diverse congregation gathered in one of the city’s traditional centres of prayer and worship, we were aware of the presence of a charred branch of a tree symbolic both of the destructiveness of the fires and of the promise of renewed life following the fires.

Tim Holmes, a survivor of the fires, spoke about how he and his family were sustained by their faith during the most dangerous moments of the fires.

The Rev’d Jill McCoy, rector of the Anglican Parish of Sorell, Richmond and Tasman, spoke about how the fire-affected communities of the South-east rose to the challenge of responding with compassion to the needs in their midst.

For many, the single most profound element of the service was the haunting “Largo ma non tanto” from J.S. Bach’s Concerto for Two Violins, played by Edwin and Rosalind Paling following the series of readings and talks, providing a moment of awe and contemplation and a “bridge” between the early part of the service and our prayers.

Major Graham Roberts, President of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, then led the congregation in prayer for the needs of fire-affected individuals, families, and communities, for members of the emergency services, and for those providing care to the distressed.

The TCC’s plans for long-term response to the bushfires includes offering training for clergy and lay people involved in pastoral care with people affected by natural disasters and other emergencies.

“As the diverse congregation gathered in one of the city’s traditional centres of prayer and worship, we were aware of the presence of a charred branch of a tree symbolic both of the destructiveness of the fires and of the promise of renewed life following the fires.”
Vinnies help heal hearts

By Vin Hindmarsh, State President, St Vincent de Paul Society

It’s a poignant reminder of what happens when people bind together.

In the hardest hit area around Dunalley, where people have lost their homes, their animals, their sheds and vehicles, they come seeking assistance. St Vincent de Paul Society has set up a marquee for bushfire victims in Dunalley, providing support, assistance and in almost every case, having someone on hand people can talk to.

These stories will be told over and over in the weeks ahead, and alongside the trauma, the grief and sometimes guilt, the reality is a full recovery will take years.

Someone at Dunalley said: “We’ve lost our home, but we’ve still got our lives. It took the bushfire to make me realise that.”

While groping for words, another said, “There’s nothing more powerful than the human spirit.”

These lines are no longer clichés. They’re as real as the corrugated iron shed that got left standing on the property of one Dunalley resident.

“We see St Vincent de Paul Society as a conduit for human hearts.”

The healing will be helped by the generosity of Tasmanians, who have kicked in with donations to all the charities, and St Vincent de Paul Society in particular.

The wider Vinnies network has rallied, from as far away as Karratha, Townsville, Lismore. Parishes took up the appeal with a second collection, and people in every community have given material donations by way of clothes, shoes, toys, bedding, toiletries. Volunteers have rallied to Vinnies’ Collection depots, on some days a hundred at a time. As one person said: “We see St Vincent de Paul Society as a conduit for human hearts.”

Financial donations are preferable for the long term recovery process but donations of toiletries, bedding and clothing are immediately useful items in this bushfire appeal.

“There’s nothing more powerful than the human spirit.”

Big Bushfire Collection

Catholic congregations gave generously to two special bushfire collections at Masses last month.

Archbishop Adrian Doyle said that so far more than $50,000 had been counted, with more to come.

The Archbishop said the response reflected the overwhelming generosity of Tasmanians in times of need.

“This is a fantastic effort and it is particularly generous when we know the early part of the year can be quite costly for many families as they prepare for a new school year,” Archbishop Doyle said.

“I am very proud of the way our Catholic community has contributed to the wonderful community support that has been evident right across Tasmania for those who lost their homes and businesses, as well as all the others affected by the fires.”

The Vinnies Bushfire Appeal has so far raised more than $350,000 to help those affected by the fires.

In addition to providing immediate assistance, the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal will help in the long-term recovery of affected communities.

Donations can be made online at www.vinnies.org.au/tas or by phone at 131812 or 6333 0822 during business hours. A tax deductible receipt will be provided by St Vincent’s on request.
Thursday, January 3, 2013 started as any other office day would for Catholic Development Fund (CDF) Treasury Manager, Chris Ryan. But by 2pm, the heat and strong winds outside had set him on high alert for a call-out as a volunteer fire-fighter at Cambridge Fire Brigade. At 2.13pm that call came through.

Chris and six of his colleague volunteer firefighters were part of the first response team at a bush fire on Middle Tea Tree Road, near Richmond.

As they were heading down Richmond Road in the tanker, Chris looked over to his right to see a huge plume of smoke coming from the south-east – towards Forcett and the Tasman Peninsula, “Oh my God...there’s another one!” he said.

Chris Ryan at the Tea Tree fire. This photo originally appeared on the front page of The Mercury, Friday, January 4, 2013.

At that point, said Chris, “The adrenaline kicks into gear and you just get on with it.”

“We’re trained to deal with fear through the discipline of a structured approach to fighting fires.

“Our initial focus is ideally to extinguish the fire at Tea Tree. When it was obvious we couldn’t achieve this immediately, we went into Plan B,” said Chris.

‘Plan B’ involved containing the fire as much as possible and establishing safe edges with assistance of bulldozers and various techniques. The task was completed by around 9.30pm with the Firies going home to rest up for what they knew would be another big day on Friday.

That Friday, with Hobart enduring its hottest day for 130 years, will be remembered not only for the wild fires but for the skills and bravery of the firefighters who risked their lives to save the lives of others. Chris’ brigade was sent to Delmore Road, Forcett, to save a number of houses which were in the path of the fires. “We made the decision very quickly to stay and protect the houses. We had a clear path around the properties and an escape route if needed,” said Chris. Their efforts paid off. Some personnel in the region were sent home to rest at midnight, while others continued overnight.

Over the next six days, Chris and many of his Cambridge Brigade colleagues continued their assignment around the Tasman Peninsula, Buckland and Lake Repulse sites.

The father of two young girls, Lucy and Alice, and husband of Alanna then returned to work at CDF the next day, Friday, albeit a little weary.

Chris’s unassuming manner while he shares this experience belies the selfless contribution that all our volunteer fire-fighters make towards keeping the community safe. There are approximately 4,800 dedicated volunteers – men and women – drawn from the local community, in addition to career fire-fighters.

Chris has been a ‘vollie’ for six years. He says he wants to make a ‘tangible difference’ as community service is ‘in the blood’. Chris’ grandfather was a career police officer and his twin brother is also a career police officer – his father having been involved in the ‘67 bushfires as an SES officer.

There would be many among us who would want to thank Chris and all firefighters for putting themselves on the line. He would like to thank Archdiocesan Business Manager, Peter Cusick, for the generosity in granting leave for the entire week.

At the ready
For many years, Bernard’s life was spiralling out of control. Thanks to your support, Project Compassion partner Red Dust Healing helped him see the world in a whole new way.

Bernard grew up in Gumbayngirr (Nambucca Heads), on the north coast of New South Wales. The youngest of 13 children, his father left when he was only one and Bernard always felt it was his responsibility to keep everyone together.

“There were arguments in the family and there were problems with the drink and drugs. I did what I could to comfort my mum as much as possible.”

From a young age, Bernard had a strong bond with his mum whom he loved deeply. However, when his cousins called out for their dad on family camping trips, Bernard realised how important a father is to a household, and as he got older, he thought more about his dad.

For many years, Bernard bottled up his feelings. He managed to do very well at school and in 1996 he became the second ever Aboriginal school captain at Nambucca Heads High School. However two years later, his beloved mum passed away.

“That really hit me hard. I was so close to her. We would sit down and talk about anything, mostly on our fishing trips. I would always tell Mum I loved her; when she cried, I cried – and then she was gone.”

After losing his mum, Bernard also lost direction in his life. In an attempt to forget the pain, he turned to drugs and alcohol, with his addiction lasting many years. In 2005, at the age of 25, Bernard was admitted to hospital.

While there, one of his brothers contacted his father, who came to visit. His dad told Bernard that he’d never forgotten about him, so together, they made plans for a fishing trip on Father’s Day.

Although his father was back in his life and Bernard was feeling more comfortable with their new-found relationship, he was still desperately grieving the loss of his mum.

A close friend told Bernard about Tom Powell’s Red Dust Healing – a healing program for Indigenous men and women. Bernard was invited to spend four days at Red Dust Healing in Crescent Head, NSW. The program provided a safe space to talk and Bernard said it changed everything: “Now I know how to express how I feel. I know that it’s good to talk about things, to get it out and not bottle it up inside.”

He still remembers the pictures and stories that Red Dust Healing used to help him, like the image of a tree: “You can poison (the roots of a tree) with anger, resentment and jealousy and all those negative things that will harm the tree … Good nutrients are love, respect, belonging, sacrifice, morals, shelter, nurturing and sharing. They are the things that make your life work and they let you have good relationships. Now I just keep going back to that. I just build them into my life.”

Bernard also found his cultural roots. During a six-day festival in northeast Arnhem Land, he was adopted by a traditional and spiritual family.

A proud Gumbayngirr man, Bernard’s now a Court Support Officer for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and recently became a father.

Determined to always be there for his daughter, he understands how important his role within family life is. “I want to keep the good nutrients coming into my home … without Tom and Red Dust Healing I don’t know where I would be today”.

“Red Dust Healing has taught me about being a man and being a father.”

A close friend told Bernard about Tom Powell’s Red Dust Healing – a healing program for Indigenous men and women.
Healing

“The program encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within; without drugs or alcohol.”

About the program

Red Dust Healing emphasises that once a person begins healing from their own experiences of rejection they can break the cycle, choosing not to pass on those experiences to the next generation.

Family is central to Red Dust Healing’s philosophy of identity and belonging. Many of the ‘good nutrients’ (love, respect, safety) come directly from families and loved ones.

Red Dust Healing is a specific cultural healing program written from an Indigenous perspective. It aims to engage Indigenous men, women and families to recognise and confront problems, hurt and anger in their lives, stemming primarily from rejection and grief.

The program makes use of visual holistic learning modules, linking Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures, to help participants with their individual insights and the journey of personal growth and wellbeing. It also includes individual case management plans and ongoing support for participants through reminders of the tools of Red Dust Healing. Importantly, the program also involves a ‘train the trainer’ component, training individuals to enable them to run the Red Dust Healing program with their own community.

The workshops are well received by participants. Furthermore, the program has led to tangible positive outcomes for participants, including increased rates of employment, decreased incidence of domestic violence and reduction in re-offending rates. The program also aims to reduce levels of substance abuse, and promote empowerment amongst communities.

“He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers.” Malachi 4:6

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Abortion: it's

By Dr Brigid McKenna MBBS, Research Officer, Cath

L ast year, during her speech to the Labor State Conference, Premier Giddings announced the government’s intention to bring forward ‘reform’ of our abortion laws. Thankfully, we’re yet to see the introduction of a bill. Nevertheless, at the start of a new year it pays to spend some time thinking about what abortion law reform could mean for Tasmanians.

At the outset, let’s be clear about one thing: abortion is already legal and accessible in Tasmania.

A woman can obtain an abortion if a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology and another doctor both agree that the continuation of the pregnancy would involve greater risk of injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman than if the pregnancy were terminated.

“No-one, especially Christians, should desire to see women suffer as the result of abortion.”
Furthermore, there is no minimum age requirement for a woman undergoing an abortion; no maximum age limit for the unborn child; and in the case of minors, no requirement for parental consent or notification. Based on the judgment of two doctors, even a teenage girl could undergo a late term abortion in Tasmania without her parents’ knowledge.

The push for law reform appears to be primarily about removing the ‘unlawful’ stigma attached to abortion and rebranding it as a ‘reproductive health service.’ Although amended in 2001, laws relating to abortion are still contained within the Tasmanian Criminal Code, where, it is claimed, they impose difficulty and shame upon women.

No-one, especially Christians, should desire to see women suffer as the result of abortion. However, it is the act of abortion, not the law, which can result in profound grief, heartache, guilt, shame and anger. Writing to women who have had abortions, Pope John Paul II explains:

“The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains wrong but do not give into discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To the same Father and his mercy you can with sure hope entrust your child.” (The Gospel of Life, 99)

Already, too many innocent lives have been ended just as they were beginning. Too many women have been left wondering about what might have been, or grieving for what they know they lost. It is because the Church understands the devastation caused by abortion that we oppose moves to further endanger women and their unborn children by dressing abortion up as a ‘quick fix’ medical procedure when it is so much more.

There is also the danger that changes to Tasmanian abortion laws will go well beyond codifying current clinical practice. As a result of the decriminalisation of abortion in Victoria, women there can now undergo abortion for any reason until 24 weeks of pregnancy; beyond this stage an abortion can be performed up until birth provided there is the consent of two doctors.

Current Tasmanian law requires doctors to at least provide counselling about the medical risk, as well as referring women to counselling about other matters. Additionally, no person is under a duty to participate in abortion, refer for abortion, or provide counselling for abortion. In Victoria there are no legal requirements for counselling and informed consent, and doctors, nurses, pharmacists and psychologists with a conscientious objection to abortion must refer a woman seeking an abortion to a practitioner who does not share their beliefs.

Amongst other things, Victoria’s laws also allow pharmacists or nurses, without involvement of a doctor, to supply or administer drugs to cause an abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy; if a doctor directs them, they are compelled to do so.

The Law is a great educator. On the first anniversary of the decriminalisation of abortion in their State, the Bishops of Victoria wrote:

“Now that abortion has been decriminalised, many people will assume that it is therefore moral and acceptable. This further corrupts and confuses people and may make it harder for a woman to resist abortion, especially if her partner or family do not support her motherhood.

Tasmanians cannot allow decriminalisation to proceed and give strength to the fallacy that abortion is ‘just an ordinary medical procedure.’ Despite its inadequacies, the legal status quo reminds us what is at stake with abortion. In so doing it protects at least some human lives and mothers’ hearts, and reminds us of our individual and collective responsibility to find better ways of affirming and supporting women and men in the roles of mother and father.

Decriminalising abortion will make a bad situation worse. Tasmanian women and their unborn children deserve better than this.

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A complete list of CWLA Research Centre Parliamentary Submissions is available at www.cwla.org.au.
Liturgical Renewal: Sound, Space Presence.

As part of the Conference, the public was invited to attend a lecture by Dr Clare V Johnson, senior Lecturer in Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology from the Australian Catholic University. The title was ‘Transcending Text: Liturgy as medium of evangelisation 50 years after Vatican II’. Dr Johnson was eminently suited to the task, being a noted musician as well as liturgist, theologian and academic.

Her most recent published work is a contribution to Vatican II: reception and implementation in Australia. (Garrett 2012) A capacity crowd filled the hall of St Francis Xavier’s Catholic Church in South Hobart to hear this very engaging speaker, followed by Rev D’Arcy Wood, former President of the Uniting Church in Australia and the Australian Academy of Liturgy, who gave a most interesting response.

Of course, any talk about Liturgy and Vatican II in Hobart has to include the formidable Archbishop Sir Guilford Young DD, who enthusiastically promoted lay participation in the liturgy even before the Council and who, at 31, still holds the record as the youngest Australian to be ordained a bishop. Clare’s descriptions of him as the ‘episcopal equivalent of George Clooney’ and a ‘liturgical super star’– were appreciated by the many members of the audience who knew him.

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From the Director

2013 United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation

As we begin the new school year, we in Tasmania have the memory of the bushfires still at the forefront of our consciousness. We are grateful that none of our families suffered loss of life. We rejoice that such generosity of spirit has been in evidence in addressing the needs of those families who have lost their homes.

2013 has been declared the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. UNESCO is trusted with the work of raising awareness at all levels of the international community of the supreme importance of water as a gift more precious than gold. All who live on this planet are entitled to have access to clean, life-giving water. It is fitting that we take the opportunity this year offers to realise again the importance of water for the survival and flourishing of all life, both day to day, and as a means of quelling the massive fires that ravaged out of control this summer across our nation.

The objective of the United Nations International Year is to "Raise awareness, both of the potential for increased cooperation, and of the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services …" (UN website).

Caritas Australia states on its website that, "Over the past century, unclean water, poor sanitation and unsafe hygiene practices have claimed more lives than anything else. Today, 1.1 billion people do not have access to clean water, while 2.5 billion people don’t have proper sanitation facilities”.

As we plan learning programs for our students this year, we can recommit ourselves through Science, Geography, Religious Education, Mathematics, Language and so on to educate our students towards:

- an understanding of the earth’s precious resources as gifts from God
- a sense of shared responsibility and compassion for all those living in our local and global communities, especially those denied the right to the basic needs that support life
- respectful, sustainable ways of living as Tasmanians in this unique island environment, while also remaining mindful that we are global citizens.
Every year in December, Grade 6 students in the southern region show appreciation for their primary education as they gather together and celebrate Mass with Archbishop Adrian Doyle. Those less fortunate are remembered too with goodies being brought for the Vinnie’s Christmas hampers.

Caritas Australia works within the education sector across Australia to promote global justice through leadership.

The purpose of the Just Leadership days is to encourage and enable students to be actively involved in challenging injustice and to develop the leadership qualities necessary to encourage others to do the same.

With the wonderful support of Sr Margaret Henderson from the CEO and Pat O’Halloran, Diocesan Director of Caritas, all Tasmanian primary schools – apart from two on the West Coast – attend a Caritas Just Leadership day. We have plans to rectify the situation in the west!

Over 100 students from fourteen schools attended the day at Corpus Christi Bellerive. Through hands on activities, multimedia and discussion, students learn global facts and figures and about the work of Caritas Australia. They identify and have opportunities to develop leadership skills to equip them not only to lead the Project Compassion campaign in the following year, but to encourage fellow students to be aware of their unequal world, to recognise the interdependence of humanity and to work within their local and global communities to create a fairer and more sustainable world.

“To be a good leader you have to stand up for what you believe in. You have to persuade and to explain. You have to have courage.”

“Jesus took action and look what He did. He stood up for His beliefs. He told us to love our neighbours.”

Mary Anne Collins, Caritas Global Education Advisor
moving on

We mark many rites of passage in our lives and, for students leaving Catholic Colleges, graduation is a big one. Students celebrate with final assemblies, leavers' tops, hugs, concerts, speech nights, service of others, dinners and formals, Masses and liturgies, guards of honour, pranks, pride, handing on of leadership roles, awards, tears, relief and various local rituals ...

Our camera caught a few leavers at the end of 2012.
Star of the Sea Catholic College is making the most of its special location on the foreshore at George Town, close to the town centre and right next to the church. They are also making the most of their special location on the riverbank, which is being turned into a beautiful garden area. The Preps enjoy the ‘restscape’ – a recent addition to the school’s garden area, which should be ready mid-2013 and will continue to develop. The College community recently won a NAB Schools First Seed Funding Award of $15,000 for their outstanding school community 2012 partnership and to sign local artists and support the local St Vincent de Paul Store to visit and support Ainslie Aged Care facility.

If smiles and engagement are a measure of how well a school is performing, this one is at the top! Students are supported, stimulated, have fun and enjoy rich, grounded learning experiences. One such learning experience is the boatbuilding and model making class with teacher/mentor Richard Fleming. The wooden boats are totally made from scratch, from design to actual boat. The six models produced a soft and a punt. The six models were taken on the school end-of-year picnic and raced. As well as the skills learnt, the value of the boats contributed as well as the making of models comes with the patience involved in sticking to a long, often laborious process and the pride in a job well done.

The College community recently won a NAB Schools First Seed Funding Award of $15,000 for their outstanding school community 2012 partnership involving the development of the Early Childhood garden in partnership with the Junior School. The College community recently won a NAB Schools First Seed Funding Award of $15,000 for their outstanding school community 2012 partnership involving the development of the Early Childhood garden. The College community recently won a NAB Schools First Seed Funding Award of $15,000 for their outstanding school community 2012 partnership involving the development of the Early Childhood garden.

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Tasmania’s inaugural Teachers Leading Learning Conference in December tapped into the knowledge and expertise of local educators, creating time and space for teachers to learn from one another.

About 110 participants from Guilford Young College (the organiser and host, in partnership with UTAS), Association Colleges, St Patrick’s College, Launceston, and UTAS undergraduate students gave the one-day conference strong endorsement.

“This feedback indicates that the conference was a resounding success and provides concrete evidence to support this concept as a popular model for professional learning moving forward in the coming years,” organiser Mr Stephen Barratt said.

“There are many exceptional Tasmanian educators who deliver high quality programs and provide engaging learning opportunities for students within the secondary sector of education,” he said. “How often though, during the busy school year, do we create space for colleagues to learn from each other or opportunities for teachers to share their practice?”

The conference aimed to provide that opportunity, offering a platform for teachers across the education sectors to share their ideas, research and practice.

Mr Barratt, a Manager of Teaching and Learning at GYC, said that as well as consolidating teachers’ understanding of the topic that they were presenting/sharing, such interaction also helped them modify their practices to improve student learning; promoted ideas, resource sharing and rich dialogue as well as developing strong professional networks.

The Deputy Head of School and a Senior Lecturer in Education Studies in the Faculty of Education at the University of Tasmania, Dr Jeanne Allen, set the tone for the day when she delivered the keynote address to officially open the conference. Thirty workshops in eight broad areas were presented throughout the day by educators from Catholic colleges and the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office.

Penny Edman, Manager of Communications GYC

Photo: L-R: GYC’s Director of Ministry Hobart Campus Kyle Sullivan and Glenorchy Campus Mathematics teacher Jane Morrison discuss study options with UTAS representative Holly Irving, Marketing and Recruitment Officer, UTAS.

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Tim Claridge is the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office’s Engagement and Transitions Education Officer. He’s employed under the MEAST program – Maximising Engagement, Attainment and Successful Transition.

Tim is a circuit-breaker with a statewide brief. He provides short-term ‘coaching’ for disengaged students and early leavers. The aim is to rekindle or refocus their interest in school and encourage them to go on to Years 11/12 or to training.

Tim takes a whole-family approach, working with the students and their parents as well as the school. His involvement is whole-hearted and intensive, including personally picking up individual students and taking them to school, if necessary.

Since taking up the position in April 2011, Tim has counselled 67 students from Year 6 to Year 12. Results have been positive in two out of three cases, with 18 students continuing their education at another school, five taking up a VET course, apprenticeship or job, and 23 improving their school attendance.
above average!

John Paul II Catholic School is in Clarendon Vale and caters for 144 students. It may be a small school away from major centres, but it’s proving it can hold its own in several spheres.

- The whole school community was very excited by their PIPS (Performance Indicators in Primary Schools) scores in Literacy and Numeracy with the highest score in Maths and the second highest in Reading in Tasmania – well above national average in both. Thanks go to such dedicated staff as Jade Vecchione, Prep /Grade One teacher, who was a national finalist for the AITSL (Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership) early childhood teacher of the year award.

- Budding engineers and scientists loved the Solar Car Challenge – another great success. Teams from John Paul II won the event, came second and created a track record of 3.5 seconds. Competing against St Virgil’s, Mt Carmel, Collegiate and Friends, John Paul II also won the best design award as judged by UTAS engineering faculty.

- This year will see a dedicated bus service from Cambridge along Acton Road to Seven Mile Beach, Lauderdale, Sandford, Oakdowns, Glebe Hill and back to John Paul II. The bright design of the bus identifies it very closely with this special place of learning.

The school is always on the lookout for ways to enhance the children’s learning experiences. A recent highlight was the entry into the Hobart Christmas Pageant in 2012 and a regular feature is the trip to Canberra every second year for senior students.

Enquiries about this or new enrolments
Contact Principal Jim Ireland on 0419 896 401, the school office (03) 6247 7104 or johnpaul@catholic.tas.edu.au

GO JPII! GET ON THE BUS
Five minutes with Tony Brennan

Last November, Tony Brennan took up the position of Team Leader, Mission and Religious Education at the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office.

He has worked in Catholic secondary colleges in Southern Tasmania for the last 24 years in various roles including teacher, religious education coordinator, deputy principal, grade coordinator and ministry coordinator.

His great loves are social justice and music. As a singer and guitarist, Tony has played and sung for many Masses and liturgies as well as bursting into song at every opportunity in the classroom. He also fronts a popular Hobart band called the Ray Martians. His social justice interests have seen him promote the Justice Network for students, lead street retreats, and gain a Diploma of Social Justice Studies. His focus has been with the St Vincent de Paul Society and he has been an active member for many years (since Grade 11 at St Virgil’s) and currently holds the position of president of the Southern Regional Council.

Tony, a ‘cradle Catholic’ and ‘child of the council’, was born in 1965 in Colac, Victoria, the year the Second Vatican Council ended. He is the eldest of eight children to Adrian and Lynette Brennan. His father worked at the ABC as a technician which led the family to Hobart where Tony attended Mt Stuart Primary School and then St Virgil’s College, before studying at the University of Tasmania. Tony has three children: Jessica is currently training as a paramedic; Micah is at Guilford Young College, while Amelia is studying at St Mary’s college.

Keen to make a difference in his new role, Tony is grateful for his training and experience, but his first move has been to visit our schools and colleges, meet the staff and ask what they need. He has great admiration for the extraordinary job being done by these teachers in very challenging times.

Tony admits it is a different atmosphere in a quiet office compared to the numerous interactions which are part of the school day.

“At least”, he quips, “you don’t have to pick up any papers in the yard at the CEO!”

Tony is passionate about his faith and particularly about passing on a love of spirituality and a thirst for social justice.

Young people are asking critical questions that teachers need to give authentic responses to, not just provide pat answers. If he can help provide adequate support, theologically and spiritually, to help this happen, he will be a very happy man!
No ordinary courage: Donna Mulhearn

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace”
St Francis of Assisi

Born and raised Catholic, Donna Mulhearn came to prominence ten years ago for being a human shield during the war in Iraq. To some, Donna came across as a naive peace activist, to others a traitor, but she says her decision was based on her solid personal commitment summed up in the peace prayer of St Francis of Assisi.

“It wasn’t a political act, and I didn’t consider myself a peace activist, just an ordinary person with a spirituality trying to follow my Christian beliefs and wanting to do that in an authentic way,” says Donna.

When she returned to Australia from Iraq, Donna found she had become the face of political activism and the recipient of some public anger. She also paid a physical toll from her time spent in the war zone. Later, part of her own process of physical and emotional healing came about through practising Christian Meditation under the leadership of Fr Lawrence Freeman. “My spirituality saved me from going crazy,” says Donna.

For the past two years, Donna Mulhearn has been working with the Edmund Rice Centre in Balmain, Sydney, promoting engagement with social justice issues, particularly amongst young people. “(The Eddie Rice Network) provides the space for people to explore the question ‘how can I make a difference?’ together as a community. It’s a journey of action and reflection and conversion for all of us,” says Donna.

The former youth worker, journalist and political advisor visited Tasmania late last year with Edmund Rice to tell her story and to inspire us in our journeys of faith, reflection and action. Donna has written a memoir, Ordinary Courage, about her journey to Iraq. She shares the anguished moments between her and her family, the friendships she makes with fellow human shields who’ve come from all around the globe and with ordinary Iraqi people. Then the harsh realities: “Jean-Michel and I head down to St Raphael’s Catholic Hospital. We are greeted warmly by Sr Maryanne Pierre...She converses in French...When she remembers I do not speak French, she apologises and then says softly and slowly in simple English: ‘We are losing the unborn.’ In her heavy accent she explains that many pregnant women have come to the hospital in the past few days having suffered a miscarriage. She says the women lost their babies after suffering extreme physical shock because of the constant bombing. She also tells us about young children who have arrived in a state of hysteria...Their fear makes them vomit, tremble violently, hypertervililate.” (p169)

These harrowing accounts are interspersed with excerpts of Donna’s live interviews from Baghdad with the Australian media. The book also details some of the tensions and differing agendas between the human shields themselves.

“A lot of peace activists are angry people,” says Donna. She says the key to avoiding burnout is to keep communicating with others and reflect upon the reasons you are taking action. Donna has returned to Iraq several times as a humanitarian aid worker. She was part of an international team of volunteers that established a small NGO, Our Home – Iraq, which set up a shelter for street-kids in Baghdad, a centre for traumatised children, and the provision of emergency aid to displaced families.

At the time of writing, Donna had just left Australia for Iraq. You can follow her journey at www.pilgrimstoryteller.com.

The Tasmanian Catholic has one copy of Ordinary Courage, signed by Donna Mulhearn, to give away to a reader. To win, answer this question: Where is the Edmund Rice Centre located in Tasmania? Send your answers to: tascath@aohtas.org.au or The Tasmanian Catholic magazine, GPO Box 62, Hobart TAS, 7001. By Friday March 8, 2013.
Welcoming the neighbour in need

By Adrian Sullivan

My wife, Cathy Sullivan, hosted some of the first detention centre overflows in Hobart prior to Christmas. She applied to the Australian Homestay Network for some refugees because she has disagreed with the current practice of locking up asylum seekers and wanted to do something other than write letters.

She was surprised to be offered two of the first nine to come to Tasmania in early October. Sugan and Kugan arrived to a cold Hobart day from Christmas Island, Weipa and Brisbane. They had fled Sri Lanka as Tamils when their families managed to raise $15,000 each to get a place on a boat.

Men of military age were disappearing and found shot by some of the Sri Lankan authorities “enforcing” the peace.

While Sugan and Kugan were with us they heard their sister’s husband, an accountant, had left for work but did not arrive. They believe he has been shot.

They had large smiles on their faces when they first phoned home upon arrival here. It was the first time their families knew they were alive in six months.

Apparently they were cramped in a boat for three weeks directly from Sri Lanka to Christmas Island. They were seasick and had no food or drink during the last week. They survived storms but were in mist as they neared Christmas Island. Apparently that was good because it meant they were not detected by the feared Indonesian Navy and they cheered seeing a large Australian Navy boat.

They have a more humane reputation. While here their Red Cross case managers have found them work on North West coast dairy farms. They also met (then) Deacon Shammi Perera who had been asked by his Bishop to learn Tamil language and he has certainly made them feel at home. The two brothers made a big effort to come down from Smithton to be at Shammi’s Ordination.

The Australian Homestay Network, originally set up to provide international students placements in Australian homes, has a new initiative to provide short-term accommodation to asylum seekers.

“The scheme is being promoted by the Australian Human Rights Commission, which has long called for a far greater use of community-based arrangements for asylum seekers.”

The scheme is being promoted by the Australian Human Rights Commission, which has long called for a far greater use of community-based arrangements for asylum seekers pending the resolution of their protection claims.

The Network is looking for more families in urban areas who have a spare room to be rented to these refugees.

From our experience it has been worthwhile for us all.

For more information please visit: www.homestaynetwork.org/cpn
St Aloysius Riana
history reclaimed

By Elizabeth Nickols

When the Penguin History Group was preparing its annual exhibition in 2008 on “Churches in Penguin and surrounding districts”, only one lady could remember the Catholic Church at Riana where her mother had attended Mass.

A small working group searched through the dense bush until they found the brick foundations. The area was cleared and a notice placed near the roadside to mark the location, but it was not until the end of the year, that a photo was found and the suggestion made to add a plaque.

While the plaque shows the photo of St Aloysius’ Church, it means very little without remembering the people who made up the community.

John Counsel built the original church on Pine Road in the early 1890s. Within a stone’s throw of John’s front door, the timber structure was made of weatherboard inside and out. Archbishop Delaney’s diary, December 26, 1897, read: “I found a church at Pine Road. It was neatly kept, lamp always alight before the Blessed Sacrament...What a blessing to people young and old!”

Many of the poorer families from South Riana and outlying districts had difficulty in getting to Mass, so a meeting was called in the early 1920s and despite strong opposition a decision was made to remove, enlarge and remodel the building. The Catholic Church purchased land further up the gravel road connecting Riana and South Riana.

Jim Mulligan and Snow McKenna were responsible for the relocation of the church, which was moved by a bullock team. The newly renovated church, with added porch and sacristy, was officially opened on Sunday 28 June, 1924 and remained in use until the early 1950s. In 1956, the church building was sold and removed.

If we could look back in time, we would see the families arriving earlier than necessary on a Sunday morning, as it was probably the only chance they had to meet up each month. Some would walk five miles each way from their family farm at South Riana, fasting from midnight, as was the custom in those days. Others arrived by horse and jinker, and a few by car.

If it was possible to walk into the church in 1925, the following families would have been seen in the pews:

Three Counsel families - with Phonz rolling a cigarette after Communion, ready to smoke outside after Mass

The McHughes – James, John and Albert with their wives and children as well as Nellie and her brother Patrick (of whom ‘The Wild Irishman’ reported in The Standard: ‘To hear Pat McHugh on the Irish bagpipes on St Patrick’s Day was enough to make a stone or bronze statue dance!’)

Mary Corbett and her 15 surviving children

Arnold Conroy with sons Alan and Colin

Jim Bishop, his wife and children

Ray Wyatt, the headmaster at Riana school

Mrs Grealey and Mrs Dicker from Carmen Town – if they could find a way to get there – as well as the Stott, Stafford, Short, Lynch, Radford, Mulligan and Mahoney families.

Families stood facing the road while they talked, watching for the tell tale cloud of dust coming up the hill, so they could dash into their places before Fr Martin Dowling arrived in his Terraplane car, to hear confessions before Mass. Fr Dowling was a fiery Irish priest, an educated man with very strong religious convictions. Well known for his ‘fire and brimstone’ sermons, and some strong political views, he was both liked and feared by parishioners and non-parishioners, particularly the children, who were often too scared to answer his catechism questions, even if they knew the answer!

There are many stories that can be told about him, like the day when he was in a bad humour to start with, didn’t like what he saw on the collection plate and so hurled it down the aisle!

But despite all the incidents, Fr Dowling was better remembered as an eloquent speaker and a very kind man, whose temper was gone as quickly as it erupted. He had an excellent singing voice and a great love of music. On one occasion, he borrowed the Church of England organ for a mission. A young Madge Counsel was to play, but her legs were too short to reach both pedals. She could only manage one, so one of the McHugh boys was called in to pump the other!

These are the people in whose memory the plaque was blessed and dedicated by Fr John Girdauskas last November at the site St Aloysius’ Church stood – from 1924 to 1956. Descendants of several pioneering families attended including Wyvernne Goss of Scottsdale, granddaughter of John Counsel.
The 40th Anniversary of the Blessing and Opening of Our Lady of Lourdes Church was celebrated on Sunday, November 4, 2012. Beginning with Mass at 10.30am and followed by a light luncheon in the Parish Hall, the church was comfortably full. After the greeting and welcome parishioners were invited to share with each other their memories of the Church. Several people stood and shared some memories before we continued with the celebration of Mass.

The small organising committee had arranged the Parish Hall with tables seating groups of four to six. Each setting had a laminated placemat depicting photos of past priests and religious sisters which many parishioners collected following the luncheon of soup, sandwiches and home baked slices and cakes.

A PowerPoint slideshow with images of the plans, construction, working bees and blessing of the church played throughout the luncheon. This included photos of many of the Parish Priests and Assistant Priests who have led the OLOL community over the past 40 years, enabling many more memories to be shared. It was a most enjoyable occasion.

Archbishop Sir Guilford Young, the then Archbishop of Hobart, blessed and opened the ‘Peace Memorial’ Church on November 5, 1972.

A CD with this presentation and the collected historical documents of the early church in the Devonport area is available from the OLOL Piety shop for $2.00.
Global Catholic TV is here!

Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), Global Catholic Television was started by Mother Angelica, a Poor Clare Nun, in the United States, in 1981 and since then it has expanded to broadcast throughout the world in several languages.

EWTN provides spiritual programming teaching the faith to young and old alike. The independently-run service also airs many devotional programs such as live Daily Mass, Benediction, The Holy Rosary, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. It features various Catholic movies, dramas, and documentaries which aim to inspire, entertain, and strengthen.

It has a wide variety of children’s programming such as animated stories from the New Testament, The Roamin’ Catholic with Rob Wahl, Truth is in the Heart and many other educational programs which teach aspects of faith to children of all ages.

There is also a news service, interviews, stories and Vatican insights from a Catholic perspective. There are also Q&A programs where questions about all aspects of the faith posted on www.ewtn.com are answered on air, and original television series such as Bible studies, Meditations, talk shows, and other programs which educate lesser known aspects of the faith.

Moonah-Lutana parishioner Peter Mansour first got EWTN on satellite to their family TV about five years ago. He says, “It has transformed and revitalised our spiritual life. And it has inspired us to more fully live our beautiful Catholic faith.”

EWTN certainly has an “American” flavour to its programming, but there are plenty of interesting and informative programs – particularly the historical documentaries – which you might otherwise never get to see on regular, secular television channels.

EWTN is a free-to-air channel which relies on donations from the public for its ongoing operation. To get the service you only need to pay for the installation of the satellite dish – between $350 and $475 – depending on location. You also retain all of your existing channels. To get connected please call Clara Curtis (EWTN Australia) on 0451 679 561 or email australia@ewtn.com.
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A Friendly Guide to Vatican II
Author: Max Vodola
ISBN 9781921946301
Publisher: Garratt Publishing
RRP $24.95

The title ‘a friendly guide’ situates this book in the series of user-friendly introductions to religious topics published by Garratt’s and its glossy, coloured cover and length of just 48 pages certainly make it inviting to the generalist reader.

The textual content of this book is most interesting and lives up to the title. As a cradle Catholic who experienced the Council as a primary school student, I haven’t previously had the historical perspective to really understand its import. As a Tasmanian Catholic, I have simply spent the last 50 years travelling the new direction the Council put the Church. The Council was called by Pope John XXIII in 1959; it began on October 11, 1962 and finished during the pontificate of Pope Paul VI on December 8, 1965. It was a council promoting the renewal and updating which is still in progress.

The author, Reverend Dr Max Vodola, is an historian and parish priest who engaged Tasmanian audiences last year with his thorough knowledge of the story of the Second Vatican Council when he gave the Wallis lectures. His approach in this book is very much that of the historian. He reminds us that the ‘context of the time was crucial’ and includes a timeline which correlates the events of the Council with those of the world.

Fr Max gives the historical background of the Council, including tables of previous ecumenical councils and influential theologians of the day; but a full quarter of the book is given to the life and influence of that great man, Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, known to the world as Pope John XXIII, who was the prime mover and human face of the council. The book contains a few insights into the debates and negotiations of what has been termed “the biggest committee meeting in history”.

Sadly, there is only a small space devoted to coverage of the Australian contribution, including half a sentence about Archbishop Guilford Young. I feel sure Fr Max would have expanded this if he’d written the book after his recent trip down here to the island beloved by the late Archbishop!

There is an enlightening treatment of the sixteen Council documents with evaluation of their enduring merit. The book ends considering the nature of the change. Fr Max stresses that many of the liturgical changes were not revolutionary or novel, but rather a return to traditional practices which had been altered through history. Much of the impact of the Council, he says, was in the language used, which signified a change of attitude and direction. As Pope John stated in his opening speech back in 1962, ‘the substance of our central beliefs is one thing, and the way it is presented is another’.

I was disappointed to see no index, which could have made its use as a reference even more convenient, although the chapter and section headings are very helpful. I was also very disappointed in the layout which features some very hazy low resolution pictures, while text placement within the boxes is often a real visual jumble and the use of blue boxes randomly placed in the section on the Council documents was quite confusing.

This is a useful and well written book, suitable for new Catholics, old Catholics, students and teachers.

Reviewer: Mary-Anne Johnson

A Friendly Guide to Vatican II, the two books complement each other as the authors come from different backgrounds and cover the Council from different angles.

This pocket sized book has 80 packed pages and no illustrations apart from the cover, so it’s a no frills production compared with the more colourful Friendly Guide reviewed on this page. Whilst there is no index, the contents page provides a quick guide to how the material is organised; the use of bold headings make topics easy to find; and there are useful lists of works cited and suggestions for further reading.

American academic Peter Huff is a theologian rather than historian, and a convert to Catholicism from the Baptist Church. In the preface he relates how he was working as a Baptist chaplain in a Catholic hospital when the priest there suggested he read the documents of Vatican II. As he says, “I followed his advice and have been reading them ever since. In fact, I read them all the way into the Catholic Church”. He’s obviously still a big fan of the wisdom of the Council and his love of the (Roman Catholic) Church shines through every page.

The history of Vatican II, which takes up most of the pages of the Friendly Guide, is quickly covered in the first chapter of the seven in this book. In an entertaining way, Dr Huff uses the analogy of Vatican II as a ‘cathedral of ideas’ to discuss the documents of the council.

He starts the tour with a look at the altar of the Cathedral, which leads him to discuss the liturgical changes wrought by Vatican II; then he looks at the ambo which leads to a discussion of Scripture and revelation; then the stained glass windows lead to a consideration of light and how we as children of light can be a light to the nations and so forth.

It is very readable, packed with information and a great ‘refresher course’ for cradle Catholics. This would be a useful guide for anyone wanting to study the documents of Vatican II.
**LORE**

**Starring:** Saskia Rosendahl, Kai Malina. **Director:** Cate Shortland. **Rated:** MA 15+ (Strong themes and infrequent violence). 104 min.

*Lore* was named 'Australian Film of the Year' by the Catholic Film Office.

This is Cate Shortland’s first feature film since director she won so many 2004 Australian Film Institute awards for her debut feature film, *Somersault*. Lore is quite an unanticipated follow-up in terms of story, themes and the decision to film this German story in Germany and in German. (This has enabled Lore to be Australia’s asubmission for the Foreign Language Academy Award.)

*Lore* is Hannelore, the oldest daughter of five children. Their parents are German, the father having fought in Belarus, the mother a mysterious figure. There are glimpses of swathes and pictures of Hitler. Then comes the news that Hitler is dead. We realise that the mother and father are aware that they will be imprisoned. They want their children to escape the American invaders. There is a moment when the parents burn their documents with a glimpse of a cover which may indicate that one or other was involved in medical experiments.

Most of the film is the trek of the children from the Black Forest to Hamburg to the home of their grandmother.

This survival trek is interesting in itself. How does a teenage girl cope with a younger sister, younger twin boys and a baby? Shelter, food, washing, hostile people? Some money and jewellery to obtain desperately needed food? Hardship in finding ruined buildings, sleeping in the forest? Cate Shortland presents all these hardships with a blend of surreal suggestion (mountains and mists) as well as realism.

Along the way, they are helped by a young man, Thomas, who tells them to say he is their older brother. Lore sees that there is a yellow Jewish star in his documents. This challenges her beliefs. Lore and her family are Nazis. The children have been part of the Hitler youth. They have presumed that the Third Reich would prevail and their realisation that Germany has been occupied by Americans, Russians, French and British defies Lore’s comprehension. Interestingly, with Thomas helping the children, befriending them, finding food, caring for the baby, they adapt to Thomas, whoever he is.

But, there are some twists in the screenplay which means that this journey is not entirely predictable. One of the complexities is Lore’s beginning of sexual awareness and her response to Thomas, sensually but in disgust because he is a Jew. She has moments of bigoted, stereotypical outbursts of anti-Semitism. There is a later, surprising development in terms of Thomas’ papers. Another complication is an act of brutality which means that Lore is saved from attack but which disturbs her in terms of responsibility and conscience. The audience is given another shock; some violence as they journey through the Russian territory.

When they finish their journey, the focus is still on Lore and what this trek has meant in terms of her attitudes towards life and her family, to traditions and all that she has taken for granted and can no longer believe in.

One of the most moving of post-war films was Fred Zinneman’s *The Search* (1948) where a Czech mother travels over bomb-ravaged central Europe looking for her son. We had been attuned to sympathising with the refugee-victims of Nazism. We have not been attuned to refugees, Nazi survivors – the leaders, yes, smuggled out of Germany, especially to Latin America, but not the children. How much sympathy do they deserve? How should they be helped? And what would their experiences contribute to their growing up and their future? Some of the questions we are left with at the end of *Lore*.

**Reviewer:** Fr Peter Malone MSC

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**Bernie**

**Starring:** Jack Black, Shirley MacLaine and Matthew McConaughey. **Director Richard Linklater.** **Rated:** M (Mature themes and violence). 99 mins.

*Bernie* show how true they are.

The other main character in the film is Mrs Nugent, the widow of a wealthy self-made banker who is gruffness and meanness personified, Mrs Nugent that is. Shirley MacLaine can do mean disdain and imperiousness with no trouble at all. At almost 78, she is portraying an 80 year old woman. In the photo of the actual Mrs Nugent at the end of the film, she looks far kinder than Shirley MacLaine does. Bernie treats her well and she takes a shine to him. The actual Bernie seems a very nice man too.

The other main character is the sheriff, played by Matthew McConaughey as a good ole Texas boy, someone who dislikes Bernie and casts aspersions on him.

That is probably as much as a review should say, an indication of themes, of treatment, of characters, of tone – and leave the plot itself to please and surprise.

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**Reviewer:** Fr Peter Malone MSC
Prayer... Time well spent

By Gabrielle Morgan, Kingston-Channel parish

“Prayer is, for me, an outburst from the heart; it is a simple glance darted upwards to Heaven; it is a cry of gratitude and of love in the midst of trial as in the midst of joy! In a word, it is something exalted, supernatural, which dilates the soul and unites it to God.”

These are the words of St Therese of the Child Jesus who devoted her short life to prayer, hidden away in an enclosed Carmelite Monastery in the town of Lisieux in France. She died at the young age of 24 leaving the world a great spiritual message through her autobiographical writing Journey of a Soul.

I walked in the footsteps of Therese when I was privileged to visit Lisieux. I prayed in the very church where her faith had been kindled. I stood in the bedroom of her home where she had seen a vision of the Virgin Mary from her sickbed as a child. I wondered at the faith of someone so young who was able to give such wholehearted devotion to Jesus and leave her comfortable bourgeois French existence for a life of confinement and prayer.

When I was asked to join our parish prayer group I considered the impact this would have on my time, and then decided to make a breakthrough in my life. I left the treadmill of what the secular world offered me on television to devote myself to prayer one night a week. I am so glad that I did! I found the loving support and friendship of a group of very special people, all intent on drawing closer to God.

The prayer meeting normally started with the Rosary followed by joyful songs of praise, surrender, thanks and love which led into a quiet prayer time when a wonderful peace enveloped us. After prayer everyone read a verse from scripture they had brought along to the meeting which sometimes engendered in-depth talk. Then followed open discussion and supper.

“I left the treadmill of what the secular world offered me on television to devote myself to prayer one night a week.”

I found the search for scripture readings to take along to prayer group enlightened my mind to fascinating events. Each week was a challenge to delve into the biblical language of great literature, poetry and song, all to be found in the Bible.

The prayer group was under the guidance of two people who had a very special gift for leadership. They always promoted a sense of warmth and love among the members and encouraged others to take turns in leading. When I was first asked to be a leader, I was paralysed by fear. How would I find the words? I had always found it difficult to bare my soul in public. I had never been called upon to pray out loud, I always left that to the priest; I was private in prayer. But at prayer group I was building a spiritual appetite and with the loving encouragement of the group. In trepidation, I agreed to lead. I fervently prayed to the Holy Spirit for inspiration and guidance, and miraculously I always seemed to find the right words. I am told I have even given some worthwhile instruction!

In the company of my dear friends at Prayer Group, I found a true haven of peace and love where I could focus on nurturing a closer relationship with Jesus.

I have not the courage to force myself to seek beautiful prayers in books; not knowing which to choose, I act as children do who cannot read; I say quite simply to the good God what I want to tell Him, and He always understands me.

St Therese of the Child Jesus
The Lea Scout Centre near Kingston is a lovely retreat in the bush with sleeping cabins, a central activity and dining area and lots of open space. I was the only fly there in January, but there was plenty of other life! There was lots of caring and lots of fun.

Fifty one children, teenagers and young adults gathered for a Buddy Camp, run by Vinnies. 21 of them were aged seven to eleven and the rest were the teen mentors, or ‘buddies’ who accompanied them. A major feature of this camp is that each junior is ‘buddied up’ with one of the volunteer mentors who is their friend for the whole camp. There is a wonderful system of training and support for the teen mentors, who show great compassion, leadership and a big sense of fun.

Children are referred by Conferences of the St Vincent de Paul Society and external welfare agencies and may be experiencing poverty, severe hardship, domestic violence, foster care, grief and loss, family breakdown, abuse or social exclusion. The camp is provided free of charge.

The theme of this camp was the circus, so the children were divided into groups of acrobats (bluecaps), clowns (red), lion tamers (yellow) and magicians (white). A wonderful team spirit was built up over the three day camp. It was obvious that there was a well – tried and successful formula with a great program planned for children who come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but crave the opportunities to laugh, play, sing, dance and just have fun that such camps provide.

When I flew in on the first afternoon, most of the group was out at the pool, but there was no rest for those left behind! Groceries that had been bought the day before needed to be cooked for that night’s dinner. Huge quantities of food were being transformed into yummy and healthy dishes the by camp cooks Megan and Bernie – it would have been fly heaven, but I was not allowed anywhere near the hygienic preparation and cooking space. I could just drool from afar at the trays of lasagne, potato bake, salad and apple crumble!

I had a wander about the spacious campgrounds and was amazed at how orderly everything appeared. With around 30 well prepared helpers for 21 ‘little buddies’, I guess order is to be expected. I had a yarn with some of the volunteers and Sarah, the St Vincent de Paul Youth Coordinator, and found out a bit more about the camp and the coming activities. They would be going to the Botanical Gardens the next day to see a production of ‘Treasure Island’, but, on top of that, Sarah had been able to organise tickets to the Moscow Circus for everyone and none of the children knew yet. I was privy to the big secret. How exciting!

When the bus came full of happy but tired little swimmers, they went to their cabins to change clothes and have a ‘horizontal half hour’ (a lie down). Meanwhile, the dinner was being assembled while the leaders laid out materials for the activity session to follow. There were beads to thread, juggling balls to make and juggle, faces to paint, glitter tattoos to have applied, play dough and Lego to create with.

And then the kids came from their rests! Everyone was busily occupied, while circus music played in the background. The kids were all supported by caring friends and a well structured time. ‘Snap, Crackle’ went Sarah, and everyone replied ‘Pop’ and listened to her. After the indoor crafts and fun, everyone went outside for some games and chill out time, much just spending time talking with their buddies. There are plenty of organised group activities, but space for those who are having difficulties to get a word of encouragement or some time away from the crowd for a little bit. They are gently encouraged to join back in when ready.

Next there were rehearsals for the next evening’s concert. The four teams were competing against each other, so the pressure was on to come up with a good act! There were some very clever offerings.

I had to leave as they wouldn’t feed a fly, but I sure could smell a delicious meal coming!

I caught the group next morning when they arrived at the Botanical Gardens. You could hear them all over the gardens, I’m sure. They were ‘on a Bear hunt’ as they wound their way through to the pantomime – it sure sounded and looked like fun! They loved the play, but boy, were they excited when they got taken to the real circus in the afternoon!

There is a lovely postscript to this story which Sarah related to me. When they arrived at the circus tent, Sarah went to pay for the 51 seats as she expected and was told, “No, it’s on us!”. THANK YOU, MOSCOW CIRCUS for being the icing on the cake for this wonderful camp!
Polar bears are on very thin ice. NASA satellite data shows that in 2012 Arctic sea ice shrank by half a million square kilometres; scientists attribute this loss to global warming, and predict that by 2030, Arctic summers will be ice-free. Polar bears live on ice, as do their main prey, seals and walruses. Chances are they’ll starve, drown; nor will there be anywhere to make snow dens to raise their young.

The news from the tropics is just as dire. A rise of 2°C in global temperatures spells devastation for two thirds of the world’s coral reefs, also by 2030. Coral reefs protect coastlines, are home to a quarter of all marine species, generate valuable tourist income, are a major food source, and beautiful beyond dreaming.

Nor is Tasmania exempt. We’re now classified as a global hot spot. The Eastern Australian Current has moved 350km southwards and warmed the Tasman Sea off the coast by 2°C in the last sixty years, three times the global average. Our marine species, many of which only thrive within a small temperature range, are migrating to survive. Sea urchins, displaced from NSW, are already damaging our kelp beds. Farmed salmon, a major Tasmanian industry, are highly sensitive to changing water temperatures.

Global warming: the thickening of the atmosphere by industrial gases, especially carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels. This traps the sun’s heat near the earth’s surface, raising global temperatures.

Ex-US vice-president Al Gore says that watching the news is like a hike through the book of Revelation (*An Inconvenient Truth*); as human activities derange our climate, extreme weather becomes the norm. In 2012, Superstorm Sandy in the Caribbean and the USA, and Supertyphoon Bopha in the Philippines – both well outside the usual range, time-frame and magnitude of such storms – wreaked havoc. Tasmania began 2013 with devastating bushfires.

To limit global warming to 2°C, greenhouse gases – primarily carbon dioxide and methane – have to be kept at less than 450 parts per million; the level is now 392 ppm and rising fast, with 2012 breaking all previous records. If we fail to cap a temperature rise at 2°C, then scientists predict a rise of 4°C-6°C by the end of the century. Humans have shown extraordinary resilience in the face of disaster – war, famine, plague, genocide – yet all these events have been relatively short-term. The chances of civilisation surviving the consequences of a 6°C rise in temperature lasting a thousand years are practically zero; the collapse of the ecosystems on whose health our own depends, massive extinctions, extremes of climate, rising sea levels destroying the livelihoods of billions of coastal dwellers and turning them into refugees, wars over increasingly scarce food and water…

For 150 years we’ve been splurging on stuff, thinking that’s where happiness lay. Manufacturing and consumption generate more than half our carbon emissions. Transport accounts for another third of emissions. To cap carbon emissions at 2°C means confronting both the fossil fuel industries – oil, coal, gas – and our own dependence on their products.

My French tutor, married to a Tasmanian, is painfully grappling with the implications of this; if flying home to France every year is no longer an ethical or truthful option, does she want to stay here? If the price of Earth’s wellbeing is that I can only rarely see my children and grandchildren, who all live offshore, am I willing to pay? How can I not be?

**For more inspiration:** *Sustainable House: Living for Our Future and Sustainable Food* by Michael Mobbs: grounded and inspiring. www.lynchpin.org.au/scholarships/our-scholars. Click on Forests of the Sea, an animated movie about changes on Tasmania’s east coast.

- Walk a mile in your grandchildren’s moccasins. Fall in love with any of our 8.7 billion co-species – we’re all in this together. Plant trees, millions of them – they mop up carbon.
- Cherish your neighbourhood, including creeks, reserves, wildlife.
- Monitor your ecological footprint as carefully as your bank balance. www.earthday.net/footprint
- Reuse, recycle, mend, hire.
- Grow vegetables. The transport and production of food is a significant guzzler of fuel. Buy locally grown, in-season produce at a farmer’s market. Eat less meat. Go solar. Put in a rainwater tank.
- Be creative about transport. Rediscover your feet. How about an electric, recumbent or three-wheeled bicycle? Love your planet as yourself. Our lives – all our lives – depend on it.

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Lorna Castles: Lifelong friend

Full of life, energy and cheek, Lorna Castles captured the hearts of many and her friendships covered all generations.

Lorna was born in Victoria and settled in Burnie with her husband, Vic, in 1957. They had four children: John, James, Helen and Christine, nine grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Her infamous 90th birthday on Australia Day, 2010, saw more than 100 people fill the South Burnie Bowls Club.

Lorna was known for her endless list of hobbies and the amount of energy she put in to each of them: “Three weeks before she passed away she was active playing carpet bowls. Everything she did was fully involved in and she lived her life to the full,” said John Castles.

She was dedicated to her beloved team, the Sydney Swans. This love ran deep with her late husband, Vic Castles, a former South Melbourne football player and coach at Burnie and Wynyard.

The following is an excerpt from Lorna’s grandson, Clayton’s eulogy: “My brother, cousins and I are fortunate to have grown up in a family that has always been close, supportive and loving and cared and we have been surrounded, protected and loved by an amazing group of adults.

“At the head of our family have always been our grandparents.

“We were taught from a young age, the importance of family and respect for everyone but in particular, respect for our grandparents and great-grandparents.

“Having Nan in our lives has taught us how to love, to care and most of all, how to respect and give time to every person we meet.

“Next, a fact that some outside the family may not know. Nan was unfortunately and unceremoniously dumped from the Board of International Backyard Cricket umpires. In life, Nan was always fair, but as a backyard cricket umpire sadly, it was a different tale. Ninety-nine percent of the time things were spot on. Nan would adjudicate from her fold-up picnic chair, sometimes making decisions from the rumpus room. But when it came to three of the greats of the game, Nan’s views were very different. No matter the circumstances, John (eldest son) and Jim (baby of the family) were never out while Chris (infamous cricket, bocce and croquet entrepreneur) was always out. Undoubtedly, this bias led to Nan’s downfall.

“Finally I remember vividly the way that my Nan cared for and loved my Pop. Knowing Pop and having heard stories, this task at the best of times would have been a hard one. In Pop’s final years as Alzheimer’s Disease had set in, Nan, along with the family, cared for Pop non-stop and she was front and centre all the way. This was a lesson for all of us in what marriage and relationships meant to people of Nan and Pop’s generation and it was a testament to the lady and wife that Nan was. An inspiration.

“All of us in the family know that we have been very lucky to have the wonderful lady that we know as Mum, Nan, Nanny Castles for 92 years with very few health concerns. We know that Nan had a great innings, as people say. But that doesn’t mean that we won’t miss her every single day and that when we pull up at Mum and Dad’s that we won’t wish that we could drop in and see that beautiful smile and grab a cuddle and a kiss.”

Norma Elizabeth McAuley

Norma McAuley’s funeral was a lovely celebration of a life well lived. With much love and appreciation, her family remembered her charm, talent, hospitality and enthusiasm. Both Norma and her husband, the poet, James McAuley, made their home in Marsh St, New Town a welcoming space for many from the Sacred Heart Parish as well as their own extended family.

Celebrant Fr Brian Nichols was among those who remembered her fondly at the liturgy of Christian Burial for her in November 2012 at Sacred Heart.
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