



THE REVIEW

Registered by Australia Post Publication QAR0249

50c

FEBRUARY ISSUE

YEAR 2002—VOLUME NO. 1

CEREMONY OF LIFE COMMITMENT OF SANDRA ANNE HOPKINS



Sr Janette Murphy RSJ led the congregation in the Penitential Rite, followed by The Calling by Sister Giovanni to Sandra who confirmed her vow as a Josephite Sister, with Sister Giovanni's acceptance.

Sr Elaine Smith RSJ read the First Reading of St Paul to the Philippians, with the Holy Gospel, according to St Matthew 13:44-46 being proclaimed by Father Noel Milner.



Sandra Hopkins was joined by family, religious, parishioners and friends to celebrate the Ceremony of Religious Profession on 3 November 2001. Reverend Fathers John Grace, Vicar General and Noel Milner, Parish Priest of Our Lady Help of Christians, Park Avenue were the celebrants and along with Sister Giovanni Farquer, the Congregational Leader witnessed the final journey of Sandra as a Josephite Sister.

After a wonderful journey of remembrance by Sister Sandra followed by a vote of sincere gratitude by Sandra to her family, fellow Sisters and her many friends and the large congregation gathered at the Parish Centre in Main Street to share the fellowship of this joyous occasion for everyone present.



The Vicar General, Father John Grace, held the congregation captive during his Sharing of the Word when he paid tribute to the life of Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

Sister Bernadette Douglas RSJ and Sister Mary Sheridan led Intercessory Prayers.

A presentation of a clock was made to Sister Sandra by Father Noel and Mr Kevin Hogan, President of the Parish Pastoral Council, on behalf of the parish family of Our Lady Help of Christians Park Avenue, where Sister Sandra is a parishioner, to mark this special occasion.

The ceremony was concluded with the singing of Happy Birthday to Sandra, who also celebrated her birthday on the same day as her Final Profession, 3rd November 2001.



Sr Michele Shipperley RSJ, Queensland Provincial Leader welcomed the large crowd to celebrate and dance with joy to witness the life commitment of Sister Sandra Hopkins.

After sharing in the Eucharist and Thanksgiving, the ceremony concluded with a Concluding Rite Blessing from Sister Joan Finucane RSJ with the Recessional Hymn "Mary of The Cross" being led by the Queensland Sisters of St Joseph Choir.

*Kevin Hogan—President
Parish Pastoral Council
Our Lady Help of Christians Parish*

(See Pages 4-5—Homily—Fr John Grace)

Congratulations Sister Sandra!!

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH SILVER ANNIVERSARY

On November 11 2001 St Joseph's Parish North Mackay celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the opening of our new Church. It was a grand day with great expression of pleasure and appreciation from the people. Fr Peter Greene who had the vision and skills to plan the Church, was a very welcome and much respected visitor for the occasion. Fr John Grace who was present at the opening and blessing of the church, officiated as main celebrant for the day. Fr Don White who is the Parish Priest had prepared the church for the occasion by refurbishing the décor, which shines as new today. The ceremony was complemented by music and a pictorial presentation from yesteryear. A memory board of pictures from the past stood at the front entrance of the church and brought much laughter and pleasure to all. There were many stories and shared "wisdom".



Left: Fr John Grace with some of the parishioners at Anniversary Celebrations

Right: L-R: Fr Peter Greene, Fr Don White, Fr John Grace, Fr Kevin Treacy



Left: Music Ministry

STUDENT PLACEMENT—ST JOSEPH'S PARISH NORTH MACKAY

Greg Dunn has arrived at St Joseph's North Mackay as the next step in the Pastoral Phase of his journey to Priesthood. This part is assigned to a Parish Priest whom the Bishop has chosen to introduce Greg to the ministry of parish life. The Seminary entrusts Fr Don White and the parish community with Greg to engage in ministry and to discover his gifts and talents in the context of a parish. The year is highly structured and will cause Fr John Chalmers of St Paul's Theological College to meet regularly with both Fr Don and Greg to support Greg's immersion.

Greg will be in the parish until Christmas 2002 when he will then be further appointed to another parish in the Rockhampton Diocese to continue his preparation to Priesthood.

This means that the Parish of North Mackay and Farleigh is, in effect, now part of the Holy Spirit Seminary of Queensland. It joins with six other parishes in the State who are participating in the same program along with those students who are in formation at Wavell Heights in Brisbane. The Diocese of Rockhampton is indeed very privileged to have five students in formation to priesthood with

another student joining them next month.

The Bishop and seminary have chosen a very fine pastor in Fr Don as mentor to their students. The diocese needs many more people in training for the future and there are great hopes and expectations to see this happen. Remember to see your Parish Priest who is the "local agent" available to you.



L-R: Fr Michael McCarthy, Fr Don White, Greg Dunn, Fr John Chalmers.

THE REVIEW*Journal of**The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton***February Issue, Year 2002, Number 1.**

© The Diocese of Rockhampton,
The Catholic Church in Australia,
PO Box 641, Rockhampton Q 4700.

Issued ten times each year, monthly from February to
November.

Registered by Australia Post as Publication QAR0249.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

**The Editor, The Review,
PO Box 641, Rockhampton Q 4700.
Telephone: 07 4927 7244;
Fax: 07 4922 8256
Email: thereview@rok.catholic.net.au**

Opinions expressed in the articles of this issue do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or of her associates. Articles are published at the Editor's discretion.

Contributions to *The Review* are invited from across the diocese. In order to avoid errors, please make sure that contributions are typed (1 1/2 space) and have a contact address/phone number attached. Alternatively copy may be sent in as text, Word or Publisher (IBM compatible), photos JPEG (300dpi) on floppy disk or may be emailed through to the above address. All photos submitted will be returned to owners.

Deadline: 15th day of each month for the following month's issue.

Editorial Staff

Editor: Marcia Mansfield

Associate

**Editors: Joy Philippi
Sr M Dolores
Donnelly RSM**

*Printed by The Printing and Display
Factory Incorporating Diocesan
Printing Service*

“LAUNCH INTO THE DEEP” (Luke 5:4)

At the beginning of 2002, we are planning for a future which is largely hidden from us. While we are carried along by hope, we do not see the finishing line, we do not have clear signposts along the way.

On the recent Feast of the Epiphany, we said to God “Strong is your light near is your love”. The mysterious gift of faith convinces us that God is a light shining in our lives. Like the sun which is hidden from us at times by the clouds, God as light is there for us even when we are shrouded by darkness. It may be illness, sadness or just discouragement, yet we know God's light is there, for it is too strong to be extinguished.

Likewise, God's love is near. It is something we may know directly, or through the person of Jesus Christ, or more likely through the incredible love we receive from others or give to those we love so dearly. God is in it all “for where there is love, there is God”.

So, at the start of a new year, we “launch into the deep and we pay out our nets”. (Luke 5:4) Our nets are our commitment to what is best, our respect for every person we journey with, our compassion for the struggles that others have, our gifts to affirm them and create life for others.

Easter this year is early (31 March) and we will commence our Diocesan Lenten Program in mid February. It is entitled “*Three Stories*”, embracing our personal stories, sharing the stories of others, and linking them with Jesus' story, as presented in the Scriptures for the Sundays of Lent. Prayer will link it all together.

It is my hope that everyone in the Diocese will be connected to this Lenten reflection— families, religious communities, parishes, schools and all diocesan groups. It will touch into our weekend liturgies and I trust, it will also reach those who are confined to their homes. Our parishes or regional communities will gather towards the end of Lent, to celebrate a liturgy of preparation for the great Easter event.

Our faith is an indispensable part of our life. It is more and more about an encounter with Jesus which makes day to day living, not only possible, but alive with vitality and imagination. We do not have to have the answers, but we do need to hear the question Jesus asks “Do you love me? Do you love my sisters and brothers?”

Let's jump into the deep as 2002 begins and I invite you to ponder as we hear again that well known reflection of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who gave his life for love – love of the poor.

*We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
An opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results,
But that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own Amen*

**Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton**

HOMILY—FR JOHN GRACE—SR SANDRA HOPKINS' CEREMONY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

My dear friends

I realise that there are many Sisters of St Joseph present and that some of you have travelled lengthily to be here. Would you please all accept my invitation to stand that we might recognise you and acknowledge all you mean to us.

Sister Michele Shipperley, Queensland Provincial Leader, welcomed us to this Religious Profession Ceremony. Sister Giovanni Farquer, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, accepted Sandra Hopkins' request to journey with the Josephite Community in and for the Kingdom. Surely, all the Sisters are very glad. A profession ceremony is a renewal of confidence in a Congregation.

I would like to add that today is also one of great joy for this Diocese, ever grateful for the blessing it brings. Naturally, I extend greetings from the Bishop, Bishop Brian Heenan, on behalf of the whole diocesan family to Sandra and her family, now drawn into the family of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sisters, you honour us immensely in being here.

Indeed, I am particularly pleased to lead this Eucharist which completes Sandra's Initial Profession made in the Congregation's Mount Street Chapel, Sydney, where I was made very welcome a few years ago. Today, the pastor of Sandra's home parish of Park Avenue, Father Noel Milner joins us. It's a genuine however mild recognition that Sandra flourished here in her faith.

Sandra has been preparing for today in a huge spread of ways. Without pause or interruption over many years, she has engaged wholeheartedly in Church life and mission. Whenever she was around and whatever was happening, you found Sandra Hopkins in the thick of it.

Sandra remains listed as one of the dependable persons of Park Avenue Parish and of the Diocese of Rockhampton. Her commitment to the St Vincent de Paul Society, and her involvement with the Sisters of Mercy at

Bethany Nursing Home, confirm her enthusiasm.

Sandra left here with prior tested life and proven experiences. She returns this morning embellished by her formation into the Australian Religious Institute of the Sisters of St Joseph. In one sense, Sandra's shaping by the Sisters was surely made easy by the established predisposition to dedicated living. Yet, in another way, adjustment to community life could have been more difficult because it involved a transformation from trustworthy, individual independence to trustful, communal interdependence. Certainly, I would like to congratulate both Sandra and all involved in this delicate process for that sensitivity which has ensured a successful result. Combined efforts rarely, if ever, lose out.

A Sister observer commented to me in passing, one day recently, that Sandra has looked like a Sister of St Joseph since her youth. I resisted exploring the observation. Its intent was too good to query.

In preparation for today, I travelled other avenues, seeking to link myself closely with the Josephite spirit as it has developed and expressed itself. Beyond what we have seen, admired and loved of the Josephites who graced various places throughout this diocese, I sifted through other sources which testify to their character. Though few, they were nevertheless sufficient to gauge the chore of the Congregation.

In 1989, Sister Marie Therese Foale wrote "The Josephite Story". It retells the first twenty-five years of the precious legacy of her Order in systematic, analytical detail. It provided marvellous background for Lesley O'Brien, an experienced journalist, to explore the story further and so broaden its appeal in her 1994 biography "Mary MacKillop Unveiled". She developed, in outline, what Father Paul Gardiner SJ deepened in his research, as collaborator, in presenting her case to the Congregation for Causes of Saints for rigid examination. He dubbed the 1994

authorised biography "An Extraordinary Australian - Mary MacKillop".

None of these works, however, conceal the raw truth of an awkward, difficult, challenging, demanding and sacrificial journey in pursuing the kingdom. Mary's way included family disappointment and distress; dislocation from loved ones; the burning desire to separate from home and family in the interest of care for the disadvantaged, especially children of the isolated bush; risking friendships of which some lost their flavour; embracing visionary Sisters who let her down; the patient confrontation with curious, confused, even conniving clergy; the swinging allegiances of misinformed bishops who tended to stand in her way; a clumsy ecclesiastical sanction; disputes with the order of rule; calamitous health; agonising over crumbling vocations; financial embarrassment and often incompetent advisers. Except for the shadow of the saving grace of God the apparent mission impossible would have been mission lost. Mary possessed a secret key of deep serenity and brought to her cross a face of charity. She spoke with unflawed reverence. Heartfelt pain failed to disrupt respect, a gift endowed by the Spirit of God.

Today, Sandra sets out to seal her heart into that incredible tradition which has never sought, in its outreach, exemption from the world it serves. True consecrated life according to the evangelical counsels senses the tension of relevance as the criteria for authenticity. In a very recent (2001) scholarly doctoral thesis - "Breaking from the Bud" - Sister Maria Casey presented an expansive commentary on canon 605, the law which guides valid expressions of the gifts displayed by religious consecration. Sister Maria, herself a Josephite, inserts or injects the vowed life into human experience and contemporary culture. Its forms necessarily encounter adaptation.

Whilst formal religious life is embodied in the church, it is nevertheless not immune, shielded or ignorant of the world it is meant to influence. Sandra will continue to fit and match her life with prayerful

conviction, reflective generosity and practical accuracy. Like her foundress she will sustain an heroic effort in the interest of a good assessed as worthy of sacrificial pursuit waged against any odds.

Not much has changed in Sandra over the years. She strides in serenity and peace. Our world craves for inner peace. Unfortunately, at the present time, we find ourselves immersed in a global disturbance which is battering and tearing apart too many human hearts. News bulletins roll with indigestible stories of refugees and asylum seekers; innocent victims of brutal terrorism; and people abusing lawful human rights when the failure to recognise accompanying responsibilities occurs.

God has not made us to engage in any type of thoughtless madness. Made in the image of the divine, our challenge is to reproduce that fine community of bonded love. When good emerges, it triumphs with magnificently startling and arresting appeal. Really, nothing more beautiful is destined to catch our imagination than a successful vocational commitment.

Just over ten years ago I lived, as a student, in Canada. During that time, Pope John Paul II who later beatified Mary MacKillop here in Australia, canonised a Canadian, Mother Marie-Marguerite d'Youville who founded the Grey Nuns (Sisters of Charity) of Montreal. Like Mary

MacKillop, the needy grabbed her attention. She set up hospitals to care for disabled soldiers, epileptics, lepers and other contagious patients, along with orphans and abandoned infants, as well as fugitives. At the time the country stood still in poised admiration and acclamation of virtue and of value. The media unashamedly broadcast the event, in a way that joyously saturated Canada.

Passionate feelings welled up in people everywhere: pride at being an inner satisfaction from widespread public recognition. We knew it at first hand, in Sydney, when the Pope beatified Mary MacKillop.

Every baptised Catholic shares in that enviable call. Holiness is grounded in human beings and their experience, for it has no other existence. The vowed life provides its tangible expression.

I sometimes believe that an indirect approach to the customary terminology of the sacred bonds which religious profess helps highlight their crucial worth.

Poverty, instead of not having goods, points rather to the creative use of those we do have and to our simple satisfaction with them. Otherwise, enough will never arrive. It keeps ugly greed at bay. *Chastity*, not the lack of real love, but tender love directed towards a regenerative human spirit, kills off coarse eroticism and its degrading effects.

Obedience, not flimsy submissiveness to authority, establishes inner superiority and avoids every form of tyranny, especially cruelty. The bond of *Service*, specific to each Religious Institute, speaks for itself.

Sandra, thank-you for drawing us back to basics. The Scriptures you chose remind us that some things are worth directing all of our energies towards. We call the ultimate "The Kingdom of God", treasure and pearls of another order which underpin life in any and every human community, religious or otherwise.

Your chosen community, a religious community, stares us in the face of the best possible human refinement and summons us to that achievement. It's a single minded search in another's best interests. As long as you hold fixed to this, you will remain on the way to salvation.

Our prayer is that your zeal does not lose its glow. I am confident of the support of your numerous friends. Keep Paul's thoughts in company with your own and retain that renowned preference for others in their need. Then you will live in perfect charity.

It's your background. It's your present. It will be your future, too, to become a mystical grace to the Church.

Fr John Grace—Vicar General

THEODORE PICS



Left: Bishop Brian Heenan blesses the plaque when he opened the St Vincent de Paul Centre at Theodore. Fr Chris Schick and the local President Brian Lewandowsky are also in the picture.



Above: Part of the crowd who came to see the opening of the SVDP centre which was held under a big tent.

(Pictures submitted by Gerald Connolly)

LEADERSHIP RITUAL OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY OF ROCKHAMPTON SATURDAY DECEMBER 8

On Saturday December 8, Sisters of Mercy, family members, Mercy Associates, colleagues, members of other religious congregations, and friends of the sisters gathered in Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel at the Range to participate in the very significant and prayerful ritual to hand on the leadership of the congregation to the newly elected Leadership Team. All were welcomed by Sister Berneice Loch who spoke of the event as the end point of the process of election within the Congregation. A special welcome was given to Bishop Heenan whose presence reminded all of the strong links the Congregation has always had with the Diocese.

During the ritual the Bishop was given a copy of the Chapter Report by Sister Di-Anne Rowan and accepted her resignation as Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Mercy of Rockhampton. The Sisters gave thanks and praise followed by acclamation for Sister Di-Anne, along with her team for the past five years, Sisters Anne Slattery, Grace Bartolo, Marie Riddell and Denise Hinton.

Sister Moira Truelson, who had given a reflection on the challenge of leadership during the ritual, was then declared Congregational Leader by Bishop Heenan. The new Team, Sisters Anne Keim, Rose Cavallo, Margaret Dixon and Maree Wood were introduced and the sisters in the congregation pledged their prayer and support for this Leadership Team.

The Acts of Chapter, the outcome of deliberations over the past years, were presented to each sister and a commitment was made by all to the directions the Congregation has chosen for the next five years.

The extended community of family and friends were presented with a memento of the occasion and in her

response, Joy Phillippi on behalf of all, pledged the support of the wider community in the following words:

*It is through hearing the story that
we become friends!*

*It is through sharing the story that
we are friends!*

*And it is through living, supporting,
loving, trusting, listening, talking
and laughing that we will remain
friends!*

*Friends, we look forward to the next
chapter of the story!*

In true Catherine McAuley style, the ritual concluded with all gathering for morning tea.

Reflection 8.12.01

Sr Moira Truelson RSM

Leadership challenges each of us to take life in our hands and make of it a gift of love for the world. Our ritual today celebrates the leadership of our congregation in a special way. For some it is the beginning of a new role and for others the invitation to life lies in new directions.

We have been blessed over time by the leadership we have experienced and the readings today focus on the deep trust in God that has always been and continues to be at the heart of leadership in our congregation.

This is very evident in the women who have led us in the past five years. The challenges they have faced have been difficult and traumatic for all of us.

Because of their reverence for others, their wisdom and their deep trust in the God who loves each of us, we have been drawn into the very words of Jeremiah that say.... "...my plans are for your welfare and not for your harm". (Jer 29:10)

Their gift of love and of self during the past five years has shaped our future and enlivened the congregation's vision of reverence for all.

Their leadership has been true to the distinctive elements that underpin our enduring identity and our link with Catherine our foundress.

These elements are:

- the centrality of God
- our name which has shaped both our knowing of God and our message of mercy
- and the method Catherine chose in establishing her new institute with its emphasis on courage, flexibility and personal relationships (cf P. Fox RSM 2001)

The new team inherits this tradition and will remain true to these core values which have been highlighted in today's readings.

As Anne read "the Word is our subject..." (1Jn1:1) and this Word can be heard and seen and touched in our lives every day when we relate in love to each other. So often we do not see God in the little everyday things of life but our second reading tells us that ... "...if we seek God with all our heart .." (Jer 29:14) we will find God in our midst.

It is our mission to see God in each person and in every event of life. We do not live in some spiritual dimension that is disconnected from everyday life. In our world today we are faced with the reality of war, with tragedy and with the ordinary struggles of our lives. Our awareness and experience of injustice and tragedy can easily overwhelm us and even cause us to doubt the presence of God.

The other readings however, suggest another way of seeing and being. We have heard the promise that... “..wherever we go...” (Josh 9:4) God will be there and also that God knows our needs. (Lk12:33) Worry and fear will not change a single thing. But the God in whom we believe is a relational God and we witness to this presence in each relationship in our lives. The reading from the Constitution calls us as Sisters of Mercy to discover what it means to belong to the ‘people of God’ and to receive through them God’s love so that we may reach out to others as mercifully as Catherine did.

Each person is made in the image of God and shares the same spirit and ‘as such ...comes to live fullness of being as a person by growing with other persons’. Because of our own lives we are able to share the joys and sufferings of others. We can sense their needs and attend to them, and we can offer each other deep and genuine friendship. (cf JP II 2001)

We are, in fact, constantly being called into communion. This communion, this compassionate being with each other is the source of our strength.

The oils we have chosen as a focus in our ritual are a symbol of strength, of healing and of wholeness for the community...the people of God. Anointing, in a special way is a reminder to us of the sacredness of each person and the oil of Baptism forges a bond between us, for it is through this anointing each one of us has been called to wholeness...to holiness in community.

This common purpose shapes and fosters our ability to ‘see the positive in others, to welcome and prize it as a gift from God. Not only as a gift for the person who received it directly but also *for me*. It also means that we know how to *make room* for others in our lives and to bear each others burdens’. (cf JP II 2001)

This mission of Jesus Christ is the same mission for each of us, lived out in the unique person we are and in the unique relationships and experiences of our lives. It is in fact this very uniqueness that enhances the community.

Catherine gave primacy to a mutual love based on the tender mercy of God. It is this quality in our relationships that witnesses to the God of love who is the centre of our lives. (cf P. Fox RSM 2001) This is the heart of our work together, as a leadership team, as a congregation and as a community of friends journeying together.

Di-Anne, Anne, Grace, Marie and Denise, and each one of you here today,

***never stop loving,
never stop dreaming your dreams
and never stop believing in the God
whose love can draw us
beyond the point where we thought
we could go.***

CONVENTUAL FRANCISCANS ELECT LEADER



*L-R: Friars
John Magri,
Emmanuel Gatt,
Vincent Van
Long,
Joachim Giermek
(Minister
General),
Gabriel Doheny,
Joseph Truong,
Christopher
Shorrock.*

The Conventual Franciscan Friars of Our Lady Help of Christians Custody gathered recently in Chapter at Kerever Park in Burradoo NSW under the direction of the Minister General of the Order Fr Joachim Giermek, OFM Conv., to elect a leadership team for the next four years. Fr Gabriel Anthony Doheny OFM Conv., was chosen Custos General (Provincial Minister) to replace Fr Daniel Pietrzak, OFM Conv., who had resigned earlier in 2001 to assume his new responsibilities in Rome as Secretary General for Formation in the Order.

Fr Doheny, a native of Rockhampton Queensland, became a Franciscan after a lengthy career as a professional musician, both in Australia and the USA. This included membership of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, a Doctorate in Music from Stanford University and Senior Lecturer in Violin at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. As a widower he entered the Conventual Franciscan Order in 1988 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1996. During his years in the priesthood he has served as formation director within the community and parochial vicar of St

Mark's parish community in Dingley, Victoria. He also continues to teach violin and viola at Melbourne University as his schedule permits.

Fr Giermek, a frequent visitor to Australia, was elected Minister General of the Order at its General Chapter in Ariccia (Rome) in February 2001. He encouraged the friars in their vocation efforts and in the review of their current ministries.

The friars will resume their meetings at the beginning of 2002 to discuss issues of concern to the community in Australia, including participation in a mission effort in Vietnam. The Conventual Franciscan Friars staff St Joseph Parish in Springvale as well as St Mark's in Dingley. They also administer parishes at Kellyville in the Parramatta Diocese and at Warrawong in the Wollongong Diocese.

NEWS FROM STELLA MARIS MACKAY

The first year of the new millennium has been a very rewarding period for the continued success of the Catholic Mission of the Apostleship of the Sea here in Mackay.

From the slow start some six years ago when the Stella Maris Seafarers Centre in Brisbane Street was opened, it has become a safe haven for the hundreds of seafarers who continually service the main industry of export of coal from the two largest coal ports in the world. Over eight hundred coal carriers per annum are currently loading millions of tonnes of coal to transport to foreign shores. Sugar ships exporting from the Mackay Harbour are also catered for. In excess of thirty crew operate the coal carriers and their need for support while in our country is catered for by the dedication of many volunteers who give their time to help the functions of the centre to continue. Led by our very capable president, Ian Podosky and Peter Robins the co-ordinator/driver, plus a very active committee, the future of the centre is assured. The total of member supporters from all around the Mackay region has risen due to the exposure by the clergy on National Seafarers Day (held the last Sunday of July each year) of the charitable work being done by this Mission. The annual collection taken up on that day helps to defray costs and is gratefully appreciated.

With two buses (a 22 seater and a 12 seater) used to transport the workers from the coal ports to the city, our support drivers are kept active on a rota basis—so too with the volunteers who devote time in the evenings to operate the mini convenience shop and the licensed bar. Available to the seafarers are Internet café facilities to update news from their homelands and to send emails to loved ones. The four phones are always busy for overseas conversations.

Recently, Ian and three committee members travelled to Adelaide for the annual Australian Conference held each year at a different port venue around Australia and New Zealand. One of the positive outcomes from this conference was the general consensus that the shipping industry depends on the seafarers who work the ships of the world's commercial fleets and they in turn require the support of centres such as Stella Maris to help overcome the isolation and lack of contact with friends and loved ones, while they spend long periods at sea and in other countries' ports.

The majority of our members are from St Joseph's North Mackay Parish and this is not by accident. In the years following World War II a dedicated group of parishioners from St Joseph's, led then by the late Parish Priest Father Barney Cahill, operated a seafarers hall at the Mackay Harbour. Some of the current

members are related to a few who performed this charitable work to care for the mariners. Consequently in the early nineties when the need for a centre was obvious, Father Peter Greene along with other local people including a strong support from this parish started up with the assistance of the National Stella Maris Head Office Melbourne to commence caring for the vast numbers of mariners coming to our area.

This year two of our members went to their eternal reward, our Port Chaplain, Father Brian Leahy who succumbed to illness—he had been a inspiration to the many seafarers who required his spiritual care. And my wife, Maureen, who had supported our Mission in the early years of starting up the centre. Their passing will be sadly missed by all of us. They join two deceased members from previous years who were faithful to our Charitable Mission, Jim Attard (Gardener and Groundsman) and Chris Furlong (Relief Driver). *May they all rest in peace. Amen.*

In conclusion it gives our staunch members gratification knowing they are assisting by sharing the hand of friendship in true Australian style to overseas mariners who grace our shores.

The Mission of The Apostleship of the Sea here in Mackay is a welcome beacon to all.

Matt Doyle—Liaison Officer

A QUIET HERO: THE LIFE OF THE VERY REVEREND DEAN PATRICK WALSH, mid, DD

Fortunately for us all, we have many unsung heroes who quietly go about this mission to help other people. Dean "Paddy" Walsh was a Quiet Hero to many people in times of both peace and war. Born in North Queensland in 1902 and dying in 1999, his life spanned most of the 20th Century. When he was born there were no railways in North Queensland, few decent country roads and no airlines in Australia. He often marveled at the changes to our world during his long lifetime.

In 1941 he enlisted in the army and in 1942 in Singapore he found himself a prisoner of the Japanese. There have been many books written about WWII but precious few about

the important role of the Military Chaplains. Ordained a Catholic Priest, he truly was a Catholic "universal" Chaplain to his fellow POWs as he gave friendship, support, comfort and burial rites to men of all faiths while a prisoner in Singapore and on the infamous Burma-Thai railway.

Though written as a biography, this book is also part autobiography because it contains many quotes from the man himself, which are extracts from letters and newspaper interviews. This makes it a very personal story and a reader who never met him may almost feel that they had met. Dean "Paddy" Walsh's life is a shining example to us all for not only did he

practise true Christianity, he set an example for all generations to follow concerning the power of Faith, how to care for each other and how to get on with living no matter what life throws at you. Our young people of today need to be encouraged to follow the example of people such as this Quiet Hero.

Copies of the book can be obtained at a cost of \$15.00 plus \$1.20 postage from: The President, 2/30th Battalion AIF Association 24 Richmond Road, Earlwood NSW 2006

Payment to the Battalion Association

MONTO NEWS



Fr Chris's Farewell—L-R: Nell Dahtler, Mary Collingwood, Frances Trevarthen, Fr Chris, Nora Curtis, Mavis Seeney, Bridie Quinn.

It was with sadness that we farewelled Father Chris Schick at a dinner at the RSL Club on Sunday 6 January. Approximately eighty parishioners attended with many apologies received from those on holidays. Father Chris has been our parish priest for eight and a half years but his area included the whole Valleys Region of Monto, Biloela and Moura Parishes.

artist Glenda Ostwald. A beautiful chocolate torte decorated with chocolate flowers was made by Mrs Anita De Villers for the occasion and cut by Father Chris.

Father Chris's spiritual guidance was much appreciated by the parishioners and the community of Monto. We will miss him, his love and care, his outreaching personality and love of life in general.



*Left: Back Row: L-R: Gloria Curtis, Asaley Rodiger, Linda Rodiger, Nursing Campbell
Front: Fr Chris, Nora Curtis, Pat Curtis.
Fr Chris baptised Danika & Campbell Rodiger at his last Monto Mass.*

Father Austin Parry and his wife Lorraine from the Anglican Church were in attendance. Father Austin spoke some kind words of farewell and of how much he enjoyed his interaction with Father Chris.

We wish Father Chris every happiness and God's richest blessings

Even though it was a sad occasion, we turned it into a celebration. On behalf of the parish, Noel Edwards presented Father Chris with a painting by local

*Right:
L-R: Noel & Gilda Edwards,
Fr Chris,
Fr Austin Parry
Lorraine Parry.*



ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL EMERALD

1902 -2002

**Let's Celebrate
a Centenary of Education**

3/4/5 May 2002

**To receive an information
brochure and further enquiries:**

St Patrick's School, Emerald
Phone: 07 4982 2485
Fax: 07 4982 4229
Email: stpatemad@bigpond.com

as he continues his ministry at St Patrick's, West Bundaberg. We will welcome Father Noel Milner to our parish on 20 January 2002.

Del Murphy

Queensland World Youth Day Pilgrimage



WYD 2002 Pilgrimage

The Queensland Bishops are supporting a statewide pilgrimage to Toronto, Canada to celebrate World Youth Day 2002. There will also be a pre-WYD extension which travels from the west to the east coast of Canada. For those who prefer to celebrate in their communities and parishes, a local WYD celebration kit is being developed.

WORLD YOUTH DAY EXPRESS

Sunday 21 July - Thursday 1 August 2002
(Official WYD program 23-28 July)
led by: Archbishop John Bathersby
\$ 3295.00

Pre-WYD Extension

CANADIAN EXPERIENCE

Sunday 14 July - Thursday 1 August 2002
Itinerary includes: Calgary, Banff (Canadian Rockies), Montreal, Quebec, Toronto (including official WYD program)
led by: Bishop Brian Heenan
\$ 4295.00

(Prices & itineraries subject to change)

Check out these websites for more info:

www.worldyouthday.com.au or

www.wyd2002.org

*Expression of Interest forms available from your school or parish office now or contact: Diocesan Youth Office
Phone: 49277244
Email: youth@rok.catholic.net.au*

Confirmation of prices and itineraries and travel forms available at the end of October.

Dear Young People of the Diocese of Rockhampton,

10 January 2002

The XVIII World Youth Day will be held in Toronto Canada in July of this year 2002. I invite you to consider journeying with young people from throughout Queensland and indeed Australia and the World, to meet with Pope John Paul II, over a period of two weeks.

A pilgrimage is a journey of faith and discovery, much more than a tourist experience. It is a moment to deepen our faith and to do so in the company of thousands of other young people, with priests, religious and bishops from many

parts of the world. Above all, it is an opportunity to meet with our Chief Shepherd, Pope John Paul II, who has an extraordinary love for, and rapport with, young people. It is a call to focus on the person of Jesus Christ and to renew our own journey of faith and even share it with others, on returning to Australia.

I will be leading a pilgrimage to Toronto with Joy Philippi, our Diocesan Youth Coordinator. We will be joining with Archbishop John Bathersby of Brisbane and many young people from throughout Queensland.

I would like to invite you to come with us and experience, in beautiful Canada, a reflection on the way we walk with Jesus Christ. Please think and pray about it, discuss it with your family and read over the details that Joy will be distributing widely across the diocese.

May God fill us with hope for an exciting future.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton

What is Project Compassion?

- Project Compassion began in 1966 and now raises \$5 million annually making it one of Australia's largest public fundraising campaigns for overseas aid.
- Project Compassion provides Australians with an opportunity to support development programs in virtually every developing country in the world.
- Project Compassion does more than raise money. It also educates. Hundreds of schools around Australia receive and use educational materials aimed at broadening the way we view our world.
- As part of Project Compassion, international speakers from our partner countries visit Australia to participate in an extensive public speaking campaign for people of all ages. These speaking engagements are extremely powerful and provide Australians with a new perspective on our international neighbours.
- Development programs funded through Project Compassion support poor communities in developing skills to tackle poor health, nutrition and hygiene, poverty, illiteracy and environmental degradation.
- Project Compassion supports programs to bring about long-term change by helping people to address the causes of their poverty.
- Caritas Australia works with its local partners to design and manage long-term development programs as they are best placed to identify the needs and problems of their own communities.
- Money raised through Project Compassion enables Caritas Australia to respond immediately at times of disaster.
- Through the Caritas network, Caritas Australia is able to work with local organisations to rebuild communities by providing emergency food supplies, clothing, housing and medical attention.
- Ninety-five percent of all money raised by Caritas Australia during an emergency appeal is actually sent to that country.
- Caritas Australia works hard to ensure as much aid as possible actually reaches those who need it. Our administration/aid ratio is one of the best anywhere in the world.
- We provide assistance to all people regardless of race or religion.



THE CATHEDRAL COLLEGE ROCKHAMPTON

Building on the past, looking to the future.

The Cathedral College is a Catholic Co-educational College (Years 8-12) with residential accommodation for girls.

**BUILDING CHARACTER IN
A COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

- * Student Leadership * Debating
- * Public Speaking * Choir
- * Social Activities * Music Tuition
- * Interact * St Vincent de Paul Society * Chess * Art Shows

Competitive fee structure
with Scholarships
available for boarders.



For more information about Rockhampton's only Catholic Boarding College contact the Principal,
Br Ted Magee CFC
Phone: (07) 4922 2488 or fax (07) 4927 8694
email: enquiries@tcc.qld.edu.au

Rockhampton's only Catholic Boarding College



SITE FOR NEW HOSPITAL IS BLESSED



On Sunday, 18th November 2001, Father Don White, Parish Priest of St. Joseph's, North

Mackay, blessed the site for the new Mater Hospital development which is due to commence in the next few weeks.



Mr Gary Mooney, Yuibera Elder leading procession with smoking ceremony

The redevelopment involves the construction of a new 105 bed Mater Hospital providing a wide range of medical and surgical services, ICU, operating suite, palliative care services and consulting suites.

Approximately 200 visitors and members of the Mackay community assembled on the road adjacent to the property and were led to the site by the Yuibera people, the traditional owners of the land. Mr. Gary Mooney, Yuibera Elder, led the procession with a smoking ceremony to cleanse the land. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island dancing groups then welcomed everyone in dance.

The early history of the site was given by Mr. Gary Mooney from the Yuibera perspective and a comprehensive history of the land since European settlement in 1866 was given by Mrs. Berenice Wright. Prior to the blessing Sr. Stancia Cawte RSM reflected on the future use of the land.

Visitors from Rockhampton for the occasion were Sr. Di-Anne Rowan, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Mercy, Miss Leesa Jeffcoat (Chairman of the Mercy Health and Aged Care Board), Sr. Grace Bartolo (Director of Mission and Board member), Mr. Phillip Bauman (Secretary of the Mercy Health and Aged Care Board) and Mrs Barbara & Mr Ernie Trevaskis of the Diocesan Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Council Ministry.

Other notable guests included, Mrs. De-Anne Kelly (Federal Member for Dawson), Mr. Monty Martin (Board member) and his wife Bess, Sisters of Mercy, Mackay City Councillors, members of the clergy and medical profession and a large representative group of the Mackay community.



Islander in traditional dress

The site of the new hospital, a former cane farm, is on the northern bank of the Pioneer River and affords picturesque views from every angle. It was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy in 1993 due to the foresight of Mr. Monty Martin, local Board member.

Reflection given by Sr. Stancia Cawte RSM during the Blessing of the New Site for the Mackay Mater Hospital – 18th November, 2001

This is a very special piece of land with a long and rich history as we heard earlier in our ceremony.

One thing that has struck me as I have listened to stories about this land is the focus that there has always been on family and community. We are grateful to Mr. Gary Mooney, an elder of the Yuibera people, for giving us some insight into the very early history of the land. Family and the extended family or community are very important to Aboriginal people and that has been evident in the stories Gary has told us.

Mrs. Berenice Wright has given us a comprehensive history of the early European settlement. For those early settlers who farmed this land and for those who followed them, family has also been a strong focus. The members of the family worked together to produce their crops, initially coffee and later sugar cane. The bonds that unite a family and the bonds that unite one family with another are what builds up community.



Some of those who gathered for the ceremony



*Fr Don White
blesses the
site*

It is to be a place where people can experience that inner healing of spirit in an environment of true hospitality in the Gospel sense of that word - in other words an environment of faith.

Without that deeper dimension of inner healing this place will be just another piece of land and the building will be just another building.

It will be the spirit and dedication of those who offer comfort and care as well as the trust of those who receive that comfort and care that will breathe life and meaning into this land and into the building which will in twelve months time become our new hospital.

I believe that today's Gospel Reading is a timely reminder that although suffering is an inevitable part of life, there is a flip side to that suffering if we are prepared to allow ourselves to be open in faith to that flip side - to move to that deeper dimension where we experience healing deep within our being. Our aim is to provide that environment.

We are grateful to God for leading us to this land which has such a rich history and which has such potential to be a peaceful place, a welcoming place, a place of healing.

Today we ask God's blessing on all who have been associated with this land in the past and those who will be associated with it from this day forward. May the Lord continue to guide and protect us in every aspect of this undertaking.

Sr Stancia Cawte RSM

As I have reflected on this rich history and look ahead to the construction and opening of our hospital, it has become very clear to me that that strong focus on family and community will continue but in a different way. Family will be our strong link not only with the rich past of this land, but also with the rich Mater heritage that we will bring with us from our present hospital. The family and their needs as well as those of the patient has always been a strong focus for us. Our ministry has never been carried out in isolation, but always in the context of the community of Mackay and district. We greatly appreciate the relationship we have with the people of Mackay and district and we are committed to deepening that relationship into the future.

Today marks the beginning of a new era in the use of this land. Over the next few weeks, the soil will be dug as in previous years but for a different purpose. Instead of seeds or plants being sown, foundations will be laid and a building will rise up over the ensuing months. This will not be any ordinary building. Yes, we all know that it will be a hospital and we all have our own ideas (maybe even personal experience) of what that means. For a few moments I would like to reflect with you on this notion of hospital and perhaps broaden our perception a little.

*The Latin word from which the word 'hospital' is derived is hospitium which means **hospitality**. Hospitality - already our understanding of hospital is deepened when we hear that word, because—what comes to mind as we hear the word hospitality? Do we not think of a welcoming environment, a place of warmth and security, a place*

where one has a sense of belonging and well-being? How is this different to our traditional understanding of hospital?

Yes, a hospital is a place where people who are ill come to experience healing; it is a place where people are cared for in times of illness or are comforted and helped to live fully as they approach death; but, could I suggest that it is also a place where people are exposed to a deeper dimension of healing, a healing of spirit; it is a place where people experience that sense of belonging and well-being mentioned earlier.

Our ministry of healing has as its foundation, the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Those who came to Jesus to be healed went away not only healed in body, but also in spirit; they were healed at a deeper level. Their lives were changed after the experience. This was the mission of Jesus. It is also our mission.

So while in one sense we are speaking of a new hospital, a new building, there is a much deeper reality today we are blessing this land and dedicating it to be a place of welcome, a place where people can experience peace of mind and heart and a sense of well-being, regardless of the trauma or illness that has broken into their lives.



Aboriginal Dance

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OF PARK AVENUE

Mid way through 2001, Father Noel Milner commissioned the Parish Pastoral Council to produce a statement, which reflected the Mission our parishioners could relate to. The proposed Mission Statement was to enhance the Diocesan Vision Statement by our Bishop, Father Brian Heenan.

The process taken by the Parish Pastoral Council was a very rewarding one for all concerned. All members of the Parish Pastoral Council were requested to write a few words on how they saw our Mission of Our Lady Help of Christians Church at Park Avenue. After much deliberating and discussion, the Holy Spirit guided us to writing out four statements, which reflected our aims, hopes and goals and made a statement of what we were about.

The next process was to forward the four suggested statements to all the Parish Groups, such as our Parish School of St Joseph, the Parish Sacramental Team, the Parents and Friends Association and many other small groups for their deliberation and comments. What we found to our delight, was that parishioners wanted to take ownership of the statement and were proud to be involved in the selection process.

After three months, a special weekend liturgy was selected and the final drafts were distributed to all parishioners present, who were asked to select one of the final three statements that they would like to see the parish adopt.

The response was overwhelming and a Parish Mission Statement evolved from a process that enriched the parish and school faith communities, as follows:

*Filled with the Spirit of Christ,
We live out the call of Baptism,
Through our personal faith,
Worship and prayer,
The sharing of our given gifts
And demonstrating the love of God to
each other.*

A copy of the Mission Statement and the process was forwarded to Doctor Gerard Goldman for the blessing of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Our Parish Mission Statement now proudly appears on our weekly Parish Bulletin and will be published on our parish documentation.

*Kev Hogan
President—Our Lady Help of
Christians Park Avenue Parish
Pastoral Council*

PARK AVENUE PARISH FAREWELLS FR NOEL MILNER

In excess of one hundred and thirty parishioners and friends of Father Noel Milner, gathered after the 6.00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 12 January to pay tribute to and to say farewell to Fr Noel after five years as Parish Priest of Park Avenue Parish.

The function was held in the Parish Centre where a barbeque and hot meal was shared. Tributes to Father Noel were presented by Mrs Rosaleen Harp, Mr Frank Bryson, Mr Geoff Murphy and Mr Kevin Hogan followed by the cutting of a large 'Good Luck' cake made especially for the occasion by Mrs Amelia Hill. A gift of a clock featuring Our Lady Help of Christians Church made by Mr Clarrie Brown along with a card signed by all parishioners and accompanied by a gift of money donated by the congregation were presented to Father Noel by Kevin Hogan, President of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Father Noel was overwhelmed by the event which was attended by parishioners

from The Caves, Marlborough, Clarke Creek and St Lawrence Worshipping Communities as well as those from Park Avenue, who all expressed just how much Father Noel would be missed in Rockhampton. All wished him all the very best for the future as he takes up his new position as Parish Administrator of the Callide Valley.

Another tribute was paid to Father Noel during his last Vigil Mass on Sunday evening at the Cathedral by the Regional Sunday Evening Eucharist Committee and

presented by Mrs Myra Shephard. Myra thanked Father Noel for his homilies for which he has become so "famous" over the years with his "show-n-tell" symbols that he has collected from so many parts of the world. She thanked him also for sharing his love of God and Church and for his value to the Christian Community as a noted historian.

*Kev Hogan
President—Our Lady Help of
Christians Park Avenue Parish
Pastoral Council*



*Left: Presentation of clock to
Fr Noel Milner by Mr Kevin
Hogan*

NEWS FROM THE DAWSON VALLEY

Brian Shorter was received into the church on Saturday 13 October and parishioners stayed for a celebration barbecue tea afterwards.

Dawson Valley Parish has also held an Adult Faith Education workshop with Jane O'Shea on "Laying the Foundations—Lay Leadership". Jane focused on Funeral Ministry and Father Chris continued on this theme in each of the communities with some practical exercises in lay leadership.



Above: RCIA Team—L-R: Irene Sunnerdale, Helena Hutchinson, Maree Shorter, Norman Becker and Desley Becker



Left: L-R: Helena Hutchinson, Irene Sunnerdale, Marg List, Norman and Desley Becker with Fr Chris Schick behind them and the candidate Brian Shorter.

Loss of Great Vincentian & Ultimate Volunteer

On 9 September 2001 St Joseph's Conference Biloela lost a great Vincentian and a caring, compassionate brother, Jack McAuliffe. He was a foundation member of St Joseph's Conference from the time of its inception in July 1972. Jack was born at Kingaroy on 10 February 1909 and died peacefully after a struggle with cancer during the last eighteen months.

Jack was a born Vincentian. All through his life he cared for and helped those around him. He had a deep faith in God which generated in him true love of God and of his neighbour. No matter when you spoke to him he always spoke of God in his conversations.

Jack was a dedicated Catechist and all the children at all the schools he visited loved him. He retired from this when he was ninety.

He taught himself the violin and had a true ear for music. He shared his music and wonderful jokes with everyone. He played at Church, socials, dances and regularly 'busked' in town for all the charities, especially Rosies.

Jack was the ultimate volunteer and in the Year of the Volunteer he received a special award from the people of Biloela.

Jack's compassion, sensitivity and love for people led him to much visitation. Everyone loved him and welcomed him into their homes. Someone asked him once why he visited a family each week, because as far as they knew the family was Presbyterian. "We are all loving the same God" was his reply. If sympathy and understanding were needed, he was there. He didn't care what religion anyone was. He attended daily Mass and Communion, any and every Church

celebration and worked for his parish family in every way. In the last few years of his life he drove all over town in his trusty Marlin 2000 Gopher. He wore out many sets of tyres!!

His understanding and wisdom during our Spiritual Reading time at Conference meetings was extraordinary and always uplifting. He could sum things up clearly and concisely. He is truly missed by everyone but we know that he is reaping his reward. We have no doubt that he is happy with his God and will be interceding for us all in Heaven.

Jack is survived by his wife Rita and three children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Two sons predeceased him.

Until we meet again Jack.

Marie Weekers

NEWS FROM GLADSTONE PARISH

All Souls Day is a very special Feast Day in the Philippines and this year we were fortunate to have Fr Peter Kenny (a Columban Priest who spent thirty years as a missionary in the Philippines) available to come and offer Mass for our community on All Souls Day. Most of the Mass was offered in Targalog which is one of the common dialects. Flowers and food were brought forward in the offertory gifts as is customary. The Filipinos choir led the singing with great joy and happiness.



Mass was followed by a shared scrumptious meal in a very festive atmosphere. A cultural display was set up in the hall and this proved very interesting to the non-Filipino community. After the meal there was a traditional dance display and entertainment by the choir. Father was very encouraging during his talk about Mass attendance, the choir and fostering good community relationships between the Filipinos and other nationalities in this community.

On 15 November we held a special Mass to honour those who had died during the last twelve months—especially those from Gladstone Parish. There was a table set up in front of the altar and relatives were asked to bring a photo of their loved one and place it on a table for all to see, also flowers to symbolise hope, love and faith. During the Mass there was an opportunity for a family member or a friend to light a candle while the litany of those who had died was sung.

“Coming Home for Christmas”

program was run over the four weeks leading up to Christmas. This was a great opportunity for those who have, for whatever reason, dropped away from their faith over the years to be welcomed back in an atmosphere of love and understanding, an opportunity to be healed of old or recent hurts, an opportunity to be listened to—an opportunity too for all Catholics to update their knowledge and understanding and thus to grow in faith. Our parish priest, Fr Seamus led this backed up by some lay folk.

Fr Bill Ryder, our Marist Fathers Provincial has announced that Fr Barry Leech will be leaving us after a two year appointment. Fr Barry came to us from New Zealand. How does one say goodbye to someone who has had a profound effect on one's spiritual

life—it won't be easy. Fr Barry will be remembered for his great love and reverence of the Eucharist, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Baptism especially. This compassion and understanding for the sick and the elderly and the tenderness with which he dealt with those who had lost a loved one, be it a relative or friend, is held in high regard. Though very much a reverent priest, Father has a great sense of humour and is always tremendous company. It is an honour to be able to call him friend. We were fortunate in being able to host his 25th anniversary as a Priest and his 50th birthday last year. You will be remembered with much love and affection Father Barry as you take part of our hearts with you. God bless and guide you.



It is with much love and affection that we welcome back to Star of the Sea Parish Father Tom Fulcher. It has been eleven years since Father Tom was here as our parish priest and we know he has many more gifts to share with us. We really look forward to having his bright cheery presence amongst us again.



A planning/prayer day is being held on 14 January to set the program for the year.

Jill Cotterell

DATE CLAIMER!

MOVERS & SHAKERS 2002

2-7 APRIL

ALEXANDRA HEADLANDS

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS
CLOSE 8 FEBRUARY 2002**

**Application Forms and more
information available from:**

**Diocesan Youth Office
PO Box 641
ROCKHAMPTON 4700**

Phone: 07 49 277 244

Fax: 07 49 228 256

Email:

youth@rok.catholic.net.au

A HUMBLE THRESHOLD-COMPANION

Two Japanese tourists were keen to play golf but when they turned up at the golf course the first tee was completely booked out. The golf pro, trying to be helpful, told them to go to the tenth hole and play the back nine. They played the tenth hole but then thought that the term 'back nine' meant to play backwards so they proceeded to play the ninth, then the eighth, the seventh, but at this stage they ran into players coming from the first.

The pro noticed the confusion and came out to help. There was much bowing, laughter and good humour as he explained that they were going back to front. It does happen that the message we try to give is not the message received. This is a danger when we are explaining membership of our Church to new members.

In a recent report, the Bishops in England issued guidelines about this. "Members of the Church should greet newcomers where they are at in their lives, respecting their situations, rather than giving them a fixed code to accept or reject. God is at work in people's lives—our task is to help them see where God is present and what God is calling them to be and to do." The report urges Church members to talk about the Gospel before talking about the sacraments.

It goes on to say "we can offer the certainties we hold in an exclusive way or we can offer the same certainties in a different, more open way." The report advocates the latter. "This will involve change, which is frightening, but we are asking for change in those who come to us. Is not God asking change of us too? We are called not only to evangelise, but also to be evangelised ourselves and whenever we hear God afresh, we must be prepared to shift gears." In its conclusion, the report states that the aim of the catechist should be less of an 'all-powerful doorkeeper' and more of a 'humble threshold-companion'.

This challenge is apt for us at Easter time when we receive new members into our Church and when we give witness to Jesus rising from the dead and to his Spirit living on. Yes, we are honoured to have Jesus' Spirit alive in us so that his Good News message can be effective in our changing world, which means the way we present this message will be in a constant state of change.

For me, moving out of a system of fixed certainties to an evolving one of change and doubt, was an almost insurmountable barrier but it was the Spirit's way of leading me to 'let go' in God and trust in the Spirit.

In my early years as a teacher, I worked hard at proving we were the true Church and I worked towards making our Church the biggest and best and the most powerful of earthly kingdoms. I overlooked one of the main teachings of Jesus, "*My kingdom does not belong to this world... No, my kingdom does not belong here.*" (Jn 18:36)

I should have directed my energies towards his message rather than making his Church exclusive. My mistake is understandable as the Apostles had great difficulty with this teaching and Jesus had to insist that this was his way. Even today some areas of our Church baulk at Jesus' directives.

"You know the rulers of the heathen have power over them, and leaders have complete authority. This however is not the way it shall be among you." (Mt 20:25)

Br John Venard
Used with permission

NEW STATUTES AND NEW BUSINESS MANAGER FOR AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Father Finnigan announced that new Statutes, approved by the Vatican Congregation for Bishops, were to become effective on 25 November 2001. The documents are available on the ACBC website: www.catholic.org.au A number of by-laws are being developed to give practical application to the Statutes.

Father Finnigan also announced the appointment of Mr Glenn Mowbray as the new Business Manager for the ACBC. Mr Mowbray comes with glowing recommendations to the position which he assumed full-time from 2 January 2002.

Glenn and his wife Trish were nominated by the ACBC to represent Australia at the Third World Meeting of Families with the Holy Father in Rome during the Jubilee Year, October 2000. The Mowbrays are currently Wollongong Diocesan Co-ordinators for Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

Who Knows The Mind of God

(1 Cor. 2:16)

***When our time has passed
And we have ceased to be,
We must undergo
Death's indignity.***

***Then will our bodies form
Fruit of the earth,
Its sacred bread and wine,
For future life to dine.***

***Other men will rise
From this earth's table,
To sow the Kingdom's seeds
Through Godly deeds.***

***The Mind of God is mirrored
In the cosmic plan.
Those who seek His wisdom
Heed the cries of man.***

Corinnie Driscoll

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS WELCOME APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION

Responding to the launch by Pope John Paul II of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Oceania*, (The Church in Oceania), President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference Archbishop Francis Carroll said "We are very pleased that the Pope has issued the Apostolic Exhortation on the anniversary of the opening of the special Synod for Oceania. We awaited this document with great anticipation. While we are naturally disappointed that the Holy Father was not able to be present in person among us, we are grateful for the release of this Exhortation via modern technology.

"We are delighted that Pope John Paul II has taken up the cause of the indigenous peoples of Oceania and reiterated the forgiveness that we ask of our brothers and sisters for the shameful injustices of the past."

Ecclesia in Oceania, promulgated in Rome by the Pope, follows up the 1998 Synod attended by the bishops of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, and the Pacific.

The document reads in part "The Church expresses deep regret and asks forgiveness where her children have been or still are party to these wrongs. Aware of the shameful injustices done to indigenous peoples in Oceania, the Synod Fathers apologised unreservedly for the part played in these by members of the Church, especially where children were forcibly separated from the families." (n28)

Archbishop Carroll today said "*Ecclesia in Oceania*" brings together many of the thoughts and issues raised by the Bishops of Australia at the 1998 Synod. This document also addresses key issues that are of concern in this region both for the community life of the church and its mission in the wider society."

Pope John Paul II sent a copy of the exhortation to each bishop within the Oceania region via the Internet. Unable to travel to the southern hemisphere, the Pope chose to utilise new technology to publish the papal document.

The full text of *Ecclesia in Oceania* is available on www.catholic.org.au

What Happened to "The Flying Nun"?

Remember Sister Anne Maree Jensen of the Aerial Ministry? She send news of her doings.

Sister Anne Maree has spent the last year in Melbourne where she graduated on the 26 November as a Spiritual Director—one who accompanies another as they discern the movement of God within.


What is ahead for Anne Maree?

Her congregation has graciously given her permission to apply to do an eighteen months Masters in Pastoral Counselling Course in Maryland USA to begin in June 2002. What a journey - from the bush to the City of Melbourne and on to America. She says she was inspired by the people of the west.

She will be based in Brisbane before her course overseas begins.

YOUR FAMILY'S PROTECTION IS NO ACCIDENT

For less than 12 cents a day, per person, Catholic Church Insurances Limited can insure your entire family up to \$10,000 for any one accident. Now they can be covered 24 hours a day, anywhere in the world. For immediate cover, call us now on 1300 655 005. Singles and couple accident protection is also available.

 Catholic Church Insurances Limited
 EQV57 0011 02 03 11

DIOCESAN LENTEN PROGRAM 2002



THREE STORIES

Jesus—Yours—Mine



*A Time To Listen and Tell—
A Time to Grow—A Time To Prepare*

Join the Diocesan Family—at home, at school, the parish, your group.

Be sure to collect your weekly Lenten Guide—Scripture, Story, Prayer, Things We Do



Centacare

SPONSORED BY THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON

MISSION STATEMENT

Centacare is called by the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton to share in the healing ministry of Jesus with a spirit of compassion, acceptance, caring and hope, through the development and provision of professional, social and family services.

Adult and Community Education Programs
Aged Care and Disability Services
Counselling - Personal, Relationships, Family, Youth & Children
Deaf and hearing impaired Support Program
Domestic Violence Service of Central Queensland & Court Support
Employee Assistance Programs - ACCESS

Family Life Education Program
Family Support Service
Home Assist/Secure
Marriage Preparation and Education
Natural Family Planning
Neighbourhood Care

Not all services are available at each branch

10 Adams Street
PO Box 417
MILKAYIA QLD 4740
Tel: 07 4627 176
Fax: 07 4627 029

312 Graham Street
Newhaven
PO Box 124
Grafton
Tel: 07 4297 2111
Fax: 07 4291 1174

26 Mackay Street
PO Box 2811
MACKAY QLD 4740
Tel: 07 4751 2112
Fax: 07 4751 2168

21 Mann Street
PO Box 417
BLACK MOUNTAIN QLD 4727
Tel: 07 4666 2161
Fax: 07 4666 1027

11 Egmont Street
PO Box 1241
MURFRESBORO QLD 4720
Tel: 07 4667 2111
Fax: 07 4667 1021

4 Brisbane Avenue
PO Box 241
ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4740
Tel: 07 4941 5093
Fax: 07 4941 5094



CATHOLIC COMMUNICATORS UNITE

The Australian Catholic Church was represented at an historic occasion in the Vatican on Friday 23 November. Pope John Paul II received in private audience delegates of OCIC, the International Catholic Film Organisation and Unda, the International Catholic Radio and Television Association. He accepted the dissolution of these organisations into SIGNIS, a new International Catholic Media Association.

Unda (the Latin word for wave) represented 133 national and 22 international television and radio organisations. It co-ordinated a network of Catholic associations and individuals involved in broadcasting, and provided them with a forum for professional collaboration. It liaised with Catholics and non-Catholic organisations.

Unda aimed to ensure a human and Christian spirit in media, to promote media training and education, and to achieve effective religious broadcasting.

Founded in April 1928, OCIC, the International Catholic Organisation for Cinema was made up of 160 member associations, operating in more than 140 countries and territories. Since 1935, OCIC has been recognised by the Vatican as the official organisation of the Catholic Church in the field of cinema.

OCIC was a member of the International Council for Cinema and Television, and the International Center of Films for Children and Young People and provided juries and prizes at some of the world's most famous film festivals, including Cannes, Berlin, Moscow and Venice.

Both organisations enjoyed consultative status with UNESCO, the United Nations Economic and Social Council and with the Council of Europe and were members of the Conference of International Catholic Organisations.

The new institution, SIGNIS, a hybrid Latin word from 'sign' and 'fire', took over the administration and co-ordination of the Church's ministry in visual and broadcast media. The amalgamation is the result of years of negotiation between the two organisations under the leadership of the Vatican's media department: the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. It recognised the growing convergence of media and the need for the Church to have a unified and co-ordinated approach to influencing communications for good. Its headquarters is in Brussels with a permanent office in Rome.

The Australian Bishops sent as their representatives, Father Richard Leonard SJ, head of OCIC Australia and Director of the Australian Catholic Film Office and Mr Peter Thomas, Director of the Australian Catholic Television Library and International Vice President of Unda. Another Australian, Father Peter Malone, MSC, International President of OCIC, has played a key role in bringing these organisations together.

"It is an enormous honour to be asked to represent the Australian Church on this occasion", Fr Leonard said.

"Global media is shrinking the world. The Church, as one of the world's largest multinational organisations, has an obligation to do all we can to mount a co-ordinated and concerted effort to support good media, promote our Catholic values and principles, encourage cultural diversity and media inculturation and to defend human dignity. SIGNIS will help us be a constructive and effective voice in international bodies that can influence media policy, while also supporting projects in the third world that enables the voiceless to be heard."

SIGNIS will have national associations made up of nominated delegates, confirmed by the Bishops' Committee for the Media. SIGNIS Australia will belong to the Pacific region where many dioceses in seventeen Pacific nations relied on funding from OCIC and Unda, and now SIGNIS, to undertake vital communications work. From the world's regions an International Assembly and Board will be selected and confirmed by the Vatican.

*For more information see:
<http://www.signis.net>*

Count Your Blessings

We're never happy with our lot,
Always craving for more than we've got.

Let's be thankful for what we gain,
Count our Blessings...don't complain.

If society would only stop and think,
Of starving countries...without food or drink.

War, oppression, suffering and strife,
Depict the horrors of their everyday life.

Selfishly, we're too busy chasing
material things,

To worry about others...unjustly
suffering.

If only humanity acknowledged the
power of prayer,

Peace and harmony would prevail
everywhere.

Oh! For a better world...everlasting
peace,

And the hope that the hunger and
oppression cease.

Let us with confidence sincerely pray,
"God be with us in our troubled world
today."

Mavis Crane

DIOCESAN INFORMATION

Aboriginal & Islander Catholic Council Ministry

168 Bolsover Street
PO Box 641, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4923 7197—Fax: 07 4923 7198
Contact: Mrs Barbara Trevaskis

Adult Faith Education & Formation

143 West Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4931 3679—Fax: 07 4931 3683
Email: afef@ceo.rok.catholic.edu.au
Contact: Dr Gerard Goldman

Aged Care Diocesan Council

168 William Street, Rockhampton Q 4700

Archives

168 William Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 49 22 1117—Fax: 07 4921 3935

Bishop's Office

168 William Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 611, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4922 1149—Fax: 07 4922 1224
Secretary: Mrs Jan Mussig

Caritas Australia

124 Talford Street, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 7853—Fax: 07 4927 1940
Diocesan Director: Mrs Margaret Perkins

Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Diocesan Service Committee
6 Palmer Street, Bundaberg Q 4670
Ph: 07 4153 2746
Chairperson: Mr Arthur Begeda

Catholic Mission

PO Box 611, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4921 2589—Fax: 07 4921 3935
Diocesan Director: Fr John Grace

Catholic Prison Ministry

168 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton 4700
PO Box 641, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 7244—Fax: 07 4922 8256
Contacts: Sr Ursula Brown RSM &
Sr Dolores Donnelly RSM

Centacare

Ross Munro
Diocesan Director
10 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 819, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 1700—Fax: 07 4927 9209

Marie Downing, Centre Co-ordinator
10 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 819, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 1700—Fax: 07 4927 9209
Email: centacare@rok.catholic.net.au

Donna Forbes, Centre Co-ordinator
79 Woongarra Street, Bundaberg
PO Box 1338, Bundaberg Q 4670
PH: 07 4153 2532—Fax: 07 4152 8308

Nina Weisenekker, Centre-Co-ordinator
7/12 Grendon Street, North Mackay
PO Box 3402, North Mackay Q 4740
Ph: 07 4941 6093—Fax: 07 4953 1129

Francis Tomlinson
4 Belyando Avenue, Moranbah
PO Box 291, Moranbah Q 4744
Ph: 07 4941 6093—Fax: 07 4941 7389

Jenny Smith, Centre Co-ordinator
18 Egerton Street, Emerald
PO Box 1245, Emerald Q 4720
PH: 07 4982 4358—Fax: 07 4982 2975

Sue Hanrahan, Site Co-ordinator
25 Manna Street, Blackwater
PO Box 457, Blackwater Q 4717
Ph: 07 4986 1100—Fax: 07 4986 1607

CQ University Chaplaincy

Central Queensland University
Ph: 07 4930 9285—Fax: 07 4930 6526
Chaplain: Mr Matthew Ryan

Deaf Apostolate

C/- Diocesan Pastoral Services Office
168 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
Ph: 07 4927 7244—Fax: 07 4922 8256
Contact: Sr Vera Harrison RSM

Ecumenism Committee

168 William Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 611, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4922 1149

Education Council

143 West Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4931 3600—Fax: 07 4927 7560
Contact: Miss Leesa Jeffcoat

Education Office

143 West Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4931 3600—Fax: 07 4927 7560
Contact: Miss Leesa Jeffcoat

Faith Education Resource Centre

143 West Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4931 3648—Fax: 07 4927 7560
Co-ordinator: Miss Pat Cagney

Financial Services Office

170 William Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 611, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 3755

Liturgical Commission

PO Box 611, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4922 1117—Fax: 07 4921 3935
Contact: Fr John Grace

Natural Family Planning Comm

10 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 819, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 1700—Fax 07 4927 9209
Co-ordinator: Mrs Noelle Melrose

Parents & Friends Assoc Dioc Comm

C/- Diocesan Catholic Education Office
PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4931 3600

Pastoral Services Office, Diocesan

168 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 641, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 7244—Fax: 07 4922 8256
Co-ordinator: Miss Marcia Mansfield

Sacramental Task Force

143 West Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4931 3600—Fax: 07 4927 7560
Contact: Sr Margaret Hallinan PBVM

Social Justice Committee

124 Talford Street, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 7853
Contact: Mrs Margaret Perkins

Vocations Group, Diocesan

168 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 641, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 7244—Fax: 07 4922 8256
Email: youth@rok.catholic.net.au
Contact: Miss Joy Philippi

Workplace Health & Safety Office

PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4931 3659
Contact: Mr Harry McNaught

Youth Office, Diocesan

168 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton
PO Box 641, Rockhampton Q 4700
Ph: 07 4927 7244—Fax: 07 4922 8256
Email: youth@rok.catholic.net.au
Co-ordinator: Miss Joy Philippi

BISHOP'S DIARY

February-March 2002



February

- 2 9.00am—Opening Year Mass—Emmaus College
- 3-4 Pastoral Visit—Holy Rosary/St Patrick's Parishes Bundaberg
- 7 10.00am—Meeting of Adult Faith Education and Formation Committee
- 10-11 World Day of the Sick Celebrations -Sydney
- 12-13 Diocesan Liturgical Commission—Inservice Days
- 14 3.00pm—Meeting of Diocesan Staffing and Shaping Task Force
- 15 Diocesan Finance Council Meeting
- 16-17 Meeting of Diocesan Pastoral Council
- 22 Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Elect Geoffrey Jarrett—Lismore
- 24-25 Pastoral Visit—St Michael's Sarina
- 26-27 Gathering of Priests, Pastoral Ministers and Principals

March

- 3-4 Pastoral Visit—St Vincent's Parish Wandal
- 4 10.00am—Aboriginal & Islander Catholic Council Ministry Mass
- 5-9 Queensland Bishops' Conference
- 10 11.00am—Rite of Election (RCIA) - St Joseph's Cathedral
- 10-11 Pastoral Visit—Sacred Heart Parish, Mt Morgan
- 13 9.00am—Meeting of Diocesan Directors
- 14 9.00am—Meeting of Diocesan Council of Priests
- 15 10.30am—Meeting of Diocesan Toward Healing Committee
3.30pm—Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council
- 16 Bishop's Inservice Day—Gladstone, Biloela, Monto
- 17-18 Springsure Centenary Celebrations
- 19 10.00—Feast of St Joseph Mass— St Joseph's Cathedral
- 23 Bishop's Inservice Day—Mackay
- 24-25 Pastoral Visit—St Mary's/St Patrick's Parishes, Mackay
- 28 Official Opening/Blessing of Buildings in Barcaldine & Blackall Schools
- 29 Bishop's Inservice Day—Barcaldine
- 30 Bishop's Inservice Day—Springsure
- 31-1(Apr) Pastoral Visit—Clermont/Capella

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ceremony of Life Commitment of Sandra Anne Hopkins	1
St Joseph's Church Silver Anniversary	2
Student Placement—St Joseph's Parish North Mackay	2
Comment—"Launch Into The Deep"	3
Homily—Fr John Grace—Sr Sandra Hopkins' Ceremony of Religious Profession	4-5
Theodore Pics	5
Leadership Ritual of The Sisters of Mercy of Rockhampton Saturday December 8	6-7
Conventual Franciscans Elect Leader	7
News From Stella Maris Mackay	8
A Quiet Hero: The Life Of The Very Reverend Dean Patrick Walsh, mid, DD	8
Monto News	9
St Patrick's School Emerald 1902-2002	9
Queensland World Youth Day Pilgrimage	10
What is Project Compassion?	11
Site for New Hospital is Blessed	12-13
News From the Parish of Park Avenue	14
Park Avenue Parish Farewells Fr Noel Milner	14
News From The Dawson Valley	15
Loss of Great Vincentian & Ultimate Volunteer	15
News From Gladstone Parish	16
Date Claimer—Movers & Shakers 2002	16
A Humble Threshold-Companion	17
New Statutes and New Business Manager for Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference	17
Who Knows The Mind of God?	17
Australian Catholic Bishops Welcome Apostolic Exhortation	18
What Happened to "The Flying Nun?"	18
Diocesan Lenten Program 2002 Three Stories—Jesus—Yours—Mine	21
Catholic Communicators Unite	22
Count Your Blessings	22
Diocesan Information	23
Bishop's Diary February-March 2002	24