



THE REVIEW

Registered by Australia Post Publication QAR0249

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FEBRUARY ISSUE

YEAR 2004 VOLUME NO. 1

'GO OUT TO ALL THE WORLD' - SERVICE WITH INTEGRITY ***Principles and Values for those who work in the name of the Church*** ***in the Diocese of Rockhampton***

Foreword:

This document is presented to the people of the Diocese of Rockhampton as a guide and support for all those who 'go out to the world' in the name of the Church, whether priest, religious or lay, whether volunteer or employed. It provides positive guidelines through providing principles and values for all those going and receiving service in Christ's name.

Jesus made God's love for every human person very clear, often in ways that surprised others. This applied especially to the poor, the young, the vulnerable, the sick, the lonely, and those who were disregarded by society. Jesus showed everyone that they were welcome in God's community of love. As church we are called to proclaim this Gospel message.

It is also a sign of the Diocese's commitment to the document *"Towards Healing"* and in particular the recommendation that encourages the development within the Church of understanding of abuse and its seriousness.

I hope that it will encourage those members of our faith communities who give witness to God's unconditional love through their services, integrity and selfless love. It is intended to support those involved in ministries and service in their concern to protect children and adults and to be protected themselves from all forms of harassment, unfair discrimination, and physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

As Church members we often assist people at sensitive and painful moments

in their lives, when they may be at their most vulnerable. In serving others we are called to be guided by a spirit of love, sensitivity and fairness, putting aside our needs for the sake of theirs.

Many ministries and agencies have been working on guidelines and procedures that relate specifically to their own area of ministry. I hope that more will do so.

This document can be used by parishes and other diocesan facilities to assist in clarifying how we are called to integrity in the service of others and to draw up guidelines specific to individual groups where necessary.

Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton

1. At the service of the community

Jesus witnessed to the Gospel by serving the people of his time. He invited his followers to serve as he did, counting themselves least of all for the sake of others.

PRINCIPLE 1

We who work in the name of the Church witness God's nurturing and all-inclusive love for all people through our sensitivity, reverence, respect and support.

Values:

- Treating everyone with dignity and respect
- Ensuring that all people are treated fairly
- Honouring the equality of all people who differ from ourselves (eg, in ethnicity, religion, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation and economic circumstances)

- Giving priority to handling disputes respectfully through dialogue and negotiation rather than by the use of power
- Respecting the physical and personal space of others, especially with regard to physical contact
- Responding to information seriously, with sensitivity and confidentiality

2. Called and gifted for service

To serve as Jesus did invites us to openness, growth, humble reverence, and an ongoing commitment to the call of baptism.

PRINCIPLE 2

We who work in the name of the Church are committed to developing and maintaining the skills and competencies required, and to living in a way that proclaims God's good news.

Values:

- Committing to a journey of faith, hope and love
- Developing in knowledge and understanding our faith
- Participating in opportunities for education and/or professional development
- Being accountable to the Church community through participation in support processes (eg, group or one-to-one meetings that offer an opportunity for reflection and evaluation of our efforts)
- Developing healthy relationships with peers and friends outside of pastoral relationships

'GO OUT TO ALL THE WORLD' - SERVICE WITH INTEGRITY

Principles and Values for those who work in in the name of the Church in the Diocese of Rockhampton

- Living a healthy and balanced lifestyle, taking time off for recreation and for the company of others

3. Trust and vulnerability

Many people are drawn to the Church in search of help and healing. As they come to us in trust and vulnerability, our response is to be an expression of God's love for them.

PRINCIPLE 3

We who work in the name of the Church will do so in a spirit of love and concern for all people, striving to avoid self-interest and any kind of exploitation.

Values:

- Recognizing the limitations of our skills, training and abilities and not giving advice or counseling in areas outside our competence (eg, psychology, social work, spiritual direction)
- Recommending appropriate assistance to those with needs outside our area of competence (eg, from an appropriately skilled/qualified person or agency)
- Avoiding the possibility of exploitation (eg, through a conflict of interest or the development of undue dependency)
- Being aware of the issues/risks involved in forming a private relationship with someone with whom we have a pastoral relationship
- Responding to criticism of the Church or its leaders in a spirit of humility and love

4. Commitment to justice

A commitment for all to receive a just share of the gifts of creation is central to the Church's life and mission.



PRINCIPLE 4

We who work in the name of the Church are committed to do so in a way that witnesses to God's justice and mercy.

Values:

- Ensuring that access to appropriate training and development is available for those who work in the Church's name
- Negotiating clear and mutual understanding of each person's roles, responsibilities and duties, including one's own
- Providing adequate support mechanisms for people who encounter difficult situations when working in the name of the Church, and informing people about the mechanisms available
- Accessing the support mechanisms provided when it is appropriate
- Ensuring that there are appropriate avenues for making and responding to grievances and that appropriate processes for resolution exist (eg formal grievance and mediation procedures)
- Receiving with integrity and fairness any complaints of sexual, physical or emotional abuse, following the principles and procedures laid down in "Towards Healing"
- Reporting to an appropriate person any concerns of possible abuse by someone working in the name of the Church

Resources:

Towards Healing: Principles and procedures in responding to complaints of abuse against personnel of the Catholic Church in Australia—December 2000

Integrity in Ministry: A Document of Principles and Standards for Catholic Clergy & Religious in Australia June 1999

Integrity in the Workplace: A Document of Principles and Standards for Sisters of Mercy Health and Aged Care Ministry – Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy 2000

A Vision for Christian Leadership in the Diocese of Rockhampton—2001

A GUIDE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF 'Go Out To All The World'

(It is suggested that each service or ministry group meet to discuss the implications for themselves and the people they serve)

All present are asked to read and reflect on Bishop Heenan's 'Foreword' and each of the four sections of the document. Discussion could follow using some or all of the following questions. Some may prefer to set their own questions if they are more appropriate for a particular group

- 1. How do we witness to God's unconditional love through our work in the Church?*
- 2. Do I always see myself as working 'in the name of the Church' in this ministry/service?*
- 3. What support or assistance do I need to continue to serve with integrity?*
- 4. How are the Values outlined in this document being reflected in our work?*
- 5. Based on my past experience and after reading this document, do I need to make any changes in the way I serve/minister?*

THE REVIEW

*Journal of
The Catholic Diocese of
Rockhampton*

February Issue, Year 2004,
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.

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addressed to:

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Opinions expressed in the articles
of this issue do not necessarily
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be returned to owners.

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

**Editor:
Marcia Mansfield**

Printed by:

*The Printing and
Display Factory
Incorporating
Diocesan Printing
Service*

VISIT TO ROME "AD LIMINA" BISHOP BRIAN—MARCH 2004

At the beginning of March, I will leave Australia for a visit to Rome where I will meet with Pope John Paul II, the Chief Shepherd of our universal Catholic Church. I will spend a few days in Geneva and then Malta, before joining all the Australian Bishops for the beginning of a two week visit. I will be returning just prior to the Mass of the Holy Oils and the celebration of Easter. The visit is called "Ad Limina", an abbreviation for "ad limina Apostolorum" or 'the threshold of the Apostles'.

As you may read elsewhere, the primary purpose of the visit is to reinforce the link between the Church in Australia and the universal Church. I will have a private audience of about fifteen minutes with the Pope, reminding me that I share the role of Shepherd with Pope John Paul II and all of the Bishops of the world. It is a privileged opportunity to share with the Pope some of the richness and treasured features of our Diocese of Rockhampton, as well as the challenges we face.

I have already forwarded to Rome a document of over one hundred pages which covers almost all of the pastoral activities of our diocese over the past six years. I am fortunate to have had the assistance of many people to write and compile the document which is distributed to the various Congregations or Descastries of the Roman Curia. The Pope may, or may not have read it, but I have found that he is remarkably familiar with the story of the diocese. After all, he has been our Chief Shepherd for twenty-five years.

The Ad Limina report remains an excellent source document for our archives as does *The Review*, our diocesan monthly magazine. When the history of the diocese is eventually written, there will be ample resources to examine and to compile an authentic story.

The Ad Limina visit and the lengthy report also helps to focus on our diocesan life, the changes that have occurred and the challenges before us. I would hope that it would be of assistance to the officials of the Roman Curia, to know that we are responding very confidently to the pastoral needs of our region in "Australia - down under".

I ask the prayers of all in our Diocesan Family, that my visit will bring blessings upon us all.

I include my final words from our Ad Limina Report of 2004 : *"I believe that all in the Diocese of Rockhampton have drawn together into a unity of purpose and ministry. A renewed spirit of cooperation and coordination encourages all of our agencies to harmonise their outreach to the parish communities and to the wider population for whom we have responsibility. Our Diocesan Vision Statement has not been altered, in fact, it has greater impact as we explore it through study programs - it reminds us":*

As a community of believers, we live out the call of baptism, through personal faith in Jesus, witnessing together to the Good News of the Kingdom.

"There is a spirit of hope and optimism throughout the diocese, in spite of the challenges facing the Church and the world. While there are some who find changes impossible to adapt to, most would understand the words of Cardinal Newman who, in 1845 stated "to live is to change and to have changed often is to be perfect".

We live in a wonderful country, characterised by freedom and open spaces. It is true that Australia is not a strongly religious culture, but there are natural qualities which deserve to be recognised as positive and wholesome. The power and beauty of God's creation cannot be unnoticed in this land, particularly as we have become far more appreciative of the gift of the land and the need to preserve our environment.

The people of the Diocese of Rockhampton, Laity, Religious, Priests and Bishop, offer their loyalty to the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, each time Eucharist is celebrated. At all times they honour his leadership and pray for the Church. They are committed to being disciples of Jesus Christ and in spite of failures and discouragement, celebrate many significant achievements and continue to anchor their hope in the presence and power of Jesus Christ in their midst".

**Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton**

MERCY DICKINSON—RIP

Kathleen Mercy Dickinson (nee Griffin) was born in Rockhampton on 23 September 1919. She died in Brisbane on 10 October 2003.

At age seven as a result of meningitis, Mercy lost her sight. Because the only education facility for the blind in Queensland was the Queensland School for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb at Annerley in Brisbane, Mercy suffered the trauma of separation from her family to attend school there. With the resilience of the young, she soon settled into the school to continue her education.

She sat for the state scholarship examination in 1932, which she passed, then went on to become the first blind student at Brisbane State High School. She continued to board at the School for the Blind and commuted daily by tram to high school.

She had exceptional academic ability and passed all Junior (Year 10) subjects. She also won the Bruton Stephens Essay Prize. Mercy matriculated two years later and became the first blind student to be enrolled at the University of Queensland.

Mercy was the recipient of a Fullbright Scholarship in 1954. She studied at the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind and completed a Master's degree in Special Education.

On her return to Australia, via Britain and Europe and a practicum at the famous Conover Hall in Shrewsbury, England, she became teacher-in-charge at the school for the blind where she had been educated.

Her experience, understanding and patience made her an exemplary teacher and she became a champion for the blind and disabled. She was able to dispel many prejudices and through her advocacy raise the level of expectation for blind students.

In 1962, Mercy married Harold Dickinson, another blind student from the Queensland School for the Blind. They first met as members of an orchestra. Mercy and Harold traveled extensively and studied many training facilities for the blind while overseas.

On their return to Queensland they established the Queensland Training and Placement for the Blind. When Mercy and Harold retired, their Training and Placement Centre was taken over by Queensland Education Department and now forms part of TAFE at Yeronga.

Both received honours for their services to the blind—Harold an MBE and Mercy received an AM in 1984.

Harold died in 1982 and Mercy continued to work for the blind. She became more heavily involved with the Braille Writers Association. She taught people who had lost their sight to read Braille or Moon script.

Mercy's contributions to education of the blind were recognized by The Queensland University of Technology who made her a Doctor of the University in 1984.

When Pope John Paul II visited Australia in 1986, Mercy used a Braille text to deliver the first reading at his Mass.

Mercy died after a short illness and was buried in Toowong after a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Holy Family Church, Indooroopilly where she had been a parishioner.

Both Harold and Mercy wrote autobiographies. Mercy's is entitled "As I've Seen It" and Harold's is called "Over the Next Hill". These autobiographies give testament to two remarkable lives.

NEW MEMBERS FOR NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CATHOLIC COUNCIL (NATSICC)

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has announced its new members, following the Annual General Meeting, held in Sydney.

The elected council consists of Chairperson Melissa Brickell (Victoria), Deputy Chairperson Ernie Trevaskis (Queensland), Secretary Elsie Heiss (New South Wales), Treasurer Jenny Brown (ACT), Marlon Riley (National Youth Representative), Leonie Kelly (Western Australia), Kara Williams (Tasmania), and Shirley Peisley (South Australia). The Northern Territory and Torres Strait Islands are currently without representation.

The challenge is to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Peoples travel together as God's family – connected by cultures, respect, strength, commitment, acceptance, tolerance, recognition, passion, trust, healing, hope and faith – united with all Catholics in Australia.

NATSICC calls on each State and Territory to celebrate our dream and the Pope's 1986 vision – to continue to rebirth together into the future, toward joyous acceptance and partnership in the Catholic Church in Australia.



Ernie Trevaskis—parishioner of Monto and Joint Co-ordinator of AICCM in the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton is new Deputy Chairperson of NATSICC

FR JOHN BARRY CM—RIP



MELBOURNE, October 2003: Fr John Barry CM (Australian Province of the Congregation of the Mission), died on

October 24 of this year, and his funeral took place from St Joseph's Malvern (Vic) after the celebration of Eucharist on October 29.

Fr John Barry CM was in his 74th year of life and his 50th year of priestly service when he died peacefully in the late evening of 24 October 2003.

Born in Canberra, he received his primary school education at St Christopher's Parish School, Manuka, and undertook his secondary education at St Stanislaus'

College Bathurst.

During the period 1971-1972 he undertook higher degree studies and in February 1973 he was awarded a Licentiate in Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

Ordained in 1953, John spent many years teaching Scripture, Sacramental Theology and Biblical Greek. He was a lecturer in Seminaries in Mosgiel (NZ) (1954-1957); in Adelaide (1958-1964, 1970, 1973-1976, 1983-1986), and Perth (1965-1966). He also lectured at Catholic Theological Union (Sydney) from 1977 to 1979 and at Yarra Theological Union (Melbourne) in the period 1980-1982.

One of his former students summed up John's teaching ability in these words: "He brought the energy and the excitement of the Second Vatican Council to us when I

was doing Theology, and he opened up recent reading in a way that was very formative and important for me."

The energy and excitement that he had for theology he also brought to his pastoral work and chaplaincies. He worked in Ashfield (1967), Malvern (1968-1969, 1995-2003), Modbury (1983-1986), and Wandal (1992-1994), and on the Parish Renewal Team in the period 1986-1991.

John will be greatly missed, not only for his solid and broadly-based learning shared so willingly with others, but even more for the generous, gentle and unwavering care he extended to all with whom he came in contact.

*Taken from
www.vincentians.org.au
Used with permission*

News from Callide Valley - St. Joseph's Parish

Happy New Year to all. May this year be one of many blessings spiritual and temporal.

Congratulations to our new Parish Pastoral Council Executive - Chairperson-Mercia Giles, Vice Chair-Anne McNelley, Secretary-Heather Barnes.

Our 40th Annual School Ball was held on 17th October 2003. It was a wonderful night of celebration for the school and parish community. A great event like this is the culmination of a lot of preparation and work by many teachers, parents and all the students. Congratulations to all for this great enjoyable family night.

Our Principal, Stephen Dale, his wife Elizabeth and their family go to his new appointment in West Bundaberg. They have been a blessing to our parish and school and will be greatly missed. We wish them God's blessing and best wishes for the future. We welcome our new Principal, Tim Collins and his family from Springsure and hope they will be very happy in Biloela.

Adult Faith Talks - History of the Catholic Church finished on 30th October. These

talks have been really enjoyed and have increased our desire for more knowledge of the Journey of Our Church. Of course how much we all remember is another thing! To know our history is to know and appreciate our Church and strive to be as faith filled and courageous in our own personal journeys as those who have gone before us.

Raymond de Souza, lay Catholic Speaker came to Biloela on 31-10-03.

The NET Team visited us at the Biloela High School on 30-10-03. It is always a privilege to have these teens in our parish.

Past Students of St. Joseph's School who attend Biloela High School and other colleges did extremely well in 2003 achieving Academic Awards, Sporting Awards and Cultural and Special Awards. This shows great promise for the future of our Church and our country. We wish them every blessing/success for 2004.

We have welcomed into our Church Samara Dederer—daughter of Damien and Tanya, Dean Martin—son of David and Rae, Lyla Schmidt—daughter of Dani and Linda, Christian Taylor—son of

Nathan and Shannon, Kain and Drew Kugimiya— sons of Shigeru and Simone, Nykaela Shae Roberts—daughter of James and Kelly, William Donohue—son of Daniel and Karen, Therese Annette Savage— daughter of Chris and Suzie. We hope and pray for the future of these beautiful children and their families.

Breakfast after Mass on the 4th Sunday of each month has been a great success, thanks to the great cooks and organisers. We look forward to more breakfasts in 2004!

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Dinner was held on 22-11-03. All members and volunteers enjoyed a social evening together. We thank everyone for their hard work during the year. After a few weeks R & R we will approach 2004 with renewed energy and enthusiasm!

The Knights of the Southern Cross held their Christmas Dinner at the Biloela Bowl's Club. They had a very busy year. We thank them for all the work they accomplish in our parish especially garden areas to beautify our church grounds.

Maureen Weekers

REFLECTIONS ON THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILLORS OF THE DIOCESE

There was a buzz of laughter and chatter as I found my way into the overcrowded room. Joy Philippi and Brent Lammas had begun with several highly successful ice-breakers which immediately set a tone of openness and good will..... And so the weekend continued in friendly open discussion at each of the workshops, as the first regional gathering of Parish Pastoral Councillors to be held in this diocese got under way.

We moved, sometimes very quickly, from one valuable workshop into the next. Each workshop was extremely time limited – this of course challenged the presenters to distill their wisdom to the essence of their message. The down side being the tight time frame for discussion and questions, even in the bigger group.

Inevitably, the unanswered and the answered questions stimulated the conversation at meal breaks where there was the added benefit of chatting with newly met people, sussing out how they operate and what challenges them in their parishes.

All the presenters were clear and focused, each had a strong message, and all were open to further ideas. The final plenary specifically focused on the youth. Brent Lammas certainly had valuable information and a profound personal challenge for us – young and old alike. I found myself thinking of the global cultural influences which impact upon our individual lives, those ideas and values which work against the spirit in our local worshipping communities. There are no clear

answers to the questions raised and it would be trite to presume that there are, however raising the questions and continuing to engage in the debate strengthens one’s participation and commitment while we continue to live in a faith community which is in transition.

On reflection I found the weekend to be something of a mini-renewal and revealing of the gifts of the Spirit. It was and it is my hope that we can expect more such opportunities.

Well done. Congratulations to the whole team, Mary Franzmann, Jane O’Shea, Joy Philippi, Brent Lammas, Liz Orupold, Di Rowan, and all those whose work was behind the scenes.

Judith Hose, Parish Pastoral Councillor, Capricorn Coast Parish.

.....
“Cheer up”..... That is the message we most remember from the gathering of Parish Pastoral Council members from across the diocese on 8-9 November 2003.

And ‘cheer up’ we did! From Brent’s and Joy’s ‘getting to know you’ exercise to Sister Mary’s 2003 version of the ‘Pride of Erin’, followed up with a lively rugby match to watch on Saturday night. Of course there were also four inspiring and challenging workshops led by Brent Lammas and Joy Philippi, Jane O’Shea, Di-Anne Rowan and Liz Orupold (complete with ‘the hat’). Brent’s Sunday presentation on ‘Youth’ opened our eyes to young people’s perspective of Church and Peter Kenny drew things together in the final forum ensuring that we all came away with a future focus.

As people who have had a long break from leadership at parish level, our re-entry after some fifteen years gave us great hope and renewed enthusiasm for what

is happening and can happen in our communities. One of the best parts of the weekend was the informal interaction with other participants—a few senior citizens like ourselves, some of whom have soldiered on without the fifteen years break, and the newer and younger faces who bring their faith and a freshness to parish life that is invigorating. One of the tasks now confronting people like ourselves is to welcome them, listen to and learn from them. They have much to offer.

We felt privileged to share the weekend with so many committed people who know the struggles we face but give generously of themselves in continuing to make God’s Kingdom come.

Cheer up everyone! God is doing an exciting ‘new thing’ in our midst.

Doug & Margaret Tucker



THELMA THECLA LIDDY 19 MARCH 1910 TO 20 OCTOBER 2003—RIP



On 20 October 2003, those who loved her gathered to remember and give thanks for the life of Thelma

Thecla Liddy at St Joseph's Cathedral Rockhampton. Father John Grace presided at her Funeral Mass and in his homily had this to say:

I express a very sincere thank you to each person here, today, as we prayerfully and affectionately take leave of Miss Liddy.

Except for Colin—her first cousin Basil's son, Thelma did not have family to rely on. I am sure she is all the more grateful for the respectful honour that now comes to her from her friends. Miss Liddy benefits from a very long life to consolidate her high esteem.

Born ninety-three years ago, she lived an active life until the past few years. Miss Liddy taught music for seventy years from the age of eighteen, still holding on to a few pupils until the age of eighty-eight. We will never know just how much any one person meant to her—but we do know that she meant an awful lot to ever so many. You just can't draw endless people into your clutches without leaving a lasting effect on some, instilling that love of music, the skill, its soothing and so on. In that sense her legacy will continue—and well may it be the way the Liddy name survives.

Her father was Patrick Liddy, who had a brother Terrence and three sisters, Sr Mary Thecla, Bridget and Maree. Bridget and Maree were spinster aunts who reared Thelma, who was named partially after the other aunt Sister Mary Thecla who died a couple of years (1907) before she was born. The progeny of that generation is restricted to Colin.

Thelma, however, had a brother Vivian, who had subsequently no family of his own; a sister Phyllis, who died with the

birth of her first child; and another spinster sister, Mary.

The world of her upbringing was very contained centering on 213 West Street or 88 South Street. Her schooling was at Allenstown and the Range Convent. She learnt music from the Sisters and Miss Woods. A musical spirit inherited, it survived and thrived for seventy years. Thelma Liddy, in my growing up days, was a household name as an accomplished music teacher in Rockhampton.

By temperament and disposition, Thelma was a particular person, a competent woman, and an accomplished musician. She was rigorous in her outlook, disciplined in her approach, conservative in taste, traditional in religion, utterly dependable and one whose word was worth its weight in gold.

This Cathedral owes an incredible debt to her generosity. With bellows cranking up, Miss Liddy's foot at the ready—for over thirty-five years she was the Cathedral organist. She introduced families to a range of bishops, a variety of administrators, a plethora of clergy and a spectrum of ceremony. Devotional practices of last century were more familiar to her.

She marked her house with sacred images: music was ever meant to lift one up to the sense of inspiration.

Her relaxation was modest. She had a keen interest in eisteddfods, a fine appreciation of classical music, old style Sunday outings (9.00am train to Yeppoon—9.30am train to Emu Park), and regular holidays to Jessie Lee, her friend in Brisbane.

Nothing was allowed to intrude upon or stand in the way of her convictions. Those determinants were faith flavoured, a faith learnt as a child, cherished as an adult and practised all her life. It was strengthened here by the Word of God, the Eucharist and by preaching.

Miss Liddy was ever comfortable with the proclamation of Martha, "Yes Lord, I

believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who has come into this world." The Resurrection was the truth that kept her life intact. It was always heading somewhere beyond whatever filled or occupied it. This was worth every effort to achieve.

The victory for us is not to give in to weakening: troubles small compared to life's rewards—sights not lowered by them.

We wish Miss Liddy the comfort of that home and the joy of knowing that she can rest forever after her work, "Since the good deeds go with her."

Living the Dream

2nd National Catholic
Family Gathering
April 16-18 2004
St Joseph's College
Hunters Hill Sydney

*Celebrate... and Re-evaluate ...
where we are as family*

Convened by the Bishops' Committee
for the Family and for Life

Keynote Speakers and Seminar Leaders

Cardinal George Pell
Bishop Anthony Fisher OP
Wade Horn PhD
Glenn & Trish Mowbray
Christopher West
Byron & Francis Pirolo
Rev Tim Costello
Fr Peter McGrath CP

Topics will include:

- > The Church's vision for families
- > Building healthy families
- > Parenting and passing on the faith
- > When relationships fail
- > Divorce and beyond—healing and growth
- > The vocation to be single
- > Education for marriage
- > Ethical issues for marriage, family
- > Spirituality and sexuality
- > Interdenominational marriages

Inquiries : Phone: 02 9349 8538

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Youth Ministry Update

*For more information about Youth Ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton, contact: Diocesan Youth Ministries. PO Box 641 Rockhampton Qld 4700
Phone: 07 4931 3628 Email: youth@rok.catholic.net.au
Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator: Brent Lammás*



www.dym.org.au

Diocesan Youth Ministries has launched its new website which includes all kinds of information, competitions and forums. As well as keeping people up to date with what's going on around the diocese and beyond, the site gives young people a chance to hear the stories of other young people and explore their questions.

At present, the site is in the early stages of construction. The framework has been established but it is up to the young people of the diocese to contribute their thoughts to ensure that it remains a relevant and useful site for them.

World Youth Day: St Joseph's Cathedral Sunday 4 April 2004



Bishop Brian Heenan invites the young people of the Diocese of Rockhampton to gather for a celebration of World Youth Day. Beginning at 10.30 am, there will be opportunities to meet young people from all over Central Queensland, followed by the World Youth Day Mass at Midday. Afterwards there will be a barbeque and music from local bands.

For more information, go to www.dym.org.au or contact Diocesan Youth Ministries.

Movers & Shakers: Peregrin (Sunshine Coast) 13 - 18 April 2004



Movers & Shakers is a week-long leadership training program for young people and young adults aged 16 to 25. It is organised and sponsored by the Queensland Catholic Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators.

Movers & Shakers is an experiential learning program. It invites young people to reflect on the various activities they participate in during the week and discover the learnings that emerge. The young people work together in small groups on a range of problem solving tasks. The facilitator this year, Greg Smith, has more than ten years experience in facilitating a wide variety of youth leadership focused programs and has been part of the Movers & Shakers team for the last five years.

Brochures (including an application form) are available from your local parish or college as well as from Diocesan Youth Ministries. Travel to and from Movers & Shakers will be organised by Diocesan Youth Ministries.

Come Join The Dance: Young People in the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton



Over the last two years an enormous number of people have contributed to a report called 'Come Join the Dance: Young People in the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton'. More than 1500 young people completed surveys and many were interviewed as well. In addition, a number of people who work with young people gave input. A huge thank you to all who have been involved. Thank you for your time, energy and honesty.

The report was presented to the Diocesan Education Council at the end of last year. Over the next few months, it will be discussed by a number of groups including the Council of Priests and the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. We'll keep you posted as to the outcomes of the report.

GENEROSITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE PROVIDES CHRISTMAS CHEER



**St Vincent de Paul Group
Emmaus College**

Vinnies is a group of Year 11 and 12 students who meet regularly to look at ways to help people who do not have the same opportunities in life as we do. Under the care and guidance of Mr Mailander, the group came together at the beginning of 2003 and has organised various activities to raise money or to collect items for the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Some of the activities earlier in the year included the sale of 'Green Food' on Saint Patrick's Day where \$50.00 was raised. We also arranged a visit to the children's ward at the Rockhampton Hospital where we spent time with young children and teenagers who were ill.

An exciting project was held on Emmaus Day when all the tutes were invited to bring clothes that could be donated to Vinnies. We then held a fashion parade as part of the entertainment for Emmaus Day with a variety of stunning ensembles (depending on individual taste) and a selection of models that would rival any Paris catwalk!

In third term, Mr Mailander left us for long service leave and Ms Joy Philippi agreed to meet with the group. During the term we continued to plan and investigate the possibility of all sorts of activities. These included another visit to the children's

ward, maybe a morning tea and regular visits to our neighbours at Leinster Place, a food bank organised by some of the hospitality students and the possibility of involving students from years 8, 9, and 10 in the group.

Our major project for the fourth term has been a Casual Dress Day 'with a twist!' After a discussion with Mrs Margaret Annells and a visit from Sister Dolores Donnelly RSM (Catholic Prison Ministry Chaplain), we decided that our casual dress day should have a different focus. Instead of a gold coin donation, we would encourage students to donate items that may be 'everyday' for a lot of us but perhaps are 'luxury' items for those who struggle to make ends meet.

Casual Day with a Twist was a great/unbelievable success with students and staff contributing toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, toothbrushes, hair products – you name it - we received it. We also received gold coin donations that enabled us to buy some of the items we didn't receive. It felt really good to see everyone participating in what was happening – felt like we achieved something very special.

We then filled Joy's and Lochy's office with boxes and bags of very fragrant items. After school finished we came in and wrapped gift packages with a variety of items that would be given to those in need. Because of the overwhelming response to this project, we gave some to Prison Ministry and some to St Vincent de Paul Society. We hope that it will be useful to those on the receiving end.

Also at the end of a very busy year, we participated in the collection of surplus educational materials from lockers and desks that are to be recycled and sent to young people in Papua New Guinea. Again the school rose to the occasion and we collected an enormous amount of pens, pencils, notebooks, textbooks etc. We have decided that next year we will run this project at the end of each term rather than just at the end of the year. We are also keen to send some materials to East Timor and the community where Barry Hinton now lives. A part of our focus next year will be supporting Barry and the work they are doing. We also look forward next year to welcoming new members and encouraging students on the junior campus to participate as well.

Thank you to all who have supported and helped us during the year.

The Vinnies Girls – Emmaus College

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MEMORIAL SERVICE—FR BRIAN CURRAN CM—WANDAL



ROCKHAMPTON QLD, October 24, 2003: Last night a large congregation gathered at St Vincent's Church, Wandal Qld (Rockhampton) to give thanks for the life of **Fr Brian Curran CM**, who died recently at the age of 54. (Cf [Features Pages](#)).

Brian was a former parish priest of the parish of Wandal. Fr John Grace (Vicar General of the Diocese of Rockhampton) was principal celebrant of the Eucharist, assisted by Fr Tony Mannix CM (Wandal) who was also the Homilist, as well as Fr Tim Williams CM (Sarina Qld), and a number of diocesan priests. After Mass, there was a short Power Point Presentation, followed by refreshments in the Hall. A similar celebration was also held recently at St Anthony's Parish Marsfield NSW (Sydney), where Brian had been Parish Priest for nearly six years at the time of his death.

*Taken from Vincentian website
Used with permission*

Father John Grace's Introduction to Father Brian Curran's Memorial Mass, Wandal—23.10.03

My Dear Friends, welcome to this celebratory Eucharist for our esteemed friend and pastor, Father Brian Curran, taken home to the Lord on 30 September 2003, three weeks ago.

A few years back I remember Brian's being fascinated by a seminar experience called "*Shekinah*", "the meeting tent where the Lord's presence glowed". It featured a song: *Come weave a story from the threads of our lives. They form an attractive tapestry, best viewed when slightly stepped aside.*

In that fabric of strings and colours and perplexing designs of variegated kinds, a motif develops where God's delightful, sometimes evasive presence is discerned. Brian commented that for all his largeness of body and as we believe of heart and mind, "*I could fit into the hoop*".

Tonight here at Wandal we gladly gather with Father Tony Mannix and Father Tim Williams, Brian's Vincentian confreres and the St Vincent's Parish Family, other admirers and grateful recipients of his zealous, particular, and even colourful ministry. To Father Brian Curran, everyone and everything counted. All were known by name – from old to young, irrespective of position or

status, to the cat, the family dog and the canary.

The priests of the diocese join with you, as does our bishop in spirit, during his annual leave. We want to pay high tribute to a very effective pastorate and a much loved priest.

We stand back in gratitude and joy, whatever sadness stirs within us. We realise, surprisingly, that Father Brian Curran now knows even more than ever he did before, and, that we are with him in this time of sincere prayer. He never failed to say thank you for the kindnesses he received.

I also ask that we include the memory of Father John Barry, a devoted priest of this diocese who grew up in the Wandal Parish and whom we laid to rest in Bundaberg at the same time as Father Curran's Funeral was being celebrated in Swan Hill, Victoria.

A class mate of Father Michael Hayes, Father Martin Brady, of Brisbane, made his final journey to the Lord this morning. Michael would appreciate remembrance for his friend Father Brady and we wish to extend our prayers and thoughts for Father Michael in his sorrow. Michael remains the last living member of that ordination class from Banyo. We must become his supportive friends in place of those fellow, now deceased, Priests who were close to him.

NEW TELEVISION PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT MISSION AT HOME AND ABROAD

A new series of Catholic television programs which are currently being telecast on the Nine Network and Regional affiliates highlight the work of the Church in Mexico, Mozambique, Japan and Tibet. Additionally a new program "Priests 24/7", released as a video earlier this year, portrays priestly ministry in a busy Australian parish.

Broadcast under the auspices of the National Catholic Television Library, funded by the Bishops Committee for Media, the programs introduce us to Alfonso Kim, a Maryknoll priest, born in

Korea, who ministers to Latin Americans who have migrated to work in Japan.

The programs, "Priests 24/7" and "MacKillop's Melbourne" are part-funded by the National Catholic Television Library and produced in conjunction with other Australian producers. Other programs in this latest batch are acquired and adapted for Australian television from Maryknoll Productions, New York and Aid to the Church in Need.

"God in Tibet", an Aid to the Church in Need Production, in conjunction with the

Hong Kong Diocesan Audio Visual Centre, is a particularly beautiful story set in the South Eastern corner of Tibet where we find a Catholic village with their own priest. The previous pastor died fifty years ago. "God in Tibet" won a Signis Award in Rome in 2000. Signis is the International Catholic Communications Organisation.

Further information about the programs, together with broadcast times and schedule and photos are available on the National Catholic Television website -

www.nationalcatholic.tv

DEALING WITH BULLIES

Gerald A Arbucle

“Dealing with Bullies—A Gospel Response to the Social Disease of Adult Bullying” is the first of St Paul’s Publications’ new *“Windows Into...”* series which offer windows into discussions on contemporary issues. They provide brief introductions to particular issues, encouraging thought, conversation and informed action.

Bullying is a social disease of epidemic proportions. It occurs in many forms across a wide range of human relationships including the churches. Typically, this type of violence involves the abuse of power and provides malevolent satisfaction to perpetrators when they compel victims to submit to them. Further, it causes intimidation which can paralyse the lives and families of victims—and even destroy them. Bullying is a quality of most forms of violence, including racial, religious and sex-based discrimination, sexual, physical and psychological abuse; persecution and terrorism. The author describes what bullying is, how to recognize it and how it arises; and he offers practical steps for preventing it and dealing with it when it happens, whether we be victims ourselves or compassionate human beings who come to the assistance of victims.

Gerald Arbucle SM PhD is widely known for his keen ability to apply the insights of social anthropology to contemporary social and pastoral problems—a skill honoured in part by being granted awards for three of his books, namely: *Out of Chaos: Refounding religious congregations*; *Earthing the Gospel: An inculturation handbook for pastoral workers*; and *Healthcare Ministry: Refounding the mission in tumultuous times*. He is a co-director of the Refounding and Pastoral Development Unit in Sydney, Australia, and is much in demand throughout the English-speaking world as a consultant and lecturer on leadership and organizational cultural change.

Dealing With Bullies retails at \$19.95 and is available directly from St Paul’s Publications PO Box 906 Strathfield NSW 2135 or from religious and trade booksellers.

WILLIAM (BILL) CHAMBERS



A well known and respected member of the Rockhampton community, William Sylvester (Bill) Chambers died on October 26, 2003. He was

ninety-eight.

After the death of his wife, Molly, (nee Ryan) in 1986 he lived in his home in Elgin Street, Rockhampton, enjoying remarkably good health till he was ninety-six. He spent the last two years in Bethany Nursing Home.

Born in Duaringa, Bill attended the State School there for his primary education. Sometime after the death of his father in a mine accident at Marmor, his mother moved the family to Rockhampton where Bill received his secondary education at the Christian Brothers College.

Bill gained his first job in 1919 as a message boy at Howard Motors in Rockhampton. They were agents for General Motors selling Buick and Chevrolet cars. This was the start of his fifty-seven years in the motor industry in this city where

he earned the name as one of great integrity and honesty.

After nine years at Howard’s Bill worked at Rockhampton Motors for some years, River Motors for ten years and Byrne Motors after the war for three years. Finally the last twenty-eight years of his working career he spent as Managing Partner and half-owner of Central Queensland Motors. This was a new firm with the popular GM Holden franchise and a big business was built noted for reliable service.


A very benevolent man, many Central Queensland and national organisations as well as individuals benefited from his generosity. His favourite charity was the St Vincent de Paul Society of which he was an active member for sixty years.

Bill worshipped at St Joseph’s Cathedral for eighty years.

A keen gardener, he won a section of the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin Gardening Competition on two occasions. He was an avid reader, had many and varied interests and kept well abreast of world affairs.

Bill handled life and living well and at all times was known as a gentleman.

Jan Leyden



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Diocesan Education Council - November Meeting Report

Members of the Council gathered for the final meeting of the year in the newly refurbished Directorate Meeting Room at the Diocesan Education Office on Friday November 14. This final meeting of the Diocesan Education Council for 2003 commenced with scripture, reflection and faith sharing led by Bishop Brian focusing on prayer and questioning us to 'consider what, in the past month, has been your most prayerful moment'.

Chair, Father John Grace, welcomed Father Bryan Hanifin to the Council and we look forward to Father Hanifin's attendance at future meetings although Father Brian and Father Bryan at our meetings is a challenge!

Bishop Brian Heenan shared with the Council an overview of current issues from the diocese and announced the themes for the Lenten Program 2004 under the heading "*Community of*

Believers". The program is to be distributed through schools and parishes early next year.

Diocesan Youth Ministry Co-ordinator, Brent Lammas addressed the DEC on the feedback received on the Youth Task Force Report titled "*Come Join The Dance - Young People in the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton*". Brent outlined the taskforce's commendations and recommendations for consideration. The feedback will be forwarded to other diocesan groups for their consideration while congratulations were offered to the taskforce members on a comprehensive report.

DEC member Marian Davies was nominated as our diocesan representative on the Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) to be appointed in March 2004.

Director of Education, Leesa Jeffcoat outlined in her report Capital and Refurbishment Projects and Catholic Schools Staffing for 2004 and noted highlights from term four. Leesa also announced that Catholic Education Week is 25-31 July 2004 with the theme of: "*Catholic Education.....Everyday People.....Exceptional Achievements*".

In general business, the redrafted Constitution for the Education Council was presented.

Liz Orupold, Diocesan Director of Centacare presented the Quarterly Report of Centacare activities for the period July to September 2003.

Christmas wishes were extended to all members of DEC and the planned meeting dates for 2004 were distributed.

Kerry Bonaventura

A FAIR GO IN AN AGE OF TERROR

Uniya's statement for Human Rights Day, the anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 10 December

On the occasion of Human Rights Day, Sister Patty Fawkner, the Director of Uniya Jesuit Social Justice Centre, issued the following statement:

Human Rights and Australia – historically there has been a good fit between the two. Our nation has been founded on values such as a fair go and concern for the underdog.

Internationally, Australia has given robust leadership in the area of human rights and was a vital player in the development of the United Nations human rights treaty system. In March 2000 Kofi Annan declared Australia a "model member" of the United Nations. Of this we are proud.

At home Australians enjoy rights, freedoms and benefits that are but the stuff of other nations' dreams. We savour our democracy, representative government, an independent judiciary, our freedom of expression, and access to

health, education and clean water. However in the recent past Australia's commitment to human rights has been compromised. This has coincided with heightened concern in regard to terrorism.

Each of the six United Nations committees which monitor compliance of nation states with UN human rights treaty obligations, has criticised Australia for its recent performance. Of particular concern is Australia's treatment of asylum seekers.

Australia plays a dangerous and unnecessary game of "either-or". We have privileged national sovereignty over the rights of people to seek asylum from persecution. We have given priority to border protection at the expense of our responsibilities under the Refugee Convention. We have promoted ever-expanding powers for Australian intelligence agencies but have not pursued with the same vigour the human rights of individuals and groups. We have endorsed the primacy of domestic self-interest while undermining the status and legitimacy of the United Nations. Such actions erode Australia's commitment to human rights, our

international reputation, and our own traditional values. In an age of terror and uncertainty we are challenged to strike the right balance, to foster a "both-and", rather than an "either-or" world of human rights and national security.

John Paul II believes in such a balance. In this year's address to the Diplomatic Corps, he said that the protection of the freedom and rights of the human person took "precedence over every political project". This was not only a gospel imperative but was, said the Pope, the hallmark of good governance and "the best guarantee of peace within nations and peace between States".

Uniya Jesuit Social Justice Centre believes that there is a place for traditional Australian values such as a fair go in a post September 11 world. We do not have to ensure our security at the expense of human rights. Our 2004 national Lenten seminar series next March, "**A Fair Go in an Age of Terror: Countering the Terrorist Threat to Human Rights and Australian Identity**", will explore this issue.

DATE CLAIMER!

- **Tuesday 17 February 2004—3.00pm-9.00pm**
Orientation Inservice for Pastors and Pastoral Ministers—The Cathedral Centre (next door to St Joseph's Cathedral)
- **Wednesday 25 February 2004**
Ash Wednesday
- **Monday 29 March—Thursday 1 April 2004**
Priests' Pre-Easter Gathering
- **Thursday—1 April 2004—7.00pm**
Mass of Oils—St Joseph's Cathedral Rockhampton
- **Sunday—4 April 2004—10.30am**
Palm Sunday—World Youth Day Celebration and Mass (mid-day)—St Joseph's Cathedral
- **Tuesday—13—Sunday 18 April 2004**
Movers & Shakers. This is a week long Christian leadership training program run for young people aged 16 to 25 years. The program is organized and sponsored by the Queensland Catholic Diocesan Youth Coordinators. For more information contact Brent Lammas at Diocesan Youth Ministries on phone 07 49 313 628, fax 07 49 228 256 or email youth@rok.catholic.net.au
- **Sunday—30 May 2004—10.00am—2.00pm**
Rockhampton South Side Parishes Combined Fair—St Joseph's Cathedral Grounds.

NEWS FROM ST THERESE'S PARISH MONTO



Above: Fr Noel Milner farewells Gilda and Noel Edwards

We wish all readers God's richest blessings for 2004 from St Therese's Parish Monto! Where did 2003 go? We started the year quite sadly when we had to farewell our Pastoral Assistant and his wife, Noel and Gilda Edwards. The ladies gave Gilda a morning tea at Bridie Quinn's residence where she was presented with

Right: Monto ladies at farewell for Gilda Edwards



a rose bush and jewellery. Fr Noel gave a presentation to Noel and Gilda at their farewell Mass on 4 January and thanked them for their wonderful contribution to our parish for the past thirty-three years. Noel and Gilda are moving to Laidley to be closer to their children. They will leave a large void in our parish as they were so enthusiastic, gifted and hardworking. We will miss them terribly, but wish them well in their continuing journey.

The painting of our parish hall is all but completed. We had to call in some professional help with the harder parts, but a lot of voluntary labour was contributed by a small group of parishioners—and it is looking great.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, we recall our own Baptism and the need to live out the promises made.

Del Murphy

A DREAM COME THROUGH

In February 1993 a small group of concerned Catholics met in St Joseph's Parish Centre to begin a branch of the National and Worldwide Mission of the Apostleship of the Sea for the benefit of the seafarers who were coming ashore in increasing numbers at our local ports. From the vision held by them, this year the Mackay Stella Maris Seafarers celebrated the 10th anniversary of the commencement of this wonderful effort. Among the early members were two stalwarts who were to be the backbone down through the ten years of the centre. Ian Podosky and Laurie Horgan were rewarded for their efforts with ten year service plaques at the Biannual National Conference in July which was awarded to our port on our tenth birthday to recognise the progress over the decade. The centre came from small beginnings in 1993 to be

the second most progressive centre after Melbourne.

The highlight of this year has been the honour to be the host port to conduct the Biannual National Conference of The Stella Maris centres around Australia and New Zealand. A large contingent from these other ports were in attendance. Religious attendees included the Episcopal Promoter Most Reverend Patrick Dougherty, DD Bishop of Maitland, Reverend Bishop Brian Heenan, eight Port Chaplains and three Deacons. Many forward decisions were discussed, plus the appointment of four members from around the country to the National Committee. Ian Podosky was once again re-elected for his record fourth term. He and the three new members will meet quarterly with the National Director, Ted

Richardson, to steer the organisation for the next two years.

From little acorns grow large oak trees. So too was it that from small beginnings in 1993, this cultivation of a dream was realised by Ian and Laurie and many more of the members who willingly donate time and friendship to assist the many lonely seafarers who continually arrive at our ports. The welfare of these visitors is always uppermost in the minds of our members. Many of the seafarers who have been returning frequently are always happy to recommend new crew members to the centre with the words "This is the friendly town I was telling you about", and rightly so. We are renowned far and wide for our Mission Accomplished.

Matt Doyle—Liaison Officer—Stella Maris

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

SR ROSE MARGARET HEGARTY RSM (30/01/1919 – 18/10/2003)

SR M CALLISTUS GIBBS RSM (01/06/1915 – 29/10/2003)

SR M JEROME FITZGIBBON RSM (31/03/1920 – 17/12/2003)

Before the close of 2003, the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy experienced the death of three dearly loved sisters. The Funeral Mass for each sister was celebrated at Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel, The Range, Rockhampton and on each occasion we were joined by family members, friends, work colleagues and priests of the diocese.

Sr Rose Margaret Hegarty died in the Rockhampton Mater Hospital within weeks of being diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Born in Rockhampton to James and Roseann Hegarty (now dec'd), Rose grew up in Mackay, was educated at St Patrick's School, entered the Sisters of Mercy on 2 February 1937 and was professed on 20 January 1940. Rose was a beloved sister and sister-in-law of Eileen & Mick Davidson (both dec'd), and a much loved aunt and great-aunt of Peter Davidson, Margaret Thomson and their families.

Firstly as a school teacher, then as a music teacher, Sr Rose Margaret worked in many places, namely: Our Lady's School (R'ton), Gladstone, Biloela, North Rockhampton, Marian, St Patrick's (Mackay), The Range Convent High School (R'ton), North Mackay and Walkerston before retiring to live at McAuley Place, Rockhampton in 1996. Wherever she lived, Sr Rose Margaret had a commitment to teaching religion in local State Schools where she was held in high esteem and loved by both staff and students.

We remember Sr Rose Margaret for her deep trust in God, her great love for family and many friends, her appreciation for the niceties of life, her delight in learning new skills, her pride and interest in the achievements of former pupils and her noble courage in her final illness.

Anastasia Caroline Gibbs, known as Sr M Callistus, who died at Bethany Home, Rockhampton, was born in Mackay, the eldest child of Thomas and Violet Gibbs (now dec'd). Stasia also attended St Patrick's School then entered the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy on 21 January 1934 and was professed on 21 January 1937. Sr M Callistus was a beloved sister of John (dec'd), Maurice, Mick (dec'd), Lois Clark, Rita Pembroke, George, and Mercia McCaul.

Sr M Callistus, a music teacher, taught at St Theresa's School, Rockhampton, then at The Range Convent High School where she also cared for boarders for some time. After retirement from full-time teaching in 1988, Sr M Callistus continued to live at The Range (now known as McAuley Place) until failing health caused her move to Bethany Home in 2000. Sr M Callistus had great artistic ability and talent which she shared so generously within the community. Gardening was also one of her favourite past-times and Sr M Callistus displayed a gentle, reverent love and appreciation for things of beauty.

We remember Sr M Callistus for her prayerful and gentle spirit, her great courage in times of suffering, her exquisite artistic and creative ability, her affection for her immediate and extended family, her love of beautiful things and her gracious response to kindness.

Anne Maria Fitzgibbon, known as Sr M Jerome, who also died at Bethany Home, Rockhampton, was born at Newcastle West, County Limerick, Ireland, the daughter of Elizabeth and Patrick Fitzgibbon (now dec'd). Anne, together with twenty other young women, travelled

to Australia on *SS Jervis Bay* in October 1936 to enter the Rockhampton Sisters of Mercy on 24 November of that year. Professed on 16 August 1940, Sr M Jerome was firstly a primary school teacher who taught at Biloela, Farleigh, Emu Park, North Mackay and West Mackay. In 1948, Sr M Jerome did her nursing training, gaining Diplomas in Radiography and Nursing Education and nursed at the Mater Hospitals in both Mackay and Bundaberg and Bethany Home for the Aged.

Gifted in many ways, Sr M Jerome's influence on others was far reaching, especially in her role as Nurse Educator, where her compassionate caring for the sick and her deep respect for her students endeared her to many. In her retirement years, Sr M Jerome was not idle – she continued to educate as a catechist at Allenstown State School and became involved with Meals on Wheels. Predeceased by her siblings – Mary, William and Peg, Sr M Jerome derived great joy and companionship from having her younger sister, Lil Kelly, living at Gracemere.

We remember Sr M Jerome for her spirit of joyful service, her many years of dedication to the Nursing Profession, her keen intelligence, her sense of humour and story-telling, her interest in world affairs, her warm embracing love for her family and her unassuming presence among us.

Sr Joanne Molloy RSM

‘IT IS THE HEART THAT PRAYS’

I meet a number of Catholics who after many years of having their ‘own priest’ now live in a ‘priestless parish’ and find it difficult to feel that they are ‘real Catholics’. They were taught about the treasure their Church possesses in the Eucharist, they learnt that it is exclusive to their Church, they recently heard the Pope stress, *“The Eucharist stands at the centre of the Church’s life,”* and now they have no priest and only an occasional Eucharist.

It is understandable that these Catholics feel let down especially when they learn that some of the rules causing the problem are man-made, do not date back to apostolic times and can be changed.

The Tablet magazine tells of the inhabitants of Auzzo in Italy who have been cared for by Franciscan priests since 1575 and were recently devastated to learn that they were to lose their priest. Being in a poor and mountainous region, the 5000 inhabitants were determined not to lose their pastor and proceeded to lock up the Church with the priest inside and mount a guard.

The bemused priest who was being well looked after, said he had been ordered to leave but his parishioners made this impossible, “I consider myself held as a

‘prisoner of love’” he said. A delegation of 500 villagers marched twenty kilometres to see the bishop who told them that it was a decision of the Franciscan provincial, not his. The villagers then hired two buses and headed for Rome. Again the answer was ‘no’, so they boycotted their Church and there was no Sunday Mass and a wedding was redirected to another village.

An infuriated bishop arrived with an escort of carabinieri and told the villagers “If you don’t like this religion, choose another.” The impasse was solved when the priest explained to his parishioners that he had a vow of obedience and so must leave. Sorry readers, I prefer happy endings, but in this case the villagers lost out.

Priestless parishes are becoming more common but human beings have a tendency to bounce back and parishioners are solving it for themselves albeit with a heavy heart.

I am impressed by the number of groups I meet that meditate, reflect, pray or study scripture together. There seems to be a swing towards this type of spirituality. In the Catholic Tablet magazine, David Hay stated that “two thirds of adults have a personal spirituality but fewer than one in ten people bother to go to church.”

Reflecting on this, I realized the difference between religion and spirituality. Although they both deal with the supernatural, religion is structured, institutionalized, formalized and is the domain of churches. Spirituality is more basic, more personal, seeks to understand life with reference to the Spirit world and is the domain of the individual.

Religion and spirituality need each other to survive and if we exclude either from our lives, we will miss out on the security and fullness of life, which the Spirit promises us. Previously, I was so devoted to religion, with church attendance and saying the words of prayers that I neglected my Spirituality, my relationship with God.

I was a Catholic of the mind but not of the heart. The new Catechism states: ‘In naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks sometimes of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.’ (2560)

*Br John Venard
Used with permission*

WOMEN’S COMMISSION HONOURS GIFTS WITH SHARED LEADERSHIP MODEL

The Commission for Australian Catholic Women has honoured the commitment, energy and gifts of its members by announcing it will share the leadership position of Deputy Chairperson among three commissioners.

CACW Chairperson, Mrs Geraldine Hawkes, said the shared leadership model would see Mrs Teresa Lynch take on the role of Deputy Chairperson in 2004, Mrs Joan Hendriks in 2005 and Dr Tracey Rowland in 2006.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the full Commission in the Diocese

of Ballarat last week, following the retirement from the Commission of Sister Sonia Wagner sgs.

“To honour the nominations of the three Commissioners who were prepared to take on the commitment, and to enable their gifts to be shared more broadly, all three nominees were invited to share this leadership role over the course of the next three years,” Geraldine said.

The Commission is an initiative of the Catholic Bishops of Australia in response to the “*Woman and Man – One in Christ Jesus*” Report on the participation of women in the Church.

“A key focus of the Commission is to establish links with every diocese in the country in order that the work promoting the fuller participation of women may flow across all layers of the life of the Church,” Geraldine said.



PLENARY WRAP AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS' MEETING NOVEMBER 2003

Church working with Muslims at grassroots level – Melkite Eparch—While the Vatican recently released a message of peace to Muslims across the world, the Melkite Eparch, Bishop Issam Darwish, has been busy establishing and maintaining good interfaith relations in his own backyard.

Bishop Darwish gave a short report to the bishops' plenary meeting on the efforts being made in his Sydney community to build a localised culture of peace, as well as his personal efforts to help bring an end to the recent shootings within the Muslim community in south-west Sydney.

Bishop Darwish said the Melkite Church in Sydney had established an Arabic-speaking Christian-Muslim Friendship Society.

The Society aims to develop friendship between the Christian and Muslim communities by working towards strengthening the relationship through discussions and to create cultural and social activities.

It will meet regularly with both Christian and Muslim religious leaders and organizations to build harmony among them and the community at large.

Meanwhile, Bishop Darwish also said that all the Eastern Churches had been invited to prayers for unity at St Mary's Maronite Church, Harris Park on January 23, 2004 at 7pm.

Vibrant new internet gateway to the Catholic Church in Australia—Australia's Catholic bishops have given the thumbs-up to the design of a new website which will become the new gateway to the Church in Australia.

The Catholic portal page, to be launched around Christmas, will project a welcoming, active and informative image of the Church in Australia, with links to all key areas of the Church's activities and mission.

It has a faith focus, with the readings for the day featuring prominently. There are also direct links to key Church organisations and services and a daily news component.

The site has been designed to reflect the unique character of the Church in Australia and will be a warm and vibrant entry point for anyone seeking to make contact with the Church or to gain information.

The site will take on the www.catholic.org.au address, which has been used by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference site.

The ACBC site is to be redesigned and will take on a new address.

Local news is good news for the Church—The Bishops' Committee for the Media is to develop a kit for parishes to help them take advantage of opportunities to spread the Church's good news to the local media.

With much of the Church's good news happening at parish level, the kit will help parish members identify a news story, write a concise press release, accompany it with a good, clear photo and place it with the local media outlet.

The committee is also working on a pastoral letter to examine the relationship between the Church and the media, which will concentrate on positive ways to develop this crucial area of the Church's relations with society.

New bishops appointed to committees at first Plenary Meeting—The November Plenary meeting reflected recent changes to the Australian episcopate, with the attendance of three new bishops and a new cardinal in the Archbishop of Sydney, Dr George Pell.

The new bishops were Bishop Julian Porteous and Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, Auxiliary Bishops of Sydney, and Bishop Max Davis, the Military Bishop.

Bishop Porteous was appointed to the Bishops' Committee for Evangelisation and Missions and the Bishops' Committee for Liturgy.

Bishop Fisher was appointed to the Bishops' Committee for Doctrine and Morals and the Bishops' Committee for Family and for Life.

Bishop Davis was appointed to the Bishops' Committee for Laity and the Bishops' Committee for Migrants and Refugees.

The Membership Committee also appointed the Maronite Bishop, Bishop Ad Abikaram to the Bishops' Committee for Education.

The Conference also approved the appointment of Sr Patty Fawcner SGS to the Commission for Australian Catholic Women and Mr Philip McMillan's reappointment as Chairperson of the Australian Catholic Commission for Employment Relations.



REFLECTIONS ON THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCILLORS OF THE DIOCESE (cont)



Two months have passed since the training weekend for Diocesan Parish Pastoral Councillors. Held in Rockhampton, the weekend provided a time for in-service, sharing, community building, networking, and a time for reflecting on what had been achieved and what is still to be achieved in our individual parishes and as a diocesan family.

Looking back now at this valuable time I believe that this weekend will be instrumental in providing the impetus for each PPC in the diocese to go forward with purpose and enthusiasm into the new year - a year with challenges and the growing reality of clustering.

The weekend began with an address by our Bishop. In referring to our Church, Bishop Brian quoted Cardinal Newman, "To live is to change. To have changed often is to be perfect." In welcoming and thanking participants for "who (they) are and what (they) do for the diocese" Father Brian stated how essential formation was for Parish Pastoral Councillors in their role

of leadership and support to our pastors and parish families and emphasised the co-responsibility of lay people (through our Baptismal call) for our church.

The four workshops on Discernment, Consensus Decision Making, Parish Pastoral Council Meetings and Communication provided practical skill building in the mechanics of meetings. Thank you to the presenters.

Saturday evening allowed participants to come together for Mass at the Cathedral followed by a barbeque and fellowship.

On Sunday morning Sr Mary Franzmann spoke on the importance of each PPC formulating and writing a Pastoral Plan looking ahead to the next 3-5 years - a plan that expressed parishioners' ownership of parish life. Helpful handouts were received and this will be one of the first tasks for our PPC and Finance Committee here at St Mary's, South Mackay, in 2004.

Brent Lammas, Diocesan Youth Coordinator, presented a slick, fast, loud, multi media Youth Report filled with facts and figures. Well done, Brent. Your lively presentation certainly was thought-provoking and challenging and reminded us of Pope John Paul 11's words, "The Church must become the travelling companion of young people."

Margaret Tucker launched the Diocesan document, "Go Out To All The World—Service With Integrity". A task for PPCs will be to coordinate the in-service of all parishioners involved in an outreach ministry.

The diocesan gathering concluded with an Open Forum and lunch before people set off for home. It was very pleasing to have attended with so many councillors from many different parishes. The experience of being there, being present to one another and being representative of my parish family in the larger diocesan family was for me a positive and rewarding experience. The weekend deepened my sense of Church and allowed me to draw strength, inspiration and confidence for the future. Thank you to Sr Mary for organising the weekend and all the work she does with PPCs. I look forward to the next gathering and I encourage councillors to attend. May God's blessing be upon our Parish Pastoral Councils throughout the new year.

Maryanne Muller
St Mary's PPC, South Mackay

THEODORE PICS



Left: Kay Hills—Newly elected president of St Vincent de Paul Society—Theodore

Right: Russel VanBael—Newly elected secretary of St Vincent de Paul Society—Theodore



Photos submitted by Gerald Connolly

HISTORY AND MEANING OF THE AD LIMINA VISIT

The article of Canon Law which prescribes the ad limina visit sets out two basic purposes for it:

1. To venerate the tombs of the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul;
2. To meet with the Successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.

Pilgrimages to the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul have been practiced from earliest Christian times. These practices continue to hold deep spiritual meaning and significance for Church communion. It is for this reason that these practices were institutionalized for the bishops.

The pilgrimage and the veneration of the tombs express the unity of the Church, founded by the Lord on the Apostles and built upon blessed Peter, their head, with Jesus Christ Himself

as the chief cornerstone together with His Gospel of salvation for all people.

The meeting with the Pope, the Successor of Peter, the primary guardian of the deposit of truth handed down from the Apostles, serves to consolidate their unity in the same faith, hope and charity.

It also allows the immense heritage of spiritual and moral values that the whole Church in communion with the Bishop of Rome, has spread throughout the world to be better known and appreciated.

The forms and frequency of the meetings with the Pope have varied throughout the centuries. The essential meaning, however, has always remained the same.

ADIEU TO LONELINESS

If you're filled with deep distress,
An unhappy victim of loneliness..
Dismiss the feeling no one's there,
For there is somebody
and 'He' does care.

If you pause and listen carefully,
A voice in the silence speaks joyfully,
A kind, loving, compassionate voice,
To heed 'Him' or not that is your choice.

Remember 'He' loves you
and understands.
'He' awaits you with outstretched hands
Speaketh to 'Him' of your anxiety and fears
Gently and lovingly
'He' shall wipe away all tears.

'He' will accompany you along life's way,
Peace and bliss will fill your day.
With Jesus as your companion and friend
Undoubtedly your loneliness will end.

Mavis Crane

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PEACE REMAINS POSSIBLE: POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope John Paul II has told world leaders and those tempted to turn to terrorism that peace remains possible and he has called for the fight against terrorism to be both political and educational, including clear analysis of the reasons behind terrorist attacks.

The Pope's message for the World Day of Peace on January 1 is addressed to leaders of nations, jurists, teachers of the young and those tempted to turn to terrorism, under the title, *"An ever timely commitment: teaching peace"*.

"All of you, hear the humble appeal of the Successor of Peter who cries out: today too, at the beginning of the New Year 2004, peace remains possible. And if peace is possible, it is also a duty," he said.

The Pope warned against the temptation to yield to fatalism, as if peace were an unattainable ideal.

"The Church, on the other hand, has always taught and continues today to

teach a very simple axiom: peace is possible," he said.

The message focuses on the scourge of terrorism, saying that the use of force is not the sole answer in combating terrorist operations.

"It is essential that the use of force, even when necessary, be accompanied by a courageous and lucid analysis of the reasons behind terrorist attacks," the Pope said.

"The fight against terrorism must be conducted also on the political and educational levels."

Particular attention must be paid to eliminating the underlying causes of situations of injustice and to insisting on an education inspired by respect for human life in every situation.

The Pope said international law was also crucial in the fight against terrorism.

CARITAS APPEAL FOR VICTIMS OF BAM (IRAN) EARTHQUAKE

Donations to the Caritas Australia Appeal for the victims of the earthquake which hit Bam in Iran

can be made by phoning

1800 024 413

or may be sent to

Caritas Australia Iran Earthquake Appeal

PO Box 8446

ALLENSTOWN 4700



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.

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- Aged Care and Disability Services
- Commonwealth Carer Respite Centre
- Conciliation and Mediation
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- 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

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Fax 07 4953 1129**

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Fax: 07 4982 2975**

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MORANBAH 4744
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Fax: 07 4941 7389**

PLENARY WRAP AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS' MEETING NOVEMBER 2003

National Catholic Family Gathering – *Living the Dream*—Catholic families from across Australia are being invited to make a pilgrimage to Sydney in April for a weekend of inspiration and celebration at the second National Catholic Family Gathering.

A top-class program of keynote speakers and seminar leaders from Australia and overseas will bring alive the Church's vision for families as *"an intimate community of life and love"*.

Cardinal George Pell will speak at the gathering, which has been convened by the Bishops' Committee for the Family and for Life, under the patronage of Blessed Mary MacKillop. It will be held at St Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill from April 16-18.

Workshops will be available on topics including: *The Church's vision for families; building healthy families; parenting and passing on the faith; when relationships fail; divorce and beyond – healing and growth; the vocation to be single; education for marriage; ethical issues for marriage and family; spirituality and sexuality; and interdenominational marriages.*

The bishops, at their plenary meeting, were asked by the committee to encourage families to make the journey to Sydney as a pilgrimage, not just of the heart, but physically, to sites of special spiritual significance for Australian Catholics. These sites include the tomb of Blessed Mary MacKillop, St Mary's Cathedral and Parramatta's new St Patrick's Cathedral.

"Family is where we have our deepest experiences of human relationships, our warmest, most intimate moments of love, our deepest hurts and disappointments. It can be a great source of comfort and strength and also a place where dreams are shattered," the bishops' committee said.

"This conference is convened in the confident belief that wherever family members choose to hope, love, persevere, trust, courageously try again, the presence of Jesus is felt and the Spirit is moving, the Gospel is alive!"

For more information, log onto
www.familygathering.com.au
or call 02 9349 1834.

Bishops' plans for ad limina visit well under way—Australia's bishops are preparing, both physically and spiritually, for their ad limina visit to Rome from March 14 to 28.

Bishops are required to undertake an ad limina visit every five years, during which they have a meeting with the Pope and deliver a report on their diocese. The reports, which are being compiled now, will outline for the Holy Father the various aspects of the life of the diocese and the Church in Australia.

The journey is also a spiritual pilgrimage designed to celebrate and strengthen the Australian bishops' communion with the universal Church and the Successor of Peter, Pope John Paul II.

The key event for Australia's bishops will be a visit to the tombs of Sts Peter and Paul, pastors and pillars of the Roman Church. The visit is also seen as an important part of the Holy Father's pastoral ministry, as he receives the bishops with whom he exercises pastoral ministry and listens and talks with them about their mission in their dioceses.

Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference President Archbishop Francis Carroll of Canberra-Goulburn said he and his fellow bishops would be seeking the prayers of those in their diocesan community as they prepared for the ad limina pilgrimage.

"We have a deep and sincere desire to involve the whole Catholic community in reflection and prayer, as we prepare for this spiritually significant event," Archbishop Carroll said. "We wish for all Catholics, through prayer and solidarity, to feel a part of the ad limina visit, which confirms and celebrates that which we profess each week when we express our belief in the 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church'."

"Our faith was handed down to us from Jesus by the apostles and as bishops we are charged with the enormous responsibility of continuing that tradition. The ad limina visit is an important physical and spiritual milestone in the carrying out of that ministry."

While in Rome, the bishops will also make a pilgrimage to Assisi and will visit various Vatican organisations.

New booklet sets out Catholic teaching on what it is to be human—Australia's Catholic bishops have issued a concise new booklet setting out the Catholic teaching on the human person which underpins the Church's response to modern ethical questions on such issues as human cloning, reproductive technology, marriage and sexuality. The bishops approved the booklet during their twice-yearly plenary meeting in Sydney.

Recognising that the Church's position on modern ethical questions is not always well understood by society, the reflection paper was commissioned by the Bishops' Committee for Doctrine and Morals and prepared by Fr Gerald Gleeson of the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

It aims to offer a positive statement of the Catholic understanding of humanity that underpins the Church's ethical teachings by seeking to answer the fundamental question: *What is it to be human?*

"Competing answers are at work in debates about human cloning, reproductive technologies, care of the environment, marriage and human sexuality, the rights of refugees and asylum seekers, mandatory sentencing policies and approaches to the funding of education and health care," the paper says.

"We have tried to show that Catholic teachings are in accord with fundamental convictions about who and what we are as human beings, and about where we are going, that are worthy of thoughtful inquiry and intelligent examination."

The booklets can be ordered through the Diocese of Broken Bay.



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Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Diocesan Service Committee
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Catholic Mission

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Diocesan Director: Fr John Grace

Diocesan Commission for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations

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Diocesan Financial Services Office

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Diocesan Liturgical Commission

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Diocesan Pastoral Council

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Diocesan Response Office

*(Co-ordinating a pastoral response to
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CQ University Chaplaincy

Central Queensland University
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Chaplain: Mr Matthew Ryan

Education Council

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Faith Education & Formation

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Diocesan Co-ordinator: Jane O'Shea

Faith Education Resource Centre

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Parents & Friends Association Diocesan Committee

C/- Diocesan Catholic
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PO Box 524, Rockhampton Q 4700
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State School RE

Catholic Education Office
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Co-ordinator: Mr Brent Lammas

BISHOP'S DIARY

February—March 2004



FEBRUARY

- 01 St Michael's Parish, Sarina
- 03 5.30pm - Shared Meal with Aboriginal & Islander Catholic Council Ministry
- 04 9.00 am - Emmaus College Opening Year Mass
2.00 pm - Rockhampton Centacare Staff Meeting
- 05 9.00 am - Meeting of Diocesan Directors
- 10 10.00 am - Meeting of Toward Healing Committee
3.30 pm - Meeting of Diocesan Ecumenism & Interfaith Relations Commission
- 11 2.00 pm - Meeting of Adult Faith Formation Committee
- 12/13 Queensland Bishops' Meeting – Brisbane
- 17 9.00 am - Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commission
3.00 pm - Inservice for Priests and Pastoral Ministers
- 18 9.00 am - Gathering of Diocesan Priests
4.00 pm - Meeting of Diocesan Consultors
- 19 9.00 am – Council of Priests Meeting
3.30 pm - Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council
- 20 Diocesan Education Council Meeting
- 21 11.00 am - Rite of Election – RCIA Candidates – St Joseph's Cathedral
- 25 Ash Wednesday
1.30 pm - Meeting of AICCM
- 26 9.30 am - Meeting of Shaping & Staffing Task Force
- 28 February – 28 March – Bishop overseas (Ad Limina visit)

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