The
Witness
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“Our role is so broad, but ultimately we see ourselves as a support provider for a network of communities scattered across vast distances”.

Cosimo De Cianni,
Business and Finance Manager

STORY ON PAGE 4

Photo Credit FOCUS Magazine, BankSA

BISHOP'S DIARY

FEBRUARY	1	Diaconal ordination of Br Joseph Liaia, The Monastery, Adelaide
	4	Celebrate Mass for Vietnamese Lunar New Year – Adelaide
	5-6	Meetings and Appointments as Apostolic Administrator - Adelaide
	12	Meeting of Centacare Board – Port Pirie
	16	Diaconate Orientation Day - Adelaide
	22	Norwood Parish Sesquicentenary – Adelaide
	26	Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council – Port Pirie Meeting of Clergy Support Fund – Port Pirie
	27	Meetings of Consultors & Council of Priests – Port Pirie
MARCH	2	Launch of Projection Compassion 2019 – Sevenhill
	3	Celebrate Opening Mass for Aquinas College – Adelaide
	8	Meetings and Appointments as Apostolic Administrator – Adelaide
	13	Meeting of Permanent Committee - Melbourne
	17	St Mary MacKillop School Sesquicentenary – Wallaroo
	23	Mass for Josephite Jubilees
	24	Celebrate Mass for Installation of Tee Ping as Lector & Acolyte – St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

DIVINE VOCATION...

On the day of his own 46th priestly ordination anniversary, December 9, 2018, Bishop Greg O'Kelly blesses parishioners prior to Mass in Goa, India, where the remains of St Francis Xavier are entombed.

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

SCHOOLS AND AN AUTHENTIC CHURCH

"To be a complete human being, one must develop inwardly as well as outwardly."

To be authentic Church, the Christian community must exercise and live the corporal works of mercy. The care of the young is an integral work of mercy, a sign of the Church being Church.

Those who care for the young, whether it be in the classroom or the office or front desk or grounds of the school, or engaged with the youth and young families of the parish, are privileged people.

"There was a dispute among the disciples, so Jesus took a small child whom He placed in their midst, and said of such is the Kingdom of Heaven".

In all the present turmoils of the Church our schools have never been so important – an outreach of 45,000 young souls. There is nothing to compare with it; schools and parishes are communities where lived charity, lived compassion, lived care for the least can be practised and seen and noted as the Church being still authentic in its mission.

Pope Francis said "no teacher is ever alone: they always share their work with other colleagues and the entire educational community to which they belong".

The Pope also said, "Jesus began to preach the good news in the Galilee of the Gentiles, the crossroads for people of different races, cultures and religions. In some ways the context is similar to today's world… we must meet the different "souls" existing in a multicultural society".

We usually thrill to the words of Irenaeus – "The glory of God is a man or woman fully alive". So to be fully alive we have this challenge to live, to learn and to lead. Working with their parents, teachers set young lives on their courses of growth. Christ said, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the full". People in education do not want their pupils to leave them as half-empty personalities, but rather as young people brimming with life in all its dimensions, physical and spiritual. At Cana the stone jars with their water, symbols of the new life, were filled to the brim.

To be a complete human being, one must develop inwardly as well as outwardly. Not only physically but intellectually, emotionally, with powers of imagination and reflection – and with an interior life of faith and prayer, conscience and values.

We are conscious that in any Catholic school there is but one teacher, Christ Himself. Everything we do in our parishes and schools must be refracted through that image, the image of Christ the Teacher. Wherever Jesus went He changed people radically. The widow of Nain went from grief to joy; Zacchaeus the tax collection went from selfishness to service; Bartimaeus went from blindness to sight, from darkness to light, the lepers went from foulness to health; the paralytic went from crippled to dance; the thief on the cross went from despair to everlasting life.

And we know that in our schools and parish communities Christ has no voice but ours, no touch but ours; that is what we are called to be, Christ for others.

Bishop
Greg O'Kelly SJ

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 2019
Journeying Together in Hope…
ONLINE REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

Tues 9 - Wed 10, April
Northern Festival Centre
106 Gertrude Street, Port Pirie

TO LOVE AND TO SERVE

The Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie is one of the great unsung not-for-profit organisations in South Australia.

Covering almost one million square kilometres of terrain including everything north of Clare between the Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria borders and into the southern part of Northern Territory, the diocese is the largest in South Australia and the third largest in the nation.

Established in 1887, it now comprises 58 churches, 13 schools and two aged care centres – one at Port Pirie; the other at Wallaroo – which all operate to maximum efficiency with minimal resources.

In addition, the diocese manages Centacare Catholic Country SA, which has been providing a range of support services to individuals and families throughout rural South Australia for more than 20 years.

Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ has guided the diocese since 2009 and – as the 11th bishop in the diocese's 130-year history – is credited with shepherding the organisation through a particularly challenging period.

"Our community, including towns of the Gulf and the mid north, has experienced some challenging times of late and we continue to face significant challenges in the future. But Bishop O'Kelly has shown the way and continues to walk the talk in everything he does," said Cosimo De Cianni, the diocese's Business and Finance Manager.

"He ensures the diocese, and in particular our churches, remain a centre of faith, hope and love, where people are encouraged to help each other in times of need, which can often be seen in regional areas during times of bushfire, flood or drought.

"Mr De Cianni says one of the biggest ongoing challenges for the diocese is a lack of financial resources.

"Ours has always been a poor diocese, which reflects the struggles that many people throughout our community have encountered over the years," he said.

"Being such a large rural diocese, we need to manage our money extremely tightly so that we can continue to provide the broad level of services to our community.

"It's difficult, absolutely, but we always find a way and we continue to look at new ways to plan and budget for the future, and ultimately become more professional in a world of increasing regulation and compliance, even for not-for-profits like us.

"Importantly, the diocese also provides counselling and assistance to people of all ages and cultures, including foster children, the homeless and others struggling to cope with all manner of social issues from drugs and alcohol to suicide prevention.

The diocese, which has banked with BankSA for over 100 years, also facilitates low-interest rate loans to needy organisations, including schools to help modernise facilities and services for country teachers and students.

"Our role is so broad, but ultimately we see ourselves as a support provider for a network of communities scattered across vast distances, who we help assemble in churches, schools, homes and through works for the poor and vulnerable to help make the world a better place," said Mr De Cianni.

"At the end of the day, we're driven by our unwavering commitment to social justice and to serving the needs of people from all different backgrounds, from the first Australians through to asylum seekers."

• Did you know?

The Catholic Church in Australia is divided into seven geographical archdioceses, which comprise 21 smaller dioceses. Each archdiocese and its smaller dioceses are grouped into provinces.

Artistic and editorial credit goes to FOCUS Magazine, BankSA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Recently, we were walking in Hindley Street and we saw an elderly lady sleeping on the footpath next to the front wall of a building. She was covered with a parka and a rug. Her head was resting on a back pack. A few days prior to that we saw two elderly men asleep in the doorway of a closed business in the City. All of their belongings were packed around them. Many people were bustling past in their busy little worlds.

Needless to say we were quite "taken aback" and saddened that these people had nowhere else to go.

We started thinking that one day in the future, God may well ask each one of us what we have done for the homeless people in our society. That same question may well be asked in respect of what we have done for the poor"and the disabled,and the refugees,as well.

We wondered how many of us might struggle with our answers to these questions.

So right now,we could all begin to prepare ourselves so that we won't need to struggle with our answers. We could volunteer our time or start to donate, or even increase our donations,towards the various charities that support this section of our community. Perhaps we could all contact our Governments-be they Local, State or Federal and lobby them to increase their funding to this Sector.

Jesus once said that how we treat others in our community - so we treat Him!!

Right now, then, do we feel comfortable with what we are doing for our poor; for our homeless, for our people with disabilities, and our refugees? Really, do we feel comfortable about what we are doing for Jesus?

Perhaps we could pray: "Dear Jesus, help me always to see Your face in the faces of all people who are marginalised in our Society."

Paul Garton

PlenaryCouncilPrayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the
great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your
people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way
of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your
face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our
companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly
to each other
and a discerning heart to
hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a
hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy
of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age

Amen

Our Lady Help of Christians,
pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

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DIRECTOR'S COMMUNITY STATEMENT

As the school year closed for our Year 12 graduates and their families, their focus realigns in new directions over these weeks, I offer my congratulations to each of these young people.

To each graduate, in the spirit of what a Catholic education has provided you, I thank each of you for the unique contributions that only you could have given to enliven your school community; for the many times you have supported and provided outreach to others; and for the ways you have engaged with your peers, your teachers and education support staff to make the most of the opportunities you have been offered.

I also commend the outstanding work of every member of our schools' staff who ensure that each of the essential and hallmark elements of our Catholic schools are prevalent. I thank staff for their commitment and expertise that

> *"I thank each of you for the unique contributions that only you could have given to enliven your school community"*

results in teaching that is of the highest standard, for working hard to ensure a truly student-centred, Gospel-inspired environment is maintained, and where the dignity of each individual is honoured and celebrated, and for ensuring the strong partnership with each family is valued. I also acknowledge in a special way the work of all of our teachers who have taught these graduates throughout their early, primary, middle and secondary years, and who have all contributed to the outcomes of these young people today.

I wish each graduate every blessing as you venture onwards. May the gift of the Catholic education that your families have chosen for you enable you to continue to learn and grow, to celebrate your unique and valued individual gifts, and to use them to lead others through your example throughout your lives.

I offer you my personal congratulations, gratitude and best wishes, and my deep sentiment that you are and always will be welcomed members of the Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie.

Nichii Mardon
Director CESA

catholic education south australia

An outstanding opportunity to make an impact...

South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools

The South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) is calling for expressions of interest from members of the Catholic school community to serve on the Commission.

The South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools:

- has oversight of education in all Catholic schools and sets directions, allocates resources and develops policies for Catholic schools in South Australia;
- assesses the changing needs of, and opportunities for, Catholic education throughout SA;
- accounts for educational practices in all Catholic schools to appropriate State and Commonwealth Government bodies;
- acts as an authority pursuant to State and Commonwealth Governments;
- is a collegial Public Juridic Person established by the Archbishop of Adelaide, according to the Code of Canon Law.

You may wish to nominate if you are:

- deeply committed to the expression of Catholic identity and ethos within Catholic schools in SA
- an eminent member of a business or professional community with extensive experience in a corporate leadership capacity;
- able to demonstrate previous ability to interpret financial information, experience in corporate governance and risk management processes;
- someone who is politically astute and possesses highly developed communication, relationship management and advocacy skills operating within a complex environment;
- a person with significant experience, expertise and skills relevant to the needs of the Commission and the governance of Catholic education in SA;
- able to attend monthly Commission meetings and other meetings as required.

For further information regarding the Application process, please contact Rebekah Lyons at the Catholic Education Office:
rebekah.lyons@cesa.catholic.edu.au - Applications close COB on Thursday February 28, 2019.

Membership of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools is voluntary.
All applicants are required to successfully undergo our police and screening processes.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

DIOCESAN APPEAL FOR OUR SICK AND AGED CLERGY

Salesian priest, Fr. Bill Edwards observed: Age is a hindrance to our continuous flourishing! I suspect many in our Parishes and Catholic agencies can identify with this sentiment.

On Monday February 11, the Catholic Church throughout the world again celebrates the World Day of the Sick. It is an observance introduced by St. Pope John Paul II in 1992 and first celebrated on February 11, 1993.

It coincides with the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. This was the name given to the Virgin Mary in honour of the apparitions in and around Lourdes, France, in 1858 to a young girl, Bernadette Soubirous. The Church canonised Bernadette as a saint several years later. Over the years since then, Lourdes has become a place of universal pilgrimage, where people have experienced the healing presence and power of Christ.

The observance of World Day of the Sick shines a light and encourages people of goodwill to pray for those called to carry the often-crushing cross of illness and limitation. We have such people in all of our Parishes. Often their patience, resilience and courage in suffering is inspirational.

The World Day of the Sick is also an occasion to express our gratitude and prayerful support to those whose vocation it is to care for the sick … the doctors, nurses, priests, chaplains, other health professional and carers who devote their lives to bringing the compassionate love of Christ to the sick and dying. Again, there are such selfless and devoted people in all our Parishes and in the Catholic Homes in our Diocese … St. Catherine's, St. Joseph's and Star of the Sea. In addition, in our Diocese, Claire Conaghty provides gentle and sensitive care to our priests and deacon in her role as Clergy Care Coordinator.

As Pope Francis reminds us in his message for the Twenty-Seventh World Day of the Sick 2019:

Generous gestures, like that of the Good Samaritan, are the most credible means of evangelisation. Caring for the sick requires professionalism, and tenderness, with straightforward gestures freely given. We should not be afraid to regard ourselves as needy or reliant on others, because individually and by our own efforts we cannot overcome our limitations.

As we hold the sick members of our families close to our hearts and remember them daily in our prayers, we are also conscious of the sick clergy who have touched many lives through their priestly ministry and who are so much a part of our Diocesan Family. At present Frs. Adrian Noonan, Chris O'Neil, Laurie Quinn and Chris Warnock are in residential care, living each day the reality of the cross. Some other members of the clergy, in active ministry, suffer with chronic illnesses. We are conscious to of Bishop Greg who has had multiple health challenges in recent years.

The financing of the medical and care needs of our priests and deacon is the responsibility of the Clergy Support Fund. The generosity of parishioners to the First Collection at Sunday Masses enables the Fund to meet these ever-increasing costs. The Fund supports our clergy with health insurance, through a contribution to the accommodation costs of those in residential care, a 100% reimbursement of hospital excess, 75% reimbursement of gap payments for medical services and assists them to purchase medical and mobility aids including things like sleep apnea machines, hearing aids and gophers.

On this World Day of the Sick the Clergy Support Fund is asking those who are able to contribute to a Special Appeal for the Care of our Aged and Sick Priests. An envelope is included with this edition of Witness. It can be forwarded to Mr. Neil Davidson, Diocesan Finance Office, PO Box 1206 Port Pirie S.A. 5540 with your donation. Alternatively, direct debit payments can be made using:

BSB: 105 003
Account Number: 124 469 540
Notation: World Day of the Sick Appeal

We commend the Appeal to your generosity and our priests and deacons and all who carry the cross of illness and infirmity to your continuing prayers and care.

Yours in Christ, Bp Gregory O'Kelly SJ, Mons. Paul Quirk, Frs. Steve Ardill, Paul Crotty, Brian Mathews, Jim Monaghan, Francis Montero, Mr. Neil Davidson and Mr. Peter Quirk
Clergy Support Fund Board

Fr Steve Ardill

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PROJECT COMPASSION

I write to thank you for your support in our Project Compassion 2018 appeal, which proved to be very successful, and to invite you to join with us in our preparations for Project Compassion 2019.

The theme for Project Compassion 2019 is based around hope and giving Lent 100% in the name of hope. Hope is one of the three pillars of Christian virtue. The other two being faith and charity. It is a powerful force for good and often helps to transform lives.

Hope helps us to face life's challenges and sustains us as we work alongside the most marginalised and vulnerable communities to achieve better lives. Pope Francis has said that: "Jesus has given us a light that shines in the darkness; defend it, protect it. This unique light is the greatest richness entrusted to your life." This light, is the light of hope. Based on God's love for all, hope enables us to rise above our fears and helps those in great need to shape a better future for their communities. For Project Compassion 2019, we will be focusing on six stories which show the power of hope and the work of Caritas Australia in communities in Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Australia, Bangladesh and Vietnam. I am sure you will find these stories inspiring, as I do. We greatly appreciate your support during Project Compassion 2019.

Bishop Gregory O'Kelly SJ

2019 PRAYER

Creator God,
You are our constant hope!
In the season of Lent, you call us to prayer, fasting and love of those most marginalised.
As a community of faith and courage, let our gifts to Project Compassion be symbols of hope and solidarity with our one human family.
Accompany us as we journey with Jesus to bring 'good news' to all creation and ready our hearts to work for the common good of all your people.
We ask this in Jesus' name

AMEN

ABOUT LENT

Lent is the 40 days from Ash Wednesday until Easter. It is a period observed by Christians as preparation for Easter, involving fasting, repentance and alms giving. Lent 2019 starts on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 and ends on Holy Saturday, April 20, 2019.

SANTO NINO FIESTA

This Fiesta was organised by Fr Francis Montero under the guidance of Bishop Greg O'Kelly, SJ and with the support of the local Filipino community. It has been celebrated since 2012.

This year, 2019, is the 8th year. Fr Harold Camonias is leading this year with his competent committee.

The fiesta has evolved from purely Filipino into ecumenical and inter-cultural.

MASS ON A WHEAT SHIP...recently on the ship ANDRIA in Port Lincoln

Above
PRE-CHRISTMAS MASS... at Hamill House with Fr Francis, concelebrated by Fr C.J. O'Neil, Deacon Gary Stokes and Fr Francis.

ST JOSEPH'S FACE LIFT

As a result of selling St Dymphna's Church in Booborowie early in 2018, we have been able to give St Joseph's Church in Burra a 'face lift'. The yard has been repaired and resurfaced, The interior of the Church has had the floorboards repaired, sanded and revarnished. The carpet has been replaced. The statue of Our Lady and the Holy Water font from Booborowie have found a new home in St Joseph's.

A huge thank you to so many. This really has been a community effort. Moving pews, painting, rewiring, making cushions, fencing, cleaning etc. Four perfectly matched new pews have been made by a carpenter in Booborowie to replace the old ones. Please pay us a visit on Sunday.

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The Pekina Presbytery – A Brief History

Since its establishment in the 1870s, the small town of Pekina has played an important role in the history of the Catholic Church in South Australia. The recent sale of the former Pekina Catholic presbytery building in October 2018, brought an end to the affiliation of the 1878 building with the Catholic Church. The presbytery, along with the original 1876 St Catherine's Church and school, the 1925 replacement church and the 1878 St. Joseph's convent, formed a tight-knit Catholic precinct – the Pekina Parish.

This was added to when the Church took over the 1906 Pekina Institute building, running it as the Pekina Parish Hall, in 1936. The township was then described as "a completely Catholic settlement." The addition of the Pekina Hotel to the church's built assets in 1936 reinforced the township's uniqueness.

Information about the sandstone presbytery building is scant, but it appears to have been built c1878. The Right Rev. C. A. Reynolds, the Bishop of Adelaide, who paid a visit to Pekina on 15 November 1878, mentioned, "the Church, the adjoining Convent, and neat Presbytery yonder."

According to a newspaper report in the Northern Argus in mid 1880, "the Pekina Roman Catholic Chapel is a nice building, and the clergyman has a pretty residence." Pretty it may have been, but apparently the building was quite small, as in August 1893 it was reported in the local press that, "A new building has been erected in addition to the Roman Catholic Presbytery at Pekina, an addition which has been long needed. The building, which has just been completed, is a well-built and a well-finished structure. The want of this new addition was more particularly felt when any of the clergy were on a missionary visiting tour in the North. To commemorate the completion and opening of the new building a concert was given by the scholars attending the Pekina Convent School should take place on August 15." The 'addition' was built onto the rear of the original front rooms.

The matter was still worthy of note in May 1894, "Considerable improvements in the shape of additions and repairs to the [Pekina] presbytery have been recently effected here, which were badly needed. The chapel has also undergone quite a renovation, being pointed up on the outside and very artistically painted inside. The contract was carried out by Mr. O'Dea, under the able supervision of the Rev. Father Norton of Petersburg."

In 1910 the presbytery underwent some repairs, and a new verandah constructed.

Telegraphic communications reached Pekina in 1921 and the first private subscriber (one of two) - the Presbytery, phone number 1, was connected in 1923. In November 1924 the Catholic Diocese of Port Augusta called tenders for the erection of a church at Pekina, also for painting, alterations, etc, to Pekina Presbytery. It was in the 1920s that the motor car and electric light impacted on life at the presbytery with a 'car shed' and adjoining 'engine room' and long-drop toilet erected to the north-east of the main building. The engine room housed a 32volt DC Delco lighting plant and batteries. Water for the presbytery was supplied from rainwater tanks, with a nearby back-up well/windmill. Other major changes included flush toilet and mains ETSA electricity, connected in 1967.

John Mannion

Pekina Catholic Cleaning Ladies c.1928
Back - Stella Lee, Gert Lee, Bridget Nelson, Mrs Devitt, Lena Duffy
Middle - Phoebe McMahon, Nora Daly, Kit Lyons, Elizabeth Daly, Von Kenny, Liz Duffy,
Front - Maggie Duffy, Zita Hinton, Annie McCarthy

THE PEKINA TRAINING CENTRE – 'THE CAMP'

When the Pekina and Booleroo Centre parishes amalgamated in 1971, the headquarters of the new parish was at Booleroo, where Father Nic Canny resided in the local presbytery. After being home to numerous priests, housekeepers and a bishop for more than 90 years, the Pekina presbytery was vacant and Pekina no longer had a resident priest. Rather than see the Pekina facility fall into disuse, the Port Pirie Diocese embarked on an ambitious project to establish a youth centre using the presbytery building and the original St Catherine's Church. Under the leadership of Diocesan Chaplain, Father Eugene Hurley, members of the Young Christian Workers and Young Christian Students from Port Pirie, worked alongside local farmers and tradesmen to achieve their goal. The Oxford boys and builders L. O'Loughlin Pty. Ltd. from Pirie, were closely involved with the project.

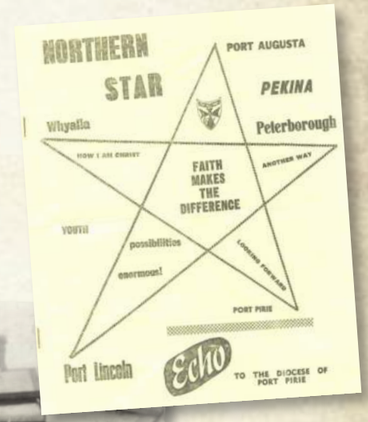
Finance was sourced from the new Pekina-Booleroo Parish, through a number of unemployment schemes associated with the District Council of Orroroo, and several government grants.

A large, surplus wood and iron building [ex-National Fitness Council] was relocated from O'Sullivan's Beach and transformed into a boys dormitory – hot during summer and cold in winter - with a kitchen, toilets and shower block. The presbytery was also modified in order to provide accommodation for girls – eight bedrooms, toilets and showers. The tail of the old windmill which had supplied bore water to the presbytery for years was adorned with a sign proclaiming the site as the Pekina Training Centre. The 'Pekina Camp' as it was known was officially opened on 19 November 1972. The facility was used for religious retreats etc. by Catholics from all parts of the diocese - young and old and in latter years was also available for hire by private groups. The Motor Mission Sisters also used the camp on a regular basis for high school religious instruction lessons. For many years the camp was under the control of former Pekina farmer Tim Clark, who was groundsman, janitor and general handyman. During the 1990s the facility was given a spring clean, with quite a few improvements carried out by locals and workers from Port Pirie and further afield.

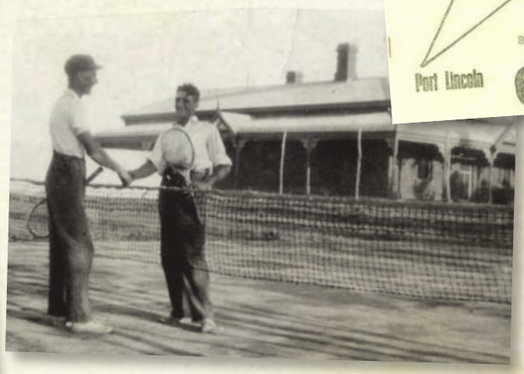
When the 25th anniversary of the Pekina Training Centre was commemorated in October 1997, a weekend of celebrations was held, with many former Pekina residents returning to their old home town. The weekend culminated in the dedication of the Marian Grotto, adjacent the presbytery. Financed by Marie Smith (nee Daly) and in honour of Margie Lee of Port Pirie, the grotto was blessed by Bishop De Campo of the Port Pirie Diocese. In the following years the camp began to outlive it's usefulness, and gradually fell into disrepair. The building was used by a few religious groups, Catholic and non-Catholic and a few ad-hoc bookings. The presbytery was re-roofed a few years ago, as was the dormitory, due to flood damage. Meanwhile the well ran dry, but in the last month, the water has risen.

For further information on Pekina, arguably the most Irish settlement in South Australia [from 1870s-1940s], get a copy of Irish South Australia, a new Wakefield Press book that charts Irish settlement from as far north as Pekina, to the state's south-east and Mount Gambier.

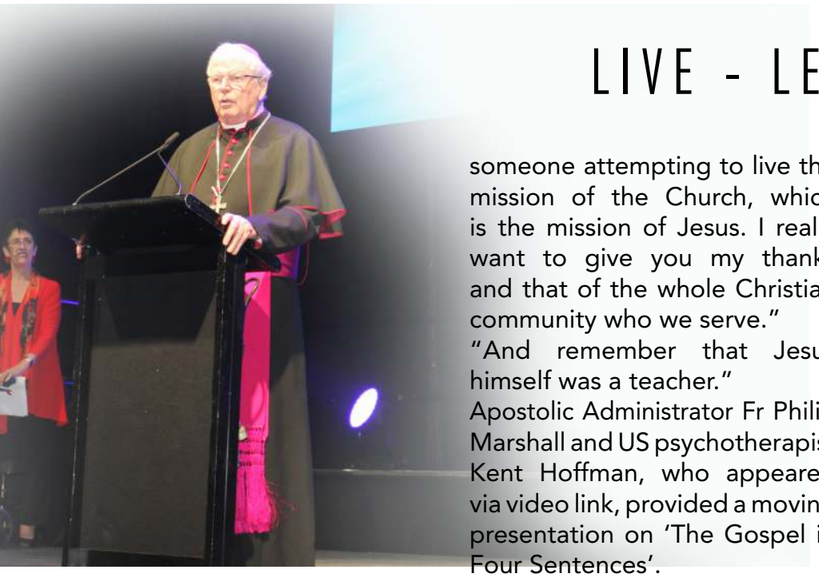
First Communion Day, Pekina c.1938
Jimmy Berry, Max Rynne, Father W. Kain, Mick Hinton, Mary Berry



An early YCW publication, Echo, re Pekina camp - accommodation at the time was 80 cents a night.



A SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK..in the history of Pekina was the official opening of the local tennis courts performed by His Grace the Co-Adjutor Archbishop of Sydney, Dr. N. T. Gilroy on 14 August 1937. Prior to the new courts being laid at the local recreation ground, tennis was played on the Catholic courts on the north side of the presbytery. (Photo Lee family collection).



LIVE - LEARN - LEAD

The largest ever gathering of Catholic educators in South Australia took over the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on January 23.

More than 5,000 teachers, school and parish leaders, priests, school administrators and Catholic Education Office staff from the Diocese of Port Pirie and the Archdiocese of Adelaide attended the Live Learn Lead Together conference.

After an impressive musical dance performance by Ding Productions and a stunning Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony by Yellaka, the gathering joined in prayer and song.

Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ welcomed everyone, especially those who had come from long distances across the State, to "this combined venture of Church".

"The importance of what you do and who you are is contained just in the one statement," he told the historic gathering.

"The Church could not be Church without you."

"You are privileged and gifted people, you who care for the young. "There is no equal to you in someone attempting to live the mission of the Church, which is the mission of Jesus. I really want to give you my thanks and that of the whole Christian community who we serve."

"And remember that Jesus himself was a teacher."

Apostolic Administrator Fr Philip Marshall and US psychotherapist Kent Hoffman, who appeared via video link, provided a moving presentation on 'The Gospel in Four Sentences'.

Fr Marshall said when he looked around the auditorium and saw 5,500 people he thought "what a power, what a capacity to make a difference to the world in a way that will make it more beautiful, more wonderful, more courageous, more loving and more kind".

Catholic Education director Neil McGoran spoke about the history of Catholic education in SA, starting with a meeting in December 1844 of Bishop Francis Murphy and teachers Mr and Mrs William James to lay the foundation stone of the first school in Adelaide.

Dr McGoran said reflecting on the past was important in terms of determining Catholic identity, "who you are and who you say you are". He then addressed the current strategy for Catholic education in the State, "which is demanding all of us to reach new levels of excellence in what we do", and the integration of faith, life, learning and culture.

Referring to global and Australian trends, he said while the highest demand from employers was for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills, what ranked even higher still were personal and social skills.

"Employers everywhere are looking for people who are decent people, who fit into a team, are good to get on with, creative, problem solvers, energetic and can get out there and try and create something new because if they don't they'll go out of business," he said.

"Australia needs Catholic education more than it ever has before because Catholic education does that really well."

The conference came on the eve of the new school year for the State's 102 Catholic schools comprising around 45,000 students and 6000 employees.

Predicted to be a year of significant change, 2019 will see many of the State's Catholic secondary schools teaching Year 7 for the first time. A number of Catholic primary schools will also begin offering mid-year student intakes.

The afternoon session of Live, Learn and Lead included a presentation on The Power of the Word by Robin Moore, an educator and communicator who was the voice of cartoon character Blinky Bill for many years. ABC radio announcer Ali Clarke chaired a panel discussion which was followed by the concluding liturgy.

Videos featuring school children and teachers, cards with illustrated messages from students and mega-screens with images depicting Australia's natural beauty were other highlights of the day.

Jenny Brinkworth

SAINT OF THE MONTH

SAINT PAUL MIKI SJ & COMPANIONS

Saint Paul Miki and Companions Nagasaki, Japan, is familiar to Americans as the city on which the second atomic bomb was dropped, immediately killing over 37,000 people.

Three and a half centuries before, 26 martyrs of Japan were crucified on a hill, now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki. Among them were priests, brothers, and laymen, Franciscans, Jesuits, and members of the Secular Franciscan Order; there were catechists, doctors, simple artisans, and servants, old men and innocent children - all united in a common faith and love for Jesus and his Church.

Brother Paul Miki, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, has become the best known among the martyrs of Japan. While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: "The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."

When missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860s, at first they found no trace of Christianity. But after establishing themselves they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and that they had secretly preserved the faith. Beatified in 1627, the martyrs of Japan were finally canonised in 1862.

Reflection

Today, a new era has come for the Church in Japan. Although the number of Catholics is not large, the Church is respected and has total religious freedom. The spread of Christianity in the Far East is slow and difficult. Faith such as that of the 26 martyrs is needed today as much as in 1597.

Martyrdom of Paul Miki S.J., Jacob Kisai S.J., John Goto S.J. and P. Petrus Battista in Japan in 1596 | Engraving after A. van Diepenbeec

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return by:
Thursday March 28, 2019
To:
2019 Diocesan Assembly Registrations
PO Box 1206
PORT PIRIE SA 5540
Fax: 8632 0599
jennifer.wainwright@pp.catholic.org.au
www.pp.catholic.org.au

Name/s of participants:

_____

_____

_____

Parish _____

Tuesday evening you are invited to Dinner at the Port Football and Community Club, corner of Wandearah and Esmond Road

Commencing at 6:30pm.

Numbers required for catering

I will be attending lunch
Tuesday Yes ☐ No ☐
I will be attending dinner
Tuesday Yes ☐ No ☐

A donation of $30 for registration is requested to assist with the costs. If the donation makes it difficult for you to attend, please come as our guest.

Tuesday April 9

8.00am Mass at St Mark's Cathedral
Doors open/registration at the Festival Centre
9.00am Welcome and Prayer
Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea is provided at the Festival Centre
6.30pm Dinner Port Club Rooms

Wednesday April 10

8.00am Doors Open
8.20am Seated
11.00am Close Assembly
11.30am Chrism Mass

Above - Baptism of Ariana Rowe performed by Fr Francis at Crystal Brook late last year.

Left - Baptism of Mayah Lahnie Cable, daughter of Richard and Lauren Cable by Fr Francis Montero on December 2 at St Mark's Cathedral

At 3.00pm on Thursday, January 10, at the Metropolitan Cathedral, two young Whyalla Parishioners took their sacramental vows of marriage in their home province of Cebu in the central part of the Philippines.
The wedding took place amidst a terrifying bomb scare and a down pouring of rain. The Bomb Squad and SWAT Team were called in to determine if an abandoned backpack left in the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral was in-fact a bomb. Despite all this happening around them, nothing could deter BJ and Hazel from declaring their marriage vowels to one and other before their family, friends and celebrant, Fr Francis Montero from Port Pirie Parish.

Brendan Krommendijk with brother Orlando, parents Michael and Vilma and Bishop Greg at his First Holy Communion on October 28 at St Mark's Cathedral. Also pictured above with Claire Conaghty who prepared him.

Fr Arno's Silver Jubilee Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood

On Tuesday, December 11, parishioners at the Cathedral Mass were delighted to share in the Silver Jubilee (25 years) anniversary of Fr Arno Vermeeren, the celebrant. We thanked God for his priesthood. Later in the day Fr Arno was acknowledged at lunch at the Presbytery.

Blessing of the Port Pirie Councillors

On December 14, 2018 newly elected Mayor of Port Pirie, Mr Leon Stephens and some Councillor's accepted the Invitation to gather for prayer and blessing during the midday Mass at the Cathedral. Mass was followed by a simple fellowship at the Presbytery.
Fr Francis Montero was the main celebrant and Rev Mary Lewis of the Anglican Church delivered an inspiring sermon.
Other Christian Ministers were also present to pray for the Port Pirie Regional Council and to bless the Mayor and the Councillors.
Why do we pray for our elected officials?
"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

Clergy, ministers, the Mayor, councillors and the congregation gather after the blessing service.
Photos - Greg Mayfield, Recorder

Father Francis Montero invites Mayor Leon Stephens, second from left, Cr Alan Zubrinich, Cr Kendall Jackson, Cr Jack Keain and Cr Dino Gadaleta onto the sanctuary of St Mark's Cathedral

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The eight sisters taking part in the Life Vows ceremony

SUCH A PRIVILEGE

Bishop Greg and I were very a invitation to visit the Sisters of St Anne of Chennai in December last year. It really was a wonderful experience, we were treated like royalty!

Bishop Greg celebrated the 46th anniversary of his priestly ordination in Goa, where the remains of St Francis Xavier are entombed.

A most memorable experience was being present with the Sisters of St Anne when eight young Sisters celebrated the taking of their life vows.

The following day, 12 sisters celebrated their Golden Jubilee. The liturgy was very meaningful, there was a lot of colour and singing and a lot of symbolism.

During our time in India, we visited the tomb of the foundress of the Sisters of St Anne, Servant of God Thatipathri Gnanamma. Every Convent, school and girls home we visited just radiated happiness. It really was a privilege to spend time with them all. Another highlight of the trip was visiting the convent and tomb of St Mother Teresa in Calcutta.

I will be forever grateful to Sr Jackie, Mother General, and the Sisters of St Anne for their generosity and kindness.

Sr Kerry Keenan

Sr Kerry with Superior General, Sr Jacqueline Mary SSAM and Sr Sheila

12 sisters celebrated their Golden Jubilee.

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On December 22, during a tour of drought affected areas around Cowell the Governor, Mr Hieu Van Le and wife, Mrs Le, attended Mass in Our Lady Star of the Sea, Cowell. He is pictured after Mass with Parish Priest Fr Paul Quirk, and parishioners Mick and Meryl Beinke and Lyn Deer.
After Mass the Governor and Mrs Le entertained at Dinner the Mayor and CEO of Franklin Harbour District Council and their wives, two representatives from the Lutheran Parish and Fr Paul Quirk at the Commercial Hotel Cowell.
On Sunday he attended Church at the Lutheran Church before returning to Adelaide.

BLESSINGS FROM HEAVEN

Dear Friends,
Our family, the Mertens, have had a connection with the outback Opal town of Andamooka, SA for more than 40-years. We try to go 'up north' as often as possible as we find the further north you travel, the better the quality of the people you get!
As the 2018 year drew to an end, once again, my wife, Elaine, and I made the 375 km journey from Port Pirie to Andamooka where we stay in our semi-underground house and we visit our friends 'living' or 'residing' in the local cemetery.
We blessed all 127 graves and prayed the prayer for when visiting graves. We felt most accomplished with our undertaking as it took roughly 1.5 hours to complete.
No sooner had we finished blessing the graves than the sky opened and treated all within a 30km radius of Andamooka to the best rain the area had seen for some 18 months!
The following day we headed out to the old 'Mollick Heap' to do some prospecting. Well, low and behold, the rains had exposed the left-over opal and we were able to collect some 127 pieces!
"Yes, we are blessed abundantly all the days of our lives, our God works in marvellous ways."
Cheers and blessings to all,
Elaine and Ed Mertens

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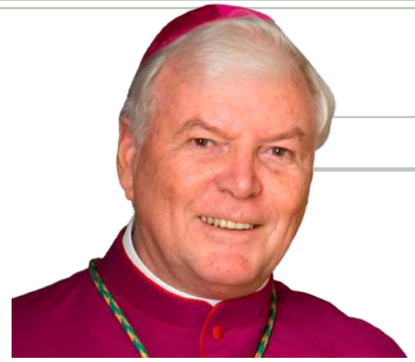
The Witness
Journal of the Diocese of Port Pirie
February 2019



COMMUNICATIONS

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COVER PHOTO

"Our role is so broad, but ultimately we see ourselves as a support provider for a network of communities scattered across vast distances".

Cosimo De Cianni,
Business and Finance Manager

Photo credit -
FOCUS Magazine, BankSA

THE WITNESS

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Submission of content is welcomed and encouraged; however, publication cannot be guaranteed and content may be edited for purposes of space and clarity

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APRIL DEADLINE

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Catholic faith, adults and children of regional South Australia

Accommodation Reservations

We wish to advise that the 2019 Diocesan Assembly will be held in Port Pirie at the same time as the Masters Games and accommodation is already being booked.
If accommodation for the Assembly is required, we urge you to book NOW!

Travelway Motel	08 8632 2222
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Ellen Hotel	08 8633 3138
City Centre Motel	08 8632 6356
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International Hotel	08 8632 2422
Mary Knoll Retreat	08 8636 2535

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DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 2019
Journeying Together in Hope...

Booleroo Centre Parish

Fr Benjamin Mkuchu PP
Phone 8667 2020 | booleroocentre@bigpond.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Booleroo	SUN	8.30am	8.30am	7.00pm	8.30am	10.00am
Laura	SUN	10.00am	7.00pm			7.00pm
Orroroo	SUN	7.00pm		10.00am		8.30am
Pekina	SUN	10.00am		10.00am		
Wirrabara	SUN			8.30am	7.00pm	

Burra Parish

Administered by Pt Pirie Parish | Sr Kerry Keenan
Phone 0407 676 714 | cathedralpirie@bigpond.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Burra	SUN	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am

Cleve Parish

Mgr Paul Quirk PP
Phone 8628 2189 | stvincentcleve@bigpond.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Cleve	SAT	6.00pm				6.00pm
	SUN		9.00am	11.00am	8.30am	
Wudinna	SAT		6.00pm			
	SUN	8.30am		9.00am	11.00am	8.30am
Kimba	SAT			6.00pm		
	SUN	11.00am	8.30am		9.00am	11.00am
Cowell	SAT				6.00pm	
	SUN	9am	11.00am	8.30am		5.00pm

Coober Pedy Parish

Fr Brian Mathews PP
Phone 8627 5011 | Inlandmission.cp@internode.on.net

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Coober Pedy	SAT	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm
	SUN	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	1.00am

Cummins Parish

Fr Kevin Matthews PP | Phone 8687 2194
Mob 0428 282 189 | cumminsparish@pp.catholic.org.au

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Cummins	SUN	10.30am	8am	10.30am	8am	10.30am
Tumby Bay	SUN	8.00am	10.30am	8.00am	10.30am	5.00pm
Elliston	SUN	5.00pm	5.00pm	5.00pm	5.00pm	8.00am
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Jamestown Parish

Fr Leon Quinn PP
Phone 8664 1056 | stjacobi@bigpond.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Jamestown	SAT	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.00pm
	SUN	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am
Peterborough	SUN	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am

Mgr Arthur Hackett
Phone 8664 1056 | ajbhackett@bigpond.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Gladstone	SUN	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am

Kadina Parish

Fr Ramel Morales Acting PP
Phone 8582 3943 | sacheart@internode.on.net

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Kadina	SUN	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am
Moonta	SUN	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am
Wallaroo	SAT	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm

Our Lady of the River Parish

Fr Paul Bourke PP | Phone 8528 1894 | olor@bigpond.com
Fr Cletus Mloka | Phone 0484 562 612 | cmloka@gmail.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Berri	SAT		6.30pm		6.30pm	
	SUN	9.00am		9.00am		9.00am
Barmera	SUN	6.00pm	11.00am	6.00pm	11.00am	6.00pm
Waikerie	SAT		6.00pm		6.00pm	
	SUN	11.00am		11am		11am
Morgan	SAT	6.00pm		6.00pm		6.00pm
	SUN		9.00am			9.00am
Loxton Phone 8588 2452						
	SUN	11.00am	6.00pm	11.00am	6.00pm	11.00am
Renmark Phone 8582 1894						
	SAT	6.30pm		6.30pm		6.30pm
	SUN		9.00am		9.00am	

Port Augusta Parish

Fr Paul Crotty PP
Phone 8642 2847 | allsaints.pt.a@bigpond.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Port Augusta	SAT	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm
	SUN	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am
Wilmington	SUN	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am

Port Lincoln Parish

Fr Steve Ardill PP
Phone 8682 3725 | smoa@bigpond.net.au

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Port Lincoln	SAT	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm
	SUN	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am
Coffin Bay	SUN	6.00pm				

Port Pirie Parish

Fr Francis Montero Administrator
Phone 8632 3977 | cathedralpirie@bigpond.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Cathedral	SAT	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm
	SUN	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am
Solomontown	SUN	5.00pm	5.00pm	5.00pm	5.00pm	5.00pm
Crystal Brook	SUN	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am

Quorn Parish

Fr Jimmy Pantin (PP) | Phone 8648 6185
Mob 0434 517 920 | flincath4@pp.catholic.org.au

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Quorn	SUN	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am
Carrieton winter	SAT	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm
summer	SAT	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm	6.30pm
Hawker	SUN	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am

Roxby Downs Parish

Administered by Pt Augusta Parish
Sr Pat Hogan | Phone 8671 0499 | Lutheran Church – Pioneer Drv

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Roxby Downs	FRI	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm	6.00pm
Woomera	By Arrangement with Parish Administrator (Fr Paul Crotty 8642 2847)					

Snowtown Parish

Administered by Pt Pirie Parish | Sr Kerry Keenan
Phone 0407 676 714 | cathedralpirie@bigpond.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Pt Broughton	SUN	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am	10.00am
Redhill	SUN	8.15am	8.15am	8.15am	8.15am	8.15am

Streaky Bay Parish

Fr Matthew Newman PP
Phone 0407 682 670 | fr.mnewman@gmail.com

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Streaky Bay	SUN	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am	11.00am
Ceduna	By Arrangement with Parish Priest					
Chandada	SUN	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am	9.00am
Smoky Bay	SUN		6.00pm			
Wirrulla	SUN			6.00pm(except January)		

Whyalla Parish

Fr Jim Monaghan PP VG
8645 8023 | whysaint@internode.on.net

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
St Teresa's	SAT	6pm	6pm	6pm	6pm	6pm
	SUN	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am	8.30am
Our Lady's	SUN	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am
	SUN	5.30pm	5.30pm	5.30pm	5.30pm	5.30pm