

# Sandpiper e-News

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

### PARISH SACRAMENTAL REGISTERS DIGITISATION PROJECT



Sandhurst archivist Dr Donna Bailey is on a mission to preserve parish sacramental registers and make work easier for Parish staff by digitising over 120,000 individual sacramental records as part of the Parish Sacramental Registers Digitisation Project.

*"I wanted to give a sense of the people of the book, the different hands that had made it, used it, protected it."*

— Geraldine Brooks, *People of the Book*

Watching Sandhurst Archivist, Dr Donna Bailey carefully turn the pages of the Tallangatta Baptism Register with her white cotton gloves evokes the sentiment of author Geraldine Brooks. It's hard not to start imagining the baptism of Francis Hugh McArdle in the summer of 1916 in idyllic Tallangatta, while the world is at war. A joy-filled occasion, a day of hopes and dreams, a doting mother, a proud father, and a priest, James Lawless, wearing a thick cassock obviously too hot for the season ...

Francis Hugh McArdle is the first name recorded in the first line of the Tallangatta Baptisms

register. Written in elegant cursive, no doubt with a fountain pen, and maybe with even more care than Dr Donna Bailey's turning of pages! There it is, recorded for posterity, the baptism of Baby McArdle and hundreds of others over many years. The stories are endless.

Until 2016, if you had asked a question about a sacramental record at St Kilian's, Beechworth or Heathcote, for example, the Parish Priest, Staff or Volunteers would have gone to a large and rather heavy leather-bound register, (most likely made and imported from Dublin or London) and physically leafed through the decaying, yellowing pages. If you were lucky, you might have been with them — a whiff of dust, a stale smell of brittle paper ... but alas, no more. This is becoming a scene of the past. It's sad, but true, Sandhurst sacramental registers are being digitised on a grand scale and it is all for the better.

Dr Donna Bailey says the whole point of digitising the registers is to preserve these beautiful books. "The ink is fading, the pages are crumbling, the binding is wearing, some of them are literally falling apart," she says. "These are the only records of our Parish Sacraments, and we want to make sure we keep them in perpetuity."

"By digitising these records, we not only increase the efficiency with which sacramental records can be identified, we also save the wear and tear on these originals and, therefore, protect the information for the future," explains Donna.

After the Parish sacramental registers have been digitised, each parish receives all records on a portable hard drive and parishes are strongly encouraged to use this resource when searching for records. "It will be much easier for parish staff, and kinder to the original material, to search for

records on the digitised files," says Donna. To preserve the original registers, parishes are provided with archival housing to store the register books so they can be permanently preserved. "The registers are wrapped in archival bags, then placed into permanent archival boxes and sealed up, preventing further contamination of the paper which can occur. "So, no bugs can get in, and no greasy hands can turn the pages!" laughs Donna knowing many a true word is spoken in jest.

Donna has been working on a complete audit of parish sacramental registers, prioritising which registers need to be salvaged first and establishing which parish sacramental registers have been lost or destroyed by fire over time.

No matter how many registers she has seen, Donna still gets very excited when new registers are delivered to her office for digitisation. Earlier this week, Nagambie Parishioners, Mel Arnold and Rhonda Robinson delivered two registers, one baptism register, and one marriage register; the baptism register interestingly starts before the erection of the parish in 1875 and includes entries from the 1860s. The marriage register begins with the erection of their parish in 1875. They also brought talk of a well-known Nun, Sr Leonie De Sept Douleurs, of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who witnessed a miracle at Lourdes and who was baptised in Nagambie on the day of the opening of the church. However, her baptismal record, so far, has not been found in the fragile register. Nothing like a baptism-mystery to keep detective Dr Donna Bailey enthralled in her work. Donna and her Nagambie Team (Rhonda and Mel) aim to solve this mystery in time for the Nagambie Anniversary celebrations in November this year.

The Sandhurst digitisation project started in 2016 when selected Baptism, Marriage, Confirmation and Death/burial registers from Beechworth, Benalla, St Kilian's, Dookie, Eaglehawk, Echuca, Heathcote, Numurkah and Shepparton. A total of 43 books were digitised.

This year, selected registers from Sacred Heart Cathedral, Nagambie, Euroa, Elmore, Marong, Inglewood, Cohuna, and Tallangatta, totalling 31 books, will be digitised. Further digitisation is planned for other parishes in 2023 - 2024.

## **Crunching the numbers**

After this phase of the Digitisation Project has been completed, 74 sacramental register books with over 120,000 individual sacramental records will have been digitised. Each individual record offers particulars that tell the story of around one hundred and seventy years of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

## **Out of interest**

The Catholic Church is one of the richest repositories of genealogical data in the world. Catholic Sacraments, not only record names, dates and places, linking people to a specific time and place, they also link people to other people, recording the names of godparents or sponsors, for example. Furthermore, Catholic sacraments such as baptism and confirmation provide information which is obviously not recorded by government organisations. In some places in Victoria, the Church was keeping records before government organisations. This is not so unusual; in many parts of Europe, for example, Catholic registers reach back as far as the 1500s.

Donna says she receives requests from both family history researchers and parishioners who are preparing for important parish anniversaries, seeking marriage, baptism and confirmation and burial information, but notes that only records over 100 years old (for baptisms) may be released to the public in keeping with Australian Privacy Law and Diocesan policy.



Diocesan Archivist, Dr Donna Bailey, looks over the Nagambie Baptism Register with Nagambie parishioners Rhonda Robinson and Mel Arnold. The register has records dating back to the 1860s.

## ILLUMINATED ADDRESS TO ILLUMINATE EAGLEHAWK'S HISTORY



While helping her grandaunt to move into a retirement home, the Chancery's **Sally Holmes** was surprised to discover, in a dark room under a film of dust, an ornate Illuminated Address dated 1899. Featuring gold gilded photographs and names of proud Victorian-era men, it read: -

*"Presented by the Borough Council of Eaglehawk  
to Councillor M.J. Curtain  
First elected Councillor August 1893  
Re-elected August 1896  
Elected Mayor 29 August 1898  
Retired from the Mayoral Chair 29 August 1899."*

Sally made a couple of excited phone calls, and the rest is, well — history.

The Illuminated Address now takes pride of place in the former Council Chambers of the old Eaglehawk Town Hall where Sally's great-granduncle, Michael John Curtain, served as a councillor and Mayor of the Borough of Eaglehawk in a bygone era when colonials were aspiring to federation<sup>1</sup> and prominent men were enthusiastically going about the noble business of nation building.<sup>2</sup>

Michael John Curtain was the late Fr John Ware's grandfather, and Sally Holmes' great-granduncle. Sally found the Illuminated Address in the home of her grandaunt, Molly who is first cousin to Fr John Ware (aka 'cousin Jack') and the granddaughter of Michael John Curtain.

After holding this Illuminated Address in their possession for 120, the Curtain family decided to gift it to the people of Eaglehawk. They handed the Address to the Eaglehawk Heritage Society who, realising the significance of this beautiful decorative certificate of service, resolved to use their funds to restore it (where necessary) and preserve it, so that it can help to tell the story of Eaglehawk to future generations.

The frame features photographs linking ten families to their history in Eaglehawk, thought to be the only photographic record of its type in Victoria. It features photographs and names of the following councillors:

Edward McCormick, John Green, George Loudon, Henry A. Chapple, William Cook, Edward Brown, John Highmore, W. Vincent Kneebone, Frederick Clark and, of course, Michael John Curtain.

The Illuminated Address was given to the City of Greater Bendigo in a small but official ceremony on 1 June when President of the Eaglehawk Heritage Society, Elaine Harrington, presented it to Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf who accepted it on behalf of the City of Greater Bendigo.

In her speech, Elaine said the Eaglehawk Heritage Society was very pleased to see this decorated certificate of service hanging so resplendently on the walls of the Eaglehawk Town Hall. Restoration and preservation work had cost the Society in the vicinity of \$11,000 but Elaine said it was well worth it. Elaine sadly explained that the Illuminated Address was the Eaglehawk Heritage Society's last contribution to Eaglehawk before closing its doors. She thanked the remaining members of the society, Bev Hanson, Aylene Kirkwood, June McMillan and Sharon Opie, who were all present at this last official event, for their years of dedication and service.



Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf thanked the Eaglehawk Heritage Society for its efforts to preserve this important piece of Eaglehawk history. "The restoration of the Curtain illuminated work is testimony to your commitment to keeping local stories alive and is a fitting legacy for your time as a Society," she said. "As your final act, you are going out on a high."

Cr Metcalf also thanked the Curtain family for "trusting this process, despite knowing the Heritage Society was preparing to finish its service to the community."

Present at the handover proceedings were Michael John Curtain's, great-grandson, Michael F. Curtain, great-grandnieces Sally Holmes and Joanne Marslen, and great-great-grandnephew, Logan Murphy (Sally's grandson).



Michael F. Curtain tells the story of his Great-grandfather, Michael John Curtain at the official handover of the Illuminated Address to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Michael told a moving and compelling story of the life and achievements of his great-grandfather – which ultimately is represented in the Illustrated Address. Michael John Curtain was an Australian 'native', in the terminology of the time; it meant he was born in Australia in 1855, but only just. You'll need to read Michael's story to find out why and to understand how larger-than-life this man was.

After working in the mines for twelve years, Michael John Curtain became a publican. He held official positions in many football clubs and was an active promoter of the Eaglehawk Athletics Club. At one stage he was Vice-President of the Eaglehawk Stock Exchange and was President of the Eaglehawk ANA and was a Grand Master of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows.

The striking thing about Michael John Curtain is that he is the son of last-wave potato famine Irish Catholic migrants, who rose to prominence and contributed to many aspects of community life at a time when Catholic Irish were negatively racialised. It seems there's more to learn from him than meets the eye.

In her speech, Cr Metcalf relayed, "When he died, a flag was flown at half-mast in Eaglehawk and the Mayor at the time noted MJ Curtain as 'valuable man to the Borough Council, and also as an individual citizen'."



Sally Holmes with her cousin Joanne Marslen, both great-grandnieces of Michael John Curtain with Sally's grandson Logan Murphy.

**Illuminated Addresses** are typically certificates of service or commemoration which are elaborately embellished with beautiful calligraphy, skilled artwork and lustrous designs. Unique and personal, illuminated addresses were designed to include illustrated and later photographic elements of the awardee's personal history. An Illuminated Address is distinct from an Illustrated Address because it is embellished with burnished gold or silver.

In the late 1870s to the 1930s an illuminated address would be presented to its awardee at a formal presentation ceremony as a means of publicly and formally recognising the service or contribution of an individual to an organisation or a community. More often than not, the presentation would make the local news.

With the rise of mass printing in the 1930s Illuminated Addresses became less of a 'thing'. These beautiful hand-made illustrated certificates were truly a labour of love, the resources invested to create them extended a deep appreciation for the person they addressed, irrespective of the level of skill. In the age of instant gratification, and clicktivism it might be a good time to think about bringing them back into vogue.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>. In fact, the year the Illuminated Address was presented to Michael Curtain, 1899, was the year of the two referendums more or less asking people in the colonies if they should federate to form one nation — yes, or no?

<sup>2</sup>. in between the odd snooker game, rifle shooting; horse-race, greyhound race, promoting the stock exchange on the blackboard or buying a pub!

<sup>3</sup>. According to the Australian Library, "the artistry that went into these addresses ranged from fairly amateur production to highly sophisticated illustration techniques and calligraphy. They were, at their best, an art form in themselves." However, for the community commissioning the address the person creating it and the addressee, the art is not only in the certificate but, in all of the endeavour surrounding it, lived out in life.

## ON PENTECOST, TWO CHOIRS SING AS ONE AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL





To help mark the Solemnity of Pentecost this year, and as an ecumenical expression of our desire for Christian unity, the Cathedral community Choir welcomed the University of Melbourne's Trinity College Chapel Choir to sing Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The Mass setting was conducted by Chris Watson and accompanied by Thomas Heywood (Organist for the Cathedral Choir) and Geethan Pfiefer (Cantebury Fellowship Organ Scholar) who played the postlude. Cantor for the Mass was Joanne Bonazza from Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The Trinity College Choir sang *Messe Solennelle* (1949) by French Organist-Composer Jean Langlais (1907-1991). After Holy Communion the Choirs combined to sing Mozart's *Ave verum*.

Composer Jean Langlais lived with blindness for most of his life and perhaps because of that, he developed an acute sense of hearing and musical perception. On Pentecost, the traditional birthday of the Church, the life and legacy of Jean Langlais reminds us of the wonderful potential of music to express communion between God and humanity, as well as bridging the boundaries between Christian traditions.

The *Messe Solennelle* would have been considered avant-garde in style in the 1940s, and probably even still today. The Trinity College Choir will sing the same Mass in St Peter's Basilica in Rome in July 2023 during its overseas tour of Italy and the United Kingdom.

Trinity College is a residential college for students at the University of Melbourne. It is built on Anglican values. Most of the Choir members are students at the University of Melbourne who are residents at Trinity College and the Choir's rigour and reputation draws students from other residential Colleges and Universities.

The Trinity College Choir is internationally acclaimed and is the flagship of Trinity

College Melbourne's music life. The Choir has collaborated with various orchestras, instrumental ensembles and conductors and has a reputation for championing new music by Australian composers.

The Choir has undertaken nine international tours, and has visited the United States, Canada, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia, the Baltic States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France and Spain.

On their 2023 European Tour they will sing at three Masses and an Evensong in Rome, perform at a concert in Florence, then head to Dublin for four liturgical events and then sing at Cambridge and Westminster.

## FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS

### HUNDREDS GATHER FOR ORDINATION OF SECOND SYRO-MALABAR BISHOP



Hundreds of people gathered on Wednesday evening to celebrate the Ordination of Bishop John Panamthottathil CMI as the second shepherd of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle in Melbourne.

Bishops from India, Europe and the United States, as well as 20 members of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, were among those who attended the Ordination and installation ceremony.

Cardinal George Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church,

served as Bishop Panamthottathil's principal consecrator. Bishop Bosco Puthur, the first Syro-Malabar Bishop in Australia, and Bishop Remigius Inchananiyil of Thamarasserry, India, were the co-consecrators.

"The Eparchy of Melbourne is getting today a new pastor in the person of Monsignor John Panamthottathil," Cardinal Alencherry said, noting that the new bishop's May 31 birthday coincided with his "birth as a bishop".



Cardinal Alencherry said the role of a bishop is "to create unity and peace in the Christian community by preaching the Word of God" and by teaching.

"At the present time of the Church," he said, "a bishop has to function keeping in mind the principle of synodality for communion, participation and mission."

"May the Lord grant Monsignor John Panamthottathil all the graces needed to exercise this important office in the Church."

Cardinal Alencherry thanked the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for advocating for the establishment of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy almost a decade ago, and for their ongoing assistance.

"The presence of a good number of bishops here from the ACBC for this liturgical celebration manifests the continued support and collegiality of the Australian bishops for the eparchy," he said.

Bishop Panamthottathil now joins those bishops as a member of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Eparchy covers all of Australia, as well as New Zealand and the countries of Oceania.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, who invited Bishop Panamthottathil to serve in the Archdiocese of Brisbane from 2015 to 2020, preached the homily.

"Trying to chart a course for the Syro-Malabar Church in a culture so very different from anything in India has its own dangers and difficulties," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"Failing to engage local culture in an effort to preserve Syro-Malabar identity is one danger; losing the distinctiveness of Syro-Malabar identity in an effort to engage local culture is another.

"The Syro-Malabar bishop in the Antipodes has to tread a wise and sensitive middle path, and that can be difficult."

Bishop Panamthottathil said he will address that and other tasks in his ministry with the help of God.

"Looking at what has happened to me today, and seeing all of you gathered here, I can only say, like King David, 'Who am I God? And what is my house, that you may have brought me to this point?'," he said.

"This question will remain in my mind for a long time and maybe for ever. And I can only be consoled by the promise of God to St Paul: 'My grace is sufficient for you.'

"I give thanks to my loving God who has qualified me to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. In spite of my unworthiness, God has called me to the office of bishop and God alone knows why he chose me ..."

At the conclusion of the celebration, Bishop Panamthottathil joined Cardinal Alencherry, Bishops Conference president Archbishop

Timothy Costelloe SDB and members of the Syro-Malabar community in paying tribute to Bishop Puthur, who has led the Eparchy since 2014.

"Tonight, we are celebrating the fact that, for the last nine years, Bishop Bosco has worked tirelessly and courageously and creatively to ensure that the richness of the Syro-Malabar spirituality and liturgical tradition and customs becomes more and more a part of the life of the Church here in Australia," Archbishop Costelloe said, thanking Bishop Puthur for his contribution over that period.

## **FINDING FREEDOM REFUGEE WEEK 18-24 June**

During Refugee Week, Refugee Advocacy and Support groups join organisations to create a better understanding of the refugee journey, and a culture of inclusion to enable refugees to thrive and make a valuable contribution to Australia.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, at the end of 2022 there were some 108 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. Over half of all refugees (52%) under United Nations Refugee Agency's mandate and other people in need of international protection come from just three countries: Syria (6.8 million people), Ukraine (5.7 million people) and Afghanistan (5.7 million people).

In Australia, the Department of Home Affairs operates an annual permanent resettlement program, which has capacity to respond to international humanitarian crises as they arise. This Humanitarian Program also supports the travel and resettlement of refugees. According to the Department of Home Affairs, Australia's Humanitarian Program "consistently ranks among the top three permanent resettlement countries, in both absolute and per capita terms."

Under the Humanitarian Program, 5,947 visas were granted in 2020-2021. This time last year, there were 9,000 offshore humanitarian visa holders who were yet to be moved to Australia. The capacity of settlement service providers to accommodate these people is a serious consideration. This is where community organisations such as Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) step in to make a real impact on individuals by participating in the Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP). RAR Bendigo has sponsored and supported three Hazara Afghani families through this program, assisting them to find housing, employment, and settle into their new life.

Every year, a ceiling for the number of places in Australia's Humanitarian Program is determined by the Department of Home Affairs. In 2022-2023 this ceiling was set at 13,750 places, which is the same number as the reduced number of the COVID-19 Pandemic years (2020-2021 and 2021-2022). Over the next four years, there will also be 4,125 places for Afghan nationals.

You can read more about Australia's Humanitarian Program [here](#).

If you are interested in the settlement and integration of refugees in Australia, read the "Next Steps to Improve Australia's Settlement and Integration of Refugees" discussion paper [here](#).

For refugees or asylum seekers who arrive, or attempt to arrive, in Australia without a valid visa, or remain in Australia after their visa expires, resettlement and integration into Australian communities is generally a long way off. Australian law requires mandatory detention. Offshore detention, long processing times and the detention of children are serious human rights issues. Advocacy Groups such as RAR, Grandmothers for Refugees and Catholics for Refugees have been advocating for an end to the offshore detention policy, faster processing times and an end to the detention of children.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR REFUGEES THIS REFUGEE WEEK**

### **PRAY**

**Refugee Week Online Prayers Service  
Tuesday 20 June 2023 at 7.00 p.m.**

Pray for refugees at this online prayer service presented by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office and the Australian Bishops' Office of Justice Ecology and Peace. [Register](#)

### **DONATE**

**Drop off non-perishables to Yellow Bins:**

In Bendigo, you can give long shelf life foods and hygiene products to asylum seekers by dropping products off at yellow donation bins placed at the Good Loaf Sourdough Bakery and Bendigo Library. The bins will be out throughout June. This food drive has been organised by Amnesty Bendigo, Grandmothers for Refugees and Rural Australians for Refugees. Donations will be delivered to the [Asylum Seeker Resource Centre](#) (ASRC) in Footscray. Every day, the ASRC provides food for 200 people, 120 of whom are children.

### **VOLUNTEER**

**Volunteer with Mercy Connect:**

Help school students from a refugee background adjust to their new life in Australia through the [Mercy Connect](#)



**Program** operated by the Sisters of Mercy. Mercy Connect trains and [supports volunteers](#) to mentor school students and their families and groups of adults from refugee backgrounds to settle into life in Australia. After training, your support will not only assist to improve literacy and numeracy skills, but also help to nurture the wellbeing and self-esteem of refugees.

Each volunteer is assigned to work with an individual or small group of refugee students in a school. There are Mercy Connect programmes in regional Victoria and if there isn't one near you, why not reach out to Mercy Connect to identify any need in your community.

## ADVOCATE

### Join an Australian Refugee Action Network Group in your area:

The Australia Refugee Action Network Group (ARAN) is a national alliance of refugee action and advocacy groups that call for Australia to uphold its obligations under international human rights law to people seeking asylum.

### Join a Rural Australians For Refugees (RAR) Group or start one:

[Rural Australians for Refugees \(RAR\)](#) is an active network of 75 groups and thousands of volunteers throughout rural and regional Australia. RAR wants to "see Australian Government policy reflect the values of Australian society – fairness, respect, dignity and decency." Autonomous groups are supported by a Central National RAR committee. There are RAR groups in Albury-Wodonga, Benalla, Bendigo, Echuca-Moama, and Wangaratta. If you would like to start a group in your area, RAR can help you.

### Write to politicians:

RAR provides [Letter Writing Kits](#) to help you to write to relevant Members of Parliament for refugee rights, including evacuating PNG and Nauru, and fast-tracking the refugee assessment process.

### Join Grandmothers for Refugees:

[Grandmothers for Refugees](#) advocates for compassionate welcome and safe settlement of all people seeking asylum. Their primary focus is children. However, they also advocate for people subjected to the physical and psychological damage inflicted by Australia's offshore and onshore processing regime.

### Join your local Amnesty Action Group:

Join your local [Amnesty International](#) Group and become part of a larger network advocating for Human Rights (including refugee rights), Indigenous Justice, Environmental Justice and other social justice issues. You'll meet like-minded people and learn a lot, because Amnesty supports its members with resources and training so they can take action and advocate for justice.

### Join Catholics for Refugees:

[Catholics for Refugees](#) is a movement of people who are committed to the social justice teachings of the Catholic Church and who know it is time to change the way we treat refugees and people seeking asylum.

### Make sure your local government is a Refugee Welcome Zone:

A [Refugee Welcome Zone](#) is a "Local Government Area which has made a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into the community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in the community. The Refugee Council of Australia auspices this initiative, which began in 2002.

In the Diocese of Sandhurst, the Greater Shepparton City Council and City of Greater Bendigo have signed the Refugee Welcome Zone declaration.

## LEARN MORE

During Refugee Week there are numerous webinars and events to help us understand the refugee journey. Some of them are listed below.

If you would like to learn more about Australia's Humanitarian Program, read the 2022-2023 [Humanitarian Program Discussion Paper](#).

If you would like to learn more about settlement and integration of refugees into Australian communities, read [The next steps to improve Australia's settlement and integration of refugees, discussion paper](#).

### Community Harmony Program:

The Bendigo Community Health [Community Harmony Program](#) delivers [workshops](#) to assist people in organisations to better understand the refugee journey. You might like to consider inviting Bendigo Community Health to hold a workshop at your work, parish or school. These workshops are presented by the Refugee Settlement and Cultural Diversity and Relationships Teams.

The workshops include:

- 'Understanding the Refugee Journey.'
- 'Understanding Islam and Muslims in Australia',
- 'Understanding Karen Culture'.

### The Cook Up with Adam Liaw on SBS Food: Monday 19 – Friday 23 June 2023

For a more intimate way to learn more about refugee stories, featuring two of RCOA National Refugee Ambassadors. 7.00 p.m. on SBS Food and NITV and at 3.00 p.m. on SBS during Refugee Week.

## THE INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

### NATSICC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has launched a new website called “One Journey, Together” for Catholics to learn about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

The website hosts stories and anecdotes from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations, Catholic figures and Catholic organisations.

Bishop Charles Gauci of Darwin commended the initiative:

“As Australians we are at a very important time reflecting on the Voice to Parliament. I will not tell anyone how to vote, but it is my responsibility as Bishop to encourage you all to be reflective in the light of our faith and Catholic Social Teachings: the Common Good and the Dignity of all People.”

“We need the ongoing journey of reconciliation and healing. Whatever happens with the Voice will not solve all the issues, we are all on the Journey Together. Let’s make sure we are informed, and to see which is the best way forward for dignity and respect for all.”

The website hosts messages from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and

community members, Bishops and other religious leaders and statements from Catholic organisations on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament to support the Catholic community to vote in a way that aligns with their Catholic values.

The website also has a range of activities and resources for parishes, including a prayer and a kitchen table activity, to support people to deepen their understanding of the referendum and empower them with practical tools for meaningful action.

NATSICC Chairperson John Lochowiak, encouraged all Catholics to refer to the website and use it as a key resource.

“We are proud to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and we are proud to be Catholic. Our shared faith calls on us to come together as one to uphold justice, and I encourage Catholics to take a look at the website and learn more about how they can engage in this important referendum.”

“By working together in a spirit of solidarity, we can create a more just and equitable society for all. And a great first step on that journey is to learn more about the Voice, and what it means to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and Australian Catholics. The journey to Reconciliation has been a long one, but it is a fundamental one, and I am proud to walk this path with the Catholic and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”

NATSICC is the peak advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops. Established in 1992, the council has been a voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics for over 30 years. In that time NATSICC has supported and empowered our First Nations communities to bring together their culture and faith as well as educate the wider Catholic Church on the gifts that Australia’s First Peoples bring to the Church.

The URL for the website is:  
<https://indigenousvoice.church/>

## MOMENTS OF HEALING THIS COUNTRY WEBINAR

Online Thursday 29 June 4.00 p.m.

**Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO** will be the guest speaker at the second of Catholic Social Services' three-part webinar series. Fr Brennan believes Catholics should take serious interest in the upcoming referendum and consider how they might approach their vote from a context of Catholic Social Teachings. This session will look at the way the Catholic Church has engaged in Aboriginal affairs and provide a deeper understanding of why reconciliation is a core issue for the Faithful, how Aboriginal Spirituality has contributed to the Faith thus far and how it might enrich all Australians. Bookings are essential.

To make a booking, go to:

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1052799?eid=1052799&>

## LAUDATO SI' ACTION

*"We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental."*

Pope Francis,

*Laudato Si'* — Praise Be to You: On Care for Our Common Home.

*"Climate change ... is the key factor accelerating all other drivers of forced displacement. Most of the people affected will remain in their own countries. They will be internally displaced, but if they cross a border, they will not be considered refugees ... As forcibly displaced people are not covered by the refugee protection regime, they find themselves in a legal void."*

António Guterres,

UN Secretary-General, former UN High Commissioner for Refugees

## ABLAZE YOUTH FESTIVAL



More than 700 Year 5 and 6 students from ten Catholic Primary Schools learned there are different ways to practise their faith while singing and dancing with Fr Rob Galea and his band at the 'Ablaze Youth Festival' at Albury Entertainment Centre.

Ablaze Youth Festival, an annual youth event hosted by Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd in partnership with FRG Ministry and Sandhurst Youth Ministry. It's a dynamic celebration of our faith. It aims to animate young people, with live music and engaging and energetic speakers to move deeper into their faith-life.

Ablaze runs for two days; the first day, for Primary School students in Years 5 and 6, was held on Tuesday 6 June. The second day, for High School students, was held on Wednesday 7 June.

The theme this year was 'Let your words always be full of grace.' It's a dynamic celebration of our faith. It aims to animate young people, with live music and engaging and energetic speakers to move deeper into their faith-life.





## LEARNING AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP



**This unique Australian Pilgrimage** will take you on a journey to places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The pilgrimage is operated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Mary MacKillop Place. It will be led by Sr Anne Bond rsj, a Sister from the Sisters of Saint Joseph, and Mr Garry McLean, the inaugural Director of the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre.

"This is a unique opportunity for participants to enter more deeply into the life and spirituality of Saint Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods and to appreciate Mary's role as our first canonised Australian saint," says Sr Anne.

"The notion of going on a pilgrimage and being a pilgrim is a very ancient one that belongs to the spiritual tradition of all great faiths. It is a very personal experience, but it is usually a journey with others: seeking, listening, reflecting, and seeing the hand of God at work in our own lives."

The Australian National Pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on 17 October and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on 28 October. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney.

Current prices are fixed until 30 June 2023.

Website: [www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage](http://www.marymackillopplace.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage)

Email: [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au)

Phone: (02) 8912 481

### TIMOR-LESTE ADULT IMMERSION

**4-12 November 2023**

Catholic Mission invites you to learn more about the grassroots projects supported by Catholic Mission in Timor-Leste. This immersion will give you the opportunity to see the world through a different lens, you will witness the life-changing work taking place at the St Maria Mazzarello vocational School and the Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic in Venilale. Be prepared to come home changed and challenged.

*See attachment for details.*

### BENDIGO INTERFAITH COUNCIL FILM NIGHT

**Star Cinema Eaglehawk  
7.00 p.m. Thursday 22 June**

The Bendigo Interfaith Council invites you to join them at this fundraising event. Enjoy the premiere screening of 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage Of Harold Fry'. Harold is an ordinary man who has passed through life, living on the sidelines. One day he sets out to post a letter to a friend, but rather than post the letter, he just keeps walking ...



# Bishop Shane's Calendar

- Friday 16 June — Sacred Heart Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 12:30 p.m.
- Sunday 18 June — Confirmation and First Eucharist (for St Monica's, Kangaroo Flat), Sacred Heart Cathedral, 11.00 a.m.
- Monday 19 — Thursday 22 June, Clergy Retreat at Corpus Christi College, Carlton.
- Friday 23 June — Sacred Heart Schools combined Mass and Blessing of new building at Sacred Heart College Yarrowonga, 10.00 a.m.
- Sunday 25 June — Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 11.00 a.m.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Diocese of Sandhurst recognises the traditional owners of the lands upon which we live, serve and worship. We acknowledge the people of the Northeastern regions of our Diocese, Djilmathang, Minjambuta, Duduroa and Waywurru. We acknowledge the people of the Southern regions of our Diocese, the Dja Dja Wurrung and the Taungerung. We acknowledge the people of the Northern regions of our Diocese, the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang. We acknowledge the people of the Western regions of our Diocese, the Baraparapa peoples.

We respectfully honour and acknowledge their ongoing custodianship and their connections to the land, waters and animals. We pay our respects to their culture, their Elders, past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of their peoples.

We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and commit ourselves to actively working alongside First Nations people for healing, reconciliation and justice.

To send your story:

[editor@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:editor@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

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Editor  
Katrina Strong: 0419 015 696

## MICHAEL JOHN CURTAIN

### *By Michael F. Curtin (Great Grandson of Michael John Curtin)*

On 13 May 1855, the Nashwauk, which was sailing from Liverpool to Adelaide, was wrecked at 3.00 a.m. near the mouth of the Onkaparinga River. One of the 300 emigrants was Margaret Curtain, who was five months pregnant at the time. With the assistance of her husband, she fought to save her unborn child.

On 8 August 1855, in a tent in Kensington, Michael John Curtain was born.

Michael's parents John Curtain and Margaret (nee Maloney) had migrated from Tullygarvan, on the west coast of County Clare. John's parents were Austin Curtain and Ellen Howard.

In 1856, the family travelled by dray, following the route of the Old Adelaide Road which the Chinese miners took, as they had landed in Adelaide to avoid the bounty imposed by the Colony of Victoria.

They settled briefly in Axedale and then later moved to Myers Flat.

Michael went to school at St Kilian's in Bendigo. At the age of 15 he left school to work in the mines for the next twelve years. During this time, Michael took the opportunity to invest in various mining stocks and later in hotels.

In 1884 he became the proprietor of the Exchange Hotel in High Street, Eaglehawk. According to the Cyclopedia of Victoria —

*"The Exchange is a popular house in the district and by means of direct telephone communication, Mr Curtain keeps the residents posted up in the latest stock and share quotations, which are chronicled under the verandah of his hostelry."*

He then went on to hold the position of Vice President of the Eaglehawk Stock Exchange

Later on, he became the proprietor of the City Club Hotel, in the centre of Bendigo, opposite the fountain.

He also had a strong interest in various sporting activities: -

- He was Secretary of the Old Sydney Flat Cricket Club and as a player he also topped the batting averages for a couple of seasons.
- He was a promoter of the Eaglehawk Rifle Club and became a crack shot in the Colony, so much so that he shot in the Queen's Prize at Williamstown and not only received Queens badges, but he also won against all comers The Sir Frederick Sargood Cup shooting over a distance of 800 yards. In the middle range competition of 600 yards, he beat all the crack shots in Australia and consequently was selected for the winning Australian Team in 1890 to beat the United Kingdom.
- In November 1888, it was reported in the Hawkes Bay Herald (New Zealand) that in the Centennial Rifle Association, Michael won in the matches over 500 and 600 yards.



- Michael had a strong interest in greyhounds winning the Elmore Cup in 1893 and was twice runner-up in the Echuca Cup. In 1895 he was elected as a patron of the Echuca Coursing Club and was also a judge and member of the Bendigo Jockey Club.
- He was also a Judge and referee and promoter of the Eaglehawk Athletic Club and was a promoter and officeholder of the Eaglehawk Football Club.

In 1893, he was elected to the Eaglehawk Council and in 1898 he held the position of Mayor and Chief Magistrate

In 1891 he was gazetted as a Lieutenant of the Victorian Military Force and was promoted to Captain in 1897.

In 1884, he married Susanna Crawford, daughter of William Hunter Crawford and they went on to have eight daughters (Elizabeth, Susanna, Mary, Margaret, Eileen, Norah, Jane and Ellen), and five sons (John, William Hunter, Michael, Arthur, Augustine, and George).

William Hunter Curtain is my grandfather and his third son, was Michael, who is my Father.

Michael John passed away in 1918 at the age of 63. His wife Susanna lived on until 1944.

I am not aware of where the name Michael originally came into the family, but we can see how it has been maintained through the generations and this has continued with one of our daughters having Michelle as a middle name and Michael is also the middle name of one of our grandsons.

I cannot let this moment pass without acknowledging the following people, who have helped preserve this Illuminated Address to Michael John and the other Councillors.

Margaret Curtain who, with her mother Molly, stored the address for many decades.

Cousin Sally Holmes who, after helping Margaret transfer to a retirement home, brought the address to my attention.

The incredible interest and work undertaken by Ayleen Kirkwood (nee Crawford) and Bev Hanson who took it upon themselves to have the restoration completed.

Also, the various donors who have assisted with funding. I am certain there is more to be donated in this regard.

And finally, to Ayleen and Bev and the Bendigo Council in arranging today's celebration.

## WRECK OF THE NASHWAUK.

The *Nashwauk*, a fine ship built 18 months ago, as the captain informs us, of between 700 and 800 tons, sailed from Liverpool for Adelaide on the 13th February, under the command of Captain McIntyre. She had on board nearly 300 emigrants, chiefly Irish, among whom there were 130 single girls, and a general cargo. She made a quick and favourable passage, but on Sunday morning (the 89th day) unfortunately went ashore in the Gulf. The accident happened exactly opposite Mr. Harriott's house, about two miles below the mouth of the Onkaparinga, and notice reached Noarlunga by daybreak. Mr. Birrell, the postmaster, sent instantly to the wreck, urging the captain to land the mail and to put the passengers ashore, as there was at that time every prospect of rough weather. At 1 o'clock the landing of the passengers commenced, and the whole came to Noarlunga in the course of the afternoon, and evening. The surgeon-superintendent also came to the township, and afterwards Captain McIntyre and the ship's crew, the mates remaining on the beach to watch the wreck. By the exertions of several inhabitants the passengers were lodged in the mill cottages and other empty houses; and a quantity of bread was baked, 8 or 10 sheep were killed, and tea was prepared by bucketsful. In short, every thing was done that the kindest hospitality could suggest, but the conduct of the emigrants has led to much remark. Many of the girls behaved in a most discreditable manner, showing plainly that they were either unfit to have been sent as emigrants, or that they had been sadly corrupted on the voyage. On this painful subject we need not enlarge, as there can be no doubt a very searching enquiry will be instituted by the proper authorities, not only into the circumstances attending the loss of the ship, but into the conduct of all concerned during the passage, and after the catastrophe.

In the course of the night Captain Douglas, the Harbour-Master, arrived from Port Adelaide with the Melbourne steamer and the Government schooner *Yatala*, both which anchored off the wreck, and on Monday morning the emigrants, after breakfasting at Noarlunga, were ordered back to the beach.

Meanwhile the *Nashwauk* was lying in two

Meanwhile the *Nashwauk* was lying in two fathoms water, close under the high cliffs of clay and limestone, about a quarter of a mile below the reef on which the *Tigress* was lost. The *Nashwauk*'s bottom was much damaged, she had had twelve feet of water in her hold, and it was clear that no hope remained of saving her.

The sea was rather rough, and there was a heavy rolling swell outside the breakers, which induced Captain Douglas to abandon his first intention of putting the emigrants on board the steamer where she then lay, and they were directed to walk along the beach on the tops of the cliffs to the mouth of the Onkaparinga. About half of them obeyed orders, and assembled in front of Mr. Gray's store, but the remainder dared not tempt again the element from which they had so narrowly escaped, and went back across the country, saying they would get to town as they best could. A few accepted situations in the country.

Those who remained, consisting chiefly of females, were taken across the Onkaparinga in boats, and again mustered near the jetty at Port Noarlunga, opposite which the Melbourne was then lying. There the sea outside the breakers was tolerably calm; and at about 3 o'clock the first boat-load was safely taken on board. The embarkation was proceeding when our reporter left, and Captain Douglas intended sending the steamer away in the course of the evening with all who were willing to go; but several more deserted and made their way back to Noarlunga. The emigrants' luggage was for the most part brought round in drays, by which, or by the *Yatala*, it was to be sent forward.

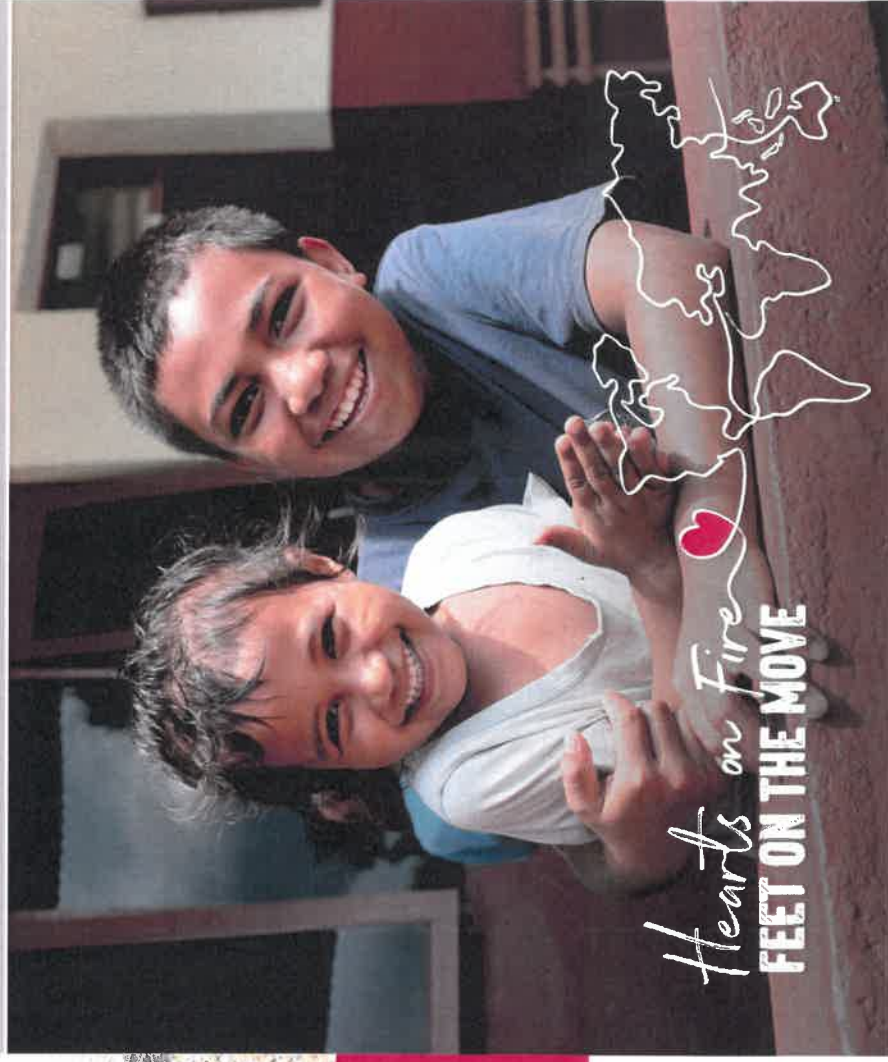
The *Nashwauk* brought no regular mail, but a small bag of letters was sent in on Monday. Our reporter made every effort to obtain papers, but was assured by the captain that there were none on board. He also enquired for the manifest, but was told it had been sent ashore with the captain's boxes. On examining them in the evening at Noarlunga, the captain ascertained that the box containing the manifest had been left on board. He stated to Messrs.

cargo. Douglas's, that she must inevitably go to



# Immersion to Timor-Leste

## ADULT IMMERSION



*Hearts on Fire*  
**FEET ON THE MOVE**

### Interested in joining the immersion?

Register your interest via the website or by emailing  
[bsullivan@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:bsullivan@catholicmission.org.au).

Applications close **June 1st, 2023** and places are limited!



#### For more information please contact:

**Bernadette Sullivan**  
Catholic Mission Immersion Coordinator  
[bsullivan@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:bsullivan@catholicmission.org.au)  
Phone: 0448825302

[catholicmission.org.au/immersions](https://catholicmission.org.au/immersions)







**Where**  
**Timor-Leste**



**Cost**  
**\$3,990 per person**  
(ex. Darwin to Dili, Timor-Leste)



**Dates**  
**4-12 November 2023**  
(Dates may change subject to  
host community's availability)



**Inclusions**

- Pre-departure preparation session and materials
- Return flights from Darwin to Dili
- All accommodation, meals and transport while in Timor-Leste
- Travel Insurance and Risk Management services
- An experienced Catholic Mission facilitator to guide participants
- All visas and entrance fees
- Donations and financial support to local hosts. The cost per participant includes fair remuneration to local partners to ensure they can continue their life-changing work.

**Answering the call from Pope Francis, Catholic Mission invites you to participate in an immersion and learn more about the grassroots projects supported by Catholic Mission in Timor-Leste. This immersion will give you the opportunity to see the world through a different lens.**

Developed over more than twenty years, Catholic Mission Immersions aim to engage the entire person; their empathy, humanity, faith and responsibility. Immersion is first and foremost an opportunity to 'be with' others. Through an experience of immersion, we are able to more readily recognise those we meet as brothers and sisters as we share daily joys and sorrows and celebrate the richness and gifts that each of us bring. This immersive experiential approach means that participants will explore far beyond the tourist trail.

During this journey, you will witness firsthand the mission development projects supported by Catholic Mission and the positive impact they have on the local community of Venilale.

You will discover the life-changing work of the Salesian Sisters at the St Maria Mazzarello Vocational School and at the Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic, and meet with passionate missionaries who hand-in-hand with Timorese men and women are contributing to building a brighter future.

You will return from this immersion experience with newfound friends, a broader vision of God's family, a revitalised understanding of Jesus' Mission and your responsibility to continue it. Be prepared to come home changed and challenged.

*"Let us set out again with burning hearts,  
with our eyes open and our feet in motion."*

Pope Francis, 2023 World Mission Sunday message.

## Itinerary

### Day 1:

We will gather in Darwin. A preparation workshop will be led by an experienced Catholic Mission Facilitator to equip everyone with language basics and an understanding of cultural sensitivities to ensure the immersion is beneficial for all.

Darwin to Dili flight will depart in the afternoon.

To conclude this first day, we will watch the sunset from the iconic Cristo Rei overlooking the ocean.

### Day 2:

A mass will be celebrated at Dili Cathedral and the rest of the day will be spent discovering the capital.

### Day 3:

Travelling along the coast to the east of the country, we will journey to Baucau, the second largest city in Timor-Leste.

Along the way, we will take the road less travelled as we visit project partners in some of the smaller villages.

### Day 4 - Day 7:

This is the chance to slow down and take the time to understand the people of Venilale. Guided by the Salesian Sisters, we will be immersed in the daily life of our hosts and discover the life-giving work of the missionaries at the St Maria Mazzarello Vocational School and the Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic.

### Day 8:

We will bid farewell to our newfound friends in Venilale as we return to Dili.

### Day 9:

The morning will be spent in Dili at the bustling Tais markets and visiting historically significant sites like the Santa Cruz Cemetery and Resistance Museum.

The return flight to Darwin will depart in the afternoon.

