



# SANDPIPER

News from the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

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## RED WEDNESDAY: SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL IN SOLIDARITY WITH SUFFERING CHRISTIANS

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it." Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."*

1 Corinthians 12:26-2

"On Wednesday 22 November, Sacred Heart Cathedral will light up in red, joining the global Red Wednesday Campaign to give voice to the 360 million Christians who cannot practise their faith freely and face discrimination, violence and even death because of their faith. Red Wednesday is a day to stand in solidarity with and pray for our fellow Christians who are not blessed with the religious freedom which we enjoy.

Red Wednesday is a global initiative of 'Aid to the Church in Need' (ACN), a Catholic organisation supporting the Church in places where it is oppressed or in need. Red Wednesday started in 2015 when 'Christ

the Redeemer' in Rio de Janeiro was lit up in red.

Ever since Red Wednesday has been embraced by a growing list of iconic monuments, churches and buildings across the world. This year, Sacred Heart Cathedral too, will shine a red light on the plight of persecuted Christians – the most persecuted religious group in the world. According to the World Watch List, 5621 people were murdered in 2022 simply because they were Christian. 2110 Churches were attacked, and more than 360 million Christians are suffering high levels of persecution for no reason other than they are Christian. Worldwide it is estimated that 1 in 7 Christians are persecuted; furthermore, that the number of persecuted has grown and the degree of persecution has intensified over the last 30 years.

In a place like Australia, it's easy to forget the silent suffering of our fellow Christians.

"Personally," said Fr Brian, "I find it's very moving – for people in a country which basically enjoys religious freedom, to engage in a tangible act of solidarity to support our fellow Catholics and Christians who are suffering and dying for their faith."

### Prayer Vigil 8:30 p.m. 22 November

A Prayer Vigil will be held on the (Wattle Street) stairs of Sacred Heart Cathedral on Red Wednesday to offer prayers and stand in solidarity with those who are not free to practise their faith. All are Welcome.

### Show Your Support

You can also show your support for persecuted Christians by organising a Prayer Service in your Parish, say a prayer yourself, wear red on the day (22 November) and/or donate to Aid to the Church in Need to support their numerous projects.

## A FESTIVE ALL SAINTS' DAY AT MYERS FLAT: MASS, COSTUMES, BARBEQUE AND CAMPFIRE

Parishioners of St Liborius' Eaglehawk celebrated All Saints' Day at St Augustine's Church, Myers Flat; many dressed as a saint or something scary. After Mass, festivities continued outside with a barbeque and campfire complete with marshmallows.

All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on 1 November. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on 2 November, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven.

Among those who are in heaven, All Saints' Day particularly honours and calls to mind the thousands of men and women from all walks of life who

the Church has formally declared to be saints (canonised), recognising their heroic charity and faith, and holding them up as extraordinary examples of Christian living and powerful intercessors before the throne of God.

The parishioners of St Liborius' Parish, Eaglehawk celebrated the feast by gathering for Mass at St Augustine's Church, Myers Flat, the oldest functioning Church in the Sandhurst Diocese (consecrated in 1864). The Mass was followed by a barbeque and campfire in the beautiful bush setting where there was toasting of marshmallows and a costume contest. Children (and adults) were invited to dress in scary or saintly costumes, and there was a variety of creative entrants. Prizes were awarded and all attending had a wonderful time.

Thank you to the community planning group and all the parishioners for making this event so successful and enjoyable!



## ALL SOULS' DAY: THE LIVING AND THE DEAD GATHER IN PRAYER AT PINE GROVE CEMETERY

On All Souls' Day, Fr Joe Taylor returned to the place of his maternal ancestors – the Dullards. Joined by 34 people, he said Mass at the Pine Grove Cemetery near Lockington, then offered graveside prayers for the deceased and blessed the graves of attendees' family and friends – including his own!

"All Souls' Day is a sacred and solemn occasion, but it is also a joyful and hope-filled one," said Fr Joe. "It's a day to celebrate the gift of life, to pray for all those who have died, and to look forward to the day when we will be reunited with them in heaven."

After Mass, Fr Joe asked parishioners to go to the grave of their respective loved ones and remember or share stories about them. Fr Joe then visited each of these graves, saying a prayer and blessing the grave.

**"When I got to the grave of dear family friends Mary and Jim Byrne, I realised my grave was just next to it. So, I thought – 'why not!' – and we said a prayer for me, and I blessed my (empty) grave!"**

said Fr Joe.

Fr Joe bought the grave at Pine Grove Cemetery nine years ago. Although his parents are buried in Echuca, his maternal family and many of his friends are buried at Pine Grove.

All Souls' Day, (on 2 November), is a day to honour the souls of those who have died in a state of grace, but are still in need of purification before entering heaven. Prayers are said to help these souls.

The blessing of the graves is a spiritual act which is also filled with humanity. It is a way

of showing respect and affection for the deceased, of honouring their memory and legacy, and of expressing gratitude for their influence and example. It is also a way of coping with grief and loss, of finding comfort and hope in the resurrection of Christ, and of strengthening the bond of love that transcends death. pilgrims arrived in tourist buses at Shrines and Sacred Sites.



## The Rosary Comes Alive in Wangaratta

On the last day of October, the Rosary came to life in Wangaratta, as parishioners formed a human chain of Rosary beads and prayed the Rosary together in the gardens of St Patrick's Church.

It was a solemn and moving occasion for all who were present. Monsignor Crisologo Manongas, who organised this interactive version of the Living Rosary, said participants engaged with this Rosary in an authentic and prayerful way, creating a powerful experience for those present. "I really think people felt something different; it's difficult to describe, but it was a very prayerful and solemn occasion, I really felt it too," said Mons. Cris. "People are already asking when we will do it again."

Every day of October, parishioners at Wangaratta and King Valley parishes had been keenly gathering to pray the Rosary together. Witnessing how much parishioners appreciated sharing time in communal prayer, Monsignor Cris decided to try something new in Wangaratta. He announced that on the last day of October the parish community would pray a Living Rosary in the garden of St Patrick's Church. This version of the Living Rosary requires people to not only pray the prayers of the Rosary, but also to embody the prayers. It is a visible and tangible way of interacting with prayer and communing with each other and God as the Rosary is prayed.

Popular in the Philippines, (Monsignor Cris' home country), this version of the Living

Rosary requires 61 people to stand or sit in a formation which reflects the Rosary. Each person becomes a human bead of the Rosary, embodying the prayer they represent. Each of these human beads holds a candle which is lit as the prayer they represent is prayed by all who are present. As the Rosary progresses more and more candles are lit, when all decades of the Rosary have been prayed, each human bead stands strong holding a flame – a vivid visual and moving representation of the Rosary and the Holy Spirit.

Since this was the first time parishioners in Wangaratta and King Valley parishes had participated in this unique way of praying the Rosary, Monsignor Cris made two simple adaptations. With the help of his team, he placed chairs in the formation of the Rosary, "When people arrived, we simply asked them to take a seat," said Monsignor Cris. "People were all seated in time, and we started on time, everything just worked."

To help the prayer to progress without too much distraction Mons. Cris lit the candles held by each human bead as the Rosary progressed. "Usually, the candles are lit by the person next to you, as your prayer is being prayed," explained Mons. Cris. "I decided on this occasion to light the candles so that we could all focus on prayer without worrying about lighting each other's candles." Needless to say, "the fire continued as the prayers continued." Standing outside of the Rosary formation,

a Lector and Choir supported the prayer service, guiding the community to a deeper sense of encounter as they gathered around the Rosary in prayer.

Monsignor Cris said he is very grateful to his parishioners for embracing this Living Rosary in such a genuinely prayerful way, saying he had every confidence in them. "We needed at least 60 people to show up and take part. Initially, people were asking me – 'what if we don't have enough people to do this?'" explained Monsignor Cris. "I really felt it would work, and it did." Monsignor Cris and his team left no option but for the Rosary to be a success. They prepared outdoor seating and 73 candles (with safety guards) convinced that there would be more than enough people to take part on the day. "We just knew all of those 73 candles would be lit," said Mons. Cris, "And they were."

Sister Nancy Usselman, a Daughter of St Paul, believes that the more senses we use when praying, the better we are able to focus on the mysteries we are reflecting on.

*"As human beings, we are both material and spiritual. That means our spiritual lives work in conjunction with our physical existence. We can't separate them. This is what it essentially means to be human. When the whole person — mind, body and spirit — is connected, we are most in union with God. Every mystic of the Church would attest to this. We are not mystics when we try to separate ourselves body from soul, but instead when we are most unified. Therefore, our prayer needs our bodies to be connected to the prayer as well."*

# Meet to know Mick Chalkley, SMPC and DFC

Mick Chalkley is a member of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council and the Diocesan Finance Council. A parishioner at St Therese's Kennington and educator, he believes the SMPC can help to create thriving vibrant parishes through authentic listening, and by embracing the gifts of people across the Diocese.

At their first meeting in April, Members of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) recognised the critical need for their discernment and decision making to be well informed. To ensure robust communication between the leadership councils it was agreed that two Members of the SMPC would attend the College of Consultants (as participants without voting rights), and one Member would become a Member of the Diocesan Finance Council (DFC).

Bishop Shane who is, of course, a Member of the SMPC, DFC and College of Consultants, welcomed this decision, keen for Members of all groups, including himself, to learn and grow from the unique perspectives of others. He appointed Mick as a Member of the DFC, an advisory body that makes recommendations to him on financial operations of the Diocese, including budgeting and management of diocesan assets.

Mick explained his role on the two councils (SMPC & DFC). "I like Bishop Shane's idea of casting different lenses across things. Most people on the Finance Council are professionally involved in finance – that's not my background, I'm offering a different voice. Obviously, I understand budgeting, having managed large budgets in education, but I probably will look at things differently," he said.

"I've only been to one Finance Council meeting so far," said Mick. "The DFC advises the Bishop on the best use of the Diocese's resources. There's a strong focus on budgeting where and how resources will be used for the coming year, but also looking at the assets of the Church and how to best manage them financially. I found that there is an obvious commitment to being true to Catholic teaching. It's not just about managing finances, it's about making the best use of financial resources to do God's work and find appropriate ways to progress that," said Mick.

For Mick, managing the Diocese's financial resources ethically is very important, but

he acknowledges it is not as easy as one might think. "It's almost impossible to invest appropriately in major medical companies that have not been touched by stem-cell research for example."

Mick believes that we take for granted that capitalist values are now the status quo and suggests that we need to employ a value system that directly prioritises the common good. "I think too often there is a hiding behind this notion of doing things for the betterment of shareholders. I think shareholders would be happy to have a reasonable profit, and be doing good for our community as well," he explained.

As a Member of the SMPC, Mick brings his experience as a married man with adult children and a depth of experience in Catholic education and parish life. A life-long local, Mick also brings a wealth of intergenerational knowledge; his family has been in the Greater Bendigo area since 1862 and he is a committed parishioner of St Therese's Kennington, where his parents were founding members when it was established in 1966.

"I'm a lay person, a married man with adult children and years of experience in education, so I hope I'm sharing that lens with the SMPC," he said. Mick is of the view that the only real way to look at issues from another's perspective is by engaging in authentic listening. "A lot of what the SMPC does is about authentic listening," says Mick. "The SMPC needs to be a body that does listen, and is seen to be listening. It has a direct link to the Bishop, so it is very important for people to understand that recommendations from the SMPC come after listening and discernment."

Mick is well placed to be a conduit of information and ideas between various Catholic bodies in the Diocese; he's had his ear to the ground for a long time. Currently the Co-principal of St Peter's Primary School in North Bendigo, Mick has worked in Catholic Education for 36 years, including 26 years at Catholic College Bendigo in roles of Principal, Deputy Principal and Religious Education Coordinator. He's a member of the Knights of the Southern Cross, has been involved in the ecumenical Bendigo Winter Night Shelter, and is an active parishioner at St Therese's Parish, Kennington, where he has chaired the Parish Pastoral Council.

As a seasoned listener, Mick knows that lis-

tening raises questions. "There are a whole lot of questions about who we are listening to – the ones with the loudest voice? The ones who are not involved in parish life? Should we make decisions based on listening to only a few?"

Mick says the SMPC will not only need to listen to people in the Diocese, but also to effectively communicate why a decision or recommendation to the Bishop was made. "Too often decisions are made, and people don't know where the decision came from," he said. "We need to pinpoint where a decision comes from and why, and that gives it authority."

Mick is aware that for some people in the Diocese there is a scepticism that the SMPC might talk a lot and not have any real impact on parish life. "The SMPC can make a difference. We can work to greater participation across our Diocese and create a more vibrant and inclusive Church. We've got to open our doors and meet people where they're at. It's not all about people turning up on Sunday. It's about vibrant parishes. I think some people are frightened by what might blow in if we open the doors; I don't think we need to fear that," says Mick.

One of the most authentic ways to evangelise is to create environments in which people thrive and feel joy and purpose. Joy-filled vibrant parishes are themselves evangelising – people are attracted to these places. Mick says the SMPC can help to create vibrant parishes by embracing the talents and skills of people in meaningful ways and this, in turn, will impact those around them. "The SMPC will have a significant impact if it embraces the talents of more people in more areas across the Diocese, particularly women. Lots of people feel that their involvement in their parish is tokenistic; we are short-changing ourselves in a big way by not utilising their skills in meaningful ways," says Mick.

It seems Bishop Shane is on the same wavelength, appointing Mick to two Councils where Mick's depth of knowledge and experience, and commitment to Christian values are being deployed for the common good of those in the Diocese.

If you would like to get in contact with the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council, please phone the Chancery on 5445 3600, or email: [admin.smpc@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:admin.smpc@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)



# MARIST HOUSE: BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR REGIONAL STUDENTS STUDYING IN MELBOURNE

Marist House in Fitzroy provides a safe, stable and supportive environment to tertiary students who are seeking an holistic and formative residential experience while they study in Melbourne. Hosted by a community of Marist Brothers, students are immersed in community, hospitality and ministry.

**For former Catholic College/Catherine McAuley students, Sam Kane and Harrison Jenner, their time at Marist House Fitzroy was an invaluable foundational experience.**

Bendigo Music teacher, Harrison Jenner, lived at Marist House for three years while studying for a double degree in Music and Teaching at Australian Catholic University. He says his experience at Marist House was invaluable. Harrison knew he wanted to teach, and the requirement to volunteer in community laid a strong foundation for his teaching career. What he hadn't expected was that he would grow so much as a person. "Five years ago, I wouldn't have considered myself a Marist and now I certainly do," he said.

Harrison said the Marist Programme is not for everybody, but he certainly would recommend it to people who want to be part of a community, who are seeking purpose and want to explore intentional living. "I would recommend Marist House for people who can benefit from the experience, who are willing to contribute to community and to live by Marist values," he said.

Student residents at Marist House are expected to take turns cooking an evening meal, be in the House for a weekly 'community night', which consists of prayer and a shared meal, and volunteer in the outside community.

Sam Kane was in the inaugural cohort of students at Marist House. He heard about the opening of Marist House in an incidental conversation with his former school principal, Darren McGregor.

"Staying at Marist House affords young people the ability to study away from home, explore Melbourne, volunteer, and work a part-time job – all while knowing there is a safe supportive environment to go home to at the end of the day," said Sam.

Sam spent two years at Marist House before returning to Bendigo during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said all his cohort at Marist House were students from regional Victoria, who had attended a Marist or Catholic school. Sam studied at Melbourne University attending lectures with hundreds of other students, so he enjoyed the more family-like environment of Marist House to go home to. "I think even at a residential college I could have felt overwhelmed," said Sam.

For both Sam and Harrison, one of the most fulfilling aspects of living at Marist House was the required volunteer work.



Harrison chose to volunteer with Marist Youth Ministry. "I gave some music lessons, and I was often in charge of the music side of things. If there was a function, Taizé prayer, or a Mass I would organise the music, often inviting others to assist. It gave me a lot of confidence."

Sam chose to volunteer at St Mary's House of Welcome, an open access centre which provides basic essential services to homeless people. "I would go down there every fortnight and help with breakfast and sometimes I'd help with other things," said Sam. "Br Frank also helped out there so I wasn't too daunted; I found it very eye-opening and rewarding," said Sam.

Sam says his fellow student residents all discovered that they enjoyed their volunteer work. "Others in the house volunteered at Orange Sky, or Vinnies. We could choose what we wanted to do and it was flexible with our study and other commitments and we were given time to settle in to our new environment and university before we started volunteering. "Volunteering isn't an onerous task. Actually everyone I know really found it to be a good experience; we were all keen to contribute and give back," said Sam.

For Sam, living at Marist House, seeing the way the Marist Brothers lived and worked and volunteering helped him to learn about social justice, not-for-profit organisations and their political and economic context more broadly.

Harrison said young people should be open to residential programs such as Marist House and not be intimidated by the intentional aspect of the lifestyle or that it is hosted by a religious community. "You need some sort of background in faith, but you don't have to be devout in any respect; you simply need to be willing to actively engage with others and have moral standing," he said.

"Treat it like a university share house with very particular expectations of you and with Marist Brothers as mentors to help you get the most out of your university journey," suggested Harrison.

Both Sam and Harrison enjoyed the company of the three Marist Brothers who live in the house. "They were great mentors to me and they were always very calm and respectful," said Harrison.

Sam added that he bonded easily with the Brothers; "They are great conversationalists and are very funny," he said.

Every student is expected to cook meals according to an allocated roster. "Initially we start cooking with someone and over time, as we got better at cooking, we were cooking by ourselves. My most popular dish was South Korean fried chicken, everyone loved it but there was always a big clean up after that one," he joked.

Both young men are now living and working in Bendigo. They believe the friendships formed at Marist House will last a lifetime. "A great network of friendship has been forged over the 5-6 years since Marist House has been open to students," said Sam.

Marist House is in three terrace houses in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy close to major universities and tertiary education institutions. There is capacity for up to ten students, male and female, to be accommodated, but usually the number of students is between six and nine. "The Brothers avoid operating at full capacity because they like to keep rooms for international guests who visit from time to time," explained Harrison.

Sam marvels at the serendipity of that fleeting discussion he had with Darren McGregor which led him on such a rich and rewarding path. "I am so grateful we had that conversation!" he laughs.

## Kialla Students get up Close to Creepy Crawlies



Years 3 and 4 students at St Anne's College, Kialla ventured to the Botanic Gardens to get up close with a smattering of native creepy crawlies as part of the RiverConnect Programme; a community partnership initiative that aims to foster the community's love, respect and connection to the river environment.

*"One of the activities we did was to put rubbish into the right bins. We learned that the purple bin (next year) will only hold glass, the red bin holds landfill and waste, the green bin only holds compost and the yellow bin only holds recycling."*

wrote Rehet.

*"We got to do lots of fun activities. And learned about the importance of keeping our environment health,"*

wrote Jemma.

*"One of the activities that I did was handling bugs, it was very fun! I got to hold a cockroach and a social huntsman. the person who was leading the activity was John, he was very nice and funny. John showed us a lot of different bugs and insects. And when a spider gets scared it can poop and myabe bite,"*

wrote Zander.

## Sandhurst Theology and CPE Scholarships Semester I, 2024

The Diocese of Sandhurst is offering scholarships for studies in Theology and spiritual leadership in Semester 1, 2024. The initiative aims to support the mission formation of Sandhurst parishioners who are undertaking pastoral leadership roles or are seeking to do so.

Scholarship recipients may choose to study a particular unit of theology and/or study for credit towards a post-graduate qualification. There is a professional attainment pathway for those who have not studied at a tertiary level before. Details of the courses and programs being supported will be released very soon.

Bishop Shane says the initiative will ultimately help parish communities.

"The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst has a strong record in adult faith formation, and this initiative builds on those foundations," he said. "

I am especially interested in providing support to parishioners who hold pastoral leadership roles in our parishes."

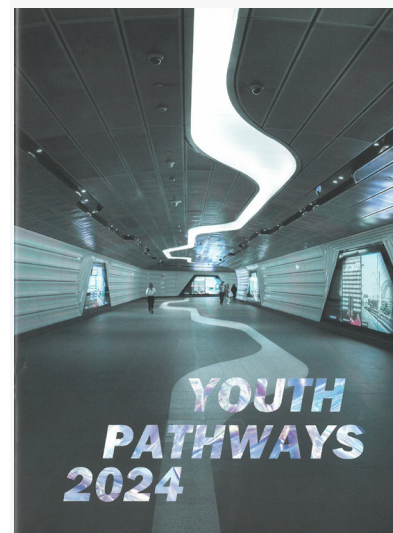
Bishop Shane hopes that scholarship recipients will study together in small local groups.

The scholarships will be administered through the office of Dr Chris Cotter, Director of Mission and Pastoral Life.

Please contact your Parish office, or the Chancery for a copy of the Flyer.

## Youth Pathways 2024

**A Compass for  
School-leavers  
navigating Adulthood**



Each year, Sandhurst Youth Ministry publishes 'Youth Pathways', a booklet which is made available to every Catholic Year 12 student in Sandhurst.

Youth Pathways is designed as a reference tool, specifically for young adults who are about to leave their school communities in pursuit of work, study, or both. For many, this will mean leaving, not only the support of their schools, but also their family, parish and hometown communities as they venture out into the wider world in pursuit of opportunities.

Youth Pathways is a handy A5-sized reference booklet which can easily fit in a bag or bedside drawer, or be downloaded onto a phone. It lists ways young people can remain connected with their faith community and connect with new communities; it includes lists of social justice and outreach organisations for young people to volunteer at or to seek assistance with if they ever find themselves in a place of need. It includes resources on wellbeing, relationships, and continuous formation including retreats, pilgrimages, mission experiences and opportunities to study theology. It also, of course, includes resources for prayer and reflection.

A beautiful gift for any young person venturing beyond our horizons.

Youth Pathways is being distributed to all schools in the Diocese of Sandhurst.

If you would like to receive one, please ask your School or Parish office, or call the Chancery on 5445 3600.



## Sandhurst scores Dullard Family Trifecta – Now that's a Win!

Hardworking Lockington couple, Mary and Frank Dullard, were determined to give their nine children a good education. In doing so, they have helped three of their offspring, educators Cate, Paul and Frank, to give thousands of children in various parts of the Sandhurst Diocese a combined 120 years of a very good education. Their daughter, Cate Fraser (nee Dullard) shares the story of this Principal Trifecta.

### By Cate Fraser

Siblings Catherine Fraser, Paul Dullard and Frank Dullard are all principals of Catholic primary school in the Diocese of Sandhurst. The instance of three principals from one family working in Catholic Education Sandhurst has never occurred before and will probably not occur again.

Cate, Paul and Frank have led their school communities through many changes in curriculum and educational initiatives. They have managed building projects through various funding agreements and have supported their communities through good and not-so-good times.

Frank, the youngest of the three, was the first to become a school principal. He was Deputy Principal at St Mary's Primary School, Swan Hill before

beginning his principalship at St Mary's Inglewood in 2000. Frank then moved to St Liborius' Primary School in Eaglehawk in 2010. He will start work as the Executive Deputy Principal at Catherine McCauley College, Bendigo in 2024.

Cate was Deputy Principal at Sacred Heart Primary School, Tatura before becoming principal at St Mary's Rushworth in 2009.

St Mary's Rushworth was Cate's graduate school and Rushworth was where she met her husband, Simon. Her children all attended St Mary's Rushworth before moving to Notre Dame College, Shepparton for their secondary schooling.

Paul taught at St Monica's Wodonga, St Francis of the Fields, Strathfieldsaye and worked as an Education Officer for Catholic Education Sandhurst prior to starting his principalship at Holy

Rosary Primary School, Heathcote in 2017.

The nine Dullard siblings, (Gerald, Catherine, Bernard, Margaret, James, Kieran, Leo, Paul and Frank) grew up on Dullard Road, Pine Grove East. Their parents, Mary and Frank Dullard were hardworking and loved members of the Pine Grove East and Lockington communities.

Frank and Mary moved from retirement in Lockington to Cunningham Downs Aged Care Facility in 2017. Frank died in 2018 only 2 months after his 90th birthday and Mary still lives at Wharparilla Lodge, at the age of 94.

Frank and Mary's legacy to their family was to give their children a good education. All of their nine children have served in leadership roles in their respective professions – their parents' determination has certainly paid off.

As 2024 approaches, Cate is preparing to retire from her role in education after 48 years and move into a Marriage and Funeral Celebrant role, while enjoying her ever growing family.

Paul will continue to capably lead Holy Rosary Primary School in Heathcote and Frank has accepted a role at Catherine McCauley College Bendigo as the Executive Deputy Principal.

Thus, the Principal partnership in the Dullard family will come to an end.



(Left to Right) Siblings: Paul Dullard, Catherine Fraser and Frank Dullard

Note:  
Cate, Frank and Paul's father, Frank Dullard, is the first cousin of Fr Joe Taylor's mother.

## Meteorologist Jane Bunn makes talking about the weather fun!



It's not every day you get a personal weather forecast from a famous weather presenter, but that's what happened when media identity and qualified meteorologist, Jane Bunn dropped into St Kilian's Primary School recently.

The Year 6 students were treated to an exclusive book reading of Jane's debut picture story book, 'Storm', but not before she gave them an up-to-

date forecast for the day and the week ahead.

A self-confessed weather enthusiast, Jane shared lots of interesting facts about the weather with students during her book reading.

"Did you know that you can calculate how far away a storm is?" she said. "You see lightning before you hear thunder because light travels faster

than sound. When you see a flash, count until you hear thunder, then divide that number by three. Now you know how many kilometres away the storm is!"

Principal Kimberley McSweeney said she was delighted to have Jane Bunn at the school to engage with students. "Her ability to make weather concepts relatable and her expertise as a meteorologist left a positive impact on our students," she said.

"This was a unique opportunity for our students to learn about weather and meteorology from an expert," Kimberley stated.

Following the reading session, Jane answered questions from the students for almost 40 minutes as they delved into the exciting world of meteorology and Jane's role as a weather presenter.

An engaging and generous speaker, Jane was a big hit with the students and staff alike. There's no doubt that she left St Kilian's yesterday with many new fans and possibly even inspired some future meteorologists!

## TRAINEE ALTAR SERVERS LOVE PIZZA!



Altar server trainees shared pizza in the grounds of St Brendan's Church, Shepparton after attending a training session. About 25 children recently attended altar server training held over two sessions at St Brendan's.

These gatherings have concluded with pizza. We thank the children who have volunteered to serve at Masses. If your child has received the Sacraments and would like to serve, please ring the Parish Office on 5821 2633 or speak with Fr Joe or Fr Jackson.

## BUDDY BEARS DONATED BY CWA TO NEXT YEAR'S PREPS AT TATURA

CWA Tatura has donated Buddy Bears which will be given to Foundation students in 2024 as part of their buddy programme at Sacred Heart School Tatura. Current Year 5 students, who will be the Year 6 Buddies to these prep students next year were very excited by the arrival of the Buddy Bears. Teachers and students are very grateful for the time and effort CWA members have invested in making the Buddy Bears which are sure to be very loved.





# MACKILLOP ART EXHIBITION

## SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH ART THINKING

There was a buzz of excitement at Sacred Heart Cathedral last Friday at the launch of the 14th annual MacKillop Art Exhibition which showcases the artistic talents and spiritual insights of students. This year there are just under 300 works from 40 Catholic schools across the Sandhurst Diocese.

The buzz spilled from students and their families who were eagerly awaiting the presentation of awards. A menagerie of fauna peering out from the artworks including, a pink-striped woollen snake, Brush-Tailed Rock Wallabies, a bird of microchips, and a flock of Regent Honey Eaters enjoying the cool of the Cathedral floor, joined the chorus, while a dignified raven carved out of eucalyptus kept a watchful eye over the proceedings.

Exploring the exhibition, allows a glimpse into the minds of Sandhurst Youth. Friendship and kindness were dominant themes in the younger students' works; nature and environmental sustainability an issue for senior primary and junior high school students; and, for the older teenagers, self-examination – evident in the numerous portraits of young people.

Troy Firebrace, Yorta Yorta and Djaara man gave the Welcome to Country. An artist and educator, Troy said art thinking and art practice are a means for young people to explore their religion, their social beliefs, their own identity and even find their own voice. Troy spoke passionately about the importance of art:

"(Art is) a universal language that has no measure, no rules, no restriction. A terrifying and important force, an exciting force ... It has shaped this world. This force is being forged by artists, including the artists who are in this space today. I am honoured to be here. To be part of this space, to be part of this opening and, as a fellow artist, I look forward to shaping the new world with you."

Fr Brian Boyle, Episcopal Vicar of Education and Administrator of the Cathedral Cluster of parishes, led the opening prayer. "With Mary of the Cross as our companion and guide tonight, we ask our creator God, who inspires all artists, to be with us with the Holy Spirit and to guide us as we endeavour to be Christ's voice in our world. Amen."

The theme for this year's MacKillop Exhibition is "Let the Words you Speak Always be Full



of Grace". Primary School teachers clearly enjoyed exploring this theme with their students in Art and Religious Education classes. Works displayed by primary school students engaged with this theme and featured imagery of the Cross, Jesus, Angels, hearts, flowers, a figurine of Mary, and more birds!

At the launch of the MacKillop Art Exhibition last year, one of the three adjudicators, Dr Adam Staples posed a challenge to students and teachers in 2023 – to work with others to continue art thinking and art making to put forward a message which is collaborative in nature.

This challenge was embraced by students and teachers in Catholic Schools this year, evident in the many collaborative group works on display.

Dr Staples thanked Troy Firebrace for his "astoundingly beautiful words," agreeing with Troy that that art thinking and art making are young, amongst many others, that help our young people to understand society and find their way through many different life experiences.

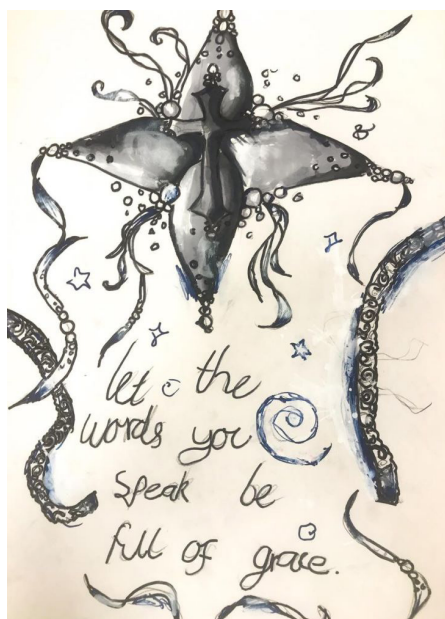
Dr Staples said that it's wonderful when we c [https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/images/2023\\_May-June/MacKillop\\_Kylie-Morrissey.jpg](https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/images/2023_May-June/MacKillop_Kylie-Morrissey.jpg) an draw upon many different cultures and spiritualities in art practice, and set a challenge for the Exhibition's Curator, Claire Spinelli, and art students in 2024: "To take up these knowledges and messages, and the 60,000 years of living in harmony in this world that we have in a first nations' perspective and knowledges, and these come through really strongly as a theme in the works of 2024."



Awards for outstanding works in the categories of General Art and Spiritual Art were awarded across primary and secondary school levels.

### Bishop's Choice Awards

The Bishop's Choice Awards, selected personally by Bishop Shane Mackinlay, were presented by Fr Brian Boyle on behalf of Bishop Shane, to one awardee in primary school and one awardee in secondary school.



#### Bishop's Choice Award: Primary

Bishop Shane's choice from the primary school works was a marker and paint work titled "Let the Words You Speak be Full of Grace" by Bella Lappin, a Year 6 student at St Joseph's Primary in Chiltern. Bishop Shane wrote in his award letter to Bella:

*"Your work of art thoughtfully and beautifully illustrates the way that love and grace reach out and embrace us, when we experience God's love for us, and when we share that love with others."*

#### Bishop's Choice Award: Secondary

Bishop Shane's choice from the Secondary school works was a mixed media "Regent Honey Eater Totem Project" – a collaborative work by Year 11 Religion and Art students led by Treahna Hamm at Galen College, Wangaratta. In his letter to the awardees Bishop Shane wrote:

*"Pope Francis has been a powerful voice calling us to recognise that we are deeply connected to all parts of creation, and to commit ourselves to concrete actions that help this integral ecology to flourish. Your work of art draws on both indigenous totems and Christian patron saints to encourage a renewed commitment to local action to care for our common home."*



The Winner of the Senior Bishop's Choice Award "House Totem Project"

### The Philomena Billington Scholarship for Social Justice through the Arts

The Philomena Billington Scholarship for Social Justice through the Arts is awarded to a school that creates art, shapes community and drives change. This year it was awarded to St Augustine's College Kyabram for their application entitled 'Our Common Home'.

Philomena Billington said she was impressed by the breadth, depth and inclusion of the application. "It absolutely fulfils the criteria of social justice in action – not just doing something about something, but changing the attitudes of the young people in the College."

"It will speak to the whole Kyabram community, and I know that the Brigidine Sisters and the Augustinian priests who founded the College would be very proud indeed," said Philomena.

Kylie Morrissey, a teacher at St Augustine's College, accepted the award on behalf of the school. "We didn't shy away from the fact that we have a great deal of work to

do in the area of ecological justice and, in particular, informing the hearts of young people in our college community," said Kylie. Kylie is excited that the scholarship creates an opportunity to accelerate the school's progress and amplify their impact in ecological justice in Kyabram.



Kylie Morrissey accepted the Award on behalf of St Augustine's College Kyabram.

### View the Exhibition at Sacred Heart Cathedral

The MacKillop Art Exhibition is open for viewing from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. until Saturday 26 November.

### Vote online for Peoples' Choice Award

Viewers have the opportunity to vote online for the 'People's Choice Award'. Certain works have been selected by adjudicators to be nominated in this category.



## Bishop Shane's Calendar

**Sunday 19 November**

– 150th Anniversary Mass, St Malachy's Church, Nagambie, 10 a.m.

**Wednesday 22 November**

– Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood Education & Care Ltd Board Meeting, Bendigo

**Wednesday 22 November**

– Diocesan Safeguarding Committee Meeting, Bendigo

**Wednesday 22 November**

– Marist Education Australia, Regional Council, Bendigo

**Thursday 23 November**

– Blessing and Opening of new building, St Augustine's College, Kyabram, 10 a.m.

**Thursday 23 November**

– Forum on the Synod for a Synodal Church, Newman College, Melbourne, 5 p.m.

**Friday 24 November**

– Blessing and Opening of new building, St Patrick's Primary School, Wangaratta, 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday 25 November**

– Priesthood Ordination, St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, 10 a.m.

**Sunday 26 November**

– Installation of Parish Priest, St Mel's Parish, Shepparton South, 5 p.m.

**Tuesday 28 November**

– Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Secretariat, General Forum, Canberra

**Friday 1 December**

– Backhaus Trustees Meeting, Bendigo

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