



Sandpiper e-News

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST VINCENT'S OLD BOYS CELEBRATE 65TH ANNIVERSARY



By Barbara Lomas

On Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 May, St Vincent's College Past Students celebrated the 68th anniversary of the foundation of the College in 1955 with a Sports Hall of Fame Dinner and reunion gathering.

St Vincent's College is a predecessor college of Catherine McAuley College situated at Junortoun and was originally a boarding school for boys.

The original boarding school placed a strong emphasis on keeping boys active and engaged through sport, so the students were involved in a range of competitive sports both at school and in the Bendigo competitions. For example, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Under 18 football team won ten consecutive premiership flags in the Golden City Football League. The legacy of

this commitment to sport can be seen in the impressive sports fields that are currently being upgraded as part of the Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct.

It is this sporting heritage that was celebrated with the Sports Hall of Fame Dinner at the Bendigo Club. Using past results, sporting almanacs, school magazines and expert opinion, Championship Athletic, Cricket and Football Teams were selected, encompassing the College's 23-year history as well as recognition of individual sporting achievements after leaving school.

This included league and club achievements in local and state competitions. Individual sporting achievements were also recognised in baseball,

basketball, soccer, swimming and tennis. Recipients were awarded a trophy at the dinner to commemorate their inclusion in the Hall of Fame.

This reunion, originally planned to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the foundation of the College in 1955, was four years in the planning. Scheduled events were postponed twice during the pandemic and again at the last minute in October 2022, due to widespread flooding across Central Victoria. The St Vincent's College past students welcomed the opportunity to finally reconnect after such a long wait. Seven of the original 43 foundation students from 1955 attended the weekend, with almost 180 past students and their families attending the events across the weekend.

Among the St Vincent's alumni are decorated athletes, including Stawell Gift Winners and VFL senior players. A guest speaker at the dinner was Gerald Betts who played in two premierships matches for Collingwood in the 1970s.

Captain of the Championship Football team, Ron Storey reflected on the way that students who were not athletic were still able to participate in the sporting life of the College, by taking on other roles such as scoring, umpiring and photography. He noted that all students enjoyed the triumph of success as it developed pride in their school and encouraged mateship.

Current Principal of Catherine McAuley College, Mr Brian Turner attended the dinner and acknowledged the history of the College. He explained to the St Vincent's past students how the sports grounds established by the school's founders have now become the Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct, which will be of lasting benefit to our current and future students.

On Sunday, the group reconvened at Catherine McAuley College to celebrate Mass together before enjoying a barbeque and tour of the College. Former St Vincent's College students played an active role in the Mass, which was concelebrated by former teacher, Fr Kevin Canty CM, past student Fr Peter Tonti Filippini CM and Monsignor Frank Marriott. During his homily, Fr Canty reflected on the large role the College played in the lives of so many boys, underscored by their care for each other and successful lives

they live as adults. He said that the original decision to build the school and persevere during difficult times was vindicated by the positive outcomes of the students and their pride in the school. He was pleased to see so many students return for the reunion weekend.



St Vincent's Champion 1st XVIII Football Team

The St Vincent's College story

In the mid-1940s, plans were begun to establish a Catholic boarding school in Bendigo to help ensure that country boys were able to receive a solid Catholic education in a rural setting. The priests of Vincentian Order agreed to establish the school, modelled after St Stanislaus College in Bathurst.

In 1951, 120 acres were purchased at Junortoun, and in 1954 the first stage of the building was completed and opened by Bishop Stewart before a crowd of 6000 people. On 8 February 1955, 43 boys began the school year at St Vincent's College.

The school reached its peak in 1967 with 191 boarders enrolled and students attending from the Mallee, Riverina, Northeast Victoria, Melbourne and Gippsland. However, student numbers then began to decline, and day students were admitted in 1970. In 1977 it was decided that the Vincentians would withdraw from St Vincent's College and the campus would become the Marist Brothers' College Junior Campus, thus allowing Catholic education to continue on the site.

In 1983 the site became part of Catholic College Bendigo when Marist Brothers' College and St Mary's College combined. In 2018, the College became Catherine McAuley College and the former St Vincent's College is now known as Coolock and caters for students in Years 7 to 9.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

AUSLAN CONFERENCE

The Catholic Education Sandhurst 'Auslan Teacher as Co-Learner (TCL) Conference' held at St Monica's Kangaroo Flat this month was a great success. There were 33 attendees from the Auslan TCL schools including classroom teachers, school principals, and Auslan language teachers and assistants.



During the Auslan Conference we had the privilege of hearing from two amazing guest speakers – Kate Frost and Janelle Giffin. Kate is a member of the deaf community and is an Auslan translator, tutor, teacher and consultant. Kate shared some valuable information about the history of Auslan, the importance of Auslan as a language of the deaf, and the variations of sign language.

Our second guest speaker, Janelle, is an Auslan interpreter, curriculum writer, teacher and consultant. Janelle presented the Auslan TCL website and the relevant resources available for the classroom teachers. Janelle also ran some hands-on activities in Auslan, which encouraged the participants to be challenged and to have a go at signing. Sherri, Tim and Sharralee, Auslan language assistants in the Sandhurst Diocese, participated in a panel to share insightful information about their experiences being deaf, their challenges and achievements.

A highlight of the Conference was seeing the networking and the connections that were happening between the classroom teachers, the school principals and the Auslan assistants. As we progressed through the day the barriers started disappearing and everyone had a go at

signing and communicating together. The feedback from the Conference survey was also highly positive and this feedback will help in shaping the Diocesan future Auslan events.

Well done to all the participating schools who saw the importance of this professional learning and made the most of this great opportunity. A big thank you to our presenters and especially to Janelle for her amazing knowledge and support of our Auslan programs. Last, but not least, we are very grateful to St Monica's Kangaroo Flat for hosting this event and ensuring that the day ran smoothly.

HOLY ROSARY OPENS NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

By Jenni Kenney

The blessing and official opening of the new Administration Office Building at Holy Rosary Primary School in White Hills was held on Friday 19 May.

The school community gathered under blue skies for the official ceremony with Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Education Sandhurst, Paul Desmond, Deputy Premier of Victoria, Ms Jacinta Allan and Parish Priest Father Minh Tran as special guests.



The new administration hub provides a welcoming entrance to the school which impresses from the moment you walk through the doors. Soft greens, arched cut-outs and gold accents add to the ambiance of the space which is both attractive and functional. In addition to the front administration area is a large staffroom, meeting room, sick bay and individual office spaces.

Bishop Shane blessed the new space and, together with the Hon. Jacinta Allan, Deputy

Premier of Victoria officially declared the new Administration wing open.

Principal Paul Wilkinson said he was incredibly proud of the way the community came together to share in the special occasion, especially the children.

“It has been challenging for students during the construction period; lots of areas were blocked off which reduced the space where they could play during break times. However, the children have been wonderful.”

“I would also like to acknowledge Mrs Thurley and Mrs Ellis who worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to ensure we had a great day for the official opening of our new buildings,” said Paul.

The building was designed by architects Baldasso Cortese and constructed by Bowden Corporation.

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS

FR CHRIS DE SOUZA NAMED GENERAL SECRETARY OF BISHOPS CONFERENCE



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has appointed Fr Chris de Souza, currently serving as one of two Vicars General in the Diocese of Parramatta, as its new General Secretary. Born in Sri Lanka, Fr de Souza moved to Sydney at a young age. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1983 for the Archdiocese of Sydney and has ministered in the Diocese of Parramatta since it was erected in 1986.

In addition to many parish appointments over the past four decades, Fr de Souza has also

served as Episcopal Vicar for formation, Episcopal Vicar for Education, Director of Prison Chaplains, Director of Deacons and Students, and Vice Rector of the Diocesan Seminary.

He has served as Vicar General since 2012.

Bishop Conference president, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said the bishops were fortunate to have several strong candidates for general secretary.

“We know that it is not easy for a bishop to offer one of his senior priests for a role outside the Diocese, but many bishops recognised the pivotal role the Conference’s general secretary plays in the life of the Church in Australia,” Archbishop Costelloe said.

“Fr Chris has served with distinction in the Diocese of Parramatta across a number of roles, meaning he knows well the working of dioceses, parishes and other Church ministries.

“We very much look forward to welcoming Fr Chris to his new role at the general secretariat in Canberra, supporting the bishops in the various aspects of the Conference’s life and work.” Parramatta Bishop Vincent Long OFM said Fr de Souza “is an excellent choice” for the Bishops

of Parramatta, I am confident that he will contribute to the mission of the Church in Australia in his new role at the Bishops Conference,” Bishop Long said. Fr de Souza, who will start with the Bishops Conference Conference.

“While he will be sorely missed here in the Diocese in early August, said he was “honoured” to take up this new ministry.

“This role is somewhat daunting, but I am invigorated by the culture and legacy that Fr Stephen Hackett and all the staff of the Bishops Conference have created,” he said.

“I am looking forward to this new challenge and would like to thank Bishop Vincent Long for his support and pastoral care as I take this next step, and all previous bishops of the Diocese of Parramatta.

"I will miss working with all my colleagues, clergy and friends in the Diocese of Parramatta, but look forward to my visits back home."

The search for a new General Secretary followed the election of Fr Hackett as the Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in April. He has served as general secretary since 2016.

CARRYING FORWARD THE PLENARY COUNCIL

Bishops Publish New Guide to Support Reflection on Plenary Council Outcomes



The Australian Catholic Bishops have published a study guide 'Carrying Forward the Plenary Council' and invite Catholic communities across the country to consider how the outcomes of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia can be integrated into local contexts.

Dozens of decisions were made during the second assembly of the Plenary Council last year, contained in 10 decrees. While those decrees are awaiting recognition from the Dicastery for Bishops before they can be promulgated, some initial reflection and planning can be carried out for their implementation.

"We are mindful of the enthusiasm that existed around the Plenary Council and the desire to start building on the decisions that were made in that historic moment for the Church in Australia," said Bishop Shane Mackinlay, who was the Council's vice-president.

"By preparing Carrying Forward the Plenary Council, we are encouraging Catholic parishes, schools and other communities to pray about, reflect upon and review what your community is already doing, or could be doing, in relation to

acting on the commitments the Council members made.

"This can help us continue with the synodal journey, walking together and encountering the face of Christ in each person."

Bishop Mackinlay said the guide will be particularly relevant for those who participated in the Plenary Council process and those who have been involved with preparing for the Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church, but also for people who are new to the path of synodality.

The document was released at Pentecost, a key moment in each of the past six years for the Plenary Council journey. Bishop Mackinlay said that decision was intentional.

"For many years, we have been inviting the Holy Spirit to guide the People of God in Australia as we seek to understand what God is asking of us," he said.

"On this great feast of the Holy Spirit, we again invoke that Spirit to enlighten our minds and enliven our hearts to integrate the vision of the Plenary Council in each of our individual contexts."

Bishop Mackinlay thanked staff of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's National Centre for Evangelisation, who prepared the guide.

Carrying Forward the Plenary Council can be accessed on the [Plenary Council website](#).

BECOMING CATHOLIC – NEW RESOURCES

The National Centre for Evangelisation has launched a new website and a companion book to help answer the questions people commonly ask when they are considering becoming Catholic.

"*Becoming Catholic*", is a booklet which can be downloaded from the new [Becoming Catholic website](#), it provides introductory information on God, including Jesus and the Trinity, explores the birth of the Church and covers other key topics like Mary, the Bible, the saints and sacraments.

Since the 1950s, the Catholic Enquiry Centre has been responding to queries from people with questions about the faith. The Catholic Enquiry

Centre is now part of the National Centre for Evangelisation.

The website, which continues the Centre's evolution in delivering educational content, was launched during the plenary meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in Sydney. At the meeting, Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry chair, Archbishop Christopher Prowse explained that the two projects were part of broader efforts to invite people into the life of the Catholic Church.

"We are pleased to launch this website today to add to the rich content that is already online to support those who are searching for answers about God, first and foremost, and about the Church," he said.

"*Becoming Catholic* is designed to complement what dioceses and other ministries are doing, and to be a gateway for people to connect with a local Catholic community."

"It is in those local contexts that they will have a chance to explore their faith and, we hope, ultimately encounter the person of Jesus."

Given the Catholic Enquiry Centre's history of sending printed material to people asking questions about the faith and the Church, the book 'Discovering God and what it means to be a Catholic' has been published as a companion to the website.

"The content in the book is replicated on *Becoming Catholic*, but can be shared in a format that some searchers may find more accessible," said Malcolm Hart, director of the National Centre for Evangelisation.

"We hope that these two resources, which have been prepared with great care and approved by Australian bishops, will find their way into the hands and onto the devices of people who wish to know God and his Church."

Archbishop Prowse paid tribute to the National Centre for Evangelisation staff, including lead author Sharon Brewer, on the two resources.

Visit the [Becoming Catholic website](#) – a partner website of the [Bishops Conference's website](#).

FINAL STATEMENT ON CATHOLIC CHURCH INSURANCE LTD

Following an announcement on 30 May that Catholic Church Insurance is voluntarily being placed in a run-off situation, we restate our commitment to responding with justice and compassion to victims and survivors of abuse in Catholic settings – as we have sought to do for many years.

The bishops and leaders of religious institutes, who reiterate today our apology for the abuse that has occurred in the Church, will continue to work towards justice and healing for the crimes and sins that took place, where that is possible, including through the payment of compensation.

The Catholic Church Insurance run-off also means that Church entities that have been insured with CCI will need to find new insurers. We are supporting Catholic ministries currently insured with CCI to ensure continuity of general insurance cover, and we are confident that will be achieved.

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, President,
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

And
Father Peter Jones OSA, President, Catholic
Religious Australia

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOUL FOOD FOR UKRAINE



The Australian 2022 Advent Appeal for Ukraine was generously supported by Australian Catholics and raised \$430,000. The first half of these funds was used to deliver 10,750 food packages to parishes and communities in Ukraine, many in hard-to-reach areas which have been constantly under fire.

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saints Peter and Paul of Melbourne forwarded funds raised by the appeal to Mudra Sprava, a Charitable Organisation Patriarchal Foundation of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) to implement the 'Food Packages for People in Need' project. An on-ground Mudra Sprava team of 25 adapted to the challenges of war, overcoming many obstacles to source, package and distribute food packages to refugees, temporarily displaced persons and people suffering in the midst of war and occupation in Ukraine. The Head of the UGCC distributed packages to people in need in the city of Kropyvnytskyi himself.

Rev. Lyubomir Yavorsky, Director of Mudra Sprava, wrote in a recent report, "The delivery and presentation of each food package was a special experience for the entire "Mudra Sprava" team. After all, with the delivery of such a package, we received not only sincere words of gratitude for the tangible help to the needy, but also gratitude for the indifferent attitude to their difficult life situation."

Read the [Report on the Food Packages Project 2023](#).

Mudra Sprava (Мудра Справа) translates as 'Wise Cause'.

PROJECT COMPASSION AN ECHUCA TRADITION

By Kerry Stone



Project Compassion concludes with the financial year and, as donations come in from our Parishes and Schools, we see the great efforts made to raise awareness and funds. Caritas Ks in Echuca as a whole community event has become a tradition!

With their all-day Caritas Ks event in the centre of town, the Parish community, St Mary's Primary School and St Joseph's Secondary College, all put their compassion into action by walking in solidarity with those who have to travel many kilometres each day for water, firewood, to get to school, market or a health clinic, for example. School groups, couples, families and individuals arrived at various intervals during the day to walk or run their laps.

A 1000-litre container of water was set up in the Church forecourt. Pastoral Associate, Christine Sebire, explained to all student groups that this could be delivered to her farm (not on town water) for \$11 whenever it was needed. How lucky we are!

For women and girls, in many parts of Africa and Asia, the average distance walked each day for water is six kilometres, carrying 15-20 litres. The distance around the Church block is 600 metres so, ten laps was equal to six kilometres! This set a particular personal challenge for many walkers.

In addition, a small cooking fire was kept burning to remind walkers that women and girls also had to walk, not only for water, but also for firewood. This meant walkers could fill a bucket or pick up a bundle of sticks to really engage in solidarity.

Justice leaders from St Joseph's ran a cake stall and handed out Project Compassion brochures to passers-by, ensuring more people in Echuca now know about the work of Caritas Australia.

Christine Sebire and the Parish Justice Team put in a huge effort with great support from a number of dedicated parishioners. Sincere thanks is extended to all. The event was a big success on a number of levels: raising awareness amongst participants of how lucky we are in this country; raising awareness amongst the wider Echuca community of the transformative work of Caritas Australia; building the community spirit in what is already a very active parish; and, of course, raising much needed funds for Caritas to continue transforming lives.

GREATER BENDIGO CLIMATE SUMMIT GIVES INSPIRATION AND HOPE

"The world only changes when the converted get up and do something together."

Ian McBurney
Ecological Sustainability educator.

On Saturday, 27 May, the City of Greater Bendigo hosted a Climate Summit at Ulumbarra Theatre to launch the draft of the Greater Bendigo 2030 Zero Emissions Roadmap. Representatives of the Catholic Community participated at the event in a strong show of support for action on climate change.

A [Greater Bendigo Faith Statement in support of a Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap](#) was read by Monsignor Frank Marriott, previous Chair of the Bendigo Interfaith Council. The statement was then signed by local Faith Leaders, including Bishop Shane Mackinlay.

By virtue of the statement, faith leaders committed to modelling and encouraging ecologically responsible behaviours and "stimulating consciences".

"... as faith leaders, we commit ourselves to the promotion of disaster risk reduction, adaptation, low carbon development, climate change education, curbing our own consumption patterns and reducing our use of fossil fuels. Based on our spiritual beliefs and our hope for the future, we commit to stimulating consciences and encouraging our peers and communities to consider such measures with urgency."

After the Interfaith Statement was signed, there was an Interfaith Panel Discussion. Kerry Stone, Sandhurst Caritas/Justice Coordinator; Chair, Sandhurst Care for Creation Team; and National Coordinator for Catholic Earthcare Parishes, represented the Diocese of Sandhurst on this panel.



Image above: (L-R) Bishop Shane Mackinlay with Imam Atalla Khawaldeh who signed on behalf of the Bendigo Islamic Community Centre; Community Chaplain Lauren Lockwood-Porter who signed on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo;

Rev Ken Rookes who signed on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia Presbytery of Loddon-Mallee.

Ian Green, Chairman and Director of The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion has also the statement on their behalf, but is not pictured as he couldn't attend.

"I was very proud to share the structured approach that we, as a Catholic Church, have to achieving ecological justice and reducing emissions. It was great that I could say that many of our parish and school communities are actually walking the talk," Said Kerry.

Kerry said she was pleased that faith organisations had been invited to participate at the Summit.

"Faith organisations have a role in leading people to see the earth as our common home and to understand the moral and ethical obligations, to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," she said.

An example is St Francis of the Fields Primary School which showcased the sustainability actions their school is taking at the Youth Climate Action Forum. St Francis of the Fields became an Earthcare School in 2022 and has formed an Earthcare Team which focuses on practical ways to care for creation in their school. Each Friday, this 'Green Team' and Year 6 Catholic Identity Student leaders join with teachers and parents to learn more about caring for our Common Home. Some of the practical initiatives the school is taking include nude lunchboxes, walking or cycling to school, daily native animal and rubbish audits and practising gratitude for the gifts from our planet.

The Climate Collaboration was formed by the City of Greater Bendigo to bring businesses, community organisations, faith communities and schools together to put the City on the path to zero climate-change emissions by 2030 and draft a zero emissions roadmap.

The Climate Collaboration hosted the Summit to give people hope for the future, by providing opportunities for people to see for themselves the many opportunities we have as individuals, organisations and communities to change our trajectory and reduce climate change.

All are encouraged to read the draft [Greater Bendigo Zero Emissions Roadmap](#), which was created over the past year in consultation with people, businesses, communities, schools and other organisations in the Greater Bendigo area. All feedback is welcome and strongly encouraged.

The City of Greater Bendigo is working with Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, a network of thirteen local governments, to develop a roadmap for the region to become climate positive by 2035. It's an ambitious plan which aims to go beyond achieving net zero carbon emissions to

create an environmental benefit by removing additional carbon dioxide from the atmosphere!

For more information, visit

[The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration Website](#)

and

letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/biopersity-strategy

JUSTICE MATTERS CAMP 2023

By Kerry Stone



An enthusiastic group of sixty-five students and teachers from nine Sandhurst secondary colleges gathered for an action-packed program in Beechworth last week. Initial mixing games brought everyone into small contact groups with a new bunch of friends to get to know! The first night provided a stark awakening to injustice in our world with only 15% enjoying a plentiful meal of burgers, pizza and roast chicken, cakes and soft drink while those in the middle, ate rice and beans and the poorest, simply rice!

The Global Reality Meal is a metaphor for how food and other resources are inequitably distributed in the world. The underlying premise is that everyone on earth has the same basic needs; it is only our circumstances – where we live and the culture we are born into – that differ. Each person's place is randomly determined. This initiation into the gap between rich and poor proved a motivating factor for action throughout the camp.

Over the following days, students shared justice concerns about climate change, poverty, asylum seekers and refugees, the environment, indigenous

culture and reconciliation, overseas aid and development, through prayer, talking, listening, storytelling, journaling, reflecting, discussing, social media, celebrating and having fun.

Participants attended two thematic workshops of their choice followed by an Open Forum with all workshop presenters. An Amazing Race provided a fun focus during free time at the Beechworth shops! Thursday evening's viewing of the film, 'The Public', provided entertainment along with reflection on poverty, dignity, and publicity!

On the final day, participants gathered in school groups to develop an action plan which began with a major issue and moved from awareness-raising and solidarity through to fundraising and taking action to produce change – restoring justice! Final presentations of their plan by each school left organisers in no doubt that students had been inspired and equipped to return to their local communities to make a difference! A student-led final liturgy sent everyone forth to 'ignite the flame' for justice.



We've been celebrating Reconciliation Week now for 27 years, yet how much do we know about the world's oldest living culture? Many of us sincerely want to learn more about Aboriginal diversity, capability and strength, and the complex reasons for inequalities that exist between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

Understanding the diverse cultural identities in Australia is an essential element of achieving reconciliation. This year, Reconciliation Australia asks us to "learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia."

Catholic Schools today are doing a quality job in this space, but for those of us who were

educated in times of discourse deficit when Aboriginal Culture was not celebrated, and who live in environments where there are few opportunities to meet Aboriginal people, how do we go about doing this? Here are some ideas ...

Central Victorian Film Festival

Learn with your senses and your heart at the annual Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival. This year's festival showcases an exciting range of First Nations films, documentaries and videos starring and telling stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from Central Victoria and across Australia. thirteen screenings will be offered across the Festival including old favourites such as 'Bran Nue Dae', 'Gurrumul' and 'Storm Boy'.

Actions to be a Voice for Reconciliation

Reconciliation Australia provides suggestions for ways that you can *Be a Voice for Generations*, while also acting to create a better country for future generations.

They recommend you "Take these actions with you every day of the year, not just during National Reconciliation Week."

[Actions to be a voice for reconciliation - National Reconciliation Week 2023](#)

Share Our Pride website

Share our Pride is an online learning tool designed to take you on an "awareness-raising journey where you'll get a taste of traditional cultures and learn about our shared history."

[Share Our Pride](#)

AUSTRALIANS WANT MORE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR STOLEN GENERATIONS

By Caritas Australia

Against the backdrop of Reconciliation Week, research released last week by Caritas Australia shows that over two-thirds of Australians believe it is important for the Federal Government to address the legacy of the Stolen Generations. This sentiment is even stronger amongst younger Australians, with 82 percent of 18- 34-year-olds believing that addressing the legacy is important.

"The time is now to address this legacy – our Stolen Generations are getting older, and we must listen and learn from them in order to heal as a nation," said Christine Rhazi, Caritas Australia First Australia Programs Associate Director.

"Australians clearly agree that, as a nation, we have a responsibility to address and learn from the wrongs of our past." Australians also want to see more support for the Stolen Generations across key areas, with two-thirds (68 per cent) believing the Federal Government should do more to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with health issues.

Further, 62 per cent believe that there should be more support for education, while just over half believe that funding should increase for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led organisations.

Kinchela Boys Home (KBH) Survivor, Uncle Richard Campbell, #28* said that compared to

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the same age group, Stolen Generations Survivors are suffering more financially, socially and in areas of health and wellbeing.

"This disadvantage extends to our descendants who also consistently experience poorer health and social outcomes. We are making changes with our truth-telling but change isn't happening fast enough. We are the invisible gap that will be left behind," said Uncle Richard.

A resounding three-quarters of people feel that schools should be required to teach about the Stolen Generations and the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"The more truths we tell our children about our past, the more hope we have for a better future for the new generations", said Christine Rhazi.

"We must celebrate our elders – we must remember always their history and we must honour their legacy."

**This is the number that was used in place of Uncle Richard's name during his time at KBH.*

"We must celebrate our elders – we must remember always their history and we must honour their legacy."

DADIRRI – DEEP REFLECTIVE LISTENING



“The time for rebirth is now. If our culture is alive, and strong, and respected, it will grow. It will not die, and our spirit will not die. I believe that the Spirit of Dadirri, that we have to offer, will blossom and flourish, not just within ourselves but in our whole nation.”

Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann AM
renowned elder, educator and artist

As we have moved out of *Laudato Si'* Week and into Reconciliation Week, it seems a good time to revisit the concept of Dadirri, described to us by Dr Miriam-Rose as active, reflective, deep listening. It's particularly interesting to relate Dadirri to the concepts of spiritual dialogue and discernment, and synodality.

[Watch the introductory video >>](#)

HOPE FOR THE EARTH. HOPE FOR HUMANITY – LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2023



“... as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to “renew the face of the earth” (cf. Ps 104:30).

• Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Creation
Rome, Saint John Lateran, 13 May 2023

Last week marked the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical "*Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home". The theme for *Laudato Si'* Week this year is "Hope for the Earth. Hope for Humanity". There are actions we can take to care for our common home, particularly with regard to climate change, and we need to spread hope, not despair, so that we motivate others to take action.

In our parishes and schools, we joined Catholic communities around the world in celebrating *Laudato Si'* Week. It's a time to give thanks for the gifts of the earth, to pray for a heightened awareness of integral ecology amongst all people, and to focus, with even more determination, on our *Laudato Si'* Action plans.

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The Australian Bishops Commission for Social Justice – Mission and Service prepared Daily Reflections and action sheets for Laudato Si’ Week. These can be used any time of year, not just during Laudato Si’ Week and are suitable for personal or group use. They draw from information from the 2021 State of the Environment Report and include quotes from Laudato Si’.

[Go to Laudato Si resources list](#)

The Letter: A Message for Our Earth

This year, the Vatican’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, is promoting viewings of ‘The Letter: A Message for Our Earth’ to inspire Catholics to remain hope-filled and to rejoice in the progress made so far to bring Laudato Si’ to life.

Many of you may have already watched ‘The Letter’ at a community viewing in your parish or school. The film follows the journey of people who have been affected first-hand by the climate crisis as they travel to Rome to meet Pope Francis, revealing their moving stories and inspiring actions along the way.

You are encouraged to organise community screenings of the film. This might not necessarily be organised through a parish; you might like to gather with friends and watch at home, for example. And remember, you can always watch the film by yourself whenever you can.

[Go to 'The Letter' website](#)

What is Laudato Si’ Week?

Laudato Si’ Week began as a way to celebrate the first anniversary of Pope Francis’ papal encyclical letter, “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home.” Since then, the annual celebration has become a way for all Catholics to unite and rejoice in the progress we’ve made in bringing Laudato Si’ to life and to commit ourselves to further prayer and action for our common home.

The event is organised by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and facilitated by Laudato Si’ Movement together with other partners.

LEARNING AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

FIND YOUR PATH AT CTC INFORMATION SESSION

7.30 p.m. Monday 19 June Online

Theological College (CTC) is hosting a live online information session to help you to ‘Find Your Path at CTC’. Learn about modes of study, (online and in-person), the range of courses available and learning outcomes from expert CTC presenters.

[Read more >>](#)

ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP FOR LAY MINISTRY

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Applications are now open and close on 4 August, 2023.

[Read more >>](#)

CHRISTUS REX PILGRIMAGE 2023

**A prayerful 90-km journey from Ballarat to Bendigo
Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October 2023**

Registrations are now open for the 2023 Christus Rex Pilgrimage. It will start with morning Mass and a blessing at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat on Friday and conclude with the Solemn Mass of Christ the King celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

[Read more >>](#)

SANDHURST THEOLOGY AND CPE SCHOLARSHIPS

Sandhurst is again aiming to support the mission formation of parishioners by offering scholarships for parish pastoral leaders and would-be leaders to study Theology or Clinical Pastoral Education at Catholic Theological College Melbourne in Semester II, 2023. Scholarships are available for Sandhurst parishioners to study online post-graduate courses in Theology at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne.

[Read more >>](#)



Bishop Shane's Calendar

- Sunday 4 June – Sunday Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 11am
- Tuesday 6 June – Backhaus Trustees Meeting, Bendigo
- Thursday 8 June – Corpus Christi College Trustees Meeting, Melbourne
- Thursday 8 June – Victorian Bishops Meeting, Melbourne
- Thursday 8 June – Catholic Theological College Senate & Annual Mass, Melbourne
- Sunday 11 June – Sunday Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 11am
- Tuesday 13 June – Diocesan Consultors, Bendigo
- Wednesday 14 June – Diocesan Finance Council, Bendigo
- Thursday 15 June – Diocesan Development Fund Advisory Board, Bendigo
- Friday 16 June – Sacred Heart Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 12:30pm
- Sunday 18 June – Confirmation and First Eucharist (for St Monica's, Kangaroo Flat), Sacred Heart Cathedral, 11am

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 Taungering. 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.