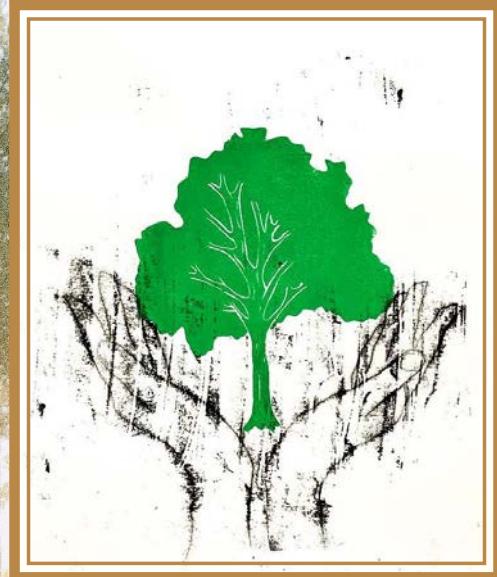




CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF SANDHURST

2022

Year in Review







Acknowledgement of Country

The Diocese of Sandhurst recognises the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we live, serve and worship. We acknowledge the people of the Northeastern regions of our Diocese, Djilmathang, Minjajambuta, 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 the 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.



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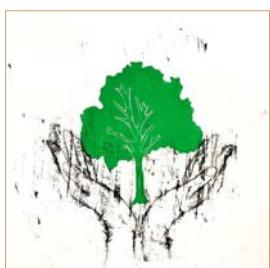
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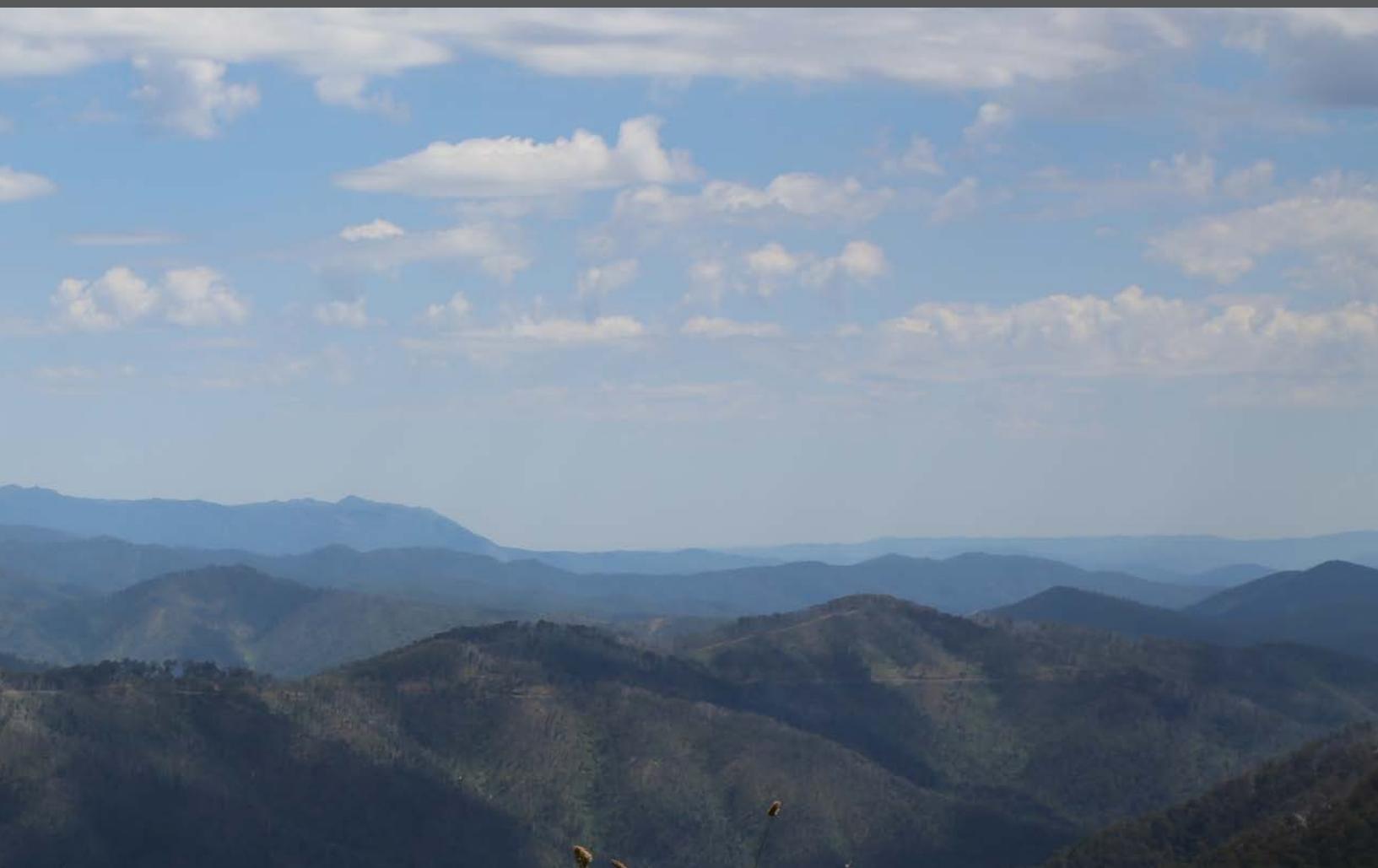
View from feather top, Sandhurst Diocese

MINISTRIES OF THE DIOCESAN CHURCH

- Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
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- Anointing Mass
- Baptism
- Caritas Australia - Sandhurst Diocese
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- Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd - Bendigo, Tatura & Wangaratta
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- Diocesan Finance Council
- Diocesan Social Justice Committee
- Diocesan Vocations Ministry
- Funeral Ministry
- Home Masses
- Home Visitation Groups
- Hospitality, Catering and Welcoming Groups
- Knights of the Southern Cross
- Legion of Mary

Our Organisation



- Lenten and Advent Groups
- MenALIVE
- Music Team/Choir
- Pastoral Associates Network
- Pastoral Care Teams
- Prayer Groups
- Pre-Marriage Workshops
- Priests Retirement Foundation for the Diocese of Sandhurst
- Prison Chaplaincy
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Forum
- Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation for the Diocese of Sandhurst
- Rosary Groups
- Sacramental Programs
- Sandhurst Catholic Education Council
- Sandhurst Clergy Health and Well-being
- Sandhurst Youth Ministry Team
- Sandpiper e-News
- School Masses
- Serra Club
- Social Groups
- Spirituality in the Pub
- Stronger Retreat, Rallies and Discipleship Groups
- St Vincent de Paul Conferences
- Teams of Our Lady
- Youth Ministry Groups

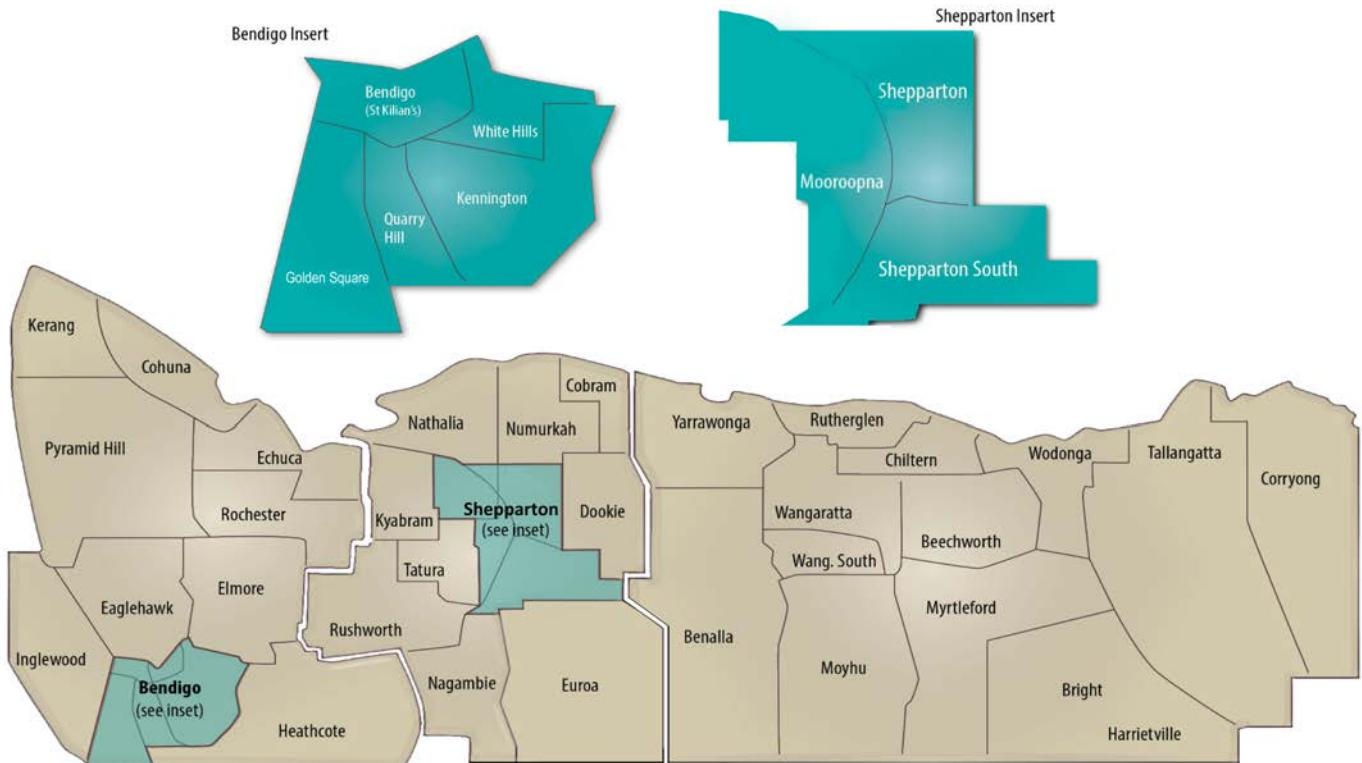


The Diocese of Sandhurst represents the Catholic Church in a region in Victoria bounded on the north and east by the River Murray, extending from Kerang to Corryong and as far inland as Euroa and Bright covering 45,196 sq. kms.

A diocese is simply a community of Christ's faithful – it represents a portion of the people of God in a particular area, which is entrusted to a bishop. In the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, Bishop Shane Mackinlay is the pastoral leader of more than 90,000 Catholics. He is assisted by priests who minister in 40 parishes within the diocese. The parishes are grouped into three deaneries, the Western, Goulburn Valley and North Eastern.

Our diocese's vision is '**that every person's heart be inflamed by the love of God**'. We welcome all who would like to join our communities or be guided by the principles and teachings of Christ.

Diocese of Sandhurst



380,584 Total Population

40 Parishes

90,189 Catholics in region

56 Schools

49 Clergy

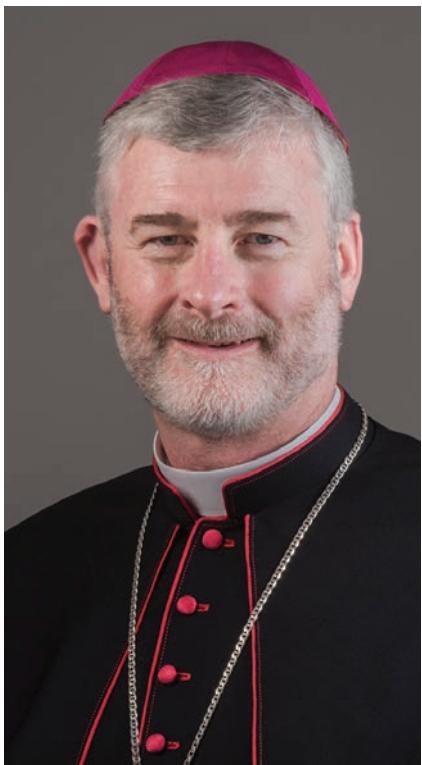
19,577 Students

8 Religious Congregations

1 Hospital

34 Religious

6 Nursing and Convalescence Homes



“Building connections with people from other parts of the Church”

Throughout 2022, COVID 19 has continued to cast its shadow across our lives. Most of us have spent the year constantly looking over our shoulder, hoping not to get caught by infection and illness. Even those who haven't been sick themselves know many others close to them who have been ill, which has impacted all our families, parishes, schools and workplaces. We've all become very used to our plans being interrupted, with last-minute changes, apologies and cancellations.

For large numbers in our Diocese and other parts of the country, the floods of October and November interrupted everything else,

From

BISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY

while communities watched with growing anxiety as the waters slowly rose, and then eventually fell again, exposing the damage that had been caused. As the year ended, many people still had not been able to return home and were facing months of house repairs and difficult decisions, before they could return to their normal lives.

In the midst of these challenges, our communities have made great efforts to resume many of their normal activities, and many have also taken new initiatives. I have been able to visit our parishes and schools more regularly and have appreciated the commitment I have seen to renewing and enriching our shared life of faith.

Early in the year, we were saddened by the deaths of Father Ted Harte and Father Owen Doyle, bringing to an end their many years of faithful service in the Diocese. We also farewelled Father Pompeyo Tan, who relocated to the USA, where his mother and siblings have now settled. At about the same time, Father Jophin Joy and Father Uday Marneni arrived to commence ministry in the Diocese alongside the other two members

of their congregation already serving here. Then, in March we celebrated the ordination of Father Jackson Saunders, and in August we welcomed Father Adi Indra back from Rome to take up his first parish appointment. Finally, just in time for Christmas, Monsignor Crisologo Manongas arrived from the Philippines to begin ministry among us.

For the Church in Australia, the major event of the year has been the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council, which was held in person in Sydney and concluded a 4-year journey in which over 220,000 Catholics participated directly. As well as approving eight significant decrees, the Plenary Council formed all of us in a decision-making process that was built on collaborative and prayerful discernment. I have been delighted to see the many initiatives underway in this Diocese and elsewhere to implement the Council's decrees and to introduce its commitment to discernment into other structures and contexts.

Alongside the Plenary Council, we have also been involved in local and national consultations

Sandhurst Diocese Reports

preparing for the Synod for a Synodal Church to which Pope Francis has called us. It is clear that the process leading up to the Assemblies of the Synod in 2023 and 2024 is giving us a tremendous opportunity to become more synodal and participatory in many other aspects of our life together.

I was very fortunate to be able to travel overseas in September and October for a range of events that were valuable opportunities for learning, renewal, and building connections with people from other parts of the Church. First, I participated in a formation program for new bishops in Rome, where I joined 150 other bishops from around the world who had been ordained in the last few years. I then visited the mother house of the Community of the Sons and Daughters of God outside Florence, thanking them for their ongoing

commitment to the presence in Dookie of Fr Doroteo Bravi and Br Massimo Chang. Following in the footsteps of many others from the Diocese of Sandhurst, I then visited the Archdiocese of Paderborn, honouring the pioneering contribution of Dr Henry Backhaus, the first priest on the Bendigo goldfields. Finally, I returned to Rome to participate in an international research group arranged by Australian Catholic University on the theology of priesthood, and for a meeting of the international Methodist-Catholic ecumenical commission that I have been asked to co-chair.

Over the time that I was away, consultation meetings began in our parishes as part of the preparation for establishing a Sandhurst

Mission and Pastoral Council. I have been delighted to hear of the interest and enthusiasm that has been expressed in our communities during these meetings, and the many ideas and suggestions for how the Council might operate. This process has laid a good foundation for the Diocesan Assembly next year, where we will commence the final stage of establishing the Council.

Pope Francis has asked us to walk together as missionary disciples of Jesus, affirming his presence and love, and proclaiming his Gospel in our world. I am grateful for all the ways that our communities, schools and agencies have contributed to that mission during this year, across the Diocese of Sandhurst.

**Most Rev. Shane Mackinlay DD
Bishop of Sandhurst**





“A Church that ‘goes forth’ is a Church whose doors are open”

Pope Francis,
The Joy of the Gospel (46)

This year the Church doors have indeed been open. Whilst the pandemic is still with us and we continue to take precautions, especially for the most vulnerable, for the most part we have been able to reconnect with one another face to face in our communities and our places of worship. The removal of restrictions has allowed us to experience in a personal and tangible way those different senses of ‘Church’: a consecrated people gathered in a consecrated building. As Pope Francis reminds us in *The Joy of the Gospel*, the ‘doors are open’ because we are a Church that ‘goes forth’. We are a missionary Church, sent out to reach

From

DR CHRIS COTTER

Director of Mission and Pastoral Life

everyone: “We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, 273). My work and the work of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Life Team has been encouraged and inspired by this vision.

It has been my privilege to lead the Mission and Pastoral Life Team in 2022: Ruth Lawlor (Youth Ministry Coordinator) and Katrina Strong (Communications Officer). Both Ruth and Katrina have undertaken important work in their discrete areas of responsibility and on our team projects. With a significant number of projects for the team, either under way or on the horizon, we welcomed Mrs Leslie Cooper in a part-time capacity as Mission and Pastoral Life Team Project Officer in August. We are still seeking to recruit suitably qualified and experienced team members to fill vacancies in Formation for Mission and in Youth Ministry roles, and hope to do so early in the new year.

Our year began with a Zoom farewell to Lyn Breen, Adult Faith Education Coordinator and a long-serving staff member in the Chancery. Fr Brian Boyle EV, Alma Limbrick (Kyabram), Fr Rom Hayes and Sr Cecilia Merrigan CSB (Echuca) each spoke of Lyn with deep affection and respect. The farewell certainly recognised Lyn’s achievements, but also the way Lyn has served the diocesan community, which was always characterised by faithfulness, humility, and determination. I also thank Lyn for her strong contribution to the mission and pastoral life of our Diocese.

In late January through to March members of our diocesan community were invited to contribute to the worldwide consultation for the 16th Ordinary Synod of Bishops, for a Synodal Church. Whilst the number of submissions was numerically small, especially in comparison to the First Phase of the Plenary Council in 2017-2018, the themes were consistent. People

Sandhurst Diocese Reports

in Sandhurst are yearning for a truly inclusive Church, one that recognises and finds a place for the distinctive gifts of women, encourages co-responsibility for mission and provides formation to grow understanding of and support for missionary outreach. To celebrate Synodality in our Diocese as participation, communion and mission, a series of five videos featuring clergy, parishioners and Catholic schools were released on the Sandhurst YouTube channel between Holy Week and Ascension Sunday. This included a live stream of the Mass of Oils from the Cathedral on the Tuesday of Holy Week. The Synod has now moved on to the Continental Stage and, in December, Leslie Cooper led a small group of clergy, lay faithful and Chancery employees through a process of reflection and feedback on the Vatican Document for the Continental Stage.

On 27 April, the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Bishop Shane announced a year of preparation and consultation for a Diocesan Pastoral Council, to be known as the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council. Following the Bishop's announcement, the team got to work on developing documentation and processes for preparation and consultation meetings to be held throughout the Diocese from July through to December. Ruth Lawlor was temporarily reassigned from her Youth Ministry Coordinator role to co-facilitate these meetings with me. At Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday 24 July, Bishop Shane

commissioned us to meet and consult with the people of God in the Sandhurst Diocese regarding the plan to establish the Council. The meetings enabled participants to learn about the proposed Council, to enter a listening and dialogue process and provide feedback to the Bishop. By 13 December we had met with the priests and representatives of the lay faithful in thirty-nine parishes, senior students and staff representing ten Catholic secondary colleges, all Catholic school Principals and Religious Education Leaders, Catholic Education Office Sandhurst staff, the Boards of Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited and Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood Education and Care Limited, as well as representatives of St John of God Hospital. Nine hundred and five people participated in these meetings and more than 279 (collected) group responses have been received, providing a rich source of data that will help inform the focus, direction and processes adopted by the Council. A report on the preparation and consultation process and outcomes will be published prior to the Diocesan Assembly in February 2023. I am anticipating strong alignment between the themes expressed by participants in these meetings, the Synod on Synodality and the 5th Plenary Council of Australia. Thank you to our parish priests, school principals and Catholic Education Sandhurst leadership who advertised and made time for these meetings. I am especially grateful for the work

of the Mission and Pastoral Life Team in promoting, organising, facilitating and reporting on the meetings.

I am looking forward to the celebration of our Diocesan Assembly on 15 February 2023 in Shepparton. Our Diocesan Assembly is part of a larger movement of synodality, being a church on the journey together. At the Assembly, Bishop Shane will welcome 400 representatives of parishes, schools, professed religious, chancery staff and other Catholic entities. A keynote address on Synodality will be delivered; the recommendations of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia noted; the synthesis from the diocesan consultation for the Synod on Synodality celebrated; and feedback from the preparation and consultation meetings for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council will be considered through a listening and dialogue process. At the conclusion of the Assembly, Bishop Shane will call for Expressions of Interest from the faithful to join the Council. Once the Council members have been appointed and commissioned at the Mass of Oils, I expect the first meeting will be held in the last week of April 2023. This Council will support synodal governance in the Diocese through a structure that builds co-responsibility and discernment in leadership and decision making. It will strengthen our capacity to operate in a strategic and collaborative way, by drawing on the best possible advice of lay people and clergy for pursuing the Church's mission.

Sandhurst Diocese Reports

The Second Assembly of the 5th Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia was held in the first week of July. The five Sandhurst members, Bishop Shane, Fr Joe Taylor VG, Fr Brian Boyle EV, Cathy Jenkins and Ruth Lawlor travelled to Sydney to celebrate an extraordinary event in the life of the Australian Church. Audrey Brown (Cathedral Cluster of Parishes Bendigo) and I were privileged to be on the facilitation team for the week. Our members provided video updates each day which Katrina Strong published to our social media networks. These messages provided an important perspective from the floor of the Assembly. I encourage everyone to read the Decrees of the Council which are available on the Plenary Council website. Whilst some require Vatican approval, many of the Decrees are the kinds of things that dioceses, parishes and other Catholic entities can do or are doing already.

Our Pastoral Associates and Lay Coordinators Network met face to face on three occasions in 2022. This included a timely retreat led by Fr Dennis Crameri along the banks of the Mitta Mitta River in late April. The first Network meeting was held in Shepparton in March and included a lunch to recognise the services of Lyn Breen to the Network. The annual meeting with clergy was held in August at St Augustine's Church in Kyabram and included reflections on the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council given by Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Fr Joe Taylor VG, Fr Brian Boyle EV and

Ruth Lawlor. The Network has committed to four meetings in 2023. The first meeting in March will establish a working party to set agendas, record minutes and prepare future meetings, source professional learning and organise a regular retreat experience for members. It was a significant year for the Rushworth Parish Lay Coordinators, Glen Avard (Cornella), Rebecca Catania (Murchison), Mary Jo Fortuna (Rushworth) and Greg Fitzpatrick (Stanhope). After two years in their role and a very positive review of the arrangements, they were officially installed by Bishop Shane on Sunday 29 May at a parish Mass in Rushworth.

On 20 October the Chancery reception was turned into a multi-media studio as our Diocese hosted the first Plenary session of the online 2022 Evangelise Conference. The Sandhurst Plenary began with a specially prepared video introducing the Diocese, which is now available on the Sandhurst website, followed by a keynote from Bishop Shane entitled, "Into the Deep: After the Plenary Council". After Bishop Shane's keynote, I hosted a panel discussion responding to our Bishop's keynote. Our panel members included: Ruth Lawlor (Sandhurst Youth Ministry Coordinator), Fr Junray Rayna (Administrator of St Kilian's Bendigo) and Astrid Notorangelo

(parishioner of St Kilian's and Pastoral Associate at St Joseph's Quarry Hill and St Monica's Kangaroo Flat). We had originally planned for Loris Fletcher, parishioner from St Patrick's Wangaratta and Fr Novelito Lim, Parish Priest in Echuca, to be on the panel, but the disastrous central Victorian floods stopped our plans for wider diocesan representation. The Conference archive is still available on the National Centre for Evangelisation website (nce.catholic.org.au).

One of the great privileges of the year was visiting almost every one of our forty parishes. It was a joy to meet our pastors and parishioners on their home soil. Everywhere I went I was touched by the deep faith and generous hospitality of the people of God, particularly given the challenges of the pandemic and the more recent dislocation and trauma wrought by the floods. I remember especially our visit to St Mary's Mooroopna in late October. Several parishioners who came along had not been able to get into their street, let alone their homes, and yet, there they were on a Wednesday night: ready to listen deeply for the voice of the Holy Spirit and to speak the truth as they saw it. The doors were open, and I saw a people who were hurting but ready to face reality and respond with integrity, flexibility, and an openness to being led by the Spirit.

Dr. Chris Cotter PhD
Director of Mission and Pastoral Life Sandhurst

Sandhurst Diocese Reports



Pictured; Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sunday 24 July, Bishop Shane commissions Chris Cotter and Ruth Lawlor to prepare and consult with the people of God in the Diocese about the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council.



Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council preparation and consultation meeting Wodonga



Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council preparation and consultation meeting Wangaratta



Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council preparation and consultation meeting Benalla



Mass of Oils, 12 April



From

CAMERON FRASER

Diocesan Business Manager

It is a changing world in which we live. Key documents referred to in stewarding the temporal goods of the Diocese grow in number each year. A current topic of particular interest to many of us is ethical investing. If someone asked me about ethical investing ten years ago, I would have referenced the Catholic Ethos and the screening out of investments in the tobacco or gambling industries which, of course, are at odds with Catholic social teaching. Today, the question requires a much more complex answer.

Today, ethical investing includes considerations of renewable energy and new technologies that lighten the footprint left on this planet by humanity. Corporates now have new measures and accountabilities that consider environmental, social and governance or “ESG” as a set of standards for a company’s behaviour. Investors today screen potential investments according to ESG and how they meet their ethical framework.

A recent paper from the Vatican also turns its focus on investing and says, “No investment of money is morally neutral; either God’s kingdom is being advanced by the assets we deploy, or it is being neglected and undermined”. This is a big statement to unpack and apply to our investment decision making.

This new key document with regard to investing is the “Mensuram Bonam” (For Good Measure). This document uses the principles of Catholic social teaching and definitive church pronouncements on issues such as abortion, nuclear weapons and the death penalty. The document calls on bishops’ conferences and other Catholic investors to develop investment frameworks that are consistent with the Catholic Ethos. These investments should not only seek to achieve financial returns, but also work for the Common Good.

At the local level the Diocese together with its investment advisors apply an Investment Framework to ensure we balance our investment decisions with a keen eye on what’s good for

mankind and the planet we share. Faith-consistent investing has elements found in “socially responsible investing,” strategies focused on ESG and “impact investing”, which aims to promote a particular good or set of goods. Faith-consistent investing goes much further in terms of moral responsibility because it is based on Catholic social teaching with its vision of the human person.

This past year has seen a number of parishes reach out for information to assist them with their investment decisions. The Investment Framework is a useful document from which to develop a framework that meets the particular circumstances of the parish. Please make contact at the Chancery if you would like to receive a copy.

There have been a number of initiatives with a focus on environmental sustainability completed in the past year, such as the Diocesan Investment Policy Framework, Solar power panel installation and participating as a Catholic Earthcare organisation.

Another small step in the work undertaken locally was to register

Sandhurst Diocese Reports

the Chancery as a Catholic Earthcare organisation. In doing so, we hope that, as we journey towards a more environmentally sustainable and ethical Chancery office, and informed by what we learn on the journey, we are able to assist people in parishes to achieve their sustainability goals.

As I reflect on what has been another challenging year for the people of the Diocese, I am grateful for the wonderful team of committed people I work with every

day. Thank you for your continued efforts and I look forward to all that we will continue to do for the Diocese and the communities we serve together in the year ahead.

Cameron Fraser
Diocesan Business Manager Sandhurst



“As we journey towards a more environmentally sustainable and ethical Chancery office, we are able to assist people in parishes to achieve their sustainability goals.”



“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation”

Gospel of Mark 16:15

2022 has been a year full of highs and lows as our school communities have continued to navigate the impact of COVID-19, while still managing to provide the most stable period of learning that has been experienced in previous years.

During this time our school leaders have been outstanding, and I cannot speak highly enough of their resilience, strength and tireless devotion to their school communities. I also applaud the parents who have partnered with our schools to ensure that students were able to learn remotely when required, and who have supported their children during this challenging time.

From

PAUL DESMOND

Chief Executive Officer CES Ltd

There is no more humble and noble profession in my opinion, than that of a teacher, and parents as a child's first educator share in the responsibility of nurturing and teaching the young people in our lives. It is this partnership between school and home that gives young people the best opportunity to flourish.

As we focus on the importance of educating the students in our schools, we cannot merely consider the academic instruction of a child, as the physical, spiritual and emotional development of each child are of equal importance. We want our students to be confident, capable and compassionate, and to be mindful of the world in which they live.

Catholic Schools in the Sandhurst Diocese are part of a robust education system that parents are choosing for their children in ever-increasing numbers. We do not take this responsibility lightly and we are proud of the skilled educators and the school structure which are supported by the Catholic Education Office Sandhurst and the Catholic

Education Sandhurst Ltd Board.

Catholic Education is proudly one key player in the life of the Church in Sandhurst. We see the school as the focus of all our aspirations. It is our goal to support Sandhurst schools as they improve young lives, developing in each a sense of purpose and hope, nurturing a belief in the future and their role within it. Those who graduate from Sandhurst Catholic schools should carry with them a life-long commitment to improving the lives of others and a desire to leave the world a better place.

As educators, we believed this focus would serve to remind us daily that our Ministry within the Faith must always be dynamic, outward-looking, ever ready to serve, to challenge, to uplift, to enhance and to improve. With Christ at the heart of our work, we could then be faithful to the core business of learning and teaching, while anchored by the rich teachings of the Catholic Faith.

Despite the challenges of this year, there were also many highlights as schools opened new facilities and celebrated significant

Sandhurst Diocese Reports

anniversaries, acknowledging the rich and unique history of each school. The communities of St Joseph's Cobram and St Peter's North Bendigo commemorated 100- and 50-year anniversaries respectively. The Sisters of Mercy established both schools and the influence of the Mercy Sisters is interwoven into the identity and charism of each school. St Joseph's Nagambie also celebrated their 100-year anniversary, giving thanks to the Sisters of St Joseph and the pioneers of Catholic Education in the Nagambie region. St John's Euroa also brought their community together to commemorate their centenary which was unable to be celebrated last year due to COVID-19. Each school community enjoyed the opportunity to recall times past, to reconnect and to acknowledge the history of their school and their place within this history.

The Victorian floods that occurred in Term 4 had a devastating effect on some of our Sandhurst schools and communities, in particular the townships of Rochester, Echuca, Shepparton, Mooroopna, Kerang and Pyramid Hill were greatly affected. Schools were closed and properties were flooded as the rain continued to fall and the rivers continued to rise. Year 12 students from St Joseph's Echuca spent the final day of their schooling filling sandbags to help save their college and their town. These stories of self-sacrifice and community spirit were not isolated; as always, the human spirit prevails and leaders within our communities come to the fore. The countless number of people who supported our schools in the most heavily affected

regions, checking neighbours' properties, helping move furniture and treasured possessions to higher ground, coordinating emergency response, catering, donating goods and service, were working tirelessly to help a community in need.

St Joseph's Primary School in Rochester will remain closed well into 2023 as the school is rebuilt, infrastructure repaired and equipment replaced. Sadly, a major new school building which students had only moved into three weeks prior to the floods, also sustained significant damage. St Joseph's students have been relocated to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Elmore and Catherine McAuley College in Bendigo until they are able to return to their school. I thank the Principals of these schools, first for answering the call, and second, for their swift action to make sure that students were able to continue their learning. I also acknowledge, with deep gratitude, the work of my colleagues at the Catholic Education Sandhurst Office for the support they gave, and continue to give to the principals, staff, students and families of the flood-affected schools.

During Term 4, I embarked on a trip to Ireland with the Executive Director of Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited, Tom Sexton, to explore the possibility of recruiting Irish teachers in response to a critical shortage of teachers in Australia. The challenge

of recruitment is already being felt by a number of schools in the Diocese of Sandhurst, particularly those in regional or remote areas, and is expected to become more severe in the years ahead. Competition to gain the services of qualified educators across the sectors is already having a significant impact.

Our research found that there is currently an 'over supply' of teachers in the Republic of Ireland. At the same time, there is a decrease in the student population in Irish schools and this is expected to become more pronounced in the coming decade. It is our aim to attract Irish teachers to join our excellent Australian teachers in the classroom over the next 4-5 years to relieve the pressure in our schools.

We remain grateful to both the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments for their generous financial support of the Catholic Sector. By their provision of funds, we are able to set and work towards our target of delivering the best in learning opportunities for our students.

The 2022 theme for Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd is Tell the Good News, and although there have been considerable challenges throughout the year there have also been many wonderful Good News stories. It is the presence of these stories in our lives that nourishes us and brings us closer to God.

Paul Desmond
Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd





From

JULIE COBBLEDICK

Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood Education & Care Ltd

Sandhurst Catholic Early Childhood Education and Care Limited (SCECE&C Ltd) was established as a subsidiary company to Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CES Ltd) in September 2020 and became the approved provider for Early Childhood Services within the Diocese of Sandhurst.

"The central objective of SCECE&C is to operate settings for early childhood education and care that pursue this twofold mission of evangelisation and education, embodying and fostering the Christian understanding of the human person. Everything about these settings contributes to their mission of evangelising and educating in the Christian tradition."

Initial Directions Statement by Bishop Shane Mackinlay

Members of the SCECE&C Ltd Board work in partnership with the Catholic Diocese Sandhurst, CatholicCare Victoria and Catholic Education Sandhurst, to ensure the professional oversight and governance of early childhood education and care within the Diocese. The Board is supported by the Child Safe and the Audit and Risk CSA&R Committee, which has oversight of Child Safe Standards, Occupational Health and Safety, Finances and Risk Management.

Much has been achieved since the inception of SCECEC&C Ltd, including the formation of Board Directors and the endorsement of a number of important documents, including the SCECE&C Ltd Constitution, Child Safety Framework, Emergency Management Plans, and a Quality Framework for Early Childhood Provision.

A Board evaluation was conducted in October of 2021 leading to the development of an Improvement Plan and a draft Growth Strategy was presented to the Board in April

2021, outlining potential areas for growth and development of early childhood services in the Diocese.

In line with the Growth Strategy, SCECE&C Ltd applied to the Victoria Building Blocks Capacity Building Grant Stream in 2021 for provision in Nagambie, Kialla and Echuca and an expansion grant for St Mel's Kindergarten in Shepparton. The Echuca, St Mel's and Nagambie applications were successful with grants allocated as follows:

- Echuca – Integrated Children's Centre Grant for the Echuca Early Childhood Community Hub \$3.1 Million
- Shepparton – St Mel's Kindergarten Expansion Grant \$372,133
- Nagambie – Building Blocks Capacity Modular Grant to construct the Nagambie Community Early Learning Centre \$1.8 Million

In addition, SCECE&C Ltd was notified of the following grants provided through the Early Childhood Building

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Blocks Inclusion (Buildings and Playgrounds) Grant stream in early 2022. These grants fund infrastructure upgrades to ensure kindergarten activities are safer, more inclusive, and accessible to children of all abilities.

- \$170,000 for Assisi Kindergarten, Strathfieldsaye, which will be used to create a play structure that is designed with graduated ramps that wind and connect with platforms and spaces around the existing trees to provide many different play spaces for children of all abilities to enjoy and feel the joy of height.
- \$39,393.80 for St Mel's Kindergarten to construct a deck that is flush with the indoor floor that attaches to a ramp to facilitate wheelchair access from inside play spaces to outdoor play spaces. A further \$98,024 Facility Upgrade Grant will support the expansion to upgrade children's and staff bathrooms and the kindergarten director's office.

As SCECE&C Ltd grows, the organisational structure continues to develop, providing an overview of the relationships within, from CES Ltd as the Member through to the early childhood services. The leadership and management of early childhood education and care is provided through the SCECE&C Ltd Unit. This is a small team of two staff led by Carla Jeffrey (Chief Early Childhood Officer).

SCECE&C Ltd currently has two services within the organisation, Assisi Kindergarten Strathfieldsaye, and St Mel's Kindergarten Shepparton. Both services facilitate educational programs for 3- and 4-year-old children with enrolments of 220 children in 2022.

St Mel's Kindergarten (1967) and Assisi Kindergarten (2017) reflect the work of St Mel's Parish (Shepparton South) and St Therese's Parish (Kennington) in establishing and supporting early childhood education and development within the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst. The generous commitment of

the Sisters of Divine Zeal in Shepparton, the pioneers of early childhood education and care in the Diocese, combined with the more recent establishment of Assisi Kindergarten in Strathfieldsaye, has provided a sound framework to build upon, so that early childhood education and care can be provided more widely across the Diocese, expanding the provision of Catholic Education, in partnership with parishes, Catholic schools and diocesan agencies with particular reference to CatholicCare Victoria.

There is much to celebrate and acknowledge in relation to the first period of the SCECE&C Ltd development. There are also challenges ahead as new sites for services are determined whilst, at the same time, we ensure a high quality of education is provided in the existing services. Resourcing (both personnel and financial) within the Company will continue to be monitored and supported as we move forward into the next phase of establishment for SCECE&C Ltd.

Julie Cobbleyck
Chair of SCECE&C LTD Board
Prepared in collaboration with

Paul Desmond Chief Executive Officer SCECE&C LTD and
Carla Jeffrey Chief Early Childhood Officer SCECE&C LTD





From

REV. BRIAN BOYLE

Director, Diocesan Clergy Life and Ministry

There is now a semblance of normality in the liturgical, pastoral and social activities of our parishes and our Diocese as we emerge from the rigours of Covid restrictions. While the effects of the pandemic on the health and welfare of many people are still quite real, we have seen in the last twelve months an easing of restrictions and particularly the removal of the QR check-in system in our churches. Congregations are returning to our churches. Covid has been a “wrecking ball” through our social and liturgical lives over the last several years. For me, one of the haunting images of the impact of Covid on our worship was that of our Bishop celebrating Mass in the Cathedral, the congregation gathered on the sanctuary and looking into the vast emptiness of the dark Cathedral itself.

As I indicated in my 2021 report, the Diocese has been engaged over the last several years in developing a suite of policies on the welfare and care of the priests. This care on the part of the Diocese needs

to be intentional, focused and comprehensive. The policies and their implementation are some of the principal ways of ensuring this care takes place. The documentation includes policy on the care and formation of priests; program for the welcome, support and acculturation of overseas priests working in the Diocese; policy for the support of recently ordained priests; ministry appraisal and review forms; and, policy on clergy remuneration and support. These documents all received careful scrutiny by the Sandhurst priests at the 2021 in-service at Wangaratta. This documentation is now approaching final form and approval.

An annual feature of the priest’s spiritual life is the retreat, an opportunity to step back from busy pastoral engagement and devote quality time to an essential aspect of his priesthood, namely his relationship with Christ. Our practice in Sandhurst is to have an organised priests’ retreat every alternate year and priests making their own arrangement the other year. In 2021 our retreat was conducted online because of Covid restrictions on gatherings.

In 2022 the responsibility for a retreat rested with each priest. As the Director I arranged for a copy of a recent book on John’s Gospel to be sent to each priest as a possible resource for a retreat. The book was *Come to the Light: Reflections on the Gospel of John* by the eminent Australian biblical scholar, Fr Brendan Byrne SJ. This resource was warmly received. The book consists of some eighteen short reflections on key aspects of the Gospel of John and, as such, quite suitable for retreat reflection and prayer. The priest’s relationship with Christ is primary in his identity and mission. The annual retreat is an established feature for sustaining that relationship.

Another regular feature of priestly professional development is the annual in-service. In 2022 we gathered at *Cadell On The Murray* at Moama, NSW, from 15-18 August. Sandhurst priests are now quite familiar with this resort as the facilities and location suit our purposes very well. A number of clergy gatherings have now been held in Moama. For 2022 the theme of the priests’ in-service was *An Integral Ecology of Life: An Invitation to Ecological*

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Conversion and Action. One of the urgent needs of our time is the development of an ecological awareness of the earth, our common home. The landmark Encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* (2015) explored what an integral ecology of life means for us all. The Encyclical proposed concrete programs and actions which would follow. Care for the planet is the responsibility of each one of us; ecological awareness is an integral part of Christian faith.

In the context of our Moama in-service, we gave prayerful and considered reflection to what an integral ecology of life may involve for each of us and our parishes, for example, our interconnectedness with each other in terms of economic, social and ecological issues, and our recognition that the earth is our common home, for which we all bear some responsibility. We began the in-service with the Smoking Ceremony conducted by Michael Chisholm and Troy Firebrace. Michael and Troy then offered their own personal reflection on the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. Bishop Shane made a presentation on the statement by the Australian Catholic Bishops on ecology entitled *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. Kylie Smith (Catholic Education Sandhurst) offered two sessions on ecological stewardship, and particularly how plastics are a mixed blessing in our economy and the environment. The second day was given over to a series of presentations by Mr Bernard Holland (*Catholic Earthcare Australia*). Bernard led us through a number of practical exercises on ecological awareness and responsibility, drawing on the

action program in *Laudato Si'*. On the final day Fr DJ Sugitan made a presentation of the new heaven and the new earth, drawing on *Genesis* and *Revelation*, the first and last books of the Bible. The point of ecological awareness, of course, is conversion and action, that is, the practical outcomes of this reflection. For me personally, the presentation on plastics, the use and abuse, has challenged me to look at my use of plastics as a consumer.

I have made some reference in this report already to documentation being formatted and prepared on the life and ministry of Sandhurst priests. The Diocese takes its responsibility for the care and formation of its priests seriously. On alternate years a seminar is run at Moama for overseas priests (incardinated or on loan) ministering in the Diocese. On other years a similar seminar is run for those priests recently ordained (five years and under). In March 2022 a seminar was run for overseas priests at Moama. There are a significant number of priests born overseas now ministering in the Diocese, from the Philippines, India and Vietnam. A number of these are in fact incardinated in the Sandhurst Diocese while others are on loan. This gathering provided an opportunity for us, in a relaxed environment, to reflect together on our experience of ministry. Presentations were made by Bishop Shane, Fr Joe Taylor, Fr Paul Sireh O Carm, Christine Sebire (Echuca parishioner), and myself. Our time together reflected many of the aspirations of the Diocesan Program for *Welcome, Support and Acculturation of Overseas Priests*.

In that context the Diocese in 2022 welcomed Fr Uday Kumar Marneni (Wodonga parish), Fr Jophin Joy (Numurkah and Nathalia parishes), Fr Henry Onyirioha from Nigeria who served in the Yarrawonga parish for several months, Mgr Cris Manongas (South Wangaratta parish). We also offer sincere thanks to Fr Shibu Pezumthottathil for his service in the Diocese over several years. The 2023 seminar will be for priests recently ordained.

There were many other celebratory occasions in 2022 when the Sandhurst priests came together. Jackson Saunders was ordained a priest in the Cathedral on March 26, 2022. As a Bendigo resident, Jackson's ordination attracted much local interest. We gathered at the Cathedral in April of Holy Week to celebrate the Chrism Mass with our Bishop. On July 20, we gathered to celebrate our jubilarians: Mons. Frank Marriott 60 years and Bishop Les Tomlinson, Fr Des Welladsen and Fr Vin Walsh, each of whom celebrated 50 years ordination. We see here some two hundred years of priestly ministry and service among these four men.

The Plenary Council was held in Sydney in early July 2022 with Bishop Shane, Fr Joe Taylor and myself attending as clergy representatives of the Diocese. This gathering was a most significant occasion for the Australian Catholic Church. One of its fruits will be the convocation of the Diocesan Pastoral Assembly at Shepparton in February, 2023. With these celebrations and gatherings the Sandhurst clergy mark another year of ends and beginnings.

Very Rev Dr Brian Boyle ADM EV
Director, Clergy Life and Ministry Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst



“I look forward with great excitement and anticipation to everything that is coming in 2023 for Youth Ministry.”

Ruth Lawlor

From

RUTH LAWLOR

Sandhurst Youth Ministry

As 2022 comes to a close I find myself reflecting on how fast it has flown by. Weeks and months blur together, and it is easy to forget everything Youth Ministry has undertaken over the course of the year. The process of writing this annual report provided me with the opportunity to reflect on what the year has brought with it, and, as with previous years, I am surprised how much Sandhurst Youth Ministry (SYM) has been involved with over the year. I have focused on three specific Youth Ministry projects, while acknowledging there have been many other projects and people I

have had the pleasure to connect with in 2022.

Ablaze Days

This year, Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd (CES Ltd) was able to hold the first Ablaze Day gathering since the COVID-19 pandemic. Students gathered in Shepparton and Bendigo for primary and secondary school days. They were able to experience an energetic and prayerful event which included music and dance, talks, games and time for Eucharistic Adoration – all focused around the CES Ltd 2022 theme, “Tell the Good News”.



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These days continue to be a collaborative project between CES Ltd, SYM and FRG Ministry, providing a chance for each to contribute their different gifts and talents to the student experience. This year also saw the Ablaze experience extended through a professional development session for Catholic teachers in both venues.

Familiarisation Tour of Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day 2023

Next year marks the return of the international World Youth Day gathering in Lisbon, Portugal. A pilgrimage of young adults, 18- to 35-year-olds, will travel to Lisbon from Sandhurst. This year has involved laying the groundwork for this pilgrimage, with significant planning taking place in partnership with the travel company, Harvest Journeys.

As part of this planning, I was able to attend an Australian Group Leaders' Familiarisation Tour to Portugal in September. This tour provided opportunities to visit the different locations connected with the event in 2023, as well as meet with Australian Embassy staff and the World Youth Day coordination

team. Participation in this tour has proved to be invaluable and has greatly assisted me when considering accommodation and transport options, to complete risk assessments and finalise an itinerary. During the tour I also visited Fatima, Sintra, and few other small towns and villages near Lisbon. Perhaps most invaluable, though, was simply being present in Portugal to experience the culture firsthand and to better prepare the pilgrims' journeying there next year.

Mission and Pastoral Council Preparation and Consultation Meetings

As a member of the Mission and Pastoral Life Team for the Diocese, I have also been given the opportunity this year to co-facilitate the Preparation and Consultation Meetings across the Diocese. For me, this has felt like a continuation of my involvement in the Plenary Council. I was so pleased to take my experience of listening and discernment, as a member at the Assemblies, and bring it back to share with people in our Diocese.

As part of the process, Dr Chris Cotter and I were able to visit ten of the Diocesan Secondary Schools and involve students and staff in the listening and discernment process. Conversations were positive and engaging, with students offering some fantastic insights into their lived experience, hopes for the future and views on the Church. It may come as a surprise to many how similar the emerging themes were in both parish and educational context. Often there was a different way of expressing ideas, but when it came down to it, many of those involved were sharing the same thoughts.

I have become very aware of the power of going out and gathering with people across the Diocese in many different settings. This has given me a greater insight into how people are experiencing the Church in Sandhurst at this current point in time. The experience of the listening and dialogue process with so many different people continues to fill me with great hope for what is coming next for the Diocese, particularly in the space of Youth Ministry.

Ruth Lawlor
Coordinator Sandhurst Youth Ministry



Safeguarding Child Protection and the Implementation of the Child Safe Standards including adults at risk - 2022

The Diocese has a universal expectation for the protection of children, young people, and adults at risk. It is resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in the Church promote the inherent dignity of children, young people, and adults at risk, as their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe environment. This is particularly so for the most vulnerable children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability. We welcome all children and their families, without discrimination based

From
**ANNE
MCINTOSH**
**Diocesan Safeguarding
Officer**

on sexual orientation, intersex status, or gender identity. The Sandhurst Diocese acknowledges that preventing child abuse requires proactive approaches across policies, procedures and practices within parishes, agencies and entities, consistent with the requirements of the following:

- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Human Rights Commission)
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd)
- Victorian Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme (Commission of Children and Young People Victoria)

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Human Rights Commission)

The National Principles provide a nationally consistent approach to creating organisational cultures that foster child safety and wellbeing. The National Principles are the vehicle for giving effect to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse. They have a broader scope that goes beyond child sexual

abuse to cover other forms of potential harm to children and young people.

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd – National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS)

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) is an advisory group to Catholic Organisations and represents an evolution of safeguarding in the Church. It is a company limited by guarantee. There are three members of the company — Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC), Catholic Religious Australia (CRA), and the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP). ACSL launched edition 1 of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) which create a framework for Catholic entities to promote the safety of children and young people. Edition 1 of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) align with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst has made a commitment to comply with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

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Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd – NCSS edition 2 covering adults at risk as well as children

Edition 2 of the standards were formally launched December 7 2022 and takes into account safeguarding requirements for adults at risk as well as children. The Diocese is in the process of updating policies and procedures to include adults at risk within our policies. The approximate date for complying with edition 2 of the NCSS is June 2024.

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd – Safeguarding Audit of the Diocese of Sandhurst

The ACSL audit (2020-2021), to comply with the NCSS included detailed safeguarding interviews with the Coordinator, key members of the Chancery, and samples from nine parishes across the diocese, concluded in April 2021. The findings of the audit were that, overall, the Diocese has fully implemented or has substantially progressed in the implementation of 96% of the indicators which are relevant to our operations. A further four indicators were in the initial stages of implementation. ACSL provided twelve recommendations; five medium-rated and seven low-rated recommendations. At the close of 2022, the Diocese complies with most of these recommendations. All parishes/organisations are aware of areas needing to ensure compliance and are working towards this.

The Diocese is still working towards complying with two recommendations which should be resolved early in 2023.

CCYP (Commission for Children and Young People) – Victorian Child Safe Standards

The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst embraced the

necessity of compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards (VCSS), following government recommendations to comply with the standards, effective from 1 January 2017.

CCYP – VCSS – New Standards effective 1 July 2022

Since then, VCSS have been updated from 7 to 11 standards to align with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. These new standards provide more clarity and are more consistent with Standards in the rest of Australia including the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

CCYP – VCSS – Standard 1 is a new standard and highlights
“Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued”. Our Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People has recently been updated to strengthen our commitment to welcoming and including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Refer to the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and the Diocesan Website for information regarding how we can communicate with all children and young people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

CCYP – VCSS – New Laws

New laws start on January 1 2023. The new laws include stronger penalties for organisations that do not comply with the Child Safe Standards, and provide the Commission with more powers to assess and enforce compliance with the Standards.

The new laws also change which regulators have a role in enforcing the Standards and the sectors they regulate. This means that some organisations will have a new regulator in January. Organisations which provide multiple types of services to children and young people might have more than one regulator.

Support for parishes and entities in the Diocese

As the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, I have visited most parishes/entities in the past year following on from COVID restrictions, and will continue visitations in 2023 to assist parishes/entities in complying with their Safeguarding obligations. All parishes/entities have been provided with a copy of the updated Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People and a ‘Summary of the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy’ so that they can update with the parish/entity’s name and contact details of the parish Child Safety Officer/s, or Safeguarding Officer/s. This information is to be openly displayed in all Church buildings and on the parish/entity’s website, if applicable.

Clergy and Parish Child Safety Officers/Team members have been overwhelmingly positive in their leadership in child protection activities during 2022. New safeguarding training opportunities will be available in 2023 and all parishes/entities will be notified when the online training module is available. The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst is dedicating significant resources to reform in order to apply best practice to ensure that children, young people, and adults at risk in our Diocese flourish and thrive.

Anne McIntosh
Diocesan Safeguarding Officer



From

CATHOLIC CARE VICTORIA

disadvantage in Victoria. Drawing our diverse teams and services together into a cohesive and focused organisation is an ongoing work of substantial proportion, and this year we took significant steps towards cementing that vision.

Vision, Mission, and Values

During 2022, after much consultation and thought, we defined our vision, our mission, and our values. In a letter to staff about the importance of defining our values together, Agnes Sheehan, CEO wrote, "Our Values define what we stand for and guide how we operate, make decisions, behave, and interact with others. Strongly, clearly articulated values can play an important role in building a positive culture at CatholicCare Victoria."

We are all responsible for living our Values and therefore it was important that we all had an opportunity to help shape our Values and Behaviours that Matter."

It was for this reason that CatholicCare Victoria undertook a lengthy consultation process to find out which values resonated with staff and reflected the heart of our organisation – both as who we are and who we desire to be. After several months, our values were finalised as:

Respectfulness

We value people for who they are and recognise what they are doing. We interact with others honestly and in a positive, considerate, and caring manner.

Inclusivity

We welcome everybody, working to enable everyone to feel like they belong and have a place - from a face to be seen and a voice to be heard.

Compassion

We connect with each other's stories. We acknowledge the inherent strengths and diverse experiences of others. We act with kindness and care in all our relationships, helping each other to address our challenges in a safe and welcoming environment.

Integrity

We value the work we do. We are fair, honest, and trustworthy. We act professionally, take accountability for our actions, and keep our promises.

Collaboration

We walk alongside clients, communities, and each other. We contribute to the work and lives of others so that we can all achieve our best, together.

In collaboration with the Members, we also finalised our guiding vision and mission.

Vision:

Walking in the footsteps of Jesus who came to bring life to the full for all humanity, ours is a vision of thriving, inclusive communities where people, as created in the image of God, experience their unique dignity in a compassionate and just society.

Mission:

We seek to reflect God's love for each person by enabling transformational personal and social impact in partnership with individuals, families, and communities. We bring excellence in care, compassion and hope.

These important pieces will guide and shape the ongoing work we do, as well as the culture that we embrace within the organisation.

They also provided the springboard from which to launch our new Strategic Plan.

Strategic Plan and Roadshows

In August we were proud to launch our five-year Strategic Plan, in which we focus our efforts on initiatives that will have the greatest impact to promote fullness of life for all, and to disrupt the cycle of disadvantage for those who are most vulnerable and/or marginalised across the state.

Our Strategic Plan also shines a light on our priority investment areas, understanding that to boost our capability to successfully deliver our social change agenda, we will need to transform our systems and processes.

We will develop and use a range of measures to evaluate

the impact of our work in disrupting disadvantage. We will continually review and evaluate our work and embed learnings from our clients about their experiences; and we will ensure all CatholicCare Victoria client programs have impact/outcome measures which capture whether clients are achieving goals they have identified, leading to transformational change.

We have supported significant change whilst continuing our daily operational commitments to clients. We are excited to build on the success of our previous organisations: to enhance and strengthen our services, to amplify our scale and reach, and to advocate for fairness and justice, so that we can provide the best possible support and empowerment to our clients.

The launch of the plan was followed by a very significant two-day conference held in Melbourne, which drew leaders from across CCV to work together on how our new strategy would be implemented. This was followed up by a series of Strategy Roadshow events held at offices across the state. These events saw our CEO, Agnes Sheehan, meet with staff throughout Victoria, from Warrnambool, to Shepparton, to Mildura, and spend time collecting valuable insight into how our new Strategy could be expressed across our diverse services and sites.

Emergency Relief

When CatholicCare Victoria came together in 2021, we were running separate Emergency Relief (ER) programs across the state. We have now achieved a centralised

approach to service delivery for Emergency Relief, including the implementation of one phone system across our team. This has not only improved efficiency for our service but also improved client experience, making processes smoother for people accessing our support.

When COVID-19 initially hit our shores, our Emergency Relief team moved to remote deployment and our volunteers for the program were disengaged. But we are proud to say we have since been able to reengage with our volunteers and continue remote deployment of staff, enabling increased capacity to support struggling families and individuals experiencing financial crises.

We have also since expanded our ER support with additional digital and physical vouchers for Kmart, St Vinnies stores, and Myki travel cards. And we have established close internal links with our NILS and Financial Counselling teams at CatholicCare Victoria, improving internal referrals and enabling better wrap-around support for clients.

ParentsNext: Ebony's Story

Accessible within the Sandhurst diocese, the ParentsNext program is a support service for parents with children under six who receive Parenting Payments. We assist participants to plan and prepare for future study and work goals with the ultimate goal of being ready to enter the world of work by the time their youngest child starts school.

Ebony was referred to ParentsNext in 2018 when her second child turned nine months old. She

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attended her first appointment with us in October and spoke to one of our advisors about her goals.

Ebony decided that she wanted to study community services but didn't know how to go about it. Our advisor referred her to a local training organisation, and she started study in the following weeks. She enrolled in a Certificate IV in Community Services which was funded through ParentsNext along with childcare for her two children, enabling her to study.

When Ebony finished her Certificate IV in Community Services in 2019 she was assisted through ParentsNext to create a resume. She secured employment as a job coach with a disability employment services provider in Shepparton, but Ebony couldn't forget the help she had from ParentsNext, and she really wanted to be a part of our program.

This year Ebony applied for a Team Leader role with CatholicCare Victoria based in our Shepparton office. Although she didn't have the managerial or leadership background required, we gave her the opportunity due to her great interview and responses to our key selection criteria.

Ebony is now in her dream job - working within the program that supported and assisted her to get where she is today.

Communities for Children in Greater Shepparton

The Greater Shepparton Communities for Children (GS CfC) program is a place-based initiative funded by the Australian Government.

The GS CfC provides funding and other support to early intervention and prevention programs, which are targeted at children and families who are most disadvantaged in the City of Greater Shepparton.

As the Greater Shepparton Communities for Children Facilitating Partner, CatholicCare Victoria works strategically to address local needs, supporting early childhood development and wellbeing from before birth to 12 years old.

Community Partners are subcontracted to deliver these programs and services in the community. We also seek to build local service capabilities based on evidence of what works in early intervention and prevention.

In the 2021/22 year we funded six different organisations (our Community Partners) in the Greater Shepparton area to deliver nine different programs. This

resulted in 1,748 client sessions, and 914 clients who received support from GS CfC funded programs.

The Greater Shepparton Communities for Children program also:

- continued to fund the Practice Seminar Series. This series provided bimonthly training to the local workforce on topics including 'Building Parental Capacity' and 'Managing Wellbeing and Recognising Vicarious Trauma'.
- developed a new four-year Strategic Plan with four key priority areas being inclusive services; workforce capacity and capability; families and parenting; and positive mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- sponsored seven local community service workers to attend the internationally recognised Circle of Securing training in Melbourne.
- sponsored five people to complete the internationally recognised Measurement, Evaluation and Learning Course.



Brent Grimes
Communications Officer - Internal Communications Lead Engagement

Pictured - Agnes Sheehan
Chief Executive Officer CatholicCare Victoria



From

REV. JAKE MUDGE

Coordinator of Seminarians Corpus Christi College

Like so many, the College was thankful this year for a return to classes, pastoral work and travel, following the unpredictable schedule of the previous years.

In March, the College community travelled to Bendigo to join Jackson Saunders, his family and friends, and the wider Diocese for the celebration of his ordination. It was a great occasion, and the College community enjoyed travelling to support Jackson and his family on such a significant occasion.

Earlier this year, Adonis Pena decided to return home to be with his family and was very thankful for his time with the Diocese. “Don”, as he is known by many, was an active visitor to many

parishes in the Diocese, and was a popular presence during his time in Australia.

Dominic Manatad is spending some time reconnecting with family and friends in the Philippines. He has been in touch with many from the Diocese and sent his Christmas and New Year greetings to all at the end of 2022.

In the second half of 2022, Ezekiel Hangan completed Clinical Pastoral Education in Wangaratta. Based in the parish and local health settings, Ezekiel gained qualifications in this specialised training for ministry, which is often a prerequisite for those working in various chaplaincy roles.

In May this year, the College welcomed two seminarians from the Philippines, Jhunel Mendez and Jonard Cosmo. Both were able to join in the seminary programme

and life of the College. Jhunel has applied to join the Diocese of Sandhurst as a seminarian and plans to arrive in Australia in early 2023.

In November 2022, the Trustees of the College appointed a new Rector, Fr Cameron Forbes. Fr Cameron, a priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, replaces Fr Denis Stanley who served for six years in this position. 2023 will be a significant year for the College, as it prepares to celebrate its Centenary. Since its inception in 1923, the College has existed in four locations – Werribee, Glen Waverley, Clayton, and Carlton.

On behalf of the College community, we would like to thank the Diocese for their continued interest, support and prayers – they are very much appreciated! We wish everyone God’s blessing for 2023.

Rev. Jacob Mudge
Coordinator of Seminarians
Corpus Christi College



Ordained a Priest **JACKSON SAUNDERS**

"I was filled with a sense of awe and wonder." "Each of us has a calling, and today, I give thanks to God for mine; the gift of ordained priesthood ... our gifts differ but we are all part of the one Body in Christ."

The Ordination to the Priesthood of St Monica's Golden Square parishioner and former Sandhurst Youth Ministry worker, Jackson Saunders, brought an air of jubilation to Sacred Heart Cathedral on March 26.

Fr Jackson, who was baptised at St Patrick's, Marong, and educated at St Monica's Kangaroo Flat and Catholic College Bendigo, was on his home turf. Surrounded by family, friends and community members who have prayed for him over his seminarian years. It was an emotionally overwhelming day for many, especially Fr Jackson. Fr Jackson said he was filled with wonder and awe and has

been grateful for people's prayers and support over the years, and especially on the weekend of his Ordination.

Fr Jackson's Thanksgiving Mass at St Kilian's, Bendigo was an equally moving day with the Church filled to capacity. Bishop Shane Mackinlay, St Kilian's Parish Administrator, Fr Junray Rayna, and several priests from across the Sandhurst Diocese and Melbourne Archdiocese concelebrated with Fr Jackson. "My Thanksgiving Mass was a special moment, and it was humbling to lead people in the celebration of the Eucharist," said Fr Jackson.

Pictured below, Clergy at the Thanksgiving Mass





Celebration of Service 2022 JUBILARIANS

"To love God and to love God's people is at the very centre of a priest's existence. To live that out in prayer and service, is the way that priests make sense of their life and find meaning." Most Rev. Leslie Tomlinson

Bishop Leslie Tomlinson – 50 Years – Ordained a Priest of the Archdiocese of Melbourne at Red Cliffs on August 18, 1972, Ordained a Bishop at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne on the June 17, 2009. Installed as Bishop of Sandhurst at Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo on March 1, 2012. “There is no side-stepping the essential nature of prayer. We are all called to be in a relationship with God and the way we pursue that relationship is through prayer and through work in our parish community. It is important for all of us, but especially for priests, that we never move away from the fact that it is God we seek to serve and that our most fundamental relationship is with God ...”

Monsignor Francis Marriott – 60 Years – Ordained a Priest of the Diocese of Sandhurst at Sacred Heart Cathedral Bendigo on June 29, 1962. Mons Frank has worked in 13 of Sandhurst’s 40 Parishes. He served as Diocesan Administrator from December 2010 to March 2012 and as Vicar General from May 2012 to January 2015. “I’ve often been asked to ‘do something about something’,

perhaps because of my profile as a priest in town, or perhaps because I played cricket! There is more to a human being than contributing to earthly society as people of faith, we’re on about something different, something complimentary.”

Rev. Fr Des Welladsen – 50 Years – Ordained a Priest of the Diocese of Sandhurst at Chiltern on May 20, 1972 “Seeing so many people use their talents and abilities to be part of the Church is inspiring and encouraging, if you create the right environment people’s faith-life can flourish and we all learn so much from each other. I hope people get faith out of their heads and into their body, into the rest of their life.”

Rev. Fr Vin Walsh – 50 Years – Ordained a Priest of the Diocese of Sandhurst at Rutherglen on May 20, 1972 “My life in the priesthood on a personal level has brought me great satisfaction, with many highlights. Probably the greatest satisfaction comes from when people accept me, not specifically for who I am, but for what I am and what I represent.”

Fr Edward Joseph Harte was born on the third day of the third month in 1933 and was coincidentally ordained a Catholic Priest when he was 33 years old. A quiet achiever, Fr Harte was known, not only for his commitment to Pastoral life, but also his delight in engaging with his wider community. In 2018, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the Catholic Church and to the community.

The sixth child of eight children to Harold and Elsie Harte, Fr Harte joined the seminary in 1958 when he was 25 years old. At the time, he was considered a 'late vocation', ordained a priest at St Brendan's Church, Shepparton on July 23, 1966, Fr Harte served in the parishes of Euroa, Wangaratta, Shepparton and White

Hills, where he was Parish Priest for 37 years until his retirement in January 2017. Fr Harte worked as Chaplain to many hospitals in the region and also took the opportunity, to serve for several months as an assistant priest at St John the Evangelist Parish in New York City.

A distinguished patron, committee member and life member of the Marong Racing Club and Chaplin to the Bendigo Jockey Club at Fr Harte's funeral Mass, friend and fellow priest Fr Andrew Fewings said, "Fr Ted had many foretastes of the promises of God: fine wine among friends — the happy hours in the



parish on Fridays and many social occasions, and at the races' finishing line — he was noted for very good collects from the Tote ... Of course, more than the material blessings, he received and gave many spiritual blessings."

March 3, 1933 – January 2, 2022

Rev Ted Harte **IN MEMORIAM** *Rev Owen Doyle*

Fr Owen Doyle's recount of his journey to the priesthood. "One weekend, on a visit to my sister in Murchison, the priest mentioned the scarcity of priests and my reaction was that perhaps I could help fill the ranks. At that time our assistant priest at Greensborough had studied

as a mature-aged student at St Paul's Seminary in Sydney, so our Parish Priest, Fr Kierce, sent me to St Paul's and I was ordained four years later on September 8, 1988 for Sandhurst Diocese. Because I was well into my sixties, I did not have to do a pastoral year before ordination. I was sent to

Beechworth to help over Christmas and New Year and spent a couple of months there when the parish priest went on holidays. He had everything organised, even a wedding in the Beechworth Goal. My first appointment was to Numurkah (the Parish Priest was Fr Gerald Moylan, a classmate) for almost two years, then to St Kilian's, Bendigo

for almost two years. After which I was parish priest at Rushworth for just short of twenty-one years until I retired at the age of 89, twenty five years of being ordained to the very day: Our Lady's birthday, September 8, 2013."

Before his retirement, in May 2013 Fr Owen was awarded the Bishop Noel Daly Award for Outstanding Service to Leadership in Catholic Education in the Diocese of Sandhurst.

Almost one hundred years of life in the service of God and others was eulogised at Fr Owen Doyle's Funeral Mass. In his Homily Fr Rom Hayes described Fr Doyle as "a wonderful man, husband, father, who became an amazing priest in our Diocese; a man who accepted the call to a new way of life and approached it in his own unique way."

May 30, 1924 - March 7, 2022



Knights of the Southern Cross

CENTENARY OF SERVICE

On Saturday September 10 Members and friends gathered to commemorate the centenary of the Bendigo Branch of the Order of the Knights of the Southern Cross. Mass was celebrated at St Kilian's Church and followed by lunch where members who have served with the Knights for fifty and even sixty years were formally acknowledged. State Council Members, and members from Kerang, Wangaratta and Yarrawonga joined the celebrations and members were especially pleased that many of the wives of deceased members also attended.



Branch Chairman, Kevin Lane, said the Knights felt very blessed to have so many Sandhurst priests concelebrating the Centenary Mass, we thank our clergy for so strongly supporting our KSC Centenary celebrations and the activities of the Knights in Sandhurst over the years". There were almost 80 attendees at the lunch, where KSC Honour Boards, photographs and memorabilia were on display and Certificates acknowledging 50 and 60 long years of service to the community as members of the Knights were presented.



Lyn Breen

RETIREMENT

Having worked under the leadership of three bishops, for over 16 years, there is no doubt that Diocese of Sandhurst, Chancery employee, Lyn Breen, has seen much change in the Diocese. Lyn has worked with commitment, passion and skill in Faith Education, Pastoral Ministry Formation, Accreditation and Spirituality. In recent years, Lyn has made a strong and enthusiastic contribution to the Diocesan Care for Creation Team.

Many of you have walked with Lyn in the faith education journey of our diocese and will have used the high-quality resources she has carefully designed to support parishes, families, and individuals. Many parishioners have had their experience of faith deepened and enriched thanks to



Lyn's resources, programs, seminars, and reflection days. All of us are deeply grateful for the gifts Lyn has brought to her role and for her unwavering support for all who contribute to the life of the Diocese.

Bishop Shane spoke of Lyn's faith and missionary discipleship: "Long before Pope Francis started talking about missionary disciples, Lyn was living that out and calling with great passion and commitment for us to make that a central priority of all our activities. Everything that Lyn does is connected to her commitment to mission and her determination to encourage us to build up our engagement with one another and to be people of mission who live out our vocation together as disciples."



Celebrating Twenty Years CATHOLIC EARTHCARE

"Catholic Earthcare has made it easy to address the seven goals and journey towards becoming living Laudato Si' communities",

Catholic Earthcare Celebrated 20 Years with Growing Network. The day started with lunch for 150 guests at St Mary's College Nathalia. Participants then walked symbolically from the school to Uncle Bob's Park, where they were welcomed to Country by Yorta Yorta man, Troy Firebrace.

Sue Martin, Catholic Earthcare Australia's Coordinator, shared the Earthcare Journey over 20 years. Catholic Earthcare, now a program of Caritas Australia, was founded in 2002 in response to the Bishops' Social Justice statement, A New Earth, which called for ecological conversion. Its role has evolved into developing a response to Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudato Si', and the seven Laudato Si' Goals which emerged and were given real impetus by this year's Bishops' Statement Cry of the Earth, Cry of

the Poor. Sue brought greetings from Bishop Long, Bishops' Committee for Justice, Ecology and Peace, whose own Diocese has taken a similar path to Sandhurst, with the Diocese joining the international platform and parishes/schools partnering with Catholic Earthcare.

Bishop Shane Mackinlay spoke of the Australia Catholic Bishops' commitment to Laudato Si' Action and his pride in the Diocese of Sandhurst's response to the call to action, with more than half of schools and parishes already partnered with Earthcare. Bishop Shane then commissioned all Earthcare Parish/School representatives who received a Laudato Si' Certificate and Badges and a tree.

"Catholic Earthcare has made it easy to address the seven goals and journey towards becoming living Laudato Si'

communities", says Richard Landels, Caritas Australia's Advancement Director.

"The Earthcare Schools' program began earlier but since the launching of the Laudato Si' goals, it's gained momentum and the newly developed Parish program has mushroomed."

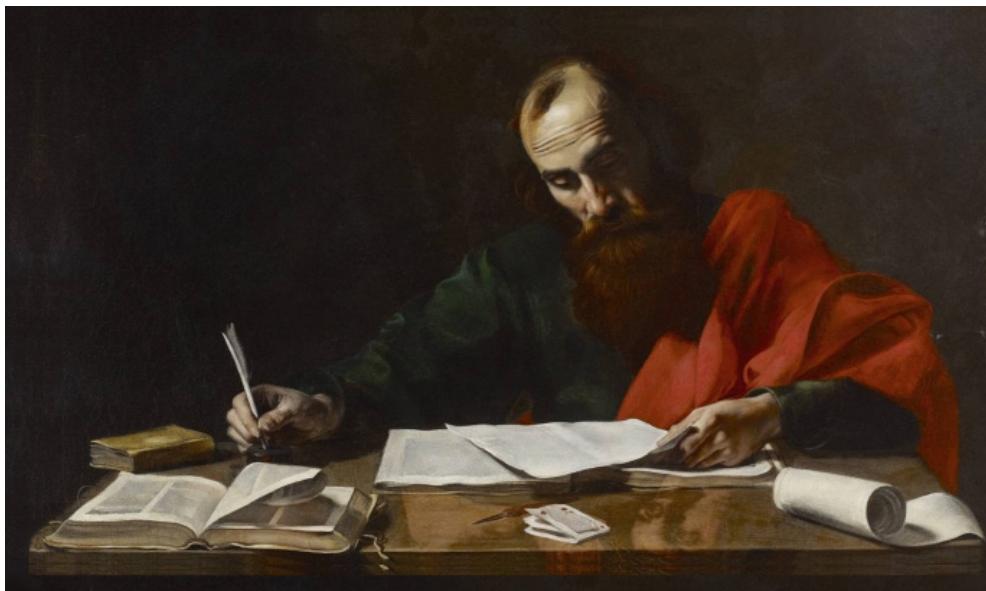
Fr Joe Taylor, Vicar-General and Parish Priest of Shepparton explains why -- "I'm really excited about becoming an Earthcare parish. We've wanted to do something, and this framework gives us a way to do it". An Anniversary Cake was cut by Bishop Shane and Sue Martin. "Our Earthcare process is filling a need for communities across the nation who want to do something about the 'cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'", says Sue Martin, Earthcare Coordinator.

"Our Earthcare process is filling a need for communities across the nation who want to do something about the 'cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'"

Sandhurst Diocese Highlights

MISSION & PASTORAL LIFE

'that every person's heart be inflamed by the love of God'



SANDHURST SCRIPTURE TALKS 2022

Over four Thursday evenings in June, the Diocese hosted a series of live Zoom talks on Sacred Scripture. Titled, “Growing faith communities for our mission today: Insights from the genius of St Paul”, the series was designed to support the faith-life of Sandhurst parishioners, particularly in the light of our 2022 context: the diocesan Go Forth review, the Plenary Council of the Australian Church, the Synod on Synodality and our broader socio-cultural reality. Presenters looked to St Paul for insights into ways to grow faith communities for mission in our times. The live online talks were recorded and made available, on request, along with study notes.

Presenters, who are pictured on the right of page, were Dr Rosemary Canavan – Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological College, with particular expertise in the writings of St Paul. Very Rev Dr Brian Boyle EV – Adjunct lecturer at Catholic Theological College and is a member of the Department of Biblical Studies, lecturing in Biblical Studies (Old Testament). He is the Episcopal Vicar for Education in the Diocese of Sandhurst and Administrator of the Cathedral Parish cluster in Bendigo, and Dr Chris Cotter – Director of Mission and Pastoral Life the Diocese of Sandhurst. One

of Chris’ research interests is the contribution of practical theology to renewed understandings of mission in the Australian Church.

SANDHURST THEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

To support the mission formation of pastoral leaders in parishes, the Diocese offered scholarships for Sandhurst parishioners to study theology at a post-graduate level in 2022. The scholarships were administered through the office of Dr Chris Cotter, Director of Mission and Pastoral Life. In 2022 there was one scholarship recipient.

It is anticipated that there will be more recipients of the next round of scholarships in Semester I 2023. The scholarships subsidises approved post-graduate level theology coursework delivered online by Catholic Theological College, Melbourne, or the year-long Spiritual Leaders Program at Heart of Life, Melbourne.



The Cover of the 2022 Year in Review features ‘The World in Our Hands’ the artwork which Bishop Shane Mackinlay personally chose as the winner of the Bishop’s Choice Award (Senior) from entries in Catholic Education Sandhurst’s 2022 MacKillop Art Awards. Bishop Shane chose ‘Welcome’ as the winner of the Bishop’s Choice Award (Primary).

The Bishop’s Choice Award was presented for the first time in 2022 in recognition of the connection

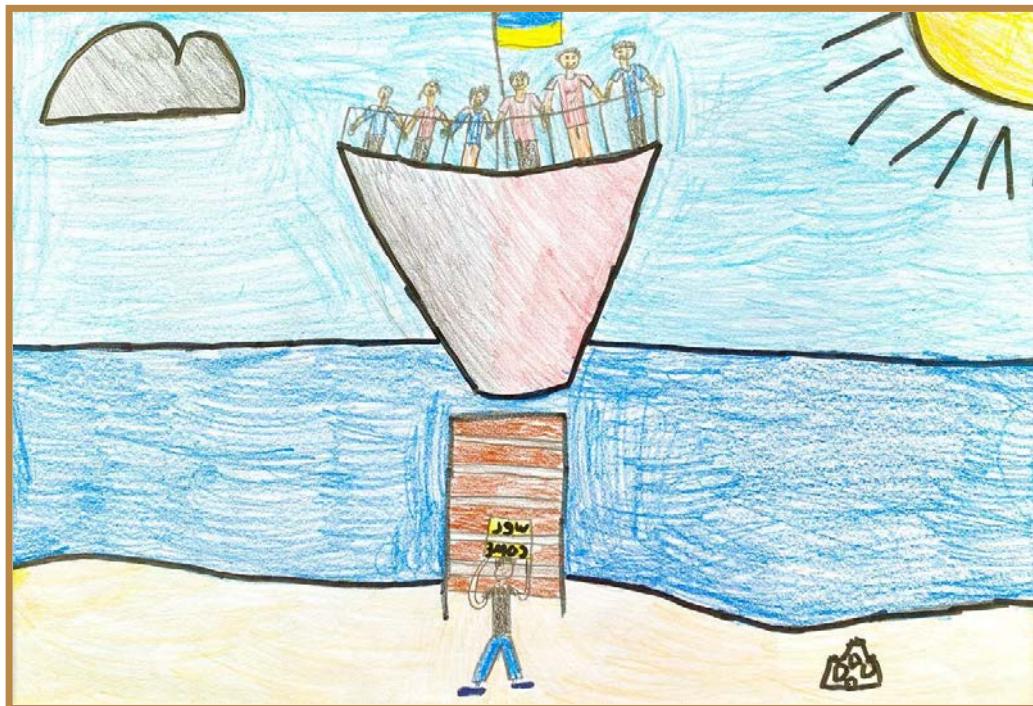
between Bishop Shane Mackinlay and the Sandhurst education community which he serves. Bishop Shane acknowledges the importance of celebrating, affirming, and supporting the students of Sandhurst in their creative endeavours and the award highlights the value of The Arts in the life of the church.

‘Welcome’ Coloured pencil and marker on paper by Harrison Williams, Year 5 from St Joseph’s Primary School, Chiltern.

Artist statement; “I can welcome the people of Ukraine into Australia as part of sharing the Good News.” Harrison Williams.

Bishop Shane Mackinlay said of Harrison’s work “We have all been deeply moved by the suffering of the Ukrainian people since their country was invaded. This work of art thoughtfully reflects on the practical needs of the Ukrainian people, and the way we can share Jesus’ good news by welcoming them,”

Catholic Education Sandhurst MACKILLOP ART AWARDS



WELCOME

On the Cover



THE WORLD IN OUR HANDS

'The World in Our Hands' mono Print combined with a Relief of Lino Print By Shaye Couch, Year 10, Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo Winner of the Bishops' Choice (Secondary) Award, MacKillop Art Awards 2022

Responding to the passage:

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace, the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees

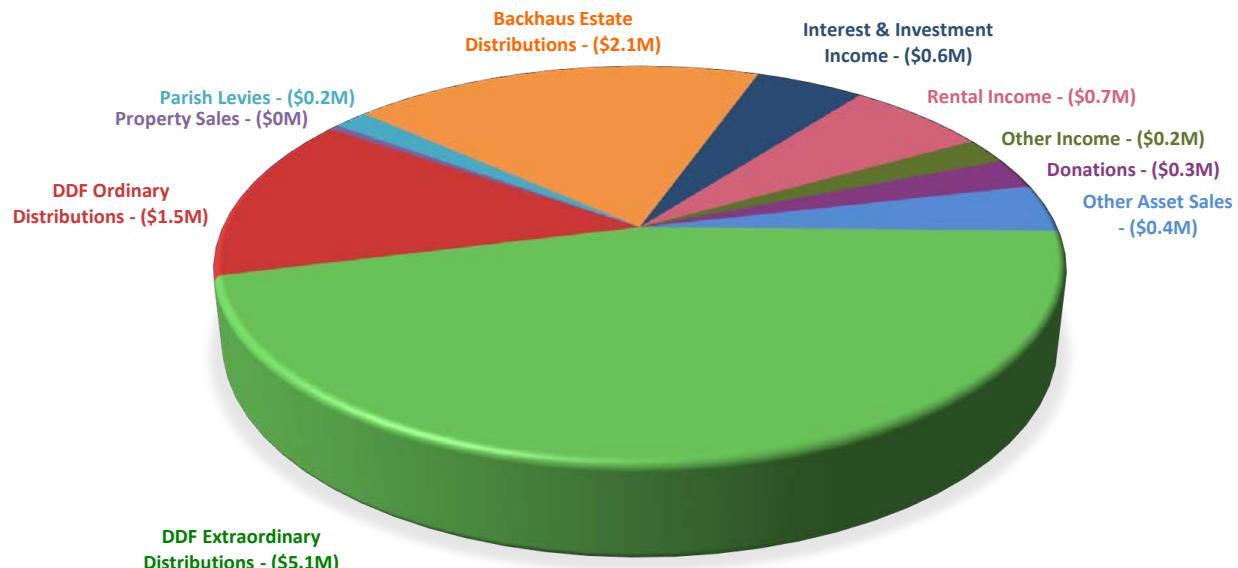
of the field shall clap their hands." [Isaiah 55:12]

Artist statement; "I focused on the connection to nature. This revealed my idea to connect the human with the world on which they lived. I wanted to show the connection we have with nature. I wanted to show this by loosely drawing the hands using a mono printing technique, then overlaying the tree using the Lino Relief print," Shaye Couch.

"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. This work of art beautifully illustrates our connection to nature and our responsibility to care for it, responding to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

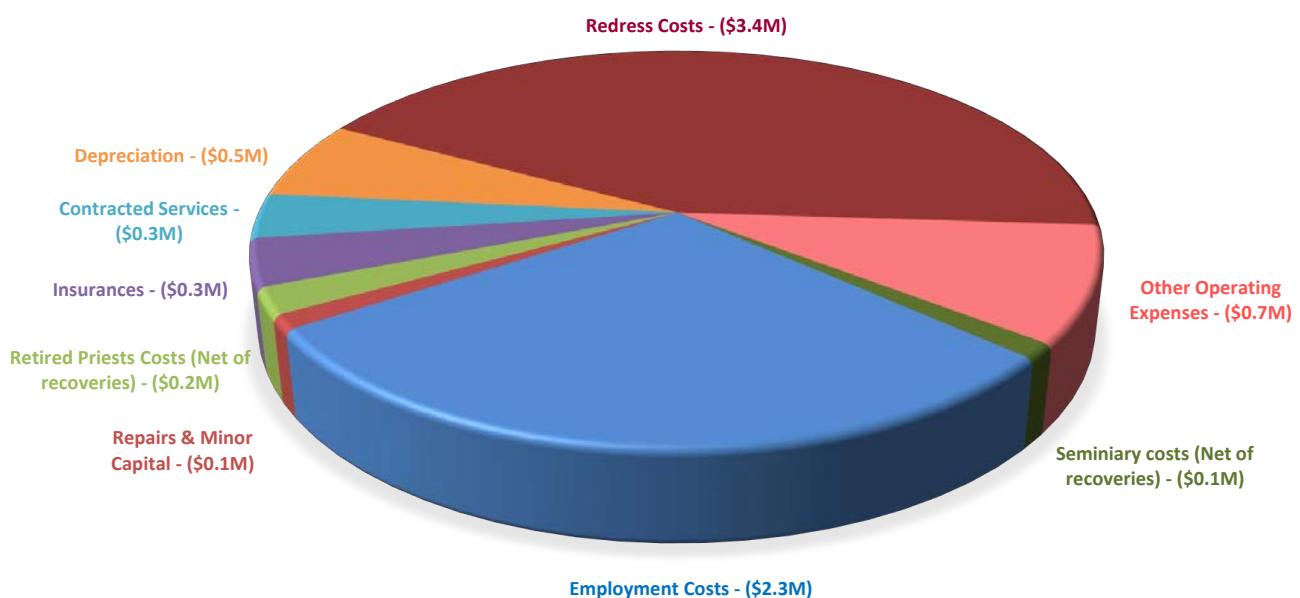
Bishop Shane Mackinlay

INCOME



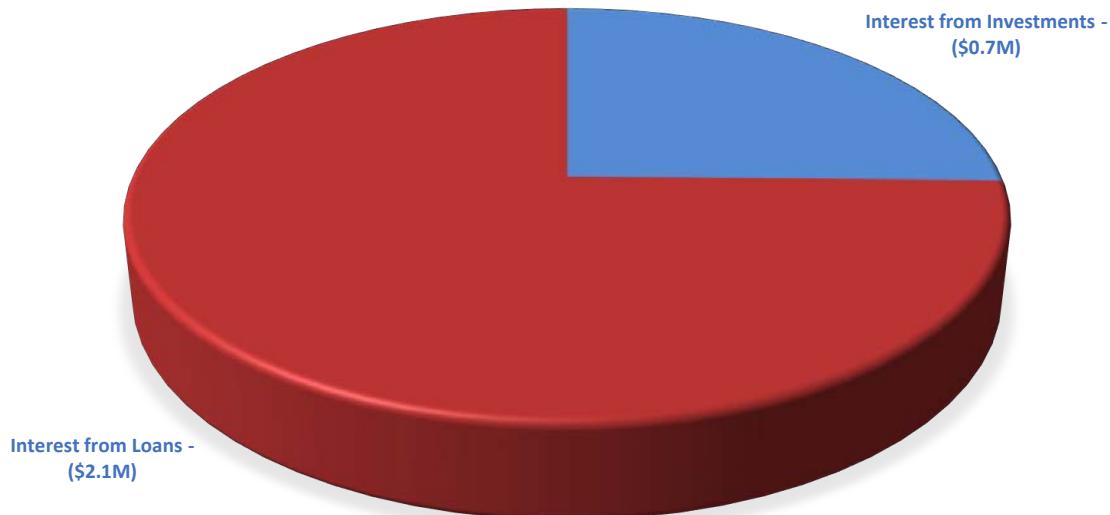
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST

EXPENDITURE



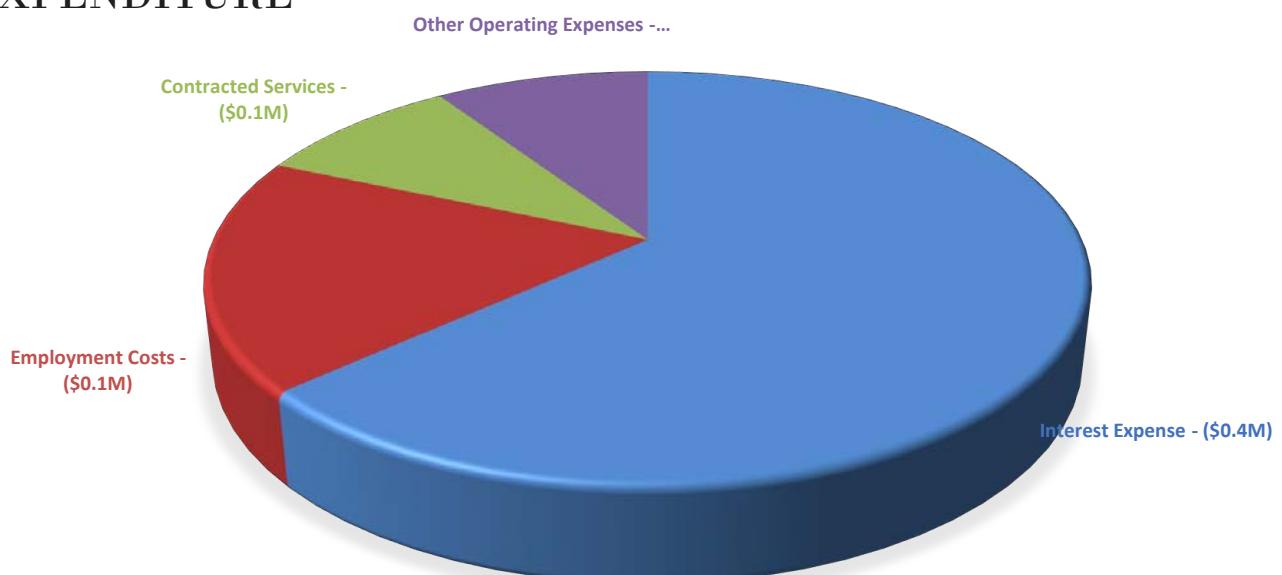
Financial Year Ended 30 June 2022

INCOME



DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

EXPENDITURE



Caring for Our Common Home and working towards Laudato Si' Goals via *Catholic Earthcare*

In May 2015 Pope Francis published his second encyclical, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home." Laudato Si' is a call for action to address the human roots of the environmental challenges we face understanding that it is the world's most vulnerable and poor who are always most impacted by environmental disaster.

In 2020 the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development launched the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP), an online platform which provides a framework for Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools and entities to work towards the Seven Laudato Si' goals over seven years.

Bishop Shane has committed the Diocese of Sandhurst to the Laudato Si' Action Platform and, in 2022, called for all Sandhurst Parishes and Schools to enrol as Catholic Earthcare Parishes and Catholic Earthcare Schools. as a means to work towards the Laudato Si' goals in the Australian context.

On 23 May 2022 Bishop Shane Mackinlay commissioned representatives from Sandhurst parishes and schools who had formalised their commitment to Laudato Si' action goals by enrolling in the Catholic Earthcare programme.

Bishop Shane Mackinlay spoke of the Australian Catholic Bishops' commitment to Laudato Si' Action and his pride in the Diocese of Sandhurst's response to the call to action, with more than half of schools and parishes already partnered with Earthcare.







CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST