Knowing the value of Baptism is vital, says Pope
Alice Springs — 20th Anniversary Assembly Celebrations
Journey to Alice inspires Notre Dame Student
...and then there was Christmas

“Joy to the world” at Christmas is still a prevailing sentiment that permeates our lives. Such a positive message can be transforming if we let ourselves be open to hear the original story as it was intended with its freshness and promise of hope. Despite every attempt by the commercial world to drain the real significance out of the feast of Christmas the season remains one where people enthusiastically attempt to wish peace and happiness for others. And that, like the birth of our Saviour, is worth remembering.

It has been a harrowing year in so many ways. The stories of war and suffering punctuated our news bulletins regularly and there seemed never to be an end to the special appeals to assist with some catastrophe or relief operation. It has been as though we have been caught up in some perpetual cycle of disaster. The sudden dawning of the realization of climate change, even by those who previously championed the denial of that school of thought, has added to the mix that is our life. On the local scene there have been front-page stories of deprivation and suffering noted in some of our communities. Large Government surpluses have been recorded but the current investment in services, housing and infrastructure has barely dented the on-going demand for assistance that is so evident throughout the Kimberley and other parts of rural Australia. This is the world in which we live and it is where God has placed us.

Jesus was born into a world of suffering too. His very beginning in a stable in Bethlehem was a statement in poverty. Like many struggling in our country today Mary and Joseph didn’t have the luxury of excessive leisure time. Happily they had work to help them to be good providers. Certainly as we survey the scene in the stable it becomes clear that the holy family were battlers in every sense of the word who celebrated the birth of the boy child with enormous joy and flourishing hope.

For all people of faith it is important that we voice clearly our commitment to do whatever we can to alleviate the suffering of others and to remove injustice whenever that is possible. Contemplating the birth of Jesus the Christ, gives us the hope – even in the face of overwhelming odds – that is transforming, that can bring real joy to the world – a world which is largely godless and consequently directionless. Our Christmas liturgies are wonderful opportunities to engender a sense of gratitude to God for the gift of our planet and for all those in it. Our Christmas prayer can animate us to be ever committed to bringing Christ to our world and recognizing what joy there is in deep faith.

I wish you and all your family God’s choicest blessings this Christmas. May Christ through you bring true joy to the world God has entrusted to us.

+ Christopher Saunders
Bishop of Broome

Made by Vatican Television, “Octava Dies” (Eight Days) is a weekly half hour round up of the activities of the Pope and the Vatican.

“God in Tibet” This week (10-16 December) in Australia we mark Human Rights Week. One important factor within human rights is religious freedom, and one country that has received a lot of attention in regard to human rights is Tibet. This film looks at the Southwest corner of Tibet, known as the ‘roof-of-the-world’. Geographically isolated, a unique culture and tradition of Catholicism has survived, exceptional to Buddhist Tibet, and the present communist rule.

“The Search for Christmas” As we celebrate the great Christian feast of Christmas, we join Madga Szubanski as she talks with her comic mates about their Christmas stories, and what the birth of Jesus in our lives can mean at any time of year.
**Briefly Speaking**

**FR DES REID**, Parish Priest of Port Hedland, was a welcome visitor when he came to spend some time with confreres, Fr Bernard and Edward, on the Dampier Peninsula.

Photo: CAS.

**FR GERRY NEAGLE**, a Redemptorist priest, is no stranger to the Kimberley as once again he has arrived on the locum circuit; this time to supply in Derby Parish while Fr Paul is on leave.

Photo: CAS.

**MR PATRICK DODSON**, Foundation Chair of the Lingiari Foundation and well known national advocate for Indigenous Rights and Reconciliation, was a guest lecturer at Notre Dame University’s Broome Campus on 1 November 2006. Patrick was invited to lecture to the class, “Spirituality and Challenge of Reconciliation”, a core unit for all students at the University. Other students and staff also attended the lecture. Patrick’s two hour lecture was entitled “Reconciliation and the Future: Possibilities and Probabilities”.

**BENJAMIN SEBASTIAN** of B&J Building Consultants and Steel Supplies in Broome has been honoured with the title, Master Builders Regional Apprentice of the Year, at a prestigious awards evening held in Perth on Friday 6 October 2006.

In May this year Ben won the Master Builders North West Regional Apprentice of the Year Award for the Kimberley Pilbara region. The award was sponsored by FMC Australasia Pty Ltd, manufacturer of the HomeGuard Precision Termite Management system. FMC Australasia Pty Ltd also funded Ben’s travel and accommodation costs when he attended the Master Builders Apprentice Awards in Perth.

**SR KERIN CALDWELL** who serves on her congregation’s Council of the Superior recently made a pastoral visit to the Good Samaritan sisters in Broome and Derby. While in the Kimberley Sr Kerin visited the sisters’ places of ministry and met with Bishop Saunders.

**SR JOHANNA SSJG** was a recent visitor to the Kimberley. She came over from Melbourne to assist the Sisters of St John of God with their work on an electronic pictorial collection to be available for public viewing in June 2007 as part of the Sisters of St John of God Centenary Festival.

Sr Johanna worked with Madeleine Jadai of La Grange-Bidyadanga closely examining photos for next year’s Centenary Festival. Photo: P Rhatigan SSJG.

**FR DES REID**, Parish Priest of Port Hedland, was a welcome visitor when he came to spend some time with confreres, Fr Bernard and Edward, on the Dampier Peninsula.

Photo: CAS.
The missionary commitment of a Christian is sustained through a rediscovery of the importance of his baptism, says Benedict XVI. The Holy Father took advantage of the moment to comment on the Gospel passage of the day’s liturgy. Mark 10:46-52 recounts the curing of the blind man Bartimaeus, wrought by a miracle of Jesus, an event whose decisive moment was the “personal, direct encounter between the Lord and that man who was suffering,” said Benedict XVI.

“They are before one another: God with his will to cure and the man with his desire to be cured,” the Pope observed. “Two liberties, two converging wills.” The blind man’s entreaty, full of faith, ends in the miracle. “God’s joy, man’s joy,” said the Holy Father. And from that moment, Bartimaeus became a disciple of Jesus, “and he goes up with the Master to Jerusalem to take part with him in the great mystery of salvation,” the Pontiff recalled.

In places where baptism is received as a child, the Pope continued, “catechetical and spiritual experiences are proposed to young people and adults which enable them to undertake a path of rediscovery of the faith in a mature and conscious way, in order to assume later a coherent commitment to witness.”

The task carried out by pastors and catechists in this field is crucial, the Holy Father said. “The rediscovery of the value of one’s baptism is the basis of the missionary commitment of every Christian. “The Gospel shows that he who lets himself be fascinated by Christ cannot do without witnessing the joy of following in his footsteps.” He concluded: “We understand even more that, in virtue of baptism, we have an inherent missionary vocation.”

Knowing the value of Baptism is vital, says Pope

The Broome Diocese will welcome the Cross and Icon that the late Pope John Paul II to be carried throughout the world by many young people. The Cross symbolizes Christ’s love for us and the Icon, which is a picture of Our Lady, will always accompany the Cross as did Mary our Mother who accompanied Jesus as he died on the cross for us.

The World Youth Day Cross and Icon will be in the Broome Diocese from 19 June – 27 June 2008 and will enter the Kimberley through the South, from South Hedland. It is envisaged that some youth will join the Bishop in bringing the Cross at that time to La Grange-Bidyadanga, in the South of the Diocese. From there it will be moved throughout the Diocese to be greeted and venerated in the communities visited. Stay tuned for an itinerary for the Cross and Icon in the Kimberley.

How are your preparations for World Youth Day going? Has the event been announced in your Parish yet? Are you getting ready to go? Are you helping others to get ready to attend Sydney WYD08?

To keep track of the Cross and Icon you can log onto the World Youth Day website: www.wyd2008.org to follow it around Australia and Oceania.
World Youth Day (WYD) 2008 is to be celebrated in Sydney. Preparations for a large contingent of Kimberley youth to attend the festivity is well underway in the Diocese. Erica Bernard from Broome has been appointed as Kimberley WYD Coordinator and she is planning a program for preparation and formation throughout the Diocese. Erica wants to visit each Parish to give a presentation to engender some enthusiasm and support for the event.

Bishop Anthony Fisher (of Sydney) spoke at length to the gathering of Aboriginal peoples at Alice Springs and gave some idea of what is to happen during WYD week.

There is to be an Opening Mass to mark the beginning of the week followed every day by activities including a number of Catecheses (on matters of faith) instructions given by a Bishop at a number of locations throughout the city. There will also be a variety of concerts, exhibitions, special devotions and other activities. Sydney-siders will no doubt experience the busiest days of their lives as a million youth from around the world gather in the harbour-side metropolis to celebrate and share faith moments together.

The presence of Pope Benedict will give the occasion an even greater significance. Those who went to Cologne in 2005 will remember well the excitement when the Holy Father, Pope Benedict, arrived by boat stopping regularly to bless the youth who packed the shoreline.

The WYD week will be exciting for all of those who attend and I hope it will also be fulfilling for those back here who will support the travellers. The formation leading up to the event is almost as important as the event itself. Such formation can benefit the entire Parish not just those who will go to Sydney as Pilgrims. In this way the faith communities grow too, along with the youth on pilgrimage who will visit Sydney with me in 2008. I am hopeful that the experience of WYD 2008 will be an exciting one for all of us.

Youth from overseas will visit a number of Dioceses throughout Australia. I am hoping that we in the Kimberley will play host to young people from various parts of the world as they make their way to Sydney. This will provide a unique experience for all of us. I cannot emphasize enough the need to stimulate interest in WYD. Valuable information can be downloaded on www.wyd2008.org and Erica will be in touch. But we need to select pilgrims who want to go and will be filled with enthusiasm.

World Youth Day itself is to be celebrated at Randwick Racecourse where all pilgrims will gather to pray the Mass with the Holy Father Pope Benedict.

Each pilgrim will need about $2000 to cover travel, accommodation and meals for the week in Sydney. There will also be a debriefing of a couple of days after the event which will be a useful fun time to reflect on what will be a special once-in-a-lifetime awesome event.

[Erica Bernard, WYD Kimberley Coordinator, can be contacted on 9193 5032 or 0427 970 028.]
Supporting Zambia’s Home of Joy

One of the many ways Catholic Mission is helping the people of Zambia is by supporting the Archdiocese’s Home of Joy Orphanage in the nation’s capital city of Lusaka.

It is under the management of the Congregation of Immaculate Conception Sisters, and the Head of the Home is Sr. Ruby Sahaya Rani.

The project started in 2000 with 20 girl children and now has 50 girls aged between five and 15. The orphaned children live with five foster mothers and a caretaker.

The aim of the project is to provide a home environment where the children will feel loved and secure always. The home also strives to equip the girls with an academic background and various skills that will enable them to face society as responsible, self-reliant and confident citizens. Bearing this in mind, the home sends all the children to good schools where they are offered a sound education based on good morals and values.

One of the challenges the orphanage is facing is that the girls have to walk to school every day, about 40 minutes each way, and this tends to tire them out and make them vulnerable to accidents.

“The Home of Joy is a real home for the children,” said Father Bernard Makenini, National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies, Zambia. “It is a place of optimism and joy. Despite the contrary struggles of the home, the children are offered a conducive environment for education and support.”

You can help create hope for the people of Zambia and the orphan girls at the Home of Joy by giving to Catholic Mission’s World Mission Day appeal or send your donation to Catholic Mission Office, PO Box 151 Broome WA 6725.

Climate Change Conference – Perth

As part of the continuing work of Catholic Earthcare Australia, a Climate Change Conference was held recently in Perth, sponsored by the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia. Various speakers drew attention to aspects of this vital topic and used as their basic document the Position Paper from the Australian Bishops titled Climate Change: Our responsibility to sustain God’s earth.

The messages from the Conference are timely as they follow from the 2006 Social Justice Sunday Statement which includes the call for a partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to care better for our land.

Bishop Saunders and Col Brown, from Catholic Earthcare Australia, on a panel of speakers at the Climate Change conference in Perth. Photo: J Remond.

Low income Australians deserve a better deal on housing

From Catholic Social Services Australia

Catholic Social Services Australia Executive Director, Frank Quinlan, said accommodation is among the most basic human needs, but over 100,000 people are homeless on any given night in Australia and many of these people are children.

As Housing Ministers met in Canberra, Mr Quinlan encouraged delegates to consider the plight of many Australian families who struggle to keep a roof over their heads.

“Many Australian families on benefits are spending between 30 to 50 per cent of their income on housing costs, leaving very little for food, clothing and education costs,” Mr Quinlan said.

“In 2004 about 35 per cent of people who received Commonwealth rent assistance spent over 30 per cent of their income on rent, while nine per cent spent over 50 per cent of their income on rent.

“With a decline in public housing funding in the past ten years, more people are dependent on the private rental market. As interest rates rise, private rents become more expensive.

“Indigenous Australians are more likely than non Indigenous Australians to suffer from housing stress. Indigenous people are less likely to own their own home and are therefore more reliant on community and public rental housing, suffering higher rates of overcrowding and homelessness.

“Catholic Social Services Australia supports the Productivity Commission’s 2004 recommendation for a national public inquiry to examine the housing needs of low income households across Australia, including those in Indigenous communities, and the nature and extent of assistance to help meet those needs.”
Nursing students ready to serve the community

By Mike Doyle

Fifteen nursing students from the University of Notre Dame Broome Campus received the traditional Blessing of the Hands by Campus Minister Jill O'Brien sgs in October. The students were about to embark on their last clinical placements, the final component of their nursing degree, and the blessing was a way of wishing them well on their individual journeys.

The Broome Campus students will now provide essential services across the country with many of the students having already received notification of Graduate Nursing Programs due to commence in February in Broome, Perth, Alice Springs as well as some in the Eastern states. The students represent the largest number of nursing graduates in Campus history and similar numbers are expected again next year.

Enrolled Nursing will also be offered on the Broome Campus for the first time in 2007.

Journey to Alice inspires Notre Dame Student

By Mike Doyle

Steve Boniwell now has a greater understanding of Pope John Paul II’s historic address 20 years ago in Alice Springs, after the Broome Campus Education student made the journey to the same town for the anniversary. Steve was one of about 600 people to make the pilgrimage to the nation’s centre and one of about 50 people from the Kimberley.

He said there were many highlights during the gathering.

Mass was held in the local showgrounds where Pope John Paul II had spoken 20 years before and a personal message from the current Pope, Benedict XVI, was also read out. Steve was inspired by the World Youth Day Presentation where people talked about the last World Youth Day in Germany involving about 800,000 people. He now hopes to attend the next one due to be held in Sydney in 2008.

Steve also visited the Santa Theresa Community an hour outside of Alice Springs where the local church was adorned with floor to ceiling paintings of Aboriginal people and local wildlife.

“It was great to see Aboriginal people bringing Aboriginal spirituality to their Catholic faith,” says Steve. “Probably the biggest impact on me was seeing the impact the Pope’s message had on Aboriginal communities from all over the nation.”

Students sample University life

By Mike Doyle

Students from Yule Brook College in Maddington, Perth, and Sacred Heart School in Beagle Bay were given an insight into life at a University recently when they visited the Broome Campus of Notre Dame Australia.

The Yule Brook students were all members of the Yule Brook Football Academy, one of six academies under the guidance of the Clontarf Foundation.

Notre Dame Broome is a strong supporter of the local West Kimberley Football Academy and current student Tony Delaney is one of the WKFA’s operations managers.

The Yule Brook boys were in town to play the West Kimberley Academy. The students from year 9 and 10 enjoyed a pancake breakfast cooked by Broome Campus Executive Director Gavin Greaves, before touring the facilities. They toured the campus accommodation and the library, but it was the nursing theatre which proved to be a hit.

Budding nurses, from Yule Brook College in Perth, try out some of the nursing equipment in the Notre Dame Broome Campus lab. Photo: M Doyle.
Sr Veronica McCarthy, of the Sisters of St John of God, first came to the Kimberley in 1949 spending most of her time between Broome, Balgo and Bidyadanga communities. Sr Veronica’s cake baking is well renowned in Broome and many a special occasion, including weddings, has seen a cake baked by Sr Veronica – who also does a wonderful job of decorating cakes. This recipe has been shared many times over the years and Sr Veronica is delighted now to share it with readers of the Kimberley Community Profile.

Preheat oven to 160°C.
Line bottom and sides of tin (approx 22cm) with Glad Bake paper.

Ingredients
- 250g Raisins
- 250g Currants
- 500g Sultanas
- 2 pkts Cherries
- 1 small pkt Mixed Peel
- 1 pkt Almonds – sliced
- 1 cup Brandy
- 250g Butter
- 250g Castor Sugar
- 5 Eggs
- 312g Plain Flour
- 1/2 teaspn each of cinnamon, ground cloves, ground ginger, spice, nutmeg and salt
- 1/2 teaspn Carb Soda dissolved in a little hot water

Method

Prepare fruit – soak in Brandy for one week in a covered container. Mix well every second day. Keep covered.

Mix the spices and salt with the plain flour.
Cream butter and sugar, add eggs one at a time. Beat well. Add the flour mixture a little at a time. Mix well. Add carb soda, dissolved in hot water. Mix through very well. Add fruit a little at a time. Mix well each time.
Pour mixture into tin. Bake cake for 1 hour then lower oven temp to 140°C and bake until cooked – approximately 2 1/2-3 hours. Test cake with a skewer.

Remove cake from oven, leave in tin and cover well. I cover the cake with Glad Bake and wrap in two tea towels. Leave in the tin until cold – I leave till next day.

Wrap very well to store. This cake will keep for months so can be made early. This recipe is also suitable for wedding/special occasion cakes.
Priestly Profile

This month, Fr Bernard Amah CSSp, gives us some insight into his life as a priest in the Broome Diocese.

I am a Nigerian Holy Father (Spiritans) and I studied for the priesthood in my own country and was ordained on 20 August 1988. My first appointment was in the Benin Diocese in Nigeria where I worked for four years. Then I was appointed the Parish Priest of St Ambrose Parish, Ogbor Hill, in Aba Diocese Nigeria, where I worked for nine good years.

I arrived in Australia in May 2002 on the invitation of my then Congregational Leader in Australia, Fr Walter McNamara. On arrival I spent three months in St Charles Seminary Guildford, and finally arrived in the Kimberley on 2 August 2002. On arrival I was appointed to Sacred Heart Church Beagle Bay to assist Fr Simon Emeano CSSp. On the departure of Fr Simon in December 2002, I was appointed the Parish Priest of Dampier Peninsula Parish. This includes Beagle Bay, Lombadina and One Arm Point communities. Currently I am the resident priest in Lombadina.

Theologically, a priest is ordained to minister to the people. In other words he is the servant of the faithful. My duties are Celebrating the sacraments, visiting the sick and elderly within the community and out stations (private blocks), and family visitations in times of joy and sorrow. School visitation is one of the most essential aspects of my duties. This enables me to establish good rapport with parents, staff and students. I am involved in religious instruction for those preparing to receive the sacraments.

The simple life style of the people is what I enjoy most. I enjoy going fishing and crabbing with the local people. It is here that they allow me to be part of their lives; I am part and parcel of the community. I also enjoy being part of community gatherings, whether they be funerals, birthday parties, wake keeping, anniversaries or invitations to family meals.

I feel that the Church in the Kimberley is walking in the right direction in keeping with the spirit of Second Vatican Council in the areas of evangelization and enculturation. The Church is a Church of the people. I highly appreciate the faithfulness, commitment and dedication of many Catholics in the Kimberley. Their generosity, kindness, and willingness to share the little they have is a sign of hope for the future. Their responses to financial appeals in times of natural disaster and the annual Caritas appeal are commendable. More importantly, the zeal of those who come to Mass regularly and the enthusiasm of the young altar servers is a cause of great hope. I was touched when one of my altar servers, a child of five, kept on pestering me every Sunday, 'Father, I need children’s Bible'. What a hope for the future!

The standard of living among the local people challenges me most. The gap in living standards between the local people and the rest of Australia is unbelievable. These exist in all aspects of life. This situation demands of the Church a unique response on behalf of a people who are victims of injustice and oppression.

Ants can cause problems primarily when they forage in buildings for food or water and when they construct nests in buildings and gardens. A few species will occasionally attack electrical wiring, apparently being attracted to either the insulation or the magnetic fields produced by the wires. In these situations extensive damage can occur.

Ant communities change significantly when environmental conditions are altered by such things as bush fires. As a consequence, the monitoring of the state of ant communities has become important in making decisions about managing the environment and ecosystems and in determining priorities with regard to conservation and sustainable use.

The 20th Anniversary Assembly in Alice Springs began on Monday evening (2 October 2006) with a traditional welcome from the Arrernte people, using a smoking ceremony. This was inspiring, and even healing, for those pilgrims who still looked tired after long trips from various corners of Australia.

Each State made a presentation of a message stick with prayer; the youth also made presentations with an emphasis on the World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney. There were a number of workshops and exciting community tours with an opportunity to explore and experience the land and culture of the Arrernte people.

The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, involving some of our traditional elders, and a healing Mass was inspirational.

Mark Bin Bakar delivered a lucid keynote address straight from his heart and combined it with his gifts in music.

Bishop Christopher Saunders led the celebration of the Mass for the Youth and shared a strong message of hope and courage for the young people all over Australia especially as they prepare to host World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney.

The Assembly concluded with a special celebration of Mass with a message from Pope Benedict XVI, read by Cardinal Cassidy. The Pope’s message mentioned that before God, we are all brothers and sisters regardless of our language, colour, or even tribe.

The active participation of the Indigenous peoples of Australia in the Assembly was enormous. The paintings brought to the Assembly, traditional songs and dances, the involvement of traditional elders in the reconciliation and healing liturgies, the aboriginal deacons and so many other activities were evidence that the seed planted by the Holy Father twenty years ago through his memorable and respected speech was yielding some fruits.

The Papal Legate was Cardinal Cassidy (centre) who read a letter from the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. Ready for the Anniversary Mass are Deacons Boniface and Theodore, Bishop Saunders, Cardinal Cassidy, Bishop Ted Collins of Darwin and Acolyte John Bosco.

Adriana, Ivy Rose and Jarrhan, were some of the youth enjoying the Alice Springs festival. Photo: CAS.

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Alice Springs — 20th Anniversary Assembly Celebrations
Dreaming from the Heart

Wadeye Community Singers prayed and sang several times during the proceedings at Alice Springs. Photo: CAS.

Above: Mark Bin Bakar gave the Keynote Address and sang a number of songs, original compositions, that were well received by the crowd at Alice Springs. Photo: CAS.

Left: Sr Veronica of the Kimberley with Sr Dorothy of the NT enjoyed the gathering. Photo: CAS.

NSW youth performed a special concert in traditional style for the participants at the Conference – and received a huge acclaim from all. Photo: CAS.

Phyllis Bin Bakar and Clare Pigram were all smiles at the Conference. Photo: CAS.

Dancers and a didgeridoo player were very involved at the festival liturgies. Photo: CAS.
Outstation/homeland policy in preparation

At last I have had a response from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Mal Brough MP, on the matter of the future funding for small remote Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley.

His response mentions that any new arrangements ‘are designed to improve the mechanisms of governance and provide an opportunity to address the disadvantage and lack of opportunities and choices many Indigenous Australians face.’ These are admirable aspirations indeed and ones that we would all no doubt support. The Minister is also committed to the delivery of ‘law and order and essential services’. This is also great to know. Nobody would have too many problems with any of these commitments. However, the devil will be in the detail of how the Minister intends to ensure this delivery.

I suspect that one method of honoring the commitment to this delivery might involve moving the people to the services rather than bringing the services to the people. This would ignore history, pay little heed to the expressed aspirations of the people concerned, place increased burdens upon already stretched town centres, and presumably shift the burden of delivery from the Commonwealth to State and local governments.

In his letter to me the Minister mentions that he has asked his ‘Department to prepare a comprehensive outstation/homeland policy document’ for his consideration. He goes on to say that a ‘formal announcement about future funding of very small remote Aboriginal communities will be made with reference to this policy in due course.’ There are several concerns raised by this response, one of which is the vagueness of the term ‘very small’ and which specific Kimberley communities will fit into this category.

In my response to the Minister, I have asked the following questions about the preparation of the policy document by his Department:

- Will this preparation include consultation with Aboriginal people living in these communities?
- Will this preparation include consultation with other stakeholders in these communities?
- Will this preparation include consultation with academics and other researchers with interest and expertise in this area?
- Will this preparation include consultation with COAG partners where this partnership exists?

I am further concerned that the Minister’s response makes no mention of the historical basis for the existence of these remote communities. I hope that any future policy in relation to these communities under consideration will take this history into account. I will await a further clarification on this issue. Let’s continue to hope that this latest proposal for ‘reform’ will include consultation will all those affected. This might be a suitable starting point for Major General Sanderson’s work on behalf of Indigenous people of the State.

Farewell and God Bless

We bid farewell to Sister Nellie Versluyts RSJ who, after twenty-one years of ministry in the Kimberley, will soon return to Victoria.

Nellie has brought much energy, enthusiasm, creativity and commitment to everything she has undertaken.

Her pursuit of excellence and thoroughness in the preparation and presentation of programs will long be remembered by those blessed by her ministry.

Nellie is a gifted educator. She has ministered in the Catholic Schools of Wyndham, Warmun and Halls Creek and for the past nine years has been involved in adult education and faith development at Mirrilingki.

A major contribution is her work in designing and offering Scripture Programs to Aboriginal people enabling them to make connections between their own culture and spirituality and that of biblical spirituality.

For all she has done we simply express our heartfelt thanks in gratitude.

There have also been many innovations that Damien introduced which improved the overall running of the school.

As Damien moves on from Beagle Bay, we wish Damien and his family good luck and extend our thanks for what he has done for Sacred Heart School, Beagle Bay.
Farewell and God Bless

By Br Cal Cusack fsc

Broad-shouldered to engage in strenuous physical work and to carry a load of responsibilities; and big-hearted to say “yes” to all reasonable requests, and even to most unreasonable requests; such was Br Tony Moore of the De La Salle Brothers who in 2000 came to Balgo Hills to work as general maintenance person for Luurnpa Catholic School.

Br Tony’s wide range of skills in such areas as motor mechanics, plumbing, building and construction, power and electricity, and computer technology made him always invaluable and often indispensable in the life of both the School and Community.

Br Tony is now moving on to contribute to another educational and social enterprise in New South Wales. He will be sadly missed at Balgo Hills, not just for the practical skills he shared with us, but also for the personal interest and connection he had with the school’s staff and with the people of the Wirrimanu Aboriginal Community.

We wish Br Tony good health and God’s blessing for the future.

By Geoff Holland

After a dedicated and gifted fourteen year association with the Kimberley, Darren Side, the current Principal of Lombadina/Djarindjin Catholic School will return with his family to Melbourne at the end of 2006. In 2004, Darren was appointed Principal at Lombadina/Djarindjin Catholic School. His memories are many and will remain with him for the rest of his life. Farewell Darren – we wish you and your family every blessing.

Having spent three committed years at Birlrr Ngawiyiwu Catholic School in Ringer Soak, first as Acting Principal and then as Principal, Vin Russell and his wife Prue are moving to Queensland where they will be closer to family. Our thanks and best wishes go with Vin and Prue.

By Sr Frances Hayes pbvm

Sister Maura O’Connell PBVM will complete her tenure as Principal of Warlawuru Catholic School at the end of the school year, 2006.

After an extensive career as teacher and Principal in the Dioceses of Perth, Bunbury and Geraldton, Sr Maura persevered in her work there and will long be remembered for her dedication and caring attitude. We wish her well and pray for every blessing for the future.

By Lidia Foskett

Janine Hart has been the Principal of John Pujajangka-Piyirm School in Malarn, in the East Kimberley, since the start of 2006. In that time, she continued fostering links with the community and nurturing closer relationships between the school, parents, students and families.

She supported initiatives like National Accelerated Literacy Programmes (nALp) and First Steps in Mathematics (FsiM).

We wish her all the best and her family too – and every blessing.

By Sr Frances Hayes pbvm

Sister Maura O’Connell PBVM will complete her tenure as Principal of Warlawuru Catholic School at the end of the school year, 2006.

After an extensive career as teacher and Principal in the Dioceses of Perth, Bunbury and Geraldton, Sr Maura came to the Kimberley Diocese in 1996 as Principal of St Joseph’s School Wyndham. This seven year appointment was followed by four years in her current position at Red Hill.

Sr Maura persevered in her work there and will long be remembered for her dedication and caring attitude. We wish her well and pray for every blessing for the future.

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We wish her all the best and her family too – and every blessing.
HALLS CREEK

By Joan Wharton

Artist Biddy Timbina (centre) with Bonnie Deegan and Lulu Trancellino from St Mary’s Parish Halls Creek, in the West Kimberley, headed to Perth during November for a week when artists from Halls Creek TAFE held an exhibition of their work. The exhibition took place in the Mall where the artists gave demonstrations of their painting techniques. This painting of ‘Water Dreaming’, is a work by Biddy and was included in the exhibition.

Biddy, Bonnie and Lulu were also among those who travelled to Alice Springs for the recent celebrations remembering the Pope’s visit in 1986. Bonnie said it was a great experience for them to go back to Alice Springs and meet up with very many friendly people from all over Australia - both Aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. The group visited the holy place at Santa Teresa where a sick boy had been healed.

LOMBADINA

First Reconciliation

Year 3 and 4 students from Lombadina/Djarindjin with Fr Bernard proudly display their certificates for having completed their First Reconciliation.

KALUMBURU

On the track to Alice Springs

Kalumburu was represented at the recent gathering for Dreaming from the Heart in Alice Springs in early October by four people from the community. Sr Catalina OSB, Agnes Charles and Theresa Karadada camped, on their way to the NATSICC gathering in Alice Springs on the Tanami Road which is a rough track that requires skilful driving at safe speeds.

All Souls Day

Paul Sampi (rear) with grandchildren, Tiana Edgar, Marlon Sampi, Caitlyn Sampi and Jesslyn Sampi, remember the souls of the faithful departed, All Souls Day, Lombadina Djarindjin.
KUNUNURRA

Preparing banners for Alice Springs Assembly

Before heading off to the Dreaming from the Heart Assembly in Alice Springs, Kununurra artists, Daisy Bitting and Kathleen Carlton, put a great deal of work into preparing banners for the occasion.

Photo: R McNamara rsj.

First Communion

Ashleigh Meewah was among the young adults, from St Vincent Pallotti Parish in Kununurra, who received First Communion recently. Ashley is seen here with his wife Bernadette and baby daughter.

Photo: R McNamara rsj.

DERBY

Carers Week in Derby

A morning tea was held at the Derby Memorial Swimming Pool to celebrate the caring contributions made by many members of the Derby community. Amongst those honoured were Aggie Puertollano, Leena Fraser and Gill Sweeney from Holy Rosary Parish. Aggie was thanked for her tireless efforts in providing food and other refreshments for families who have buried loved ones, and for her continued efforts to have the cemetery maintained and respected.

Gill Sweeney was presented with a bouquet from the Ellies family. Photo: M Scanlon sgs

Leena has many active caring roles in the community and her leadership was acknowledged by all present. Aggie and Leena are shining examples of the work that the senior members of our community do everyday and it is wonderful to see them acknowledged by the wider community.

Gill’s nomination was for her work in helping in the drive to find a Bone Marrow Donor for Sam. Gill was presented with a bouquet from the Ellies family. Photo: M Scanlon sgs

BEAGLE BAY

Confirmation

By Dan O’Kane

On Saturday 28 October 2006 Bishop Christopher Saunders administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at Sacred Heart Church, Beagle Bay. This year’s candidates for Confirmation were Courtney Cox, Tyson Cox, Akeem Howard, Dwayne Lawford, Donald McKenzie, Joseph Victor and Ninjana Walsham.

The students were very excited to receive the Sacrament with its accompanying Gifts of the Holy Spirit. With the help of teachers, friends and family they will use these gifts to carry on Jesus’ mission of spreading the Word of God. Congratulations on a job well done.

Photo: L Geaney.
School News

Clare and David (and six teachers from around the Kimberley) observed Keryn and Jesse in a Reading Recovery session. Clare and David talk with Keryn about Jesse’s great reading and writing.

Miss Keryn with Jesse Pigram, his mum Clare and dad David.

Photo: T Bremner

The Long Walk

By Vicki White McKenna

St Mary’s College staff and students, in Melbourne participating in the Broome / Melbourne Cultural Exchange Program which is in its 18th year, led the Long Walk (reminiscent of Michael Long’s walk) at the Genazzano FCJ College, Year 9 Day of Reflection in Kew, Victoria.

The theme for the Day of Reflection this year was “Knowing and Appreciating Our Indigenous Culture.” This day gave students at Genazzano the opportunity to learn more about the Indigenous people of Australia. St Mary’s College staff and students participated in the day, interacting with the students at Genazzano in workshops where they were able to share their knowledge of their culture and traditions.

The staff accompanying the students to Melbourne were Vicki (White) McKenna and Adrian Taylor. The eight St Mary’s students participating in the exchange this year were: Ulanda White, Stacey Masuda, Naranee McCarthy, Cissy Phillips, Margaret Albert, Slade Sibosado, Gavin Pigram and Kamsari Bin Demin. All students attended Xavier and Genazzano Colleges with their host brothers and sisters while they were in Melbourne for four weeks. During this time they had excursions to the MCG, Victech, the Victoria Market, St Patrick’s Cathedral, Melbourne Museum and travelled for one week to country Victoria.

Dance Specialist, Vicki Thompson, travelled to Perth with 21 students from St. Mary’s College Broome to compete with their item, ‘Another Day in Paradise’. The students explored the topic of EAT WELL - PLAY WELL - LIVE WELL. The performance highlighted a need for children to understand the importance of good eating habits so they can actively participate in a good lifestyle and achieve their full potential.

There were 99 entries statewide for YOH (Youth on Health) Fest 2006 and St Mary's College were 3rd Place WINNERS overall and were also presented with the adjudicators award for Most Powerful Dramatic Presentation.

Youth on Health Dance Fest

Photo: James Walton, Genazzano College.

Red Hair Day

Joel White, one of the graduands of Year 12 St Mary’s 2006 on a red hair day.

Photo: CAS

Satays at St Mary's

By Aidan Mitchell

Pathways students Gerrick Weedon and Kamahl Edgar prepare chicken satays as part of their Small Business program. Closely linked to their Maths studies, the students planned a budget, then purchased, prepared and sold the satays at lunchtime to fellow students and staff members for a modest profit. The practical activity was not only a valuable learning experience, but the cooks found it difficult to keep up the supply of their delicious product.

Photo: A Mitchell.

Literacy at St Mary’s

Bernard is displaying some of his writing about the ‘Kimberley Clean Up’.

Miss Laura, Miss Gina and William Bernard - Year 1L. Photo: T Bremmer.

Miss Keryn with Jesse Pigram, his mum Clare and dad David.

Photo: T Bremner

Youth on Health Dance Fest

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Photo: V Thompson.

The successful dance group.
BILLILUNA-KURURRUNGKU

Kutjungka plays in National Capital

By Daniel Felton

In the recent school holidays, twenty three students from four remote communities, travelled to Canberra for ten days to attend the Barassi International Rules Football Carnival and engage with the heart of the nation.

The squad, selected from the communities of Balgo Hills, Ringers Soak, Mulan and Billiluna, was chosen on school attendance and behaviour as well as football ability. The team which included four primary aged students as young as eleven played against much older, taller and stronger boys in the Sixteens and Under Carnival, which featured teams from South Africa, New Zealand, Canberra and Darwin. Our boys soon became crowd favourites because they were smaller than the opposition.

Coaches, Daniel Felton and Justin Manson, were especially proud of the boys’ bravery in going hard for the ball against opponents as much as twice their weight even when trailing a long way behind on the scoreboard.

The Department of Transport and Regional Services sponsored the trip and the school staff and community members helped make the trip a truly memorable experience.

Photo: D Felton.

BEAGLE BAY

Coastal Cleanup

By Lynette Geaney

Friday 20 October 2006, Sacred Heart School, Beagle Bay participated in the Kimberley Coastal Cleanup. We joined 165 sites and 1,000 volunteers around the Kimberley region working to remove rubbish from our precious environment. Starting at 8.30 am the students were divided into several groups to tackle different areas of our community. The smaller children stayed in and around the school grounds and the senior children went beyond the school and into the community. It was a very hot day as was evident with hoards of thirsty workers. Even though they all had hats on, they were feeling the heat. Everyone completed a massive effort in retrieving 65 bags of rubbish and made a huge difference in the appearance of the school and community. We finished the task at 10.00 am and sat down to oranges and juice boxes. Sacred Heart School gave out $5.00 store vouchers to congratulate all the children and $10.00 vouchers for the best workers in each class. The Beagle Bay Community Store donated ice poles for everyone who participated.

Photo: Dan O’Kane.

LOMBADINA

Aquaculture

By Geoff Holland

The upper school students at Lombadina/Djarindjin School are undertaking an aquaculture and small craft handling programme which was established in partnership with Broome TAFE.

The students are breeding platies, a Mexican fish, with the intention of developing a marketing plan to sell and supply the fish as pets. They had to learn how to build an aquarium, how to fit it out and maintain it on a regular basis. Students are also required to collect and record data, and make daily observations for the survival of the fish and to create ideal breeding conditions.

This initiative was implemented to introduce students to future career pathways that are possible and can be undertaken in their own community.

Erica Kyle, Sheila Manado, Cheyne Howard and Alynda Ougham talk about the aquaculture project to the senior students at Lombadina/Djarindjin Catholic School.

Photo: G Holland.
# Calendar of the Seasons

## Advent and Christmas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advent Sunday 1</strong></td>
<td>Make Advent Wreath</td>
<td>Family discuss the list of gifts to whom Christmas cards will be sent</td>
<td>Begin Christmas mail</td>
<td>Bath your pet</td>
<td>Erect Christmas tree but leave it BARE!!</td>
<td>Family members add Christmas greetings to cards of family, relatives and friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advent Sunday 2</strong></td>
<td>Decorate the Lounge Room</td>
<td>Children attach stamps + Card Only to cards. Post...at last!</td>
<td>Do an act of kindness for family member or person in street</td>
<td>In a note, tell your mother how much you love her. Place it on her pillow.</td>
<td>Have a party; family and friends for Christmas Day</td>
<td>Write a letter and card to someone not contacted for sometime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advent Sunday 3</strong></td>
<td>Decorate the Christmas Tree</td>
<td>Tidy bedroom</td>
<td>Wrap a special gift for family member or person in street</td>
<td>Write a special message for each family member. Place in envelope on tree.</td>
<td>Christmas shopping.</td>
<td>Invite someone without family to a special meal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advent Sunday 4</strong></td>
<td>Help with Christmas Day preparations</td>
<td>Happy Christmas Day!</td>
<td>Special</td>
<td>Family Day!</td>
<td>Preparation of special Epiphany Candle</td>
<td>Family Forgiveness Meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feast of Holy Family</strong></td>
<td>Cook dinner for Mum to show she's special</td>
<td>Share hopes and goals for New Year. Doodle family goal for 2007</td>
<td>Help in kitchen. Set the table.</td>
<td>Make biscuits in the shape of a star to celebrate Feast of Epiphany</td>
<td>Plan special meal for after ceremony on the Feast of the Epiphany</td>
<td>Follow your star to 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Feast of Epiphany Rite:** Bible, Epiphany Candle [unlit] in front of Christmas Tree. Several Christmas Candles [lit].

1. **Gathering**: All gather round Christmas Tree, special Epiphany Candle in front of tree.
2. **Hymn**: This is the Day. 3. **Prayer**: Lord, through the light of a star, you showed your Son to all people. That light of love still shines brightly today. May each one of you follow your light of love each day. We make this prayer...

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**Reading:** Matthew 2:1-12. 5. **Lighting the Epiphany Candle** [Family Member]: The reading tells us how the wise men followed the shining of a great star to find Jesus. Jesus wants us to show his light to one another. Today is the day to burn out the Christmas candles and take down the Christmas tree. However, before we do so, we will light our family Epiphany Candle and place it at special times of prayer during this new year. Whenever you see it, let it remind you that you are to be a shining light for others to see the love and kindness of Jesus. So now, each person blow out one of the Christmas candles. Now with the last one, our youngest member, N., will light our Family Epiphany Candle. 6. **Prayer**: Let us pray together the Lord’s Prayer that we may let Jesus’ light and love shine through each one of us during 2007. 7. **Hymn**: This Little Light of Mine. 8. **Taking down of Christmas Tree**: Family together take down the Christmas Tree. 9. **Grace before Special Meal**: 10. **Celebration of Epiphany Rite**:
The Cane Toads are Coming!

The invasion of the cane toads into the East Kimberley has been widely reported throughout the media. St Joseph’s School in Kununurra has been involved in informing people of the devastation that these creatures can cause. For a large part of the year, a team of 50 students from Years 1 to 7 has taken its story, ‘Stop the Toad’, to Perth, twice.

The culmination of their hard work came in September when they won the State Finals for their division in the Wakakirri National Story Festival. It is a wonderful achievement for staff, students and the community. The DVD created will now be sent to Canberra for inclusion in the National Finals which will air on TV in early December. This magnificent effort shows how a supportive com-munity can collectively reach originally unthinkable goals.

Introducing OzSpirit

OzSpirit is Caritas Australia’s social justice publication and a free e-magazine. A recent fortnightly edition of OzSpirit talks about peace. Anna Orchard reports:

One of the world’s greatest peacemakers Mohandas Karam-chand Gandhi once said: ‘There is no way to peace, peace is the way.’ What does peace mean in today’s world? Is it more than the absence of war? Who are today’s peacemakers? What role do we all have to play in building peace? The challenge for us all is to develop and foster a culture of peace in our homes, in our schools and workplaces, in our local communities, in our nation and in our world. ‘Peace begins with me.’

But how do we achieve this? How do we meet this challenge?

Matt Roussou (Maryknoll Mission Educator) in his article on ‘Mission Trips - Why Do We Go?’ tells us that “it is only in recent years that we have begun to understand that our significance as persons comes not from what we do but from who we are; and our understanding of mission has begun to change from “doing for” to “being with.”

Father Donal Dorr says so poignantly in “Mission in Today’s World” that, “mission is not just a matter of doing things for people. It is first of all a matter of being with people, of listening to and sharing with them.”

We are constantly bombarded with the sites of war on the TV but do we really understand what has caused war, what is sustaining war and what part we have to play in it? Have we listened to and shared the story of the people who experience it? Have we heard the voices of the women and children?

One way to establish a culture of peace is to seek out the answers to these questions and begin to be with, listen to and share with the people for whom war is reality.

The website is updated every fortnight with new stories and is also the place to find out what Caritas Australia is doing to support other countries in their need. You can find the OzSpirit website at www.ozspirit.com.
Agnes Armstrong from Kununurra Parish, in the north west of the Kimberley, with the Message Stick of the Broome Diocese, at the recent Dreaming from the Heart Assembly in Alice Springs. Photo: R McNamara rsj.

Madeline Morrison, a student at St Mary's College Broome, and her dad, Jerry Morrison, were all smiles at the Year 12 Graduation held on Friday evening, 27 October 2006. Photo: CAS.

Bishop Christopher Saunders baptized Zihan Jazziz Angus, son of Renae Latoya Hunter and Bolo Angus at One Arm Point on the Dampier Peninsula (Sunday, 29 October 2006). Family and friends gathered with the parents and Godparents – Jason Bin Jalil, Gregory McKay, Kazue Bin Jalil and Veronica Lee.

A popular place to be in Derby is the local Holy Rosary Parish Op Shop. Seen here is Grandma Verna Ishiguchi (centre back) showing the ropes of running an Op Shop to her grandchildren, from left, Brianna Taylor-Elison, Calariah Ishiguchi and Nickisha Ishiguchi with Sr Mary Scanlon sgs on the right.

Right: Great Bush Tucker - Shirley Purdie prepares bush turkey at the recent Gija Day cultural celebrations in Turkey Creek-Warmun, East Kimberley. Photo: P Cowan.