Many of our towns in the Kimberley are in danger of moving in the same direction as the early Christian communities – fracturing into the ‘haves’ and the ‘have-nots’.

We cannot allow Governments of any persuasion, big business or any particular sector of the community to dictate to the rest how we are to live with one another.

Pope Benedict declares The Year of St Paul

Benedict XVI has declared June 2008 to June 2009 the year of St Paul in celebration of the 2,000th anniversary of the saint’s birth.

“The Apostle of the Gentiles, who dedicated himself to the spreading of the good news to all peoples, spent himself for the unity and harmony of all Christians,” the Pope said.

“May he guide us and protect us in this bimillenary celebration,” he added, “helping us to advance in the humble and sincere search for the full unity of all the members of the mystical body of Christ.”
Briefly Speaking

BR MICHAEL NEVILLE recently spent a little recreational leave in the town of Broome. Br Michael, a De La Salle Brother, has been at Luurmpa Catholic School in Balgo, East Kimberley, for just on eleven years and is heading off to join a study tour of Israel, Turkey and Greece.

FR SERAPHIM SANZ spent 43 years in active ministry at Kalumburu. He retired first to New Norcia and came back to the Mission in 2004. Fr Seraphim Sanz OSB had to leave Kalumburu once again in May as he was not in good health. Presently he is in Glendalough Home for the Aged.

MONSIGNOR KEHOE, the Vicar General of Wexford Diocese in Ireland, is a grand-nephew of Sr John Walker SSJG who was amongst the first group of Sisters of St John of God to arrive in Beagle Bay. Monsignor Kehoe was delighted to be in Broome to share in the Sisters’ celebrations and was accompanied by his cousin, Sr Joan Walker SSJG.

CONGREGATIONAL LEADER, from Ireland, Sr Mary Rowsome SSJG (top) and Sr Isobel Moran SSJG, Australian Provincial Leader with the Sisters of St John of God in Perth, were delighted with each of the celebrations they attended for the 100th Anniversary of the Sisters’ presence in the Kimberley.

FR WARREN EDWARDS, a priest of the Diocese of Parramatta in Sydney, was privileged to visit many of the communities in the Kimberley whilst holidaying in Broome during June. Fr Warren, on his return to Sydney, takes up a position as Priest in Charge of the newly created Parish of Rouse Hill.

RAPHAEL DE JESUS was recently visiting Broome in order to obtain his driver’s licence. Raphael was a student at Notre Dame in Broome and in Fremantle some years ago and his studies were supported generously by the people of the Broome Parish. He has successfully completed his teaching qualifications and has been teaching back in Timor Leste.

TOM HENNESSY, who took a year off Uni studies and volunteered in Kalumburu for a short time in 2000 with fellow traveller Andrew McCarthy, returned to Broome recently for a few days leave. Tom was accompanied by Yasmin and their baby daughter Amelia.
The centenary of the Sisters of St John of God arriving in the Kimberley has been celebrated with great joy in those parts of the Diocese where the Sisters have served. There have been wonderful recounts of their ministry in Beagle Bay, Broome, Lombadina/Djarindjin, Derby, Balgo and La Grange/Bidyadanga.

Their story begins with the efforts of Bishop Gibney of Perth to secure a congregation of Sisters to work in Beagle Bay. Mother Antonio O’Brien, who had been nursing in Kalgoorlie-Coolgardie, answered the call but was faced with the prospect that there were no Sisters of her order in Western Australia who could be spared to join her in the Bishop’s mission in the far north of the State. So Mother Antonio set off to Ireland to recruit some volunteers to go with her to the Kimberley. She must have been very persuasive and God must have truly blessed her efforts as she gathered nine young novices. She wrote to Bishop Gibney; “I myself shall willingly go with them… to end my days in the service of God, while working for the Aborigines…” The enthusiastic group arrived in Beagle Bay in 1907 to begin their apostolate in primitive conditions.

The example of Mother Antonio O’Brien, along with the other early missionaries, - Fr Duncan McNab, the Trappists, Fr Nicholas Emo, the Pallottine Fathers – laid the foundation of faith upon which future generations of missionaries would build. The St John of God Sisters toiled in harsh conditions that often placed them in perilous circumstances. Their on-going approach to mission was built on the same factors for which Mother Antonio would be remembered – “her spirit of prayer, her apostolic zeal and simple faith.”

All the necessary characteristics of missionaries were evident in the life of Mother Antonio and in the generations of Sisters who followed her. The need to be prophetic, having a vision for the future despite the many obstacles encountered along the way, was one such characteristic; forged in faith and honed by unfailing prayer.

There is no doubt that the Sisters were also practical people and certainly they couldn’t have survived otherwise. On arriving in Beagle Bay Mother Antonio insisted that the Sisters be allowed the one luxury of tea - a small matter that gave her Sisters some respite from the deprivations of remote living. She asked for shoes for her Sisters to protect their feet from the hot earth and demanded of the accommodating Pallottines that they remove the pigs that lived under the Convent so that the Sisters could get some well deserved sleep at night! In another instance the Sisters were forced to evacuate the Leprosarium in Derby for fear of aerial attack during the Second World War. They returned only twice from their bush camp – once to retrieve the Blessed Sacrament and again to take a roast out of the oven!

The Sisters are renowned for their hard work in nursing, social assistance and teaching. Their experimental studies pioneering new drugs for the control of Hansens Disease at the Derby Leprosarium is legendary, as is their effort to make the best out of a tough situation for the patients who resided there, many of them for decades.

Like so many they served, the St John of God nuns were flexible and resilient. They could never have foreseen the demands placed upon them as Government policy of separating children from their families unfolded throughout the Kimberley. They became surrogate mothers for many children which explains the extraordinary bond between the Sisters and many of those given over to their charge. The so-called “accidental benefits”, experienced by many of the separated children, were the result of the care of the Sisters and never the product of Government policy. The Acts of Parliament that had caused the separation of families unfolded throughout the first place.

They began a system of education for Aboriginal and Asiatic children previously denied by unconcerned government authorities. Still today a generation of Broome people speak in awed tones of gratitude when they recall the efforts of St Ignatius and others who prepared them to sit exams that opened the door of employment opportunities.

The Sisters have never been satisfied to rest on their laurels. Throughout the generations of the past one hundred years they have stood up for people in need whenever they could. They practised a preferential option for the poor long before the phrase was coined.

The story of the St John of God Sisters in the Kimberley is the story of the foundation of the Church. Alongside Pallottines, Benedictines and a host of others including an impressive array of religious congregations, lay missionaries and Diocesan priests, the Sisters have laboured tirelessly in the vineyard of the Lord. Their efforts have always been for the greater glory of God. In humility they have served God who inspired them and blessed them. Our gratitude to them for their faithful service accompanies our gratitude to God whose Grace has made their work a living testimony to His enduring love for the Church and the people of the Kimberley.
Priestly Profile

This month, Fr Api Alvarez, Assistant Priest in the Balgo-Kutjungka Parish, gives us some insight into his life as a priest in the Broome Diocese.

I come from the diocese of Pagadian in the Philippines, where I served as a priest responsible for the organisation and administration of the local Diocesan Itinerant Mission Team for nine years. The team played a significant role in organising the local community through the formation and strengthening of the local church leaders.

It was our desire to create a more obvious “church among the people”, with the prime goal of looking after the people’s spiritual needs while at the same time helping to drive the development of the local economy. This was achieved through such projects as organic farming and animal husbandry. Such groups are better known as Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC’s) and it was in this area that my energy was mainly directed.

The BEC’s aim is to group together close neighbours for faith development and economic development. It is through this process that the people are able to identify with the local priest as being a close partner in a church working and looking after their needs.

My life was very much tied up with a focus on the socio-political level to ensure that the people’s voice was heard when it came to social justice issues, their dignity as persons and their rights and freedom to live productive lives in a viable, working community. Out of a desire to see how other countries ministered to their indigenous people, I sought and gained the permission of my Bishop to come to Australia.

I work currently as assistant priest in the parish of St Therese of the Child Jesus in the Wirrimanu community, Balgo Hills. I believed it a priority that I should connect with and get to know on a meaningful level the local people and thus develop friendships with them. With an understanding of them as persons, I am better able to join with them, for the time I am here, in their life’s journey. In this way I am able to fulfil my pastoral role.

Since arriving in the Kimberley region my ministry to the indigenous people has grown and developed. I find them a people of strong cultural and spiritual beliefs. I am able to identify with their strong sense of connection to the land. Their dreaming stories have helped me understand this. I see them as having to embrace the technology, ideas and practices of the 21st century, yet still be grounded in their traditional culture.

At first I found it a difficult process and would often try to escape into other activities. These frustrations of mine are now largely a thing of the past. As I was able to relax with myself and the people, the resulting freedom helped me to more easily relate to them. Life was thus becoming more real and more grounded for me. I could help now in more specific ways.

In the future, I believe it would be good for priests of the Diocese, to be able to continue to have an ongoing sharing of what they do and what they experience in their own churches. For me this would strengthen the group and give natural emphasis to the pastoral issues for the whole of the local church: a team ministry working on a bigger picture.

Mirrilingki News

WYD Reaches Mirrilingki

Fr Mark Connolly CSSp

Twenty young people from Ringer Soak, Halls Creek, Warmun and Wyndham Catholic communities gathered together at Mirrilingki Spirituality Centre in Turkey Creek-Warmun on the weekend of June 30th/July 1st for a time of fun and reflection.

Dean Savoia, Fr Mark Connolly CSSp, and Mirrilingki staff, presented a programme to challenge the young people in their giftedness and faith. Logistical support was provided by Brother Rick and Dave LaMont of Ringer Soak, from the staff and volunteers of the Mirrilingki Centre, Sr Alma Cabassi rsj, Sr Mary McDonnell rsj and Leanne Mahy of Ngalangpum School ably supported in the background by Sr Theresa Morellini rsj.

The success of the weekend can be measured by the unanimous verdict of the participants and the organisers that there should be more such weekends. The young people discovered a great deal about themselves and the pastoral team organising and facilitating the event were given a clearer picture of the needs of young Catholics in the East Kimberley and how better they can be helped to witness to their faith.
This publication has recently made comment about the housing crisis that is evident in all the major Kimberley towns, and also about the need for the community to become involved in finding creative and innovative solutions that will remove the underlying causes of the crisis. Nothing short of a whole community approach involving all sectors will be successful in overcoming such a serious problem.

A recent so-called ‘housing summit’ in Broome was a major step forward in facing this issue. However, even here the Traditional Owners were not represented. If they were not invited then that was a serious and unforgivable oversight. If they did not respond to the invitation then there seems to be a gap between two significant partners who are involved in the future planning for the town.

One comment often heard from Government is that ‘Native Title issues are holding up any possibility of settling this issue’. This matter may or may not be a factor, but one cannot help but sense a ‘don’t blame us’ attitude. After all, the Native Title decision for the Broome area was handed down by the Federal Court nearly a year ago, after ten years of close scrutiny and much technical legal argument. The decision was immediately challenged by the State Government in order to clear up ‘issues of uncertainty’.

Surely it is incumbent upon the State Government to make public its areas of concern and then to move as quickly as possible towards a resolution of these matters. Otherwise, they could be seen to be the ones who are totally responsible for locking up land that is sorely needed for affordable housing in one of the fastest growing areas of the State. In the past, the Traditional Owners have shown themselves to be generous and accommodating in negotiating agreements and making arrangements with both the local Shire and the State Government prior to the Native Title case being handed down. It is a bit rich to be blaming them for the current housing crisis in Broome.

In other towns of the Kimberley where Native Title issues have been settled long ago, the provision of affordable housing remains just as much an issue as it is in Broome. Who will be blamed for the problem in these towns? As demonstrated in the Broome gathering to discuss the issue, nothing could be better than the coming together of the various sectors of a local community to own the problem, identify the issues and to take on the responsibility of ensuring that our political leaders listen to their suggestions for some real solutions for both the long and the short term.

The current way of doing things is patently not working. Communities need to put their support behind finding new ways of thinking and acting that will enable us to bridge the widening gap that is opening up in our Kimberley towns between the very rich and comfortable and the desperately poor and marginalized.

Dr Frank Prendegast of Southern Cross Homes was in Broome this month and was happy to inspect the progress on the new aged care facility in Dickson Street. Photo: J Grimson.

All dressed up for lemons

When people pick lemons off the Bishop’s tree they dress up for the occasion. At least Claudio Pioli (right) thought it was a formal moment while his son Leonardo (left) is a bit more relaxed about it all. The Bishop is hoping he will get a share of the cordial being made from the fruit of his tree – to taste on some formal occasion.
Negligence on the road results annually in 1.2 million deaths and 50 million injuries, a grim statistic that a Vatican official noted as he presented the “Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the Road.”

Cardinal Martino affirmed that driving has a moral aspect: “The capacity to exist together and enter into relationships with others presupposed, on the part of the driver, some specific qualities: self-control, prudence, courtesy, an adequate spirit of service.

“We know that, as a consequence of transgressions and the lack of discipline on the road, each year, on the roadways of the world, 1.2 million people die, and 50 million are wounded … a sad reality, and at the same time, a great challenge both for society and for the Church.”

The document highlights four virtues to apply on the road and offers the drivers “ten commandments”. The virtues are charity, prudence, justice and hope. And the commandments include:

- The road shall be for you a means of communion between people and not of mortal harm.
- Cars shall not be for you an expression of power and domination, and an occasion of sin.
- Bring guilty motorists and their victims together, at the appropriate time, so that they can undergo the liberating experience of forgiveness.
- The road shall be for you a means of communion between people and not of mortal harm.
- Cars shall not be for you an expression of power and domination, and an occasion of sin.
- Bring guilty motorists and their victims together, at the appropriate time, so that they can undergo the liberating experience of forgiveness.

Broome identity, Sally Bin Demin, is an extremely gifted lady. Not only was she awarded NAIDOC Aboriginal Artist of the Year for her striking silk paintings glowing with the colours of the tropical earth and sea, sunrise and sunset, she has now written her story of the Broome where she grew up, in the 1940s and the 1950s.

Her story, Once Was Broome, also glows, with memories of a childhood of love and freedom in a culturally mixed pearling town unique in Australia. Sally’s plan was to write her book for her family after Karen Atkinson, an English teacher at St Mary’s College who often heard her telling the students about her early life, encouraged and helped her, but it is a story for us all to enjoy and treasure. Yaja Hadrys’ brilliant photographs of the silk paintings add another dimension to this beautifully produced book.

Sally lived at Beagle Bay, then at Holy Child Orphanage with her sister, Pearl, while their mother was working, and in various houses in Broome. She tells how “we lived by the cycle of the moon, and the rhythm of the tides influenced much that happened in our lives.” Her stories are always positive and colourful; although money was short the girls and their friends went to school, fished, camped out at Reddell Beach, explored old Chinatown, celebrated the Feast Days with the St John of God Sisters, all under the care of their many aunts and uncles and other older women and men who were friends – “black, white, yellow and brown.” In Sally’s voice, it was a privileged and magical time.

Her book concludes when she was aged fourteen and went to work at Streeter and Male, where she stayed for 21 years and learned about fabrics and colours. Then she was a Teaching Assistant at Nulungu, which became St Mary’s College, for 25 years. While working in the Art Department she learned her art from Sr Helena OLM, by listening as Sister taught the students.

Now, after eight years in Adult Art Education at the Jarndu Yawuru Women’s Resource Centre, Sally is retiring to concentrate on her silk painting work at home.

Once Was Broome is available from The Kimberley Bookshop in Broome at $29.95 per copy.

Marg Zucker
The Annual Matso’s Classic Car Run, sponsored by Matso’s Broome Brewery and Nexus Transport, was held at the end of May. The run this year began in Broome and included overnight stops at Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Emma Gorge and Kununurra, where the group attended the fabulous Kimberley Moon Concert.

Fifteen classic cars with thirty-one entrants cruised the Great Northern Highway and a short section of the Gibb River Road. As usual, the event was a great deal of fun which included rides in the old cars for the students at St Mary’s College in Broome and Warlawurru Catholic School in Red Hill, near Halls Creek.

The charity chosen this year was The University of Notre Dame Broome Campus nursing facility. The $16,000 raised will go towards the purchase of nursing mannequins, a great assistance towards the training of nursing students in the Kimberley. The University of Notre Dame and its student nurses are very grateful to Matso’s, Nexus and the participants and sponsors.
Above: Gabriel Dolby, a one time patient at Bungarun Leprosarium Derby shows Peter Howell and Jeff Haley through the museum when the Classic Car Run visited during their 2007 tour. Photo: CAS

Right: Ben Meyers with Red Hill students, Bronte-Skye Wearing, Erin McDonald and Cecil Hester, the day the car run visited Red Hill School. Photo: CAS.

Above: School staff and children from Red Hill Catholic School, Halls Creek, and participants from the Matso’s Classic Car Run. Kim Hart (far right) is the owner of the sleek Mercedes Benz convertible that proved popular with the children. The Matso’s Car Run mob thought that the lunch and afternoon with the children was a special privilege and a highlight of the trip. Photo: CAS.

Above: Peter Howell of Nexus Transport, one of the sponsors of the Matso’s Classic Car Run, with Annette Bedford and her son, Jobe, in an MG-td at Red Hill Catholic School. Photo: CAS.

Below: A sight to behold - a West Coast bear impaled on a Collingwood flag strapped to a 1966 Dodge Phoenix while members of the Morgan family in Kununurra happily look on. Photo: CAS.
The Jigal tree

Aunty Doris Mathews glowed as she recalled her childhood bush fruit adventures. The Jigal tree was one of her favourites. She and her eager young friends used to compete with the ‘honey sucker’ birds for the beautiful nectar contained at the base of the flower pods. Paul Foulkes, a fondly remembered conservationist in this region, referred to it as the ‘Kimberley Turkish Delight’ because the sap which is often found oozing from the trunk and branches is chewy and when eaten with the nectar resembles this sweet. The tree is also known as the Kimberley Bauhinia but more formally by its scientific name ‘Lysiphyllum cunninghamii’.

The tree has a wide range of habitats in the Kimberley, doing well on black soil, sand, stony ground, along watercourses as well as in pindan. It grows up to six metres tall, usually having a short, stout trunk and its outer branches hang down giving it a characteristic weeping appearance which provides a popular shelter for wallabies and other animals during the heat of the day. Its hollowed-out limbs are a favourite nesting site for bush honey bees. Unlike eucalypts, which often have a sterile area void of other plants beneath them, bauhinias allow other shrubs and grasses to grow happily in the mulch-enriched ground beneath their canopy. The seed pods are large and reddish brown, becoming darker as they mature. The leaves are high in protein and are relished by many grazing animals, especially cattle.

The leaves have two lobes which are joined like a butterfly’s wings. This back-to-back positioning of the leaves gives rise to the Aboriginal name of ‘Jigal’ tree. ‘Jigal’ means mother-in-law and according to Aboriginal custom the mother-in-law and son-in-law must not directly face each other.

Maybe next time when you travel out ‘bush’ you might like to examine this tree more closely and then boil the billy because it produces excellent firewood and burns hot with little smoke. You may also come to experience some of the same pleasure Aunty Doris found while collecting bush fruit.

Attacks Continue on Villages in Darfur

By Fr Emil Ciecierega, SDS, Diocesan Director.

In South Darfur, 3,000 people have been forced to flee their homes because of brutal attacks on their villages, adding their anonymous number to the more than 2.5 million others in Darfur that have suffered the same fate.

The conflict has killed at least 200,000 people since violence escalated in 2004.

The inhabitants of the villages now gather their families under trees in a nearby town. “On Saturday, we were attacked by people with guns riding in three land cruiser vehicles, and on horses and camels” said one villager. All the other villagers reported the same sequence of events.

Some men and children had poorly bandaged wounds, from bullets that had gone right through a limb as they ran. “When we were attacked, we just ran in any direction. I have lost a child and my sister. I have not seen them for ten days now,” said one woman, weeping.

The rainy season has begun, making travel to remote locations to deliver humanitarian aid to the displaced extremely difficult.

For more information or to make a donation to Caritas contact Fr Emil on 08 9192 4950 or check out the Caritas website www.caritas.org

Pat Walton, driver and chef, at Red Hill School Halls Creek with eager passengers in a Classic 1955 Mercedes. Photo: CAS.

Kimberley Kitchen

Pat Walton, from Melbourne, is a car enthusiast and was co-driver with Bishop Christopher Saunders in the recent Matso’s Classic Car Run to Kununurra. Pat is also a bit of a food enthusiast and is delighted to share this recipe with readers.

Pat’s Egg Frittata
(Can be eaten Hot or Cold)

Ingredients

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<td>10 Eggs</td>
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<td>1 capsicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Carrots</td>
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<td>2 Potatoes</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Large Onions</td>
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<td>1/2 garlic</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Slices of Bacon</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 sticks of celery</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 tablespoons Cream</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olive oil</td>
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<td>Mixed herbs (to own taste)</td>
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<td>Tabasco (to own taste)</td>
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<td>Salt &amp; Pepper (to own taste)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chilis (to own taste)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grated Parmesan Cheese</td>
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<td>Vegans choice</td>
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<td>2 Tomatoes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cream</td>
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<td>Olive oil</td>
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<td>Chilies (to own taste)</td>
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<td>Grated Parmesan Cheese</td>
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Method

Cut up all vegetables and cook in a large fry pan or saucepan with olive oil, stirring occasionally. I usually brown onions and garlic first then add the rest and more oil. Add spices and herbs to your own taste.

Lightly beat eggs with cream. Add cooked vegies to egg mix. Pour mixture into large pan or baking dish (that can be left on hotplate) and cook on hotplate until nearly done. Sprinkle grated parmesan on top and put under grill until golden brown. Cut into slices as required and serve with salad.

For more information or to make a donation to Caritas contact Fr Emil on 08 9192 4950 or check out the Caritas website www.caritas.org

The conflict [in Darfur] has killed at least 200,000 people since violence escalated in 2004.

The conflict in Darfur has killed at least 200,000 people since violence escalated in 2004.

The people are in fear. Armed men are moving around just some five kilometres away from them, and there are threats that they will be attacked again.

Many people want to go to Nyala, the capital of South Darfur, where they will be safer and where basic services are better. The rainy season has begun, making travel to remote locations to deliver humanitarian aid to the displaced extremely difficult.

For more information or to make a donation to Caritas contact Fr Emil on 08 9192 4950 or check out the Caritas website www.caritas.org

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Kimberley Community Profile • JULY/AUGUST 2007 11
St John of God Service

Saturday 16 June. In beautiful liturgical dance St Mary’s College students told the story of the Sisters’ arrival, and water from all the places they have served was ceremonially blended and blessed. The Bishop recalled stories of the early days and spoke of the loving service of the Sisters.

The celebrations at Beagle Bay, the site of the Sisters’ first Mission, were particularly appropriate as they took place on Friday 15 June, the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Many people who had been cared for by the Sisters at Beagle Bay travelled from all over the Kimberley to join in remembering and catching up with the Sisters, their friends. It was also the First Communion Day for fifteen children, pointing us to the future of the Church in the Kimberley as well as recalling the devotion and sacrifice of the Sisters of the past.

Above: Bishop Christopher Saunders blesses the water at the Centenary Mass celebrated in Broome on 16 June 2007. The water, from each of the communities served by the Sisters of St John of God, was brought to the font by a member of that particular community. Photo: B Kane.

Below: Students (from left) Cheryl and Tracey Mudgedell with Brenda Nanala admire the work of their friend, Donita Galova, a young artist from Balgo awarded 2nd Prize, at the judging of the Sisters of St John of God Youth Art Competition held at the Civic Centre Broome on 18 June. The girls, also from Balgo, are boarding students of St Mary’s College in Broome. Photo: J Grimson.
Above: Flags, representing the nation of those who have walked with the Sisters of St John of God through their 100 years in the Kimberley, were carried in procession at the Anniversary Mass celebrated in the grounds of Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral, Broome, on Saturday 16 June 2007. Photo: B Kane.

Below: A special Mass was celebrated on Sunday 24 June 2007, to acknowledge the presence of the Sisters of St John of God in La Grange-Bidyadanga during their 100 years in the Kimberley. It was also a celebration of the Parish Feast Day, the Birth of St John the Baptist. From left, Raewyn Wright, Trenia Rogers, Arnell Bamba, Louanne Hicks and Martina Badal who formed part of the procession welcoming the Sisters to the Mass. Photo: J Grimson.

Right: Sr Musarrat Sandar, SSJG Regional Leader visiting from Pakistan along with Sr Mary Rowsome, SSJG Congregational Leader from Ireland and Sr Isobel Moran, SSJG Australian Provincial Leader inspect the commemorative plaque at the site of the original St John of God Convent in Barker St, Broome. Photo: L Davie.

Below: From left, Marjory Hunter of Wyndham, Bonny Deegan of Halls Creek and Phyllis Bin Bakar of Broome at the launch of the Holy Child Orphanage Exhibition on Friday 8 June in Broome. Each of these ladies has lasting memories of days with the Sisters at the orphanage in Broome. Photo: J Grimson.

Above: It was a time for old friends to catch up. One time teacher at Beagle Bay, Sister Anne Marie Murray, a Sister of the Infant Jesus Congregation, came all the way from Ireland for the anniversary and caught up with old friends and past pupils such as Benedict Victor (right). Photo: CAS.

The Blessing Song is prayed over the many Sisters of St John of God attending the Centenary Mass held in Broome on 16 June. Photo: B Kane.
You Were Our Mothers

Br Geoff Kennewell fsc.

Amid tears of joy and recognition, a group of Sisters of St John of God and local people came together recently in the Wirrimanu Community, Balgo, to celebrate the centenary of the Sisters’ arrival in the Kimberley region.

On the evening of their arrival a smoking ceremony before Mass honoured and welcomed the Sisters back to their old home. During Mass, the local people emotionally told stories of their time with the Sisters and what it meant to them. Often we would hear: “you were our mothers, Sisters!”

And so, for two days, stories were told and old relationships re-established. Perhaps they could be symbolized by the meeting of Mena (Philomena) Baadjo with Sr Philomena after whom she had been named. After so many years!

At the key event, held at the Adult Education Centre, the Sisters, led by Sr Pat Rhatigan and Sr Alice Dempsey (Napanangka), after due local consultation, presented to the people of Balgo a picture data base program, containing a wealth of images back to the days of Old Balgo. It brought together the archives of the Parish, Luurnpa School, the Adult Education Centre, the St John of God Sisters and many others who had been connected to the community. This beautiful gift will provide glimpses of the past to present and future generations. Br Cal Cussack fsc became custodian for the community. The presentation was followed by lunch organized by the Administrator of the Centre, Sr Nola Goodwin rsj, and its students.

That evening, everyone thanked God in the Mass led by Fr Matt Digges, Fr Api and Balgo Church Leaders. That brought the official celebrations to an end, but later, over a shared meal of “killer” in the Parish House, the locals made sure that the Sisters knew that their presence had been a special time.

For more than 185 years Catholic Mission has been working in 160 countries.

Catholic Mission is the Church’s global mission aid agency, with three major works.

• Partnering Local Churches and Communities (Society for the Propagation of the Faith), raising over $7 million.
• Fostering Local Church Leadership (Society of St Peter Apostle) raising $1.1 million, and
• Caring for Children (Children’s Mission) raising over $4.2 million up 21.5 per cent.

World Mission Day in October contributed about $1.94 million to Partnering Local Churches and Communities, which was a 6.5 per cent increase on the previous year.

For more than $1.9 million was received in bequests representing an incredible increase of 161 per cent.

“The Annual Report highlights the wonderful work that Catholic Mission does all over the world,” said Father Terry Bell, Catholic Mission National Director. “I thank everyone who has generously contributed with donations, and also with their time and prayers.”

Catholic schoolchildren also gave up more than ever raising $471,000 so children less fortunate than them could have a better chance at life through the children first! program. Overall this represents an increase of 4.4 per cent on the previous year.

For more than 185 years Catholic Mission has been working in 160 countries. An important part of its role is also to educate and engage Australians in mission and justice.

[For more information contact Fr Daniel Charma at PO Box 151, Broome WA 6725 - Phone 08 9193 5888 or visit www.catholicmission.org.au]

Finalist for WA Training Award graduates

Helen Pinday graduated from TAFE Kununurra, along with ten others, at Argyle Mine on Thursday 28 June. Helen, who is from Warmun community, graduated in Administration Business. She also won the East Kimberly TAFE Award and is a finalist for the Western Australia Training Award of the Year to be held in Perth.

Photo: T Morellini rsj.

Australian Catholics dig deep for those in need

For the fifth consecutive year (July 2006 to June 2007) Catholic Mission raised more money than ever before. This is due to the generosity and compassion that Australians share for those people in real need. Total gross donations from all dioceses were up 6.6 per cent to a record $12.44 million in gross donations.

Catholic Mission is the Church’s global mission aid agency, with three major works.

• Partnering Local Churches and Communities (Society for the Propagation of the Faith), raising over $7 million.
• Fostering Local Church Leadership (Society of St Peter Apostle) raising $1.1 million, and
• Caring for Children (Children’s Mission) raising over $4.2 million up 21.5 per cent.

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After several false starts over the past few years, Parish Priest Fr Matt Digges was finally able to announce Ringer Soak as the host community for this year’s celebration of Pentecost by the Kutjungka and other East Kimberley churches.

After organizing transport for the Mulan, Billiluna and Balgo participants it was then just a matter of getting there. Several groups of ladies created paintings telling of the happenings of Pentecost. Later in the day we visited some special sites to get water for the blessing and bark for the smoking ceremonies.

After tea we all gathered with Fr Matt and Fr Api round the camp fire for the telling of the Pentecost story using the prepared paintings. The art was very beautiful and the story telling helped to create the mood for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Symbolically, this was done using decorated fire sticks, carefully positioned round the fire. Following this the church leaders conducted a healing ceremony and the priests led the Rite of Reconciliation. Next morning we gathered for Mass to celebrate the Holy Spirit event, the climax of our very meaningful coming together, to celebrate God’s unconditional love for us.

Twenty students from St Mary’s College received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 9 June, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, in Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral, Broome.

**KALUMBURU RAFFLE RESULTS**

**FIRST PRIZE** – Maggie Captain  
**SECOND** – Henrika Djangara  
**THIRD** – Halijah Williams  
**FOURTH** – Justina Clement  
**FIFTH** – Sanchaz Charles  

Congratulations to all these winners!
Grand Final déjà vu for touch football side

The Hunchbacks of Notre Dame Uni, lost their second grand final in as many seasons when they were beaten 6-5 by their nemesis, the Rising Stars, in extra time at the Broome Touch Association social grade grand final recently.

With the game tied at 5-5 the Hunchbacks were denied a try on the final play of the game sending the game into the extra time drop-off period leaving the teams reduced to four players before the final try came.

It was a heroic effort from the Hunchbacks who were huge underdogs and were missing the majority of their male players through injury and practical placement commitments.

There was plenty to celebrate during the presentations however with the Hunchback’s Kristie Ballagh awarded the Grand Final’s Most Valuable Female Player and Mike Doyle taking out the season’s Most Valuable Player. Most of the team will remain together for the next season and are hoping it is ‘third time lucky’.

International Guests

The Broome Campus played host to 19 students from the USA’s University of Portland (Oregon). The students arrived on June 26 and spent five weeks on campus in Broome attending classes and taking in some of the unique sights of the Kimberley including the Staircase to the Moon, Willie Creek Pearl Farm and the Manbana Hatchery.

The students were joined by Portland University staff, Fr Tom Hosinski, Professor Becky Houck and Notre Dame Fremantle Campus Program Director Katie Healy.

Broome Campus Executive Director Gavin Greaves said the University’s second extended visit to Broome added another dimension to the local campus.

“The great success of these two visits has insured that there is great demand for placements for the Broome experience back in Oregon,” he said.

“It has been a pleasure to play host to such a great bunch of students and we hope this will become a tradition.”

St Monica Patroness of Mothers and Widows

Feast Day - 27 August

St Monica came into the world in the year 333. As soon as she was old enough she was married to Patricius, a pagan citizen of Tagaste. Although Patricius was a man of high temper, she bore all trials with great patience. Her example and gentle conduct exercised such an influence over him that he was finally converted to Christianity. He died the year after his baptism.

The great cross of her life was the conduct of her son, Augustinian, who was seventeen years of age when his father died in 371. His mother prayed long and fervently for his conversion. When he left her in Africa to go to Italy, she followed him and found him at Milan.

In August, 386, St Monica had the long-coveted happiness of seeing her son return to God. He was baptized by St Ambrose on Easter eve the following year and soon after, with his mother and some friends, he set out for Africa. But St Monica’s work was done; her son was converted; the sinner had become a Saint.

She fell sick on the road and died at Ostia, from where they were to embark, in 387.
**BEAGLE BAY**

**Centenary Week**

Centenary Week in June was a chance for Sacred Heart School Beagle Bay to celebrate the 100th birthday of the School as well as the celebration of 100 years of the Sisters of St John of God in the Kimberley.

The week ended with a joyous Mass celebrated on the Feast of the Sacred Heart (15 June). Some students received their First Holy Communion. This was followed by a spectacular lunch in the Women’s Centre and then the Year 2/3 Class re-enacted the arrival of the Sisters at Beagle Bay.

Students who received First Holy Communion are shown here, from left, Bishop Saunders and Fr Tom Kesey, Regional Superior of the Spiritan Fathers and Fr Ray Hevern, Provincial for the Pallottine Fathers. Photo: W Edwards.

**DERBY**

**Pizzas Derby Style**

Making and eating pizzas Pre Primary Holy Rosary Derby style is significantly different from Rome where John Purnell, a student for the priesthood in the Diocese of Broome, has been living, studying and eating Roman pizzas for the past year. We are delighted to have John back with us for a month.

Enjoying Pizza are, from left and at back, Kaylee Miller, Miss Kristi Pigram and John Purnell with Keearn Martin and Shaynee Hendrick in front. Photo: M Scanlon sgs.

**BALGO**

**Desert Angels**

*Br Geoff Kennewell, fsc.*

We’ve all heard of Hell’s Angels but have we heard of the Desert Angels? This year at Luurupa Catholic School, a group of students and volunteer Ryan Scanlan have formed a bike club.

Ryan’s hope is that by being interested in the maintenance and care of bikes and going on regular rides in the local area those involved will be encouraged to attend school and be on their best behaviour.

On weekends there are group rides in the local area, which is good training for later in the year when they hope to ride to Mulan. Ryan is often joined by people such as Fr Api, Fr Matt or Dr Nicolette.

The boys and girls who get to go on a ride are really appreciative of Ryan’s efforts.

Ryan, left, with Fr Matt, right, and a group of the Desert Angels. Photo: J Kennewell fsc.
School News

BROOME

Sorry Day
By Simon Millar.

On Friday 25 May, about 80 secondary students of St Mary’s College in Broome participated in a ceremony for National Sorry Day. Students had cut out and decorated hands with messages of reconciliation in preparation for the ceremony. Everyone made a large circle and sat down and listened to the playing of the didgeridoo by two students, Taro Bin-Amat and Ben Phillips. The ceremony was very touching.

St Mary’s own Pizza makers

Early in Term Two, students from the Pathways program at St Mary’s College, Broome were invited to Eagle Boys to learn how to make pizza. The students enjoyed the process and even got to eat the pizza at the end of the day!

The experience was enjoyable and inspired many English activities back at school. Some of these students are working on making an instructional text about how pizza is made.

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Making a Splash

On a recent School excursion to popular fishing spot ‘Blackberry Tree’, St Mary’s College student Brehannen Juddrill tries her hand at kayaking in Roebuck Bay.

Photo: A Mitchell.

Photo: P Woodbridge.

Pizza making is great fun for a flour-covered Rebecca Ross, Rowan Albert and Jason George. Photo: S Millar.
ST MARY’S COLLEGE

Dance Group

The students at St Mary’s College in Broome have been very busy this semester with dance performance within the community. Early in May over 360 boys and girls danced at the North West Kimberley Expo to a huge crowd that gathered in the café area. The students have also supported the Sisters of St John of God with their Centenary Mass celebrations and held the congregation with a prayerful movement piece depicting the journey of the Sisters in the Kimberley. (See photo) Earlier in June, 60 students danced at the Broome Turf Club for Family Day and had a rousing response from the huge crowd and managed to achieve some great fundraising as well! The next event on the calendar is the Cultural Dance Exchange in August when 24 boys and girls from the Secondary Dance Group will travel to Perth and perform at Burswood Theatre for the Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival (Dance & Woodwind Ensemble Sections).

RINGER SOAK

Blessing of Principals

Following the Mass of Pentecost held in Ringer Soak-Yaruman and attended by all communities in the region, Church Leaders from Balgo-Kutjungka Parish blessed outgoing Principal of Birlirr Ngawiijwu Catholic School Ringer Soak, Gerard Tonti-Filippini (right), and welcomed the new Principal, Br Rick Gaffney fsc.

Planets aligned

All the planets are aligned for these Year 3 students who work in an interesting classroom environment at St Joseph’s, Kununurra. Photo: CAS

The Sacred Heart Church Beagle Bay Conservation and Restoration Appeal

Please make donations payable to: THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (WA) and post to: The Sacred Heart Church Beagle Bay Conservation and Restoration Appeal PO Box 76, Broome WA 6725

MY DONATION: $25 $50 $100 Other

My/Our cheque/money order/cash is enclosed OR Mastercard Visa Bankcard

Card No. ____________________________

Expiry Date ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

Name: ____________________________________________

Postal Address: ____________________________________________

Donations of $2 and over are tax deductible. Receipts will be issued.

Photo: B Kane.

Photo: P Cowan.
**School News**

**LOMBADINA**

**A visit to the local Police Station**


The visit was organised by Sergeant Christine Johnston who is a child interview specialist.

The idea of the tour was to familiarise the students with what police do and how the police can help them and their local community.

The children had a wonderful interactive tour playing with sirens, police cars, police radios and pretending to be locked in the cells. These activities show kids that police are a friendly face they can turn to for help in their hour of need or at anytime.

At the end of the visit, a super morning tea was provided by police staff Acting Senior Sergeant Kev McDonnell, Sergeant Christine Johnston and her husband, Detective Sergeant Graeme Johnston.

![Children were totally engrossed as Sergeant Christine explained and demonstrated the use of police equipment. Photo: K McDonnell.](image)

**WARMUN**

**Saving Lives**

The Royal Lifesaving Association was in Warmun, East Kimberley, to train the Year 7 students from Ngalangangpum School, and others, in CPR. Students were quick to learn the techniques as it was a hands-on practical session.

![Photo: A Cabarsi rj.]()
MULAN

Hot soup at film night

During the cold snap in June, John Pujajangka-Piyirn School in Mulan, East Kimberley held a film night at which hot soup was served. There was a long queue of eager children for soup at half time.

![Photo: P Cowan.]

Feast Day celebrations

Some 50 adults and children attended the Mass at Handover on Lake Gregory to celebrate the Feast of St John the Baptist, Patron Saint of John Pujajangka-Piyirn School in Mulan. Bessie and Noonie told special stories and after Mass Anne Ovi and Noonie made damper and many hands cooked sausages and made tea.

Anne Ovi making damper. Photo: P Cowan.

A visit from the Bishop

Bishop Christopher Saunders visited Mulan in late June for Mass and a visit to John Pujajangka-Piyirn School.

He is shown here with Mulan church leaders, left to right, Rowena Moolgoodga, Wendy Wise and Eileen Tax.

![Photo: P Cowan.]

KIMBERLEY CHURCH

LOGO CAPS

Please send me _____ caps @ $12.00 (inclusive of postage and GST)
(Please indicate number and type of cap required).

- Black cap with red trim
- Plain black (no trim)
- Plain dark blue (no trim)

Cheque for $_______ enclosed.

Name: __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Telephone: __________________________.

Please forward this form to:
The Diocese of Broome, PO Box 76, Broome WA 6725
Ph: (08) 9192 1060 Fax: (08) 9192 2136

The caps are also available from the Diocesan Office
at 13 Barker Street, Broome.
Wouldn't you like to win Lotto and be rich? Imagine having all the money you need to buy whatever you want! iPod? Skateboard? BMX Bike? That favorite DVD you wanted for your birthday and didn't get? The latest Billabong or Rocxy clothing?

Today’s Gospel Reading is from Luke 12:13-21 and what a message it gives!
It tells you what is really the most important thing to have in your life:
“Make space for God.”

In your mind is a Treasure Chest of things that you want. Look at all the kinds of things in Jamie and Rosie’s Mind Treasure Chest. There is not much space left for God’s love, is there? The second Treasure Chest is your Treasure Chest. Place inside the names/pictures of things that will make your Treasure Chest glow with God’s love.


1. Jesus told a story about a:
   - a rich farmer who was extremely generous.
   - a poor farmer who needed help.
   - a rich farmer who was very selfish.
   - all of the above.

2. The true joy of living is found in:
   - having all the stuff you want.
   - having all the money you want.
   - relationships, with relationship with God being #1.
   - all of the above.

3. We are accountable to God for the way we live because:
   - everything we have has come from God.
   - God has given us instructions to live by.
   - we live on God’s earth, breathe God’s air, drink God’s water.
   - all of the above.

The FAMILY BARN: Use this Sunday’s Gospel as a reason for the family to spend that most precious of possessions – TIME – to empty the house of items no longer needed (clothes, toys, pantry food), giving them to a family in need, or to some person/group who is in touch with those who would be grateful for them – St Vincent de Paul, Care & Concern, Lifeline.

Part with something that will especially hurt!!!

A VERSE to LIVE BY: Unscramble the verse below which includes many ways in which you make ‘God Space’ in your life. Write it on the lines to the left.

‘EOVL SI TENITPA. LEVO SI UNKD. TI SOED NTO VEN. TI OSED NTO SOABT. TI SI TON RDOUP. TI SI OTN ERDU, TI SI ONT FESL-KESENIGI, TI SI ONT LSAEY RGNEEA, TI EPEK ON RRCEDO FO SORNGW. YLDE DSEO NOT GLHTDI E NI LVIE TBU CRESEJI WHIT HET UTRIT, TI WYASL COTRESTP. LYAWA UTSSRT,AAWSYL EOPSH. SALAYW SVRSERPEE’
Sunday 1 July 2007 saw the arrival and handover of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon in Australia. It was officially welcomed from New Zealand to Australia by the Prime Minister John Howard, NSW Premier Morris Iemma and hundreds of Australian youth, clergy and laity.

Following the handover at Sydney airport the Cross and Icon travelled to the shrine of Blessed Mary MacKillop in North Sydney to begin its 12 month pilgrimage around the country. It was then taken to Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour where thousands gathered to welcome the Cross and Icon in a public celebration which saw Guy Sebastian and Paulini perform the XXIII World Youth Day Song, ‘Receive the Power’ for the first time.

Leonardo Pioli of Broome Parish represented the Diocese of Broome at the handover and we will hear from Leonardo in the next issue.

For further information contact Erica at the Kimberley World Youth Day Office at St Mary’s College (old Kindy)
Ph: 08 9193 5032 Mobile: 0427 970 028
Fax: 08 9192 2599 Email: kwydc@stmarysbroome.wa.edu.au
World Youth Day Sydney 2008 Website: www.wyd2008.org

VATICAN CITY (ZENIT.ORG): Benedict XVI is encouraging young people to prepare well for the World Youth Day to be held next July in Australia. The Pope concluded a general audience in July with a special exhortation to young people, telling them that the youth gathering will be a spiritual renewal that will benefit all of society.

"One year from now we will meet at World Youth Day in Sydney!" the Holy Father said.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008 IN SYDNEY?

The WYD Cross and Icon are well into their journey. Reports and photos from different locations have been coming in, and can be viewed here


SPEAK TO YOUR PARISH PRIEST NOW!
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING.
A deposit of $500 is required.
Total cost $2000

Contact your Parish Priest or Pastoral Associate.
Sisters of St John of God, Sr Philomena Hockings, Veronica Ryan, Leone Collins, Angela Cox, Aine Small, Alice Dempsey and Patricia Rhatigan, wave goodbye as they prepare to board their flight for Broome following the very successful Centenary Celebrations held in Balgo, East Kimberley. Photo: G Kennewell

Andy and Kingstianna prepare to decorate their boomerangs during an activity held at St Joseph’s Catholic School, Kununurra, to celebrate NAIDOC Week in July. Photo: T Fyfe.

Pat Walton (left) and Bishop Christopher Saunders alongside their 1966 Dodge Phoenix which cruised it home in the 2007 Matso’s Classic Car Run, an annual event which this year raised funds for the University of Notre Dame Nursing Faculty. Photo: J Grimson.

Bishop Saunders presents a certificate to Izarreeyah Howard on the occasion of her First Holy Communion, Sacred Heart Church, Beagle Bay. Photo: W Edwards.

Brother Gunter SAC came back to the Kimberley with other Pallottines to celebrate the St John of God Centenary. At La Grange-Bidyadanga he helped prepare some Northwest Salmon for a community feast. Photo: J Grimson.

Malcolm Douglas (above) at the entrance to his new Crocodile Park 18 kms from Broome. The whole park is a magnificent experience. Malcolm was a supporter of the Matso’s Classic Car Run, 2007. Photo: CAS.

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