Editorial

Who is my Neighbour?

The Catholic Bishops have published their 2007 Social Justice Statement and their theme for this year is Australia’s role as a global citizen. Whilst there are plenty of issues to occupy us at home in Australia, the bishops remind us that we have an ‘obligation to act in the interests of people who do not share our prosperity and security.’

The Australian and West Australian Governments have been boasting of their planned budget surpluses and have even discovered that their projections were conservative and the treasuries have more in store than was estimated. We know that there are matters needing attention such as hospitals, schools, indigenous housing and roads, and these need to be attended to, in some cases urgently. At the same time, Australia has an obligation to ensure that its overseas aid is ‘up to the mark’.

We know that individual Australians are very generous in their contributions to special appeals for assistance to our overseas sisters and brothers in times of natural disaster. However, our Governmental aid continues to fall short of the UN target of 0.7% of our gross national income. We currently contribute 0.25%. Even some of this figure is inflated by creative accounting such as including the costs of building detention facilities overseas.

The Bishops wish to point out that the protection of national citizens from harm, especially from terrorist attack, is justified. However, the so called ‘pre-emptive’ option of striking at another nation on the suspicion that its Government or some of its citizens might mount an attack somewhere in the world is another matter.

The Statement also examines the roles of the various international institutions, including the United Nations itself, and the need for a reform of these bodies to ensure that the weakest and the poorest nations receive fair and just treatment and not further exploitation. This is particularly relevant to the issue of world debt.

Two very relevant topics for consideration in the next Federal Election campaign are also mentioned in the statement - climate change and border protection. These are clearly matters that have global significance and are areas where many would say that Australia has not been the best global citizen in the past and where Australia could in fact give a lead. All the financial security in the world will not ensure clean air and drinkable water; we need to make changes to our lifestyle and at the same time ensure that we are not adversely affecting the lifestyles of our neighbours. We have to reconsider our obligations to refugees; paying other nations to take them ‘off our hands’ is not acceptable.

So there is plenty of relevant information and timely comment from the Bishops’ Statement for this year’s Social Justice Sunday. Reading and pondering it will provide a worthwhile preparation for questioning your Candidates on Australia’s performance as a good global citizen and for casting your vote in the next Federal Election.

Every good community is a microcosm of the whole world.

— Michael Cardew

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Our Lady of the Assumption Feast Day, August 15th, 2007. Dancers from Kalumburu in the north Kimberley, young and old, gather for the procession to the outdoor Mass, to honour Our Lady and remember their foundation day. Photo: CAS

Let them dance in praise of his name, playing to him on strings and drums!
Psalm 149:3

Copies of the Social Justice Sunday Statement 2007, WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Australia’s role as a global citizen are available from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council at $1.00 per copy and can be purchased by

- Credit Card, Orders by Ph 02 9956 5811 or Fax 02 9956 0056
- Cheque or Credit Card, Mail to: ACSJC, PO Box 1615, North Sydney NSW 2059

An order form can be downloaded from http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop of Broome.
Briefly Speaking

PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED MAINTENANCE on some of the Diocesan properties is retired builder, John Ryan. John, from Melbourne, is becoming a regular visitor and provides a high quality and generous service to the Diocese, placing his many skills at the disposal of Bishop Saunders.

VISITOR TO THE KIMBERLEY, Bishop of Sale, Bishop Jeremiah Coffey, attended the ‘Common Gate’ exhibition at Notre Dame University Broome Campus. Bishop Coffey enjoyed his time in Kununurra, Broome and at Notre Dame.

TOTO PICCOLO, the Responsible for the Way in Australia, visited Broome to catch up with families on mission and to meet with Neo Catechumenal Clergy working in the diocese - Fr Daniel, Fr Richard and Fr Eugene.

FR JOHN REILLY, a Jesuit priest, is based in Brisbane where he leads a spirituality team for the Jesuits. Fr John was recently in Broome to direct the Annual Retreat for the Clergy of the Diocese.

FATHER TONY DOHERTY of Rose Bay Parish Sydney was in Broome recently having a look around Kimberley country which stands in stark contrast to his harbour-side Church.

FR BRYAN TIERNAN SAC was recently in La Grange/Bidayadanga Parish to supply for Fr Emil Ciecirega SDS. Fr Bryan is stationed at the Pallottine Community in Rossmoyne.

SR ALICE DEMPSEY, a Sister of St John of God, recently celebrated her Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession. Sr Alice, of Wexford in Ireland, has spent many years serving the people of Balgo and the Kutjungka region of the East Kimberley and more recently has been resident in Broome. Congratulations, Sr Alice, and thank you!

MARY PARNELL has recently joined the Diocesan Chancery as Finance Officer. Mary comes from Rockingham, Perth. Welcome aboard Mary.
Attention: Parish community—parish life that require urgent attention. There are seven areas that stand out as parts of parish life. What constitutes a ‘living parish’ in the Kimberley is a matter for on-going conversation. Some parishes are relatively stable in their make-up, whereas others are in a state of flux; some are evidently peculiar geographical conglomerates that span several isolated settlements and include a variety of languages and interests. Just the same, the question of what is a ‘living parish’ is worth pursuing, if for no other reason than to keep the objective of developing a living faith in each parish alive and ever before our eyes.

I have conducted two reviews of parishes now, one in Broome and the other in Derby. Interestingly enough these two parishes are vastly different in their construct yet many of the opinions and expectations of parishioners are remarkably the same. They share a similar joy of individual and group submissions. What is most heartening is that the groups and individuals are as concerned about the life of their parish as are the priests and religious. In other words, concern is not coming from above only, but is a real reflection of those who share a practising faith and know what value there is in such vibrancy.

The challenge for every parish is to do something about the matters in need of urgent attention. The reviews as conducted included a number of individual and group submissions. What is most sensible place to begin a process of revitalization. Each parish has good grounds and good facilities to bring people together with a view to developing healthy parish family relationships. Growing people together begins with planting love in common activities and interests. Emphasizing the sanctity of the family, not only as the basic unit of society but as the foundation of the faith community, is a realizable goal on the way to a living parish.

Growing people together begins with planting love in common activities and interests. The challenge for every parish is to do something about the matters in need of urgent attention. To put it another way—how to start to translate the concerns into action and where to start. Without a doubt imagination is the first step to any useful innovation.

Given the limited resources available to each community, a workable pastoral strategy must begin with those areas that are most easily addressed. Gathering the limited personnel resources together may not appear easy but it is certainly possible given the good-will and enthusiasm evident in the review submissions.

Parish community-building activities seems to me to be the greatest ally in this quest is the call to a new imagination in faith.
Gabriel Nodea who comes from Warmun, otherwise known as Turkey Creek, has been an active leader among his people for some years. He enjoyed a distinguished career with the Army Reserve Unit Norforce in the past and these days is a keen helper with community events. Recently Gabriel turned his hand to coaching the local footy team – the Warmun Eagles.

The Warmun Eagles played in their first East Kimberley Aussie Rules Grand Final. They lost to the Kununurra Magpies in a closely fought battle by only 8 points. As one commentator put it, “This was an exciting match, a real crowd pleaser, and though the Magpies triumphed on the day the Warmun Eagles have every right to be proud of their achievement and their commitment to the game”.

Gabriel Nodea with aspiring didgeridoo players from the Warmun Community.
Photo: T Morelini rsj.

“Do you think that your gifts are worth so little that you should no longer bother to maintain them? Share them with each other and teach them to your children. Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages must never be lost.” Pope John Paul II.

We the Genazzano students, Ursula, Hannah, Alex, Alice and our accompanying teachers, Mrs Jennifer Cambridge and Mrs Marg Allen have been fortunate to experience the Indigenous culture and way of life in the Kimberley region during our cultural exchange program. We have been so warmly welcomed by all whom we have met on our journey and as we leave to return to Melbourne, we do so with very fond memories of our time here.

There have been so many highlights for us – attending schools in the region and establishing relationships with the happy children; learning more about health, education, justice and socio-economic issues; participating in a variety of activities such as fishing, talking on the radio, learning about bush foods, screen printing and lending a helping hand when needed.

In our final week, we have spent time at Warmun, at Ngangangpum School and at the new Arts Centre which houses some of the magnificent Aboriginal art from this region. We celebrated Gija day with all the people of the Warmun community and other visitors. Joining in all the festivities of the day with the community was an absolute delight. The night darkened, still the children played, and as we watched the corroboree begin, all were filled with awe and respect.

Thank you to all we have encountered on our journey, for sharing your gifts of your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances and your languages with us. We return to Melbourne deeply moved by all of our experiences and we will do our best to pass on what we have learned to others in our communities where we live.
Having your say

By the time this edition of the Profile hits the streets, the local Shire elections will be over and we will be in preparation for a Federal Election. In a couple of previous issues I have decried the poor voter turnout for local Shire elections.

This is the level of Government that is closest to the people and the one that delivers many of the day to day household services that we rely on. Still, people seem to have been unmoved and reluctant to cast a vote for their local Councillors.

This year for the first time in Western Australia, the State Government decreed that there would be proportional representation voting for local Shires, despite the fact that the vast majority of local Councils voted against the idea. There are some significant reasons why people were opposed to this change. Many felt that making the voting paper itself more difficult to complete would turn voters away or make for more informal votes. Secondly, the system of proportional representation means that it now becomes very difficult for a candidate standing alone, without having formed an alliance of some sort with other candidates, to win a seat. Thirdly, having formed alliances to be elected, it is not unreasonable to believe that once elected those people aligned on the day of voting will be aligned in their voting in the chamber. This leaves local government open to being taken over by Party politics, something that has not traditionally been the case in Western Australia.

Not only is the voting paper more difficult to complete, but the system of counting votes is also more complex and requires more time on the part of Shire officers to complete the count and to declare the poll. I hope that I will have been proved wrong and that the numbers of voters who turned out for the local Shire elections actually increased this time. I certainly hope that having the local elections closely followed by the Federal Election does not mean that people will take their obligations to vote in both less seriously. Many people around the world are envious of our system of democracy. We owe a debt to our ancestors who put the system of universal adult suffrage in place, and the best way to repay them is to be informed about the local candidates’ views and their parties’ policies and to vote conscientiously.

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One site that might be of interest from a Catholic Social Justice perspective is at http://www.polmin.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogsection&id=2&Itemid=18. It looks at a number of important policy issues such as water, refugees, industrial relations and the millennium development goals.

The Blake Art Prize – A Kimberley Winner

The Blake Art Prize, Australia’s most prestigious religious art award, has been won by a Kimberley Aboriginal artist, Shirley Purdie, of Warmun Community.

Her rendition of Catholic devotional Stations of the Cross is painted in a distinctive motif reflective of the renowned Warmun art school. The large canvas features outlines of the hilly country that marks that part of the Kimberley as being so remarkable and each Station is painted in specially prepared local ochres.

Shirley says she wished to express her beliefs and practice in a way that combined naturally with her country which figures prominently as her spiritual foundation.

Bishop Christopher Saunders, Bishop of the Kimberley, said the award not only recognizes Shirley Purdie’s talent and giftedness but is also a resounding compliment to indigenous art particularly the Warmun School of Art. “This prize recognizes the coming of age of Warmun art in the mind of mainstream Australia. Shirley’s ability to reflect Catholic devotional practices in a manner compatible with her distinctive art style points to the richness of ‘two-way learning’ and definitely reflects the synergy of two traditions in a way that makes the Kimberley unique as part of an emerging Australian culture”.

Stations of the Cross - Shirley Purdie. 

Artist, Shirley Purdie.

Photo: T Morellini rsj.

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Get your "Passport" ready for Heaven, says Pope

Heaven is an equal-opportunity destination, but to gain entry one needs a "passport" stamped with virtues such as humility, mercy and truth, says Pope Benedict. The Pope said this recently in a reflection he gave on the "narrow gate," before reciting the midday Angelus with several thousand people gathered in the courtyard of the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

The Pontiff asked: "What is meant by this 'narrow gate'? Why is it that many people do not succeed in entering through it? Is it perhaps a passage that is reserved only for a few elect?" The Holy Father said that the message of Christ is that everybody has an equal chance of entering through the narrow gate, "but it is 'narrow' because it is demanding, it requires commitment, self-denial and mortification of one's own egoism."

Christ invites all to heaven, he said, "but with one and the same condition: that of making the effort to follow him and imitate him, taking up one's cross, as he did, and dedicating one's life to the service of our brothers and sisters."

Benedict XVI made the point that "we will not be judged on the basis of presumed privileges, but by our works. True friendship with Christ," he added, "is expressed by one's way of life: it is expressed by goodness of heart, with humility, meekness and mercy, love of justice and truth, sincere and honest commitment to peace and reconciliation."

The Pope added, "This, we might say, is the 'ID card' that qualifies us as authentic 'friends'; this is the 'passport' that permits us to enter into eternal life."

Caritas applauds Indigenous communities doing it for themselves

Caritas Australia congratulates its Indigenous development partner Unity of First Peoples Australia (UFPA), for the dramatic impact its diabetes program has had in addressing this important Indigenous health issue.

Dr John Boulton from the WA Country Health Service evaluated the program at Mowanjum community east of Derby and found "we have evidence of the success of the program both in terms of improving the care of adolescents with diabetes and in changing the community capacity to cope with the future predicted exponential increase in diabetes in all age groups."

Introduced at Mowanjum in September 2006, the community-based program is implemented at the direction of a working group of community elders and representatives from UFPA, WA Country Health Service and Princess Margaret Hospital.

Ernie Bridge, President of UFPA said "the results are very pleasing and consistent with the results achieved so far in other remote Kimberley communities where the UFPA diabetes program has been introduced."

Currently Caritas Australia, as part of the 'close the gap' coalition is calling on the Australian Government to direct a further $460 million per year to address the crisis in Indigenous health.

Donations to Caritas can be made through the Diocesan Director, Fr Emil Ciecierega, telephone 08 9192 4950.

For more information see: http://www.caritas.org.au/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Close_the_Gap_Campaign

Yesteryear images from our past

Sr Veronica Ryan rsj, one-time Principal of St Joseph's, recalled that at the opening of the school 40 years ago they expected 65 children to turn up on the first day. She continued, "Imagine our surprise when 130 students appeared with only two teachers and far too few chairs!" Above, St Joseph's School, Kununurra, as it was in the beginning. Photo: Courtesy of St Joseph's School, Kununurra.
Broome Campus of NDA promoting education across the state

The Broome Campus of Notre Dame University participated in the Croc Fest in Derby recently. The festival was one of eight events held nationally aimed at promoting health, education and well-being in young people living in rural and remote communities.

The festival allowed staff and students from the Broome Campus to discuss the courses and opportunities provided by the University with students from the Kimberley. Many of the students were familiar with Notre Dame and recognised plenty of friends and relatives in the photos of past and present students displayed at the stall.

Broome Campus nursing students Kristie Ballagh and Jerry Moore represented the Campus as part of a Rural Health Club stall. The pair introduced students to aspects of the health industry including plaster casting fingers which proved extremely popular.

The Broome Campus staff also travelled to the Footprints Indigenous Careers Expo at Perth’s Hale School. Aboriginal Studies lecturer Cindy Solonec joined Fremantle Campus prospective students’ advisor Glen Panarese to promote the Campus to students from across the metropolitan area of Perth.

The Hunchbacks crew narrowly missed out on a semi final berth but had plenty of fun as per usual. Photo: M Doyle.

Inter-campus rivalry on Roebuck Bay

The University of Notre Dame Australia’s Fremantle Campus team rowed to victory during the Shinju Matsuri Dragon Boat Races in Broome. The medical students visited the Kimberley as part of their practical placement and stayed overnight on the Broome Campus before joining the Broome Campus’ Hunchback team in the community event.

The Fremantle Campus team named Lay Down Sally, revelled in the perfect conditions winning all their heats to progress to the final where they held off the team from the Broome Lifesaving Club to clinch the trophy. A victory in the second heat was not enough for the Hunchbacks who missed out on a berth in the semi-finals by one place.

The win for the Fremantle Campus follows on from the Broome Campus’ victory in the tug of war last year. With the added spice of inter-campus rivalry, the Shinju Matsuri Dragon Boat races look set to have a Notre Dame presence for future festivals.

Burning issues discussed on campus

Fr Brennan, the Professor of Human Rights and Social Justice at The University of Notre Dame Australia’s Sydney Campus, stayed on the Broome Campus as part of a broader visit to the Kimberley. He was a special guest lecturer during the Campus’ Aboriginal Studies classes and also hosted a staff discussion on Indigenous affairs. Fr Brennan visited Kalumburu and conducted workshops at Lombadina and Warmun during his stay.

Fr Frank Brennan SJ (second from left) was a guest in the Broome Campus’ Aboriginal Studies class. Photo: M Doyle.
Mirrilingki Spirituality Centre, Warmun, hosted the second World Youth Day reflection weekend for the Wyndham and Halls Creek Parishes in the East Kimberley. The focus of the weekend was around pilgrimage and life’s journey. The team from Warmun and Mirrilingki was well supported by Parish Priest Fr Mark Connolly CSSp, Gerard Tonti, REC Consultant from Broome and Erica Bernard, World Youth Day coordinator for the Diocese of Broome.

The sessions provided the participants from Ringers Soak, Halls Creek and Wyndham with a balance of instruction, conversation and activities. The generosity of Naomi Wood and Dean Savoia, Principal of Red Hill School, enabled the participants to travel many kilometres to be present and to gain education and insights from their weekend together.

The challenge now is to raise the finances that will enable those interested to join the pilgrimage to Sydney in 2008.

Thirty eight Kimberley students at St John’s College Darwin were visited recently by Bishop Christopher Saunders, who was in the northern capital for the reception of Bishop Eugene Hurley. The Bishop noted how happy he was to see so many students from the Kimberley committed to furthering their secondary education.

Saint Luke the Evangelist

Feastday: October 18
Patron of Physicians and Surgeons

Luke, the writer of a Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, has been identified with St. Paul’s “Luke, the beloved physician” (Colossians 4:14). We know few other facts about Luke’s life from Scripture or from early Church historians.

It is believed that Luke was born a Greek and a Gentile. In our day, it would be easy to assume that someone who was a doctor was rich, but scholars have argued that Luke might have been born a slave. It was not uncommon for families to educate slaves in medicine so that they would have a resident family physician. Not only do we have Paul’s word, but Eusebius, Saint Jerome, Saint Irenaeus and Caius, a second-century writer, all refer to Luke as a physician.

We have to go to Acts to follow the trail of Luke’s Christian ministry. We know nothing about his conversion but looking at the language of Acts we can see where he joined Saint Paul.

Luke’s unique perspective on Jesus can be seen in the six miracles and eighteen parables not found in the other gospels. Luke’s is the gospel of the poor and of social justice. He is the one who tells the story of Lazarus and the Rich Man who ignored him. Luke is the one who uses “Blessed are the poor” instead of “Blessed are the poor in spirit” in the beatitudes. Only in Luke’s gospel do we hear Mary’s Magnificat where she proclaims that God “has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty” (Luke 1:52-53).
Wonders of the Kimberley

A precious gift

The Fitzroy River is the main fresh water artery of the Kimberley and is believed to be second only to the Amazon River in South America for the volume of water it pumps out to the sea. Rising at the southern end of the Durack Range it soon gathers momentum in the wet season flowing southwest through the rugged King Leopold Range and Geikie Gorge. Eventually it delivers millions of litres of water per second across the low lying floodplains to its final destination at King Sound where it empties into the Indian Ocean having travelled a total distance of 622 kilometres.

Aboriginal people have depended on and respected this life giving river for thousands of years but it was only relatively recently in 1837 that George Grey located the river as he sailed the H.M.S. Beagle. Later, during an expedition from 1838-41, a mapping explorer, Lt. Stokes, named it the ‘Fitzroy’ after the second Commander of his ship, Captain Robert Fitzroy.

A low level concrete structure was built along its water course in 1935 and was named, Fitzroy Crossing. At the peak of the wet season water can pass over the concrete crossing to a depth of approximately 13 metres and then fan out across the 15 kilometre wide flood plain. It is estimated that the flow rate is around 30,000 cubic metres per second providing an awesome sight.

The Fitzroy River was diverted in the late 1950s in order to store water at Camballin which is located 150km upstream from the mouth. The aim was to irrigate crops of cotton, sorghum and other fodder crops but the project was plagued with problems and lately there have been similar proposals to dam the river further upstream at Dimond Gorge.

There is a diverse environment of flora and fauna along the Fitzroy River. For example, recent studies have recorded 24 freshwater species of fish which surpasses that for all the rivers of Western Australia combined.

The Fitzroy River provides unique power, beauty and life-giving energy to the Kimberley. It is a precious gift to be enjoyed and to be used wisely for the benefit of future generations.

Kimberley Kitchen

Hi. My name is Jacqueline Henggeler and I live at Kachana Station (120km south west of Kununurra).

To my family’s big disappointment I am not a passionate cook, therefore all my meals are simple but tasty. Recipes for me have to be fail proof. I will share with you my favourite recipe. It is called “Impossible Pie”. I think it deserves its name because when I made it for the very first time I was sure it would turn into a disaster. I felt it was impossible for that liquid, strange looking mixture to turn into anything edible. But it did… and it is now one of my family’s favourites. Here goes:

Jacquie’s Impossible Pie

Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup plain flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tspns vanilla
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup coconut

Method:

Blend all ingredients; pour mixture into 25cm greased pie dish. Bake at 180 degrees Celsius for 1 hour or until centre is firm. The flour settles to form a crust, the coconut forms a topping and the centre is an egg custard filling.

Enjoy.
Margaret Ellen was born in Cloween which is near the village of Dromore West in County Sligo, Ireland on the 5 May 1919. She took the name of Bernadette when she entered religious life. In 1939 Bernadette saw an advertisement with a photo calling young women to join the Sisters of St John of God to work with Aboriginal children and families in the North West of Australia. She decided that was what she wanted to do with her life. Because of the war, it was not possible to get passage on a ship to Australia and so Bernadette entered with the Sisters in Wexford together with her friend Eileen McPartland, who became Sr Ita, on the 1st May 1939.

Bernadette and Ita waited eight months and then obtained passage with some other Religious in January 1940. The boat trip to Australia took six weeks. Bernadette and Ita had then to remain in Perth for a further six weeks until there was a Kimberley Sister available to accompany them on the ship from Fremantle to Broome. Within a few days of arriving in Broome Bernadette and Ita went on up to Beagle Bay sitting on the back of the mission truck. They were received into the Sisters of St John of God as novices in May 1940 at Beagle Bay, where they remained to complete their novitiate year.

In 1941, Sr Bernadette was sent to Broome to continue her novitiate training and to help in Holy Child Orphanage. When the war came to Broome in early 1942, the Sisters and girls had to leave the town and go to Beagle Bay. Over the next four years that the girls remained in Beagle Bay, Bernadette formed a close relationship with many of them and those relationships continue to this day through generations of families. Bernadette undertook any type of work that was placed before her with most of her life spent in various domestic works, caring for children, cooking in the dining hall, caring for the sacramity and visiting families. She loved children and was delighted to care for those in Holy Child Orphanage and in the dormitories at Beagle Bay, Djarindjin Lombadina and Balgo. She was very inventive and would ensure that the best of what was available went onto the plates for the children.

Through the years she spent at the Derby Leprosarium (Bungarun) she became linked with babies born there who had to be removed to the missions at Beagle Bay or Lombadina. Over the years, she followed up these children and their children remaining a contact – in some cases as substitute mother figure – for many.

In the 1960’s she was sent to work with the Sisters at Balgo Mission in the western desert. Again she took up this work with the same dedication as she had given on the Dampier Peninsula, at Bungarun and in Broome. Throughout all her religious life Bernadette remained steadfast to her daily prayer and Mass. Bernadette’s philosophy of prayer, given to her by Bishop Raible, was few, frequent and fervent. She lived a simple life and would give away gifts given to her. She made many friends with people regardless of culture and creed. She had a special place in her heart for priests and would always ensure they were well fed and had their clothes washed and mended.

Over the years, Bernadette always had a dog which she would take walking each day. It was from one such walk that Sr Bernadette failed to return on 24 August.

She was passionate about Beagle Bay as this was the place to which she had come in 1940 and she repeatedly said she wished to die and be buried there with her friend Sr Ita. In the last few years her great friend, Olive Dann, would come each night to the little convent and stay with her. Bernadette was very supportive of the Sisters’ Centenary and delighted to be the one who was in Beagle Bay to complete the 100 years.

In the week prior to her death she mentioned that she had never regretted the decision she had made to become a Sister of St John of God and loved her religious life to the last.

May she rest in peace.
IT IS ‘CONFIRMATION SEASON’ once again in the Diocese of Broome. This time it was Wyndham’s turn to celebrate the Sacrament at Queen of Apostles Church. With Bishop Christopher Saunders and Fr Mark Connolly are (left to right) Richard Birch, Erica Lippitt, Jocelyn Cigobia and Lavarna Hunter.

ON SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER, five students from Sacred Heart School Beagle Bay, on the Dampier Peninsula, were initiated with the Sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop Christopher Saunders. The students below, following Confirmation, are, from left, Jermaine Shadforth, Kathleen Shadforth, Keenan Matsumoto, Lawrence Victor and Narelle Dann.

TWENTY TWO STUDENTS from St. Mary’s College Broome received the Sacrament of Confirmation on the 15th September in Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral. Courtney Williamson, supported by her sponsor Keryn Moase, receives the Sacrament from Bishop Christopher Saunders. Assisting at the Confirmation were Fr Richard (left) and Fr Daniel.
A Pilgrimage through 100 years

This reflection on the Derby celebrations of the Sisters of St John of God centenary was written by Sr Assumption Nealy ssjg (Former Provincial of the Sisters of St John of God). [Ed.]

It was a real privilege and a spiritual awakening for me to return to Derby and be part of the Centenary celebrations. The Sisters over many years have made a big difference in the lives of the Derby people. Having three communities of Sisters in the town added in many ways to the health, education and general betterment of the area.

The first impression I had of the centenary celebration was the respect and love of the people of Derby for the Sisters. They went out of their way to reciprocate that love and to show their gratitude for what the Sisters meant to them in their lives. So many people remembered their teachers, their nurses, and often referred to the Sisters as their mothers. The response of the whole town at the civic Reception again highlighted the esteem of the citizens for the Sisters presence and work.

The Mass at Holy Rosary Church was a celebration of gratitude and remembrance of the many Sisters who spent part of their lives in Derby. The Roll of Honour where each Sister was named was a lovely tribute. Holy Rosary School remembered the efforts of the Sisters to provide a sound education for the children. I was deeply impressed by the talents of the children in entertaining us with music, song and dance. In particular, I appreciated their wondrous hospitality and politeness in providing us with morning and afternoon tea.

Visiting the leprosarium was like walking on Holy Ground, with the realisation that although it was a place of great suffering it was also a place of great love. There was the reflective silence, and the poignant moment when four ladies were presenting the Statue of Our Lady to the Sisters and one of them said, “You were our Sisters, mothers and nurses and you cared for us in our time of need.”

At Numbala Nunga we were reminded of Sister Cabrini Gleeson and her many years of loving nursing service, and I had an overpowering sense of picking up the gratitude and appreciation of the people. It was a joy to visit the new section of Derby Hospital and see the excellent facilities now available there, and remembering that the seed does not see it’s flower or fruit.
Parish News

Derby

First Communion

On Sunday 9 September, Holy Rosary Parish Derby celebrated the First Communion of nine of its young members. These young people enthusiastically prepared for the day by attending lessons on Wednesday afternoons with Sr Mary Scanlon.

Fr Paul Bayers with (back L-R) Merayna Cox, Marcus Councillor, Jeliamn Dann, Anthea Heseltine, Torey Rigerby and (front L-R) Hayley Cox, Dennis Dann, Clinto Ishiguchi, Liam McPhee. Photo: F Birrell.

Weekly sing-along

Sister Mary Scanlon sgs, Pastoral Associate in Derby, calls weekly on the people in the Ngamang Bawoona aged Care Facility Derby for a sing-along and to share prayer with the residents. The facility is run by the Uniting Church Frontier Services.

Photo: P Forster.

Kalumburu

New stone museum for remote mission

Michael Keane is one lay helper who has been working at Kalumburu for many years. Here he stands before the new stone museum which is well on the way to completion and is a real credit to the community on the remote mission.

Photo: CAS.

Bush town easyrider

Justin Djanghara (JJ) of Kalumburu enjoys riding in the community and on his travels meets interesting people like Father Anscar, the Parish Priest. Justin’s trusty ‘nag’ is also called Anscar (no relation).

Photo: CAS.

Sports day fun

Tug of War between school teachers and the Kalumburu mob during Kalumburu Sports Day held on the 15th of August.

Photo: M Moore.
**KUNUNURRA**

**Sr Robyn graduates**

Sr Robyn McNamara rsj, Pastoral Associate in the parish of Kununurra, was amongst those who graduated from the University of Notre Dame Australia in Broome in July. Sr Robyn gained a Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies and is seen here with her sister, Angela, and brother-in-law, Kevin.

**Farewell celebration**

Timothy Ramsay from Warmun with the retired Bishop of Darwin, Bishop Ted Collins msc, at a ‘farewell to the Bishop’ celebration in Darwin. Photo: P O’Brien.

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**BALGO**

**From Balgo back to Alaska**

Xylina Kinsey, who volunteered in the Balgo Parish for eight months, bade farewell to Balgo and Australia in August. Xylina’s mother, Vicki, journeyed to Balgo to see the place her daughter had been working in before accompanying her back to Alaska. Xylina (right) and her mother had a short stopover in Broome and Sydney before their trip home.

**DAMPIER PENINSULA**

**Presentation Ball in Darwin**

Lendle Victor, of Beagle Bay, with his partner Alma Ngalmi of Numbulwar NT, at the St John’s College Darwin Presentation Ball held recently. Photo: P O’Brien.

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**HALLS CREEK**

**Farewell Sgt Winton**

Halls Creek Parish farewelled Sgt Ann Winton, of Halls Creek Police, during Sunday Mass in late August. Ann completed a 2 1/2 year term in Halls Creek and returns to Perth.

Ann received a blessing from Fr Mark Connolly, Parish Priest, and was presented with a bunch of special Halls Creek carnations by Rosemary Nanala (see photo).

Photo: M Deblegiers.
School News

BALGO

After-School Netball

Amy Bisschops, Lasallian Volunteer

During Term 2 and 3, Lasallian Volunteer, Amy Bisschops ran an after-school Netball program with the kids from Luurnpa Catholic School in Balgo, East Kimberley. Most days attracted 15-30 participants. It was a new game for the kids, so it was a challenge to go from basketball to netball. They did extremely well learning how to play a strong, fast game without running or bouncing the ball. During Week 4 of this term, we started aerobics as a warm up. The kids were great! It was heaps of fun with all the kids giving 100%. It was great to have secondary student Antoinette helping coach the girls. She made a big difference translating for the kids and for Amy! Also, special thanks to Jane Edwards from Garnduwa in Derby, for donating netball bibs and some great tips on how to teach the kids.

PATHS - a plan for growing up kids strong

Br Geoff Kennewell, fsc

Brother Bernie Cooper, fsc, Principal of Luurnpa Catholic School, in hosting a recent gathering of the South East Kimberly cluster of schools at Balgo, believes that “The development of a common framework in dealing with behaviour will help students across the region learn how to grow up strong.”

The in-service day and the venue allowed teachers and Teaching Assistants to relax, enjoy each other’s company and deal with what was for all, a concern that needed a solid focus and workable, practical strategies.

The teachers reflected on and learnt about the PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) program for helping students to choose good behaviours using strategies that would assist intentional teaching in the areas of social and emotional learning.

Representatives from Mulan, Ringer Soak, Billiluna, Red Hill and Balgo attended, each helping to make the day a success. The lively presentations were most informative.

Brazil to Balgo volunteering

New Zealand born, Sister Helen Caughley, rsj, a volunteer from Salvador City in Brazil left her home Convento six months ago to have some renewal time in Australia. She spent the time in a variety of ways, at home, with her Congregation in NZ, a few weeks in a Gisborne school, a retreat and then Luurnpa Catholic School, Balgo.

Her time there was spent exploring life in a remote community and helping out with the literacy program in the school.

For her the desert experience was of tremendous value and she felt “particularly privileged to have been part of the recent woman’s law camp.”

The energetic, generous and vibrant Sister Helen found it easy to say: “I felt so welcome and so accepted into the lives of the local people. What an experience!”
Exploring Employment

By Michael Martin, Careers Coordinator

Early in September, the Year 10 students of St Mary’s College, Broome, spent a week in various workplaces around Broome. It gave them the opportunity to explore possible career pathways when they leave school.

Common Gate Exhibition

Students from the Pathways Program at St Mary’s College Broome visited the Common Gate Exhibition at The University of Notre Dame. They enjoyed learning about an important part of Broome’s history. Bradley Dann (pictured) recognised one of his relatives as he looked through the exhibits.

Great night at YOHFest

Congratulations to the students of St Mary’s College Broome who took part in YOHFest (Youth on Health Festival) 2007. This was a magnificent night of entertainment (Dance, Drama & Art). Many people came along to support the students in their bid to be chosen for the YOHFest State Championships to be held in late October in Perth.

Rosary Gift

Students of St Mary’s College Pre Primary in Broome proudly show off their rosary beads and prayer books donated to them by Father Ted Miller of Fremantle (Uncle of Miss Lisa). The children have been learning to say the Hail Mary and were very excited to receive their very own special pair of rosary beads.
Catholic Education week

Catholic Education week was celebrated at Birlirr Ngawiyiwu Catholic School in Ringer Soak, East Kimberley, with a Mass, during which Father Mark baptised baby Sylvester Kelly with the support of Ringer Soak Church leaders who performed a smoke blessing and led the singing in Jaru.

This was followed by a party at school for students and community to celebrate 22 years of Catholic Education at Ringers Soak.

Excursion to Melbourne

By David McDonald, Teacher Yrs 4-7

Students from the Senior Class of Birlirr Ngawiyiwu School at Ringer Soak, East Kimberley, recently travelled to Melbourne for a five day excursion.

After a midnight flight from Broome, the students arrived on a cold Melbourne morning where they quickly warmed up watching a couple of footy games at the Telstra Dome. Other highlights of the trip included the Melbourne Aquarium, Scienceworks, train and tram rides, visiting shops and great restaurants as well as a day in Ballarat and a visit to Sovereign Hill in search of gold.

St Joseph’s Celebrates Forty Years

St Joseph’s Catholic School celebrated forty years of meeting the Kununurra community’s educational needs and Fathers Patrick De Silva (Kununurra) and Mark Connolly (Wyndham) on the basketball court that was later blessed.

On Friday August 24. The school was inundated with special guests, past Principals and past students who joined the present staff, students and families in commemorating this special milestone.

Guests included former Principals – Sr Veronica Ryan rsj (1974-1979) and Mr Alan McMahon (2001-2004), Miss Erica Bernard (WYD Coordinator) and Mr Gerard Tonti (CEO RE Consultant) who both helped out with the music for the Mass concelebrated by Bishop Christopher Saunders and Fathers Patrick De Silva (Kununurra) and Mark Connolly (Wyndham) on the basketball court that was later blessed.

Past Principals, Mr Alan McMahon and Sr Veronica Ryan rsj, joined the current Principal, Mrs Carol Geurts (centre) at the celebrations. Photo: A Fyfe.


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Students in the choir led the singing during the Anniversary Mass. Photo: A Fyfe.
Peer tutoring

Relief teachers are not available around John Pujajangka-Piyirn School in Mulan, so when Miss Kylie was ill recently, the senior students from her class provided peer tutoring for students in the lower classes. Courtney Yoomarie (left) is helping Irvan Baadjo, who can’t wait to get hold of the pencil.

Curriculum support visit

Charissa Marshall from Queen of Apostles, Riverton, recently visited John Pujajangka-Piyirn School in Mulan as part of the CEO’s program of curriculum support for remote schools. Here she is reading with Nickolas Ovi, Theo Fernandes, Terazzita Johns, Jasmin Smith and Keifer Johns in the K-1 class.

Balgo Adult Education Student wins Adult Learners’ Week Award for WA

On Tuesday 4th September at Duxton Hotel in Perth, Jocelyn Sturt was awarded the Outstanding Learner (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) Award for Western Australia. Jocelyn was accompanied by Sr Margaret Keane rsj, past principal of Warmun and Kununurra Catholic schools. Jocelyn was proud to receive this prestigious medal.

Jocelyn has been a regular attendee at Wirrimanu Adult Education and Training Centre in Balgo. She has completed Certificate II in Business Studies at Notre Dame University, Broome Campus, Certificate I in General Education for Adults, passed various units in Certificate II in Education Practice and gained her St John’s First Aid qualification. She is at present studying units at the Adult Education Centre under Halls Creek TAFE.

She will often plan, undertake and complete projects of her own devising including planning a series of educational tools for young children (i.e. books on colours, countries, numbers, shapes and the alphabet). She has also completed several beautiful power-point presentations about her children and family and is currently working on a story book in her own language, Kukatja, for teaching purposes.

Jocelyn balances this study with bringing up a family. She provides an excellent role model for the community and has had lots of support along the way from family, friends and lecturers. It is great to see that someone who has consistently worked at her education, even though many others around her have given up, has been recognized for her efforts and achievements. Wirrimanu Adult Education staff are very proud of her efforts and that she has won this award. She has set a high standard for other students to follow.
School News

WARMUN

Warmun High visits Argyle Diamond Mine

By Leanne Mahy

Every month the High School students at Ngalangangpum School in Warmun, visit the Argyle Diamond Mine. Students learn all about jobs that are available ‘in their backyard!’ The program at Argyle compliments the careers program that is running in the high school.

With an average of 20 students attending Argyle each month the trip is quite popular. The enthusiastic team at Argyle work very closely with the school, supporting any events that will benefit the high school students.

Concentration for creative fun

Art work is fun at Ngalalumpumpan school in Warmun Community, East Kimberley, but it needs lots of concentration to be creative. This comes easily to students Collingwood fan Saverio Jessell and Daniel Carrington.

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) and

Cheque for $__________ enclosed.

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________

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.

Photo: CAS.

Chemistry

By Nick Webber

High School students at Ngalangangpum School in Warmun, East Kimberley, have been busy carrying out experiments in Chemistry as part of this semester’s Science program. Imran Paddy (right) holds a test tube with colourations resulting from a chemical reaction between two substances. Imran thought this was a “deadly” activity.

Photo: N Webber.
School News

RED HILL

NAIDOC Mass

Cecil Hester takes his job seriously as he operates the computer projecting words and music for the recent NAIDOC Mass held at Warlawurry Catholic School, Red Hill. Principal, Dean Savoia, is playing his part on the guitar.

Students Attend Opening of Arts Centre

Children of Warlawurry Catholic School, Red Hill, in Halls Creek represented their school at the opening of the new Warmun Arts Centre recently. Children and teachers celebrated with the people of Warmun and the many visitors from around Australia who were there to witness the impressive new building and the beautiful artwork produced by the Warmun people. One wall was filled with paintings by students of the local Ngalangangpum Catholic School.

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GIBB RIVER

Wanalirri Hosts Visitors

by Aidan Mitchell

A group of five St Mary's College Broome students recently spent a week at Wanalirri Catholic School in Gibb River as an educational outreach visit. The students from the College's Pathways program prepared language and maths activities and acted as peer teachers for the Wanalirri students, who in turn organised sports and led excursions to nearby gorges. The St Mary's students hosted a 'thank you' barbecue and movie for the community on the last night. Wanalirri Principal Tim Clear said the visit was a valuable learning and leadership experience for both groups of students. Pictured are St Mary's student Cheryl Mudgedell and Wanalirri student Anne-Marie Gordon sharing an interesting book.

Shania Willett and Midda (Mauriskcar) Mosquito cut the cake at the conclusion of the Catholic Education Week celebrations and Open Day held at Warlawurry School, Red Hill in mid September. Photo: D Savoia.

Renae Yaloot (left) and Narkelnya Birrell with the clapping sticks they made for the occasion. Photo: L Mahy.

Photo: A Mitchell.
One of the things we might look at in today’s Gospel Reading of Luke 18:9-14 is the way in which we pray to our God.

One man told God how good he was, while the other just bowed before God and prayed for forgiveness.

How do you pray? Are you like the first man? Do you always ask God to give you things?

Try to make an effort this month to pray like the second man - to be a better person.

Jesus wants us to pray often. In the Gospel Story, 2 men went to the Temple to pray. Recently, there was a survey that listed these as favourite places of prayer:

- At home
- Under the shower
- At a game
- At school
- In the garden
- Before evening meal

Name your favourite place to pray and when.

To show their love for Jesus more, Katie and John set out to discover 3 important things to pray for. Walk with them through the maze. Below, on each space write a letter as you pass it.

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Do you see a knob on the door? Jesus is knocking on your door, but you have to let him in. Write what you can do to let him into the ‘home’ of your heart.

As you colour the picture, pray that you will grow more in Jesus’ love.

Prayer has always been important in the Catholic Church, in the life of any Christian. Here are some puzzlers for you:

- Which of the Ten Commandments refers to spending time with God in prayer?
- Read Exodus 20:8-10. Interesting?
- What is the greatest prayer of the Church?
- What prayer did Jesus give us?
- Read a thought-provoking web:
  www.biblefun.com/features/top10/quickpray/top10_gallery_intro.html

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Unravel this Bible Quote. Write/print it out. Decorate your page. Place it on the fridge for all to see and pray.

OGS'D VIIDEN ORPWE SHA LAL EW EDNE OT IEVL A RETU FLEI. EKMA REVEY FTEFRO OT DAD DOGOSNES OR RUOF TFIH; OT O6NOESS, ENKDWOL; OT LDGEEOWN, ESFL-ROCNOLT; OT FL6S-OCRNTLO, VSEREPNACE; OT EPECNRASEEV, SDLGSEON, OT LDSSOGENI, URET SKISNEDN, DNA OT ERUT SKIDNSNE DDA VLEO. HSEET REA HET LIQTIUEAC OYU EDNE.

(Check it out with 2 Peter 1:1-8)
The WYD Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee met in early September at the WYD headquarters at the Polding Centre in Sydney’s CBD. The DYM Committee was brought up to date with latest information in the preparations for the gathering of young people at the XXIII World Youth Day in Sydney, 2008. The venue for the Papal Mass and the Vigil will be Randwick Racecourse with the full support of the NSW Government. This venue is secured to hold these events.

PILGRIM PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

All Diocesan, Parish and Youth Representatives at the meeting were advised about the Pilgrim Partnership Program which will assist remote Aboriginal communities to attend WYD in 2008. Through the Catholic Education Office in Sydney a number of their Catholic Schools have made contact with the Kimberley World Youth Day Office offering their support in fundraising for some of our young people. They are Aquinas College, Menai; Our Lady of Fatima, Caringbah; St Michael’s, Belfield; St Christopher’s, Holsworthy and St Joseph’s, Belmore. These schools will be linked to Beagle Bay, Lombadina/Djarindjin, Wyndham and Balgo.

WYD DEPOSIT

A deposit of $500 is to be paid NOW to your parish priest who will register you. You can also REGISTER online at www.wyd2008.org by quoting the Group Number – 3228. This will enable you to be registered with the Kimberley World Youth Day Pilgrimage group. Closing date for payment is 31 October 2007.

EAST KIMBERLEY WYD MEET

Recently young people from Ringer Soak, Warmun and Wyndham came together for a Youth Weekend at Mirrilingki Centre, Warmun organised by Fr Mark Connolly, Sr Alma, Sr Mary and the staff at Mirrilingki Centre. All who attended were involved in reflecting on their Faith Journey. There was also information shared on Pilgrimages - What is a Pilgrimage and Who is a Pilgrim. A number of DVD’s about World Youth Day were shown and this gave all who attended at glimpse of what World Youth Day is all about.

CROSS AND ICON

The World Youth Day Cross and Icon are traveling throughout the Dioceses of Australia as we write. Testimonies from Dioceses and Parishes that have already received the WYD Cross and Icon have shown a great involvement of young people gathering in prayer escorting the Cross and Icon to significant places in their parishes. For more information and stories you can logon to www.wyd2008.org

The WYD Cross and Icon come to the Kimberley Diocese in June 2008 ~ 19th to 27th.

YOU TOO CAN BE WITNESSES OF SOMETHING WONDERFUL IN THE GATHERING OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SYDNEY.

Contact your Parish Priest now to enrol.
Come to World Youth Day.

1st November 2007 ~ 257 days to go!
Above: At St Joseph’s School in Kununurra they have a great team including talented staff and students who celebrated well their 40th anniversary with a Mass, a concert, a large cake and a fun day. Bishop Christopher Saunders and Principal, Carol Geurts, cut the celebration cake. Photo: A Fyfe.

Below: Mandy Meehan and friends of Wyndham celebrate a prize catch of barramundi on the banks of the muddy waters near the town’s jetty. Photo: CAS.

Above: Students at John Puujayangka-Piyin School in Mulan spent time during Literacy and Numeracy Week preparing to present the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar to parents in the community. The senior students wrote their own version of this story entitled The Very Hungry Witchety Grub which was also presented.

The stories combine both literacy and numeracy skills. Here, Janice Angie is reading what happened to The Very Hungry Caterpillar on Wednesday. Photo: P Cowan.

Above: Raquel Clements (L rear) together with Nathan Nulgett and some very excited children from Mount Barnett enjoy their new quad bike hot off the delivery truck. Photo: CAS.