Plenary 2020

Themes for Discernment #1

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is missionary and evangelising?

“...You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem...and to the ends of the earth.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who shared a passion for participating in the missionary nature of the Church and desire stronger support, involvement and formation among all the baptised who make up the Church. The data also identified the need to reach out and communicate more effectively and to find new ways of living and proclaiming the Gospel in Australia today. There was a call for the strengthening of leadership and ministries in parishes and schools, training to equip leaders for ministry, pastoral support for various groups within parish and faith communities, and a desire for a unified voice in engaging social issues such as life and religious freedom.

Let’s Listen & Discern

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is...

Participate in Communal Discernment towards Plenary Council 2020
bit.ly/discernment Response

Bishops Pays Tribute to Tim Fischer

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has paid tribute to former Ambassador to the Holy See, Tim Fischer, who died in August, saying he lived as a proud Catholic and a proud Australian.

Mr Fischer, who was educated by the Jesuits at Xavier College in Melbourne, had a long and distinguished career in the New South Wales and Australian Parliaments.

At the federal level, he served as leader of the National Party of Australia during the 1990s and Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister under John Howard between 1996 and 1999.

He had earlier served in the Australian Army during the Vietnam War.

Archbishop Coleridge, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said Mr Fischer was a larger-than-life personality who throughout his career was genuinely dedicated to service.

“Tim was a man of many interests and with many talents, but those of us who have known him will remember most his warmth, his humanity and his strong conviction to pursue what is right,” he said.

In 2008, the Labor Government appointed Mr Fischer Australia’s Ambassador to the Holy See. During his tenure from 2009-12, Australia’s first saint, Mary of the Cross MacKillop, was canonised.

In 2012, he was made a Knight Grand Cross in the Order of Pius IX, one of the Church’s highest honours.

“Tim was very proud to be our man at the Vatican at the time and was a remarkable host and ‘ambassador’ for Church and country,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

He noted that “Tim was renowned for his love of trains and, even during his time representing Australia in Rome, he managed to reactivate the Vatican railway.”

“He was loved by all who met him,” the Archbishop said, “and we mourn his passing. But we also celebrate all that Tim gave to his family, his community, his Church and his country.

“May he rest in the peace of Christ.”
Kicking Heavenly Goals

Football finals are resoundingly joyous times for some people, while for others they are occasions for serious lamentation and harrowing disappointment. It is remarkable to see how innumerable hordes of peoples, from across the various codes, get passionately behind their teams more than is usual when their clubs have qualified for the finals. Their avid support of their favoured tribe turns into a frantic quest, longing for positive results even when there is only a remote possibility that their heroes will conquer all to become the Premiers for the year. Who can tell, they say. Footy Finals are different from the usual fixtures. Strange and wonderful things can happen for any team. I must say I admire their hopefulness! There must be a salient lesson or an ounce of inspiration here somewhere surely?

Football teams can often become an extension of ourselves in our unbridled enthusiasm to get behind them. Very often we seek through our footy heroes to achieve for ourselves a sense of success over failure, recognition over anonymity, triumphalism over placidity, and glowing pride over the prospect of humility. But there is more to consider, is there not? How we handle success or failure, how we behave when enamoured with the power of winning or how we handle the daunting tragedy of losing can say much about us and our character.

Winning an important game, or losing it, may mean much to their footy supporter and the worth of their personal character. On another note, in the Kimberley, as in other parts of the country, people take their footy seriously. It is only right that they do so. But to take the game seriously surely is a multi-faceted commitment that must extend beyond merely winning to how we play the game, how we view those to whom we offer our support and those too who play for the opposing side. Is there room in our Christian lives for words and behaviour that espouse hatred for the opposition? I think not. And what about the use of bad language, publicly on the field or off it? I mean language that is more than just passionate but is most definitely crude and foul? How we behave on the footy field is a learned skill that is as important as kicking, marking or tackling. How much of that drill is part of any coach’s game plan? How we behave off the field at a local park or at a community sports field, in what we say and do, affords us an opportunity to place ourselves at the heart of good behaviour in the public domain, at the pinnacle of good example to others and way out front as tutors of good sportsmanship.

I always regard it a huge disappointment to know that families won’t go to local football matches, or basketball carnivals for that matter, because of the frequency of poor social behaviour and the disgraceful language that prevails there. Local authorities, it appears, have given up enforcing rules of appropriate conduct in public. That in itself is a shameful abandonment of duty which unfortunately will only result in a diminishment of public standards on and off the field, to the detriment of good sportsmanship and a welcoming environment where people can enjoy each other’s company in the midst of fitting entertainment.

What would Christ have done when faced with the challenge of being a good sport? How would he have behaved in circumstances surrounding sporting events? Surely, as a child there were games he played, were there not? These are useful questions to pursue when we seek to behave as we should, to develop charitable attitudes and follow just actions.

Bearing in mind that some of us are nearer the finals than others, nonetheless there is one Grand Final that awaits each of us at the end of our season here on earth. In that enlightening moment there will be no possibility for any kind of unruly tribalism, and we shall be singing no one else’s theme song not even our own ~ just the songs of angels. The goals that count, we shall find out, may not be the ones we thought were important. All flags will be irrelevant then, all premiership cups will be redundant and competition completely meaningless. Please God, then we shall all be the same perfect fit for the pearly gates laid out before us. No one shall be more important than another, all will be equally important in the eyes of the one loving and merciful God, and the language of our togetherness will be nothing short of perfect.

In our prayerfulness, that’s the sort of cake-walk for which we continually hope.
Don’t Shoot the Messenger!

Have you ever been attacked for delivering bad news, or naming inconvenient truths? It happens to journalists, media workers and human rights activists often. United Nations’ webpage on the International Day to End impunity for Crimes Against Journalists* (2 November) reminds us that each year, one journalist gets a Pulitzer Prize, and one hundred get shot. Literally.

We may not have witnessed shooting deaths of journalists in Australia in recent times, however freedom of expression and public access to information are hot topics right now. Journalists’ homes have been raided, whistleblowers are being prosecuted - and a football player is asserting that an employment contract should not be able to prevent him from publishing the opinion that whole categories of people (including all Catholics incidentally) are going to hell. Literally.

These issues affect us all, and they have an impact on what kind of society we become.

Our access to social media has made opinion writers and publishers of us all. With rights come responsibilities. Do we value truth by fact checking as thoroughly as we would hope a professional journalist does? Do we speak truth kindly, and use our freedom of expression to build up the good of all of us? Do we consider the likely impact of our words on those who are vulnerable, or simply less powerful than ourselves?

The right to freedom of opinion and expression is not absolute; it can legitimately be limited for serious reasons, like public safety. As a community, we should pay attention to the limits we allow governments to impose on our freedom of opinion and expression, because they shape our life together in important ways.

Legislating in this area is very complex, so we can be tempted to tune out or adopt simplistic views. Most people would not want vilification, hate speech, or the incitement of violence against particular people or groups to find shelter under our laws. However, we might have different opinions about details like the definition of hate speech. The challenge is to craft legislation that protects our right to express opinions, including religious views, without granting license to vilify others. In forming our opinions on draft legislation to protect religious freedom, we need to consider the rights of others as well as our own. The Golden Rule – treat others as you would wish to be treated – calls for no less.

Without access to information we cannot effectively hold governments to account for the things that they do in our name. If journalists and whistleblowers are bullied and intimidated, how will we know what is really going on? Whistleblowers, like Witness K, serve the common good. How else would we have known about our government spying on the East Timorese government during the Timor Gap oil deposit negotiations? He is currently facing the prospect of imprisonment for his truth-telling. A just society has strong checks and balances to prevent abuse when national security is invoked as a reason to limit freedom, and even to prosecute truth-telling.

* https://www.un.org/en/events/journalists/

Saint News

St Elizabeth of Hungary

Born: 7 July 1207  
Died: 17 November 1231  
Feast Day: 17 November

St Elizabeth of Hungary, also known as St Elizabeth of Thuringia, was born in Hungary on July 7, 1207 to the nobleman Ludwig of Thuringia and Gertrude of Merania.

While Elizabeth was very young, her father arranged for her to be married to Ludwig IV of Thuringia, a German nobleman. Elizabeth’s mother, Gertrude, was murdered in 1213, when Elizabeth was just six-years-old.

Elizabeth continued to live a life full of prayer and a service to the poor. Ludwig, who was now one of the rulers of Thuringia, supported all of Elizabeth’s religious endeavours even though she was a part of the royal court. She began to lead an austerely simple life, practiced penance, and devoted herself to works of charity. She used her royal position to advance her mission for charity.

In 1223, Franciscan friars arrived in Thuringia and taught 16-year-old Elizabeth all about Francis of Assisi’s ideals and she decided to live this way.

In 1226, when disease and floods struck Thuringia, Elizabeth took to caring for the victims. It is said she even gave away the kings’ clothing and goods to the afflicted people.

Elizabeth’s life was full of love and faith. However, when her husband Ludwig died from illness in 1227, Elizabeth vowed to never remarry and to live a life similar to a nun, despite pressure from relatives. Her vows included celibacy and an agreement of complete obedience to her confessor and spiritual director, Master Conrad of Marburg. His treatment of Elizabeth was very strict and often harsh. He held her to a standard that many saw as impossible to meet.

In 1228, Elizabeth joined the Third Order of St Francis. Elizabeth, having received her dowry, founded a hospital in honour of St Francis, where she personally attended to the ill.

Pope Gregory IX canonized her on May 27, 1235.

St Elizabeth’s feast day is celebrated on November 17 and she is the patron saint of bakers; beggars; brides; charities; death of children; homeless people; hospitals; Sisters of Mercy; widows.
On 8 September at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral, Broome, the Phillipino community of the Parish, celebrated the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Bishop Christopher Saunders.

Fr Bernard McGrath OSB was recently in Broome to direct the Annual Clergy Retreat, held at Bethlehem Retreat Centre. Fr Bernard is a Benedictine Monk, who joined the monastery 51 years ago. Fr Bernard did post-graduate work in Biblical Studies at the Gregorian University in Rome, and has taught Scripture at the Catholic Theological Union, Hunters Hill, the Catholic Institute of Sydney, and the Broken Bay Institute together with the University of Newcastle. As well he has preached and directed retreats in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney and several regional centres for Clergy, Religious and Lay People. Photo: A Rohr

Nick and Marcia Tessler, former Kimberley Catholic Volunteers at Kalumburu Mission, recently caught up with Sr Barbara and their daughter in law, Daisy, in the Phillipines.

Canadian, Msgr Carl Reid was installed as the new head of Australia’s Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross in August. Msgr Reid is the second priest to lead the Australian Ordinariate, which was established in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI to welcome groups of Anglicans seeking full communion with the Catholic Church. In March, Pope Francis accepted the resignation of Msgr Harry Entwistle, who had served as leader of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross for the past seven years.

Sydney and several regional centres for Clergy, Religious and Lay People. Photo: A Rohr

Cheng Sibal, from Broome, recently answered the call to support the Parish of Balgo-Kutjunju while the Priests were away on their annual Retreat. Cheng, who also assists in the Broome Parish and at the St Vincent Pallotti Op Shop, was happy to help out. Photo: Fr E Kandie

Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, was recently in the Kimberley to attend the Graduation ceremony at the University of Notre Dame Australia Broome Campus.
Kirsty Robertson Named New CEO of Caritas Australia

Kirsty Robertson, an experienced and accomplished leader of Catholic ministries and not-for-profit organisations, will serve as Caritas Australia’s new Chief Executive Officer, the chairman of the National Council announced.

Bishop Christopher Saunders said Ms Robertson’s professional skills and her personal conviction will help her be a leading voice with the Church and the broader community on important issues.

“Kirsty has a keen sense of social justice and a proven track record of working to help those in our world who are disadvantaged and marginalised,” he said.

“Grounded in strong faith, she will apply herself to ensure that Caritas Australia remains dedicated to living the Gospel, which promises hope to a world in need of charity and justice.”

Ms Robertson worked for Caritas Australia from 2009 until 2011, serving as coordinator of the organisation’s Pacific programs and later as the group leader of communications.

She is currently CEO of Mary MacKillop Today, an organisation carrying on the work of Australia’s first saint. Mary MacKillop Today works in Australia and overseas, including in Timor-Leste, in a range of areas including education, no- and low-interest loans and First Nations community development.

Ms Robertson recognises the important legacy she will be carrying forward.

“For more than 50 years, Caritas Australia has represented so much of the goodness in humanity – a story of love and compassion that our world so desperately needs,” she said.

“As a small child, I put my pocket money into the Project Compassion box and I then went on to start my working life in one of Caritas’ programs, so to be appointed to this role at Caritas Australia feels a little like coming home.”

Ms Robertson called it “an incredible honour” to serve with the National Council, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and a community of staff and supporters “who share not just their knowledge, experience or money but their humanity”.

“May we together continue to amplify the voice of the poor and walk in solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout the world,” she said. Caritas Australia is the official international aid agency of the Catholic Church in Australia and is part of Caritas Internationals, a family of 165 national Catholic relief and development agencies.

To find out more go to www.caritas.org.au or call 1800 024 413.

Kirsty Robertson will return to Caritas Australia as the organisation’s new Chief Executive Officer.
It's October and the Extraordinary Missionary Month is underway. For Catholics around Australia it is a time to look for the extraordinary in the ordinary and celebrate our role in mission around the world.

Pope Francis called the Extraordinary Missionary Month in October 2017, choosing this year as the perfect time as it coincides with the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's historic Maximum Illud document following the end of World War I.

Father Noel Connolly SSC, Head of Mission and Culture at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, says the document was groundbreaking for the global church. ‘Benedict’s letter was revolutionary in ways that we find difficult to appreciate today. He was especially concerned with the fate of the Church in the developing countries because he sensed the first stirrings of the various independence movements that would end colonialism,’ he says.

‘As a result, we are increasingly a global and even “Southern” Church and now have our first pope from the “majority world”. That may not have been possible without the courage and insight shown by Benedict XV.’

The Diocese of Broome, Western Australia, urgently requires volunteers – couples and singles – to serve within the Diocese. Duties may include any of the following: cooking, working in stores, building and vehicle maintenance, housekeeping, book-keeping, transport and grounds maintenance.

In return for being part of the team we offer accommodation, living expenses and an allowance. Placements are preferred for a period of twelve months plus but a reduced time would be considered.

Catholic Mission's annual World Mission Month appeal will coincide with the Extraordinary Month and highlights an incredible story of mission in one of the most remote parts of central Asia. The Eden Gardens Children's Home in the north-eastern Indian state of Nagaland was established by Jesuit missionaries in 1979. It was built to cater to a growing number of children living in situations of disadvantage with very little opportunity to step outside the cycle of poverty and dream of a life where their talents and interests are nurtured. It is now home to 250 children who have access for the first time to education, music, art, catechism and most importantly, each other's friendship.

There are many ways you can join the celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month in Broome. Check out catholicmission.org.au/emm for links to resources and stories of mission in action around the world. On social media, tell us what your mission for October and beyond will be. Use the hashtag #MYMISSION and share with your friends about how you will do something extraordinary for mission.

The Extraordinary Missionary Month song contest is being judged by renowned liturgical musicians, Fr Christopher Willcock and Dr Paul Taylor, with the winning entry being placed on the Vatican’s dedicated Extraordinary Missionary Month website. Head to catholicmission.org.au/emm to find out which song won!

Thank You

The Diocese of Broome would like to acknowledge Catholic Mission as its main financial supporter.

The Diocese of Broome, also known as the Kimberley Mission, has been of service to Indigenous people since it was established as a Vicariate. Over the years the Diocese has developed a network of schools and parishes that cover an area of 723,000 square kilometres, or three and a half times the size of the State of Victoria. The Diocese is grateful to Catholic Mission, the principal support organization that maintains the work of Priests, Sisters, Brothers, lay missionaries and lay volunteers in the field of apostolic endeavours. With a small population of people and an impossible internal source of income, the Diocese of Broome is dependent on the generosity of others throughout Australia and overseas. Catholic Mission leads in its work of support and funding. Through them the work of the Kimberley Mission is able to continue.

WANTED: Volunteer Workers KIMBERLEY CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The Diocese of Broome, Western Australia, urgently requires volunteers – couples and singles – to serve within the Diocese. Duties may include any of the following: cooking, working in stores, building and vehicle maintenance, housekeeping, book-keeping, transport and grounds maintenance.

In return for being part of the team we offer accommodation, living expenses and an allowance. Placements are preferred for a period of twelve months plus but a reduced time would be considered.

For further details and an application form please contact the co-ordinator:
Phone: 08 9192 1060
or email: volunteers@broomediocese.org
PO Box 76, BROOME WA 6725
Opening of Renovated St Joseph's School Wyndham

On Friday 23rd August the new buildings at St Joseph’s School Wyndham were officially opened by The Most Reverend Bishop Saunders and The Honourable Melissa Price, Minister for Defence Industry. The ceremony began with an honest, funny and heart felt welcome to country by Donald Campbell an ex-student of St Joseph’s. Those attending also heard from the Executive Director of Catholic Education Western Australia, Dr Debra Sayce. There was a great feeling of nostalgia with many ex-students, parents and grandparents joining the celebrations but also a wonderful feeling of optimism and positivity as everyone appreciated the wonderful new buildings received as part of Capital Grants Funding. Students for many years to come will benefit from the purpose built, modern facilities and know they are entitled to a top quality education even if they go to school in WA’s northern most town.
Vatican Dossier

Angelus Address:
On Humility and Selfless Generosity

The Gospel of Luke 14:1.7-14, shows us Jesus going to dine in the house of a ruler of the Pharisees. Jesus looks and observes how the guests run — hasten to take the first places. It’s a rather widespread attitude, also in our days, and not only when one is invited to a lunch: generally, the first place is sought to affirm a presumed superiority over others. In reality, this seeking of the first places hurts the community, be it civil or ecclesial, because it destroys fraternity. We all know these people: climbers, who always climb to go up, up… They harm fraternity, they damage fraternity. In face of that scene, Jesus tells two brief parables.

The first parable is addressed to one who is invited to a banquet, and He exhorts him not to put himself in the first place, “lest — He says — a more eminent man than you be invited, and he who invited you both will come, and say to you, “Give place to this man!” — a disgrace! “Then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place” (vv. 8-9). Instead, Jesus teaches to have the opposite attitude: “When you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher!’” (v. 10).

Therefore, we must not seek of our initiative the attention and consideration of others but, if anything, let others give it to you. Jesus always shows us the way of humility — we must learn the way of humility! — as it is the most genuine, which also makes it possible to have genuine relationships. True humility, not feigned humility, that which in Piedmont (Italy) is called mugna quacia, no, not that, but true humility.

In the second parable, Jesus turns to the host and, referring to the way of choosing the guests for the feast, He says to him: "When you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you" (vv. 13-14). Here, too, Jesus goes completely against the current, manifesting, as always, the logic of God the Father. And He also adds the key to interpret His address. And what is the key? A promise: if you do so, "you will be rewarded at the resurrection of the just" (v. 14). This means that one who behaves this way will have the divine reward, much greater than the human repayment: I will do you this favour, expecting that you will do me another. No, this isn’t Christian. Humble generosity is Christian. In fact, the human repayment usually falsifies relationships, renders them "commercial," introducing personal interest in a relationship that should be generous and free. Instead, Jesus invites us to selfless generosity, to open the way toward a much greater joy, the joy of being sharers in the very love of God, who awaits us, all of us, in the heavenly banquet.

Forging an Awareness of History

Through education sessions the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation (KSGAC) continues to forge an awareness of Australia’s history, Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal people and service provision to those affected and their descendants.

Working within the framework of the Healing Foundation Stolen Generations Resource Kit for Students and Teachers, the education sessions cover many important topics aimed to address and reduce trauma. The KSGAC delivered these sessions to 228 people within a six month period. Students of The University of Notre Dame Australia were the most frequent attendees. School students from Sacred Heart School, Beagle Bay, and Holy Rosary School, Derby, chose KSGAC as the focus group during NAIDOC projects solidifying the 2019 theme, Voice, Treaty, Truth.

During the KSGAC sessions, films, healing art activities and yarning circles took place with students, KSGAC staff and members. With guidance students made affirmations and also Protective Behaviours hands naming their trusted supports.

Protective Behaviours is frequently used in schools across Australia as a method of building personal safety supports for children to reduce abuse.
The Australian White Ibis

We’re lucky to avail ourselves of a voluntary ‘pest controller’ who regularly removes grubs from our lawn. A very diligent worker with the right beak to probe under the ground surface, the Australian White Ibis can also be seen on sporting ovals and park spaces along with its cousins the Straw-necked Ibis. They methodically scan territory in a revolving arc like those we sometimes see searching for objects below the surface with ‘metal detectors’.

In the Kimberley, if you notice ‘V’ formations high in the sky they are likely to be White Ibises or Straw-necked Ibises with their necks outstretched. Amazingly they flap their wings at the same time and then all glide together. They can fly on thermal air currents to a height of 3000 metres sometimes accompanied by pelicans and spoonbills.

Found all over the Kimberley and the eastern half of Australia, the Australian White Ibis feeds mainly in water, moving its head from side to side probing for such food as snails, frogs, crustaceans, water insects and even highly poisonous snakes. A clever hunter, the Ibis is known to find mussels which are held in one foot and then opened on a hard surfaced with strong blows from its sturdy bill.

The male Ibis searches and selects a breeding site; often the one used from the previous year. This site is usually near water, close to dead branches with surrounding vegetation for protection. The tree branches then become a display territory for the male who becomes very noisy and aggressive towards other males.

Once the male Ibis secures its display territory, it then tramples down a small area for a nesting site. Courting takes place with a series of bows from the male with a twig in its mouth and the female reciprocates by also grasping the same twig and they preen together. The male builds the nest and both birds incubate the eggs in shared responsibility. Eventually the young are born and the nest after three weeks settling on nearby bushes learning to fly. Afterwards, the family congregates together on trees where the young are fed by their parents. Both the adults and young roost in a tree above water so if the young fall in, they will be able to swim to safety.

The Australian Ibis is quite common and not very spectacular to look at, but they are certainly an impressive Australian bird.

Healthy Banana Bread

Ingredients:
- 4 medium ripe bananas mashed (1½ cups)
- 3 eggs
- 1½ cups brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1½ cups self raising flour (or substitute with spelt flour)
- 1 teaspoon ground cinammon

Directions:
1. Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F). Place the bananas in a bowl and mash with a fork.
2. Add the oil, eggs, sugar and vanilla and mix to combine.
3. Add the flour and cinnamon and mix to combine.
4. Pour into a 22cm round cake tin or a large loaf tin lined with non-stick baking paper. Cook for 45-55 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean.
5. Allow to stand in the tin for 5 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

Enjoy!
Kururrungku CEC celebrates 40 years

In 2019, Kururrungku CEC (Catholic Education Centre) in Billiluna celebrated 40 years of education in Billiluna. Bishop Saunders celebrated a special Mass on 24 July, in the grounds of the School, to mark the occasion.

The Walmajarri people took over the lease of Billiluna Station in 1978. The area is the tribal lands of the Walmajarri people. Upon receiving the land, the people asked for a school. After talking with both the Government and Catholic Education, the community decided they would like a Catholic school to be established in the community.

Accordingly, in 1978, the then Bishop of Broome, Bishop Jobst, along with community members, requested the Sisters of Mercy from Singleton NSW to send Sisters so that schools could be opened. The communities wanted their children to learn about God, to read, to write and to do number work, so that eventually the community could be led by its own people.

In late January 1979, two sisters arrived in Billiluna. On 5 February, 1979, Sr Bernadette Mills commenced school at Billiluna Station with approximately 40 children, covering all primary grades. The Sister was joined by the first permanent lay teacher. Since then the staff has grown, including Aboriginal Teaching Assistants. Over the years there have been many community members assist the children in learning, by coming in to the school to teach the children the culture. Sr Dolores Coffee, who was able to attend the 40th Anniversary celebrations, taught for 5 years from 1980 until 1984.
Congratulations to these students from Sacred Heart School in Beagle Bay who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 30 August 2019.

At Christ the King Church in Lombadina, the Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated by this large group of candidates, on 29 August.

This group of young people is all smiles after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Joseph’s Church in Kununurra on 25 August 2019.

Confirmation Season
Receive the Gifts of the Spirit...

Bishop Saunders was once again on the road during July and August celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in communities and parishes around the Kimberley.

Parish Priest Fr Ernest Kandie [R] and Assistant Priest Fr Martin Netia, with Bishop Saunders and those from Balgo and Mulan who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 25 July.

On 24 July 2019, four students along with one teacher, from Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre, received the Sacrament of Confirmation at celebrations in Billiluna on 24 July. Mass was celebrated for the Community by Bishop Saunders and was concelebrated by Parish Priest Fr Ernest Kandie (L) along with Fr Martin Netia and Fr James Maina (R).

Jock Mosquito received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Saunders at the Holy Place in Warmun on 26 August 2019.

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This group of young people is all smiles after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Joseph’s Church in Kununurra on 25 August 2019.
The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated as part of the Feast Day celebrations at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Kalumburu on 15 August. They are seen here with Bishop Christopher Saunders and Parish Priest, Fr Joel Nyongesa.

On 3 August, at Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral in Broome, Mass was celebrated outside, when more than 40 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sienna and Quaide Johnson received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Queen of the Apostles Church in Wyndham on 24 August. They are seen here with Bishop Christopher Saunders and Parish Priest, Fr Joel Nyongesa.

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Two young people, seen here with Bishop Saunders, Parish Priest Fr Raymong Ugwu and Church Leaders, received the Sacrament of Confirmation in St John the Baptist Church La Grange on 28 July.

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated as part of the Feast Day celebrations at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Kalumburu on 15 August. Candidates and parishioners join in the procession to the Church. Photo: B Unsworth.
Mary O’Reeri Receives Queen's Birthday Honours

Acknowledgement from the Office of the Governor General. Announcement on the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) to Mary Victor O’Reeri.

The award Ceremony ‘Investiture’ took place on the evening of Friday 6 September at Government House in Perth, for outstanding public service through contributions to improve outcomes for Indigenous Communities, particularly in the Kimberley Region, by The Hon Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia.

“With humbleness and gratitude I dedicate this award to my family, who made me who I am today, to my colleagues at the National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA), to the people of the Dampier Peninsula and the people of the Kimberley Region. Also to the many inspiring people who have been part of my life from my childhood to adulthood, and for the reasons God has attracted them to me, I am blessed,” said Mary.
In the Hands of our Ancestors

By Bethany Cooper

The idea of approaching the Sisters of St John of God in Broome, to host this exhibition, mostly came about through the theme of 2019 NAIDOC Week, “Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let’s Work Together”. I came across the Facebook posts about the SSJG Heritage Centre, with over 60,000 images, and discovered that some of the Balgo artists had their own photographs, and those of family members, with the Sisters in the Relationships Exhibition.

The Heritage Centre was pleased to have the group of ladies use the grounds to paint and promote their art during NAIDOC Week. These women, along with their parents and indeed their own children, have had a strong relationship with the Sisters of St John of God who worked in Balgo over many years.

We can’t thank Sister Pat and the team enough, as well as the incredible volunteers, all supporting each other and continuing our Ancestors’ journey from Balgo to beyond, and we hope we can work together in a safe, peaceful, historical environment again. As a thank you, Bridgette Mudji painted a unique “Seven Sisters”, representing seven Sisters of St John of God, and presented this to Sister Pat at the end of our week there. As the organiser, I feel really proud that everyone joined together to create a beautiful week.

To keep up with day to day living in the expensive town of Broome, away from country at Balgo and mostly due to medical reasons, we are calling on lovers of Aboriginal Art to help support us by purchasing our paintings or donating towards canvas and paints to prepare for next the tourist season.

Catch up with Kimberley Authentic Art at Broome Courthouse Markets each week or on their Facebook page.
Agnes Suzanne Angus was born on Sunday Island (Iwanj) to proud parents Bonny Angus (dec) and Rosie Bin Sali, nee Balacky, (dec) on 7 October 1956. She had older siblings, Hamlet Angus (dec), Theresa Angus (dec), Elsa Angus (dec), Maureen Angus and Vincent Angus.

In the early 50’s her father passed away in Derby, so her mother Rosie took the children to Lombadina Mission and later she found her second husband Freddy Bin Sali (dec) and had their daughter Theresa Bin Sali. Agnes was about 10 years old when she started volunteering her time working around the mission, helping to milk goats and cleaning the vegetable garden. She loved working and spending time with her old people.

She was about 13 years old when she went to live at St Joseph’s Hostel in Derby and attended the local high school. She made friends very easily - that’s the kind of person Agnes was, a very polite and easy going person.

After leaving school at 16 she went to live in Geraldton for many years. She played basketball while she was there with her sister Mena. She was a very talented player and won many games.

She found true love with Sammy Ishmail and got married in Bamaga in 1985. She lived with Sammy and the Ishmail family before moving back to Djarindjin community. She worked as the Community Health Worker for over 10 years in the old Lombadina Clinic. And then she decided to take on a more challenging job and worked for the Mental Health Unit and worked with them for several years.

She felt it was time to start a family, so they adopted Herman Ishmail in 1989. She was a proud mother and loved her son very much. Agnes was the first Media Broadcaster to operate out of Ardyaloon Community. She worked for BRACS for about 10 years and she travelled to many different regions in the Pilbara and Kimberley doing filming and workshops. Over the years Agnes gradually completed her Bachelor Certificates for Media Productions, which she was very proud of. During her time with the PAKAM Network she won the Broadcasting of the Year Award in Darwin for the Indigenous Media Festival, which gave her the opportunity to travel to Mexico as a reward for her hard work and dedication in the Media Industry. She really enjoyed her time in Mexico with her daughter Rohanna who also worked for PAKAM. This was one of her proudest moments, meeting people from different cultures and nationalities.

Agnes met her partner Tony Blewitt then moved to Derby with him for about a year then decided to move back to Broome and live at Pembroke Street. Her house was a haven for all her family and she welcomed everyone at her house. She was such a loving and very generous person.

Then after she got very sick with diabetes, she moved to Bran Nue Dae Germanus Kent Aged Care facility because she found it very hard to look after herself. She was there for about a year before moving back home to One Arm Point - Ardyaloon to live with her family. Benny, Bolo and Rose took care of her when she needed to be cared for, although she was a very independent woman considering her medical condition, she was always trying to cook and clean even though she couldn't walk; she was a person that never made excuses for anything.

She got worse with her diabetes and had to be put into transitional care at the Juniper Aged Care Facility in Perth, until eventually getting her own one bedroom flat down in Bentley. She was so proud of her new home and had a lot of help and support, especially from Robert Hades and his family who helped her settle into her new home.

She was surrounded by all her Grandchildren, especially the ones that are schooling away and live in Perth and also the families that travelled down to visit her. She was always happy to spend time with her family and enjoyed every moment with them all.

Her daughter Benny flew to Perth to spend time with her in her new home along with the Hunter sisters. She loved having family stay with her, she was a very kind and generous woman; she would open her heart and home to anyone.

It was on Mother's Day when she was then upgraded to a two bedroom unit which she was so happy and excited to move into. She only slept one night in her new home when she sadly passed away on 13 May 2019.

May she rest in peace.
Parish News

BALGO

Fr James Maina celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at the Holy Place in Warmun with Vincent Ramsay, Mary Purdie, Chance Chunuma and Anne Echo.

KUNUNURRA

In the Balgo-Kutjungka Parish, Kimberley Catholic Volunteers Margaret Cassell and Lynne Garwood supported the Parish in many ways, but the priest especially enjoyed their cooking! Photo: Fr E Kandie

DAMPIER PENINSULA

The Kindergarten kids from Luurnpa Catholic School in Balgo had a visit to St Theresa’s Church with Fr Ernest Kandie and Fr Martin Netia.

Bishop Christopher Saunders with Tatiana Kitchener and Hermione Smith, who recently made their First Communion. They served at Sacred Heart Church Beagle Bay’s Confirmation. Photo: E Ellis
At Kalumburu Mission, the Kimberley Catholic Volunteers support Parish Priest Fr Simion Mutai every day to keep the parish running. Jack Hose (L) was working to fix the water to the cattle yards while Sue Fletcher was kept busy running the St Josephine Emporium. Photo: CAS

Fr Raymond Ugwu, CSSp with Thunder Billycan, who guided him during his recent pastoral visit to the Desert communities of Punmu, Kunawarrji and Parnngurr under the pastoral care of St John the Baptist Parish, Bidyadanga.

Baptised by Bishop Saunders at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Kalumburu in August was Bradley Maraltadj Jrn, son of Bradley and Montana. Bradley’s godparents are Paul Charles, Tabitha Evans and Lucinda Unghango.

Fr Raymond Ugwu, CSSp with Thunder Billycan, who guided him during his recent pastoral visit to the Desert communities of Punmu, Kunawarrji and Parnngurr under the pastoral care of St John the Baptist Parish, Bidyadanga.
BEAGLE BAY  

Sacred Heart School in Beagle Bay recently farewelled Brigid Drummond. Brigid, seen here with some of the students, has been a caring and patient teacher to all the children and will be missed by everyone. Photo: E Ellis

On Friday 30 August, St Joseph’s School Kununurra welcomed dads and special men to the school for the annual Father’s Day Breakfast. This provided the opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful work being done by dads, grandads, uncles, brothers, carers and friends in developing St Joseph’s students into kind, caring and compassionate people. Fletcher Corey (left) and Cassidy Corey (right) get ready to share breakfast with their dad, Ben. Photo: T Hogan

KUNUNURRA

The band from Sacred Heart School visited, long-time Beagle Bay resident and hermit, Fr Dan O’Donovan at Germanus Kent Hostel in Broome recently and sang for him the song they had written for the YOH Fest competition: “My Country, My Song, That’s Where I Belong”. They were then introduced to Mary-Ann Martin, the first aboriginal Registered Nurse in Australia who was born in Beagle Bay and worked there for many years. Left to right: Mary-Ann Martin, Meeia Smith, Katana Skinner, Keredeel Rex, Tatiana Kitchener, Denzel Gordon and Fr Dan O’Donovan.
School News

BROOME

The Positive Behaviours in School (PBS) Reward program helps the Primary students at St Mary’s College Broome work hard every day towards being kind, respectful and responsible. The students are allocated tokens when they have been caught demonstrating these behaviours. Once the tokens fill to the top of the canister the students then receive a reward. The reward for being responsible was a water fun afternoon and enjoying that reward is Tex Comito and Sachjein Sampi Corpus.

Year 10 students from St Mary’s College Broome recently welcomed Heather Taylor and Michael King from Centacare Kimberley into their Religious Education class as part of their ‘Restoring God’s Justice in the World’ topic of study. The students learned about the practical ways Centacare staff work with people in unfortunate circumstances to create change and create positive life opportunities. Heather and Michael impressed upon students the need to have genuine compassion and empathy in a similar way Jesus had, when reaching out to the poor, and be a true ‘Listening Heart’ to instil hope and empowerment in others.

These dancers from St Mary’s College in Broome recently performed at the Broome Civic Centre to welcome the delegation from Taiji, Japan, to Broome. Photo: CAS

Year 1 students from St Mary’s College Broome recently completed Oz Kick. From Left is Harry Burnham, Judson Puertollano, John Gannon and Henry Hedley. Photo: T Gannon

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Students from Holy Rosary School in Derby recently participated at the Interschool Athletics Carnival held in Broome. A highlight of the Carnival was when Corbin Fletcher and Victor Ojo were both able to make their way on to the podium when the team was awarded the handicap shield for its overall performance. Photo: S Scanlon
In today’s Gospel Jesus told his disciples a Parable, a story with a lesson to learn. His lesson for his disciples of the Parable of the cruel judge and the poor widow was:

Always pray. Never give up!

**DRAW the FACES!**


* While listening to the Reading, think about:
  * What would the face of the cruel Judge look like?
  * What would the face of the poor Widow look like?

Now Draw their Faces.

Jesus wanted to teach the disciples a lesson from this Parable. What was the lesson?

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These 2 words write in the spaces around the Judge and the Widow. (If you don’t remember, search the page and you will find it.)

**EASY QUESTION:** In today’s Parable, did the Unjust Judge finally help the Widow?

With your happiest colour, colour in the “+”s to find the answer.

**HARD QUESTION:** Write below the last words of the Gospel verse proving your answer above.

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* What is something you need/want very much? ........................................

* How often do you pray to God for it? Daily Always Never

* How often does God want you to pray? ..................................

**FAMILY PRAYER CUP**

Cut small pieces of coloured paper. On a Prayer Slip each family member write a word or short sentence they liked in Sunday’s Gospel. Glue them round the outside of the styrofoam cup. Beside the Prayer Cup place scissors and another styrofoam cup with long (page-width) blank Prayer Slips inside. During the week, write on a blank slip and place inside Prayer Cup the name of someone or some thing in need of prayer e.g. the homeless, drought. (When might you come together to remove a Prayer Slip and pray for the need named?)

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1. RAELOP  __________ ( )  
2. DRLO  __________ ( )  
3. ITFHA  __________ ( )  
4. UGEJD  __________ ( )  
5. ODG  __________ ( )  
6. RPYA  __________ ( )  
7. SIDICPSL  __________ ( )  
8. DOWII  __________ ( )  
9. GDANPELI  __________ ( )  
10. HITGRS  __________ ( )  

A. Unscramble the words.

B. In the brackets after the unscrambled word, write the verse number of where the word is to be found in Sunday’s Gospel of Luke 18: 1-8.

* What is something you need/want very much?
* Have you ever thought wrongly about a person?
* What did you think?

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Prayertime

Heavenly Father,
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ
rose from the dead,
he commissioned his followers
to “go and make disciples of all nations”
and you remind us that through our Baptism
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.
Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion,
may find new and efficacious expressions
that bring life and light to the world.
Help us make it possible for all peoples
to experience the saving love
and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Pope Francis

Recently Departed

† VERONICA GORDON from Balgo, died tragically in Halls Creek on 29 July 2019.
† FRANCIS LULU son of Veronica Lulu from Balgo, died in Broome on 15 August 2019.
† PRICILLA TRAVERS died peacefully at a nursing home in Derby on 19 August 2019.
† TIM FISCHER, Former Ambassador to the Holy See, past National Party Leader and former Deputy Prime Minister, died after a long illness on 22 August 2019.
† CECILIA DJIAGWEEN, resident of Broome, died in Perth on 23 August 2019.
† PATRICIA DJIAGWEEN died in Broome on 2 August 2019.
† MAURICE GOWER, of Broome, died after a long illness on 25 August 2019.
† KEVIN LOUISSON, a former lay missionary at Balgo, a volunteer at Nulungu College and a worker at the Broome Port, died on 30 August 2019.

May they rest in Peace

If you have any death notices you would like to include please email kcp@broomediocese.org
As part of the annual Shinju Matsuri Festival of the Pearl held in Broome in September, the Assumption Sisters of Broome danced and sang as part of the Float Parade. The Sisters enjoyed the opportunity to share their culture and faith with the Broome community.

Baptised at St Joseph’s Church in Wyndham was Josephine Riley, at left, and Jo-Ellen Ceranna-Carroll, on the right. Photo: M Ceranna

Bishop Saunders, assisted by Fr James Maina, celebrated Mass for these three young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in Ringer Soak on 19 August 2019. They are seen here at the serious business of the-cutting-of-the-cake!

As part of the annual Shinju Matsuri Festival of the Pearl held in Broome in September, the Assumption Sisters of Broome danced and sang as part of the Float Parade. The Sisters enjoyed the opportunity to share their culture and faith with the Broome community.

Ryan Phillips and Esah Coffin were married in Broome by Fr Daniel Chama earlier this year. Congratulations to Ryan and Esah!