Window 13 commences with the Normanton grassland... and above it the unique Morning Glory cloud formation. In the foreground are hard heat-chiselled rocks. Window 14 begins a Georgetown landscape complete with anthills and the beginnings of "Great Wall of China" - The Newcastle Range. The first flora is a fossilised stromatalite in Window 13... The flora progresses Window 15 through primitive cycads and pandanus, dry woodland eucalypts... Fauna follow flora. In the ancient rocks echoing the Riversleigh discoveries are fossil remains of an archaeopteryx and a pleiosaur. Amphibian frogs and a reptilian sand goanna walk on the rocks in the footprints of their forbears.

...these three major themes of landscape, flora and fauna are intensified in colour, form, details and complex interrelationship......

And God saw that it was good Genesis 1:21

The Creation Windows theme sets the background for articles 'Responding to a Slow Moving Disaster...in Our Own Back Yard' (page 7) & 'Sisters of St Joseph continue their long Tradition and Presence in Cairns Diocese' (page 11).
Trinity Sunday and Trinity Bay on which Cairns is built have a direct connection.

In the evening of 10th June, 1770 James Cook, in the *Endeavour*, anchored off Green Island. He named this perhaps not after its colour, though Cook diarised it as a *low green woody island*. His more usual practice was to name places after a prominent person or crew member – in this case Charles Green, the astronomer on the *Endeavour*.

From Green Island he landed at *Mission Bay* (probably Yarrabah), set sail again at midnight and during the morning named Trinity Bay. At 11pm that night disaster struck, when the *Endeavour* founded upon a reef off Cape Tribulation.

It is a less-known fact that ships at sea mark the change of day and date at midday – which is more accurately marked by the sun’s highest point – rather than at midnight – as on land.

Hence in Cook’s journal he notes the morning in Trinity Bay at 10th June, while his ship struck the reef off Cape Tribulation at 10pm on 11th June – though (on land) it was the same day – a Sunday. (See R.B. Joyce *Time and Captain Cook* Queensland Heritage, Brisbane, May 1970. Vo. 2. No 2. P8-12.)

As it was a Sunday morning, James Cook would have read prayers to the crew on the deck of the *Endeavour* from the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer* for Trinity Sunday as it passed Trinity Bay, which he so named.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer (A.D. 1489 –1556) at the Reformation composed/translated into English the more ancient prayer in the *Roman Missal* originating probably from 1334 when the Feast of the Holy Trinity was established.

The collect, the opening prayer, reads:

**Book of Common Prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who has given unto us thy servants  
**grace by the profession of a true faith**  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity  
and the power of the Divine Majesty  
to worship the Trinity;  
we beseech thee,  
that thou wouldst keep us  
steadfast in this faith,  
and evermore defend us from all  
adversities, who livest and reignest  
one God, world without end. Amen.

**Roman Missal (current version)**

God our Father, who by sending into the world  
the Word of Truth and the Spirit of Sanctification  
made known to the human race your wondrous mystery  
grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith,  
we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory  
and adore your Trinity, powerful in majesty.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Note the middle part and the central expression of faith are very similar.

These express the very core of orthodox catholic Christian faith in the Godhead as one – a *unity* though a *trinity* of persons.
POPE FRANCIS ASKS WE PRAY FOR THE GIFT OF PEACE

On Sunday, June 8, Solemnity of Pentecost, Pope Francis invited to Rome, Presidents Shimon Peres and Mahmoud Abbas to pray with Him and His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, and to beseech God for the gift of peace.

It was Pope Francis' desire that this act, fruit of His recent pilgrimage to Jerusalem, should be shared spiritually by as many Bishops, Priests, religious and laity as possible, as also by those men and women of goodwill who may wish to join in this prayer.

In this way His Holiness is confident that this supplication, made close to the tomb of the Apostle Peter, may reach the ends of the earth, and the promise of the Lord be fulfilled: "If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven" (Mt 18:19). [Paul R. Gallagher Apostolic Nuncio adapted]
TH Fitzgerald and party came to this district in 1880 with the blessing and support of Bishop Quinn of Brisbane who encouraged the Irish settlement which followed. The Augustinians, an Irish Missionary Order, were invited to minister to the growing number of Catholics in the Far North. At first, known simply as Johnstone River and later as Geraldton, this area was declared a parish in 1898 extending from Cardwell to Harvey Creek, and Father Michael Martin Clancy its first parish priest. In 1910, the name of the town was changed to Innisfail following confusion with Geraldton in WA.

In 1891 a church was built in Owen Street dedicated to Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, and a title long associated with the Augustinians and given to the parish as well. This church was so damaged by a cyclone in 1906 that another was built. The second church, did not survive the severe cyclone of 1918. Father Clancy initiated fund-raising for a new church almost immediately and acquired the land between Owen, Grace and Rankin Streets where the present church of reinforced concrete has stood since 1928. The church and other parish buildings have been repaired or replaced following damage from fire, flooding and cyclones, the worst disaster being the cyclone of 2006. Recovery and re-building has taken advantage of the learning and insights of Vatican II to give the parish a beautiful, enriching church.

The Good Samaritan Sisters served the parish from 1903 to 1992, the Marist Brothers from 1938 to 1983 and the Augustinians until 1993 when they were replaced by diocesan priests, all leaving an indelible mark on the life and direction of the parish.

2011 saw Fr Kerry Crowley appointed as Parish Priest of Innisfail following in the footsteps of Fr Frank Gordon who had been parish priest since 1993. When asked what strikes him about the parish Fr Kerry responded:

“The life of the Church reflects what is happening in the local community. With the effects of two recent cyclones, uncertainty and changes in the rural industry and with a decline in business and investment locally; notwithstanding that, the country church remains a beacon where the faithful gather for spiritual nourishment, friendship, celebration and hope. We have many involved in the life of our parish and with the election and formation of a Parish Pastoral Council I am hopeful that we will be a listening arm of the church putting into effect what Pope Francis has asked “to keep the door opened” to be welcoming and inclusive and a spiritual home for all people.”
Fr Kerry reflects that “Pope Francis has breathed wind into my lungs; it is a blessing being on his page with the privilege of priesthood to serve God’s people.” The colourful history of the parish reflects changes in Church life. In 2014, Innisfail Parish includes the churches of Mother of Good Counsel, Innisfail, Christ the King, Mourilyan and St Rita’s, South Johnstone.
In the early 1950s when Bishop Cahill, with the consent of Archbishop Duhig, asked for Brisbane students at Banyo Seminary to work in the Cairns diocese, 15 of them volunteered to come. Fr Miah McSweeny was one of the 15. This was a most generous offer of the Brisbane Archdiocese. Most probably these 15 were among the cream of the missionary minded students at Banyo Seminary at that time. Miah certainly had missionary dreams.

Within months of being appointed to Gordonvale parish in January 1956, he dreamed of visiting the aboriginal community over the mountain range to the east. The only access to Yarrabah at that time was by boat. But not for Miah! With cane knife in hand he cut his way over the Range and innocently walked into the Yarrabah community without the permission of the Chairman, or of the Government administrators, or of the Anglican Church!! Whenever Fr Miah related this story he would shake his head at how wet behind the ears he was!

He must have quickly got over this embarrassment because, over the next 8 years that he was in Gordonvale, he was very much involved with the Yarrabah Community and was caught up with a team of people organising housing for families on the fringe of Yarrabah. During this time and for the rest of his life he grew into a strong advocate for justice and fairness for the indigenous and migrant people of Far North Queensland.

After a one year appointment to the Cathedral parish as assistant priest, he was subsequently appointed as parish priest of Gordonvale (8 years), South Johnstone (2 years), Thursday Island (15 years), Weipa (11 years), Earlville (10 years), Northern Beaches (12 years) and Cooktown/Weipa (4 years).

While Fr Miah presented a tough front he always had a warm heart for people. People from all walks of life were welcome in his presbyteries. The presbytery often became a meeting place for many. He was a genuine catalyst for bringing people together.

What about that peculiar gait that was his? When walking he seemed to put his toes to the ground first! If you teased about it he would simply laugh it off without comment. Throughout his priestly life he suffered from infections in his legs and feet. This gave him continual discomfort and, at times, pain. His gait was one way of easing that discomfort.

He had a simple spirituality: God loves us, no matter what. It was a driving force in the life and ministry of Fr Miah McSweeny, the man and the priest. May you rest now in the love of your God.
RESPONDING TO A SLOW MOVING DISASTER… IN OUR OWN BACK YARD

Written by Deacon Peter de Haas

Another failed wet season! For many families on the cattle stations in our own diocese in Far North Queensland, and indeed for far too many families and communities in the very large area of Queensland which remains drought declared, getting through 2014 will stretch their resilience and emotional resources to the very limit. Already reeling from a failed wet season in 2012-13 accompanied by wildfires which left many properties burnt out in the southern parts of the Cape and before that the live export ban and GFC, what they are experiencing is a slow moving disaster, one that doesn’t have the media attention of our cyclones or floods but is unbelievably difficult for those affected and will take years to recover from.

Unfortunately, sending a truck load of money out into the Gulf Savannah would just be a drop in what has become an ocean of debt. But that doesn’t mean that nothing can be done! Several parishes, and our diocese, have already been very generous in responding to the wildfire disaster early in 2013, but unfortunately, the situation remains dire.

Recently, Deacon Peter de Haas, together with his wife, Angela and daughter Alicia, spent two weeks in the Gulf Savannah Parish visiting families on their stations. They were sent off with a magnificent supply of care packs of non-perishable baked goodies lovingly prepared by some of the ladies of St Teresa’s Parish, Ravenshoe. More importantly, each pack included a letter expressing care and concern for these families, and an assurance of continued prayers. Hampers of fresh fruits and vegetables were also provided in Georgetown by the St Cecilia Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul and, together, these were delivered to the stations by the de Haas family and very gratefully received.

A further two-week visit is being planned for late June - early July. The word has got around and at the time of writing, the broader Ravenshoe community is mobilising to support this trip with different care packs for men, women and children. Some

Ravenshoe businesses are also working towards providing, at no cost, an enjoyable weekend away for some families later this year to give them a much needed break from their properties and to just have some fun together.

St Stephen’s College in Mareeba is also considering some options for care packages to be provided throughout the year. These initiatives, and the deep care and concern that is being expressed in so many different way, are wonderful to witness. “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me…” (Matt 25:35)

This rolling disaster has a long way to run; many properties have either no grass or no water, or neither. Keeping stock alive till hoped for early spring rains, if they come, will be very, very difficult. Prices are well down, sometimes not even covering the cost of transport and, consequently, there is very little cash flow available.

Please consider what your parish or school might be able to do to show your Christian concern for and solidarity with, your next door neighbours in the Gulf Savannah Parish. For further information, or to discuss any ideas, please contact Deacon Peter de Haas on 40976605.
Sr Margaret entered eternal life on the 15th May 2014. When Sr Gwen Garland RSM heard the news she immediately sent a message to Sr Faye Kelly RSM which reads,

It is very hard to speak of Margaret without mentioning her Irish fun-loving, her outspokenness, her wisdom and her remarkable generosity and sense of mercy. There are many who have lived because of her care, and there are many who have had an extra hour of enjoyment in life and experiences they would never have had without her.

When Margaret received the invitation from the Cairns Sisters of Mercy in 1950, to travel to Australia from Kildare Ireland and serve the people of Far North Queensland, she did not hesitate and travelled to Australia by plane with sixteen other Irish women. After landing in Cairns and being greeted by Bishop Thomas Cahill DD, these enthusiastic young women journeyed to Herberton where they commenced their Novitiate to become Sisters of Mercy.

Sr Margaret was Professed as a Sister of Mercy on the 17th January 1953 and began her ministry as a teacher in the primary schools of the Diocese of Cairns soon after. She taught at St Therese's Edmonton and St Joseph's Atherton, as well as later being appointed principal of Sacred Heart Primary School Thursday Island, Mother of Good Counsel North Cairns and St Joseph's Parramatta.

Sr Margaret always had a deep desire to work in an indigenous community or 'Go to the Missions!'. In 1963 Sr Margaret's wish came true. She received her Mission Cross in January 1963 and was a missionary in Torembi until 1968.

In 1967 the Cairns Diocese increased its jurisdiction as far as Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. Bishop Cahill, following the departure of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Missionary Sisters, asked the Sisters of Mercy in Cairns to go to Thursday Island and re-establish the primary school. Sr Margaret returned to the Cairns Diocese and took up teaching on Thursday Island, later becoming principal of the school.

In 1975 Sr Margaret was appointed principal of St Joseph's primary school Parramatta and was simultaneously appointed Vicar General of the Sisters of Mercy of the Cairns Diocese. It was a time of great commitment for her in the field of education. In the 1980s during a visit to Ireland she noticed the children in a school using computers. After returning to Australia she built a computer room at St Joseph's primary school Parramatta. St Joseph's was the first school in the diocese to install and use computers.

In the 1980s Sr Margaret, after being elected Superior of the Sisters of Mercy Cairns, initiated many projects which were diocesan firsts. She responded to a need in the Atherton district and the Respite Care Centre in Atherton became a Sisters of Mercy project, under her direction. She was instrumental in establishing school boards in the diocese and when the Docemus Awards were introduced in honour of Tom Doolan, Sr Margaret was one of the first recipients. Sr Margaret Rush was an advisor, spiritual director and a true friend, particularly to those who most needed a 'hand up' and a 'cheerful smile'. May she rest in Peace.

On sale at the Cathedral Bookshop
183 Abbott St Cairns
for the price of $20
MORE THAN 80 CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF OCEANIA SPEND TIME TOGETHER IN NEW ZEALAND

Media Release written by Anne Dickinson (Executive Officer, New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference)

With the haunting sound of the conch shell, more than 80 Bishops of Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, the Pacific Nations were welcomed to New Zealand with a powhiri at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Wellington. The Mass which followed incorporated some of the Pasifika cultures that are part of the local Catholic community.

"Many of the visiting Bishops remarked that it was a sign of the warm welcome and hospitality that New Zealanders are known for," said Archbishop John Dew, President of the New Zealand Bishops Conference and President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania.

The Bishops are gathered for the Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania which takes place in a different part of Oceania every four years. The Assembly took place from 12-16 May.

During the Opening Mass the Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, Archbishop Martin Krebs, read a message sent by the Holy See's Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, on behalf of Pope Francis. In it Pope Francis offered his prayerful support and his hope that during their time together the Bishops would find inspiration and strength for their common mission in the service of God's people.

New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Bill English joined the Bishops for dinner on Monday night and welcomed them to New Zealand.

During the week the Bishops visited the Home of Compassion and met with the Sisters. They heard about their foundress, Suzanne Aubert, her work for social justice in the wider community, the way she was embraced by the Maori community and her study of Maori herbal medicine and of Te Reo. Suzanne Aubert's cause for sainthood is underway and if beatified, Mother Aubert would be New Zealand's first saint.

The Bishops were moved and deeply concerned when they heard Bishop Eugene Hurley speak about the desperate situation of detainees in Australian detention centres. Bishops from Papua New Guinea and the Bishop of Tarawa in Nauru spoke of the detention centres within their countries and the effects of these on local populations of Manus Island and Nauru.

Bishop Barry Jones and Mike Stopforth presented a session on the earthquakes and their impact on the Christchurch city and the Diocese. They spoke of the ongoing effects on the people of Christchurch, together with the rebuilding being undertaken by the Church and throughout the city.

Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Suva spoke on reading the signs of the Fiji times, and the pastoral implications of the political changes that have occurred in Fiji over the last fifteen years. The Bishops also discussed topics that will be considered at the Extraordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome in October this year. In workshop sessions, the bishops heard presentations and engaged in discussion with presenters on young people and the Catholicism.

The Assembly marked the end of Archbishop John Dew's term as President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania. During the Assembly the Bishops elected Archbishop John Ribat MSC of Port Moresby as President of the Federation, and the Vice President is Bishop Robert McGuckin of Toowoomba. The 2018 Assembly will be held in Papua New Guinea.

The Assembly takes place every four years in a different part of Oceania. For the Bishops it is a rare opportunity for reflection, prayer, discussion and informal time together. There were 82 Bishops in Wellington for the event, from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, the countries of the Pacific, and Australia and New Zealand.
STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PRIESTS OF AUSTRALIA ON ASYLUM SEEKERS

14 May 2014

The National Council of Priests of Australia would like to endorse the statement by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (issued 8 May) and express our concern also about the Australian government’s treatment of asylum seekers.

Some of our members minister to these asylum seekers in detention centres and are very concerned for their welfare. The hard-line policies of the current Australian government towards asylum seekers and refugees is extinguishing the Christian virtue of hope for many of these people: some of whom have risked their lives for a new and better life after experiencing oppression and extraordinary deprivation both of rights and resources.

Like our Bishops, many of us have seen the faces and heard the stories of these people and cannot hide our shame at the way some are being treated.

We stand with our Bishops in entreat our nation to relook at the way we are currently treating asylum seekers and ask the Australian government to change its cruel and inhuman policy towards those seeking asylum in Australia.

We do not believe that concealing their stories or faces, or keeping secret what the Australian government has been doing to deter these asylum seekers is helpful. We ourselves as a church know the danger of secrecy in dealing with those who have been abused or mistreated in any way.

We call upon the Australian government and all politicians of goodwill to seriously review these policies in order to respect the human dignity of these asylum seekers both in Australia and those transported by the government to other lands.

Media enquiries:
Rev Ian McGinnity (NCP Chairman)
P: (02) 9871 8710    M: 0419 638 714
Ministering in the Gulf Savannah Parish means much travelling. “When I’m home I live in Chillagoe,” is the response of Josephite Sister, Irene Harrison [pictured] if asked where she lives. At other times Irene could be anywhere from Mount Surprise to Burketown, or even in Coen. There she works with Sister Irene Masterson RSM with the Catholic aboriginal community.

Irene provides pastoral and spiritual support throughout the parish including visits to properties and preparation for sacraments. An earlier Josephite presence in the Gulf was the ministry of Sisters Angela Morrison and Joan Burke at Burketown, 1979 to 1983. They worked in a relational, pastoral and educational role with the aboriginal community, especially the women and had outreach to properties in the area.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph were invited by Bishop Thomas Cahill to the Diocese to run a Motor Mission for Catholic children attending State Schools in parishes from Mossman to Babinda. Sisters Pauline Shannon and Anne Mills began the Motor Mission on 12th February 1959 living at Calvary Hospital until the convent at Atkinson Street, Manunda was ready. In 1976 the sisters extended the Motor Mission work with a yearly trip to the Gulf Mission with Father John Flynn to prepare children for sacraments. The Motor Mission continued until 1983. By then lay catechists in the parishes had taken on the ministry. However, a sister continued in the ministry as the Diocesan Coordinator of Religious Education in State Schools. Sister Monica Cavanagh, the present Congregational Leader was the first Coordinator.

In 1961 Sisters Ibar Furlong and Irene Mullins arrived to begin Saint Francis Xavier’s School in the church building at Manunda. Mary Sheridan was the last Josephite principal in 1994, but the sisters continued at Saint Francis until 1997 when Sister Teresa Murray departed.

In 1966 the Sisters took on a new challenge with Sisters Bernadette Barlow and Anne Hanrahan opening Saint Anthony’s School in Dimbulah, a town where English was not the first language of many. Later the sisters were involved in two other new schools: Saint Mary’s co-educational College at Woree and Holy Cross School, Smithfield. Sister Janet McDougall was deputy at Saint Mary’s from 1986 to 1991. Sister Teresa Murray was infant teacher and Religious Education Coordinator from 1987 to 1992 at Holy Cross.

Sister Denise Brosnan, a project officer with the Josephite East Timorese Institute, was in Cairns from August to November 2001. She acted as a support person with a small group of East Timorese nurses who were upgrading their qualifications.

Ministry in the Gulf Savannah can be challenging—coping with distance, isolation, harsh climate and the unexpected. For Irene it is always hope-filled and joyful for in the words St Mary MacKillop, “There where you are you will find God.”
Saturday 26th April 2014 marked the Centenary of St Patrick’s Church, Yungaburra. Bishop James Foley led Saturday’s celebration, with Fr. Greg Moses (parish priest), Fr Rob Greenup O.S.A. (Mareeba) representing the Augustinian Order who provided the first priests to the far north. Fr Michael Bonner, Fr Barry Craig and Fr Hilary Flynn also concelebrated the Mass [pictured]. Many in the 2014 congregation had travelled from towns across the Atherton Tableland and the coast. The day ended with a Dinner and Dance at the Community Hall in Yungaburra.

It was on this date 100 years ago when Fr Patrick Doyle, at a 10am service blessed the building. “The building is splendidly situated on the brow of the hill and commands an outlook over the town”, said the news item in the Cairns Post of 1st May 1914 and today it still stands in splendour watching over the little township.

At the Blessing in 1914 the church was given the name “Our Lady of Consolation”, but sometime in the late 1920’s early 1930’s the name was changed to St Patrick’s in honour of Fr Patrick Doyle, its first visiting priest. He was highly thought of as a very spiritual man and many mourned his death in November 1924. Money was raised and the bell tower was erected in 1934 with a plaque in his honour and the name changed around then.

Many of the wooden churches erected last century were thought of only as temporary buildings but this one has certainly stood the test of time. Constructed in local rainforest timbers, red cedar, Qld maple, northern silkwood and local pine, all of which were quite possibly milled in the town’s own sawmill. St Patrick's is also one of the few churches in the area that still has its original altar, which was built in Cairns and transported, in pieces, by train to the station in Yungaburra.

St Patrick’s was entered on the National Trust List in 1985. In 1992 it was put on the Queensland Heritage List. Sadly by early 2000 the church was in great need of repair and a committee was formed to raise funds and organise the refurbishment of the building. In August 2004 work commenced and the community spirit generated by this refurbishment still reverberates today. Many who gathered at the 100 years celebration were soon swapping stories and reliving memories of the eight weeks spent returning the church to its original splendour.

St Patrick's today is a popular venue for weddings, a tradition begun three days after the 1914 blessing ceremony, when two local identities of the time, Mr Jack Kehoe (the station master) married Miss Maud Williams (the publican of the Lake Eacham Hotel) on the 29th April. At the 2014 celebrations there were several couples present who had celebrated their own weddings at St Patrick's over the last 50 years and two of these couples whose parents and grandparents had also celebrated their weddings in the church.

The day was a great success, the rain held off, old friendships were renewed, memories stirred and laughter shared while the building that’s St Patrick's watched on as it has done for the last 100 years and hopefully for the next 100 years.
PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

Marking the twentieth anniversary of the April 1994 Rwandan genocide, Catholic Mission officially launched its 2014 campaign - 'Heal the Broken-Hearted' - which focuses on the incredible work of the Catholic Church in helping Rwandans to forgive, heal, reconcile and unite since the horrific genocide that saw almost one million people killed in the space of just one hundred days.

Inspired by Psalm 147:3 'He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds,' the campaign will appear in parishes around Australia throughout the coming months, as well as being mailed to homes, and aims to highlight the remarkable process of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing taking place in the community of Nyamata where approximately 10,000 people were massacred in and around the Nyamata Catholic Church.

For further information on the campaign or to make a donation, visit www.catholicmission.org.au/rwanda.

To watch the campaign DVD, visit www.catholicmission.org.au/rwandadvd.

To download a copy of the parish kit or for further information, please visit www.catholicmission.org.au/churchappeal2014

Fr. Emmanuel, a priest from Rwanda visited St. Andrew’s on Friday 06 June. Fr Emmanuel gave an inspirational talk to students on his work with the Catholic Mission spiritually healing the people of Rwanda after the genocide of 1992. Emmanuel lost his two brothers in the genocide, he recalls his pain and confusion at that time: “I felt the wounds of my community, as a Rwandan growing up in that horrific atmosphere, sharing the pain and misery of my compatriots and with so many questions as a young man.” Fr Emmanuel covered topics ranging from social justice, war, genocide, racial division, grief/loss and the role of the Church.

Parishioners from St Augustine’s Stratford [pictured] joined with Anna Jimenez from Catholic Mission in the celebration of Mass on Pentecost Sunday with Fr Emmanuel from Rwanda as presider and Homilist. Fr Emmanuel during his Homily spoke of his own experiences during the Rwandan genocide and his great belief in the healing power of forgiveness and the effect this spirituality is having on compatriots in his home country.
CATHEDRAL BOOKSHOP A UNIQUE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

Written by Peter Cash (Editor, Northern Beaches, Monthly Newsletter)

“When you walk into the Cathedral Bookshop, it is like walking into a top-class bookshop/gift store you will find in any city of the world!!” said Peter Cash. “Stock carried here is amazing; books, cards, candles, statues, crucifixes and much, much more.”

Located under the bell tower off the southern end of the Cathedral building, in the driveway between St Monica’s Cathedral and St Monica’s College, the Bookshop has gifts for every occasion. Gifts and religious mementos are readily available for Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communions and Christmas. Stock includes books, inspirational writings and daily devotionals. Purchases can also be made of picture slides and postcards of the beautiful Cathedral Creation Windows. Everything is at competitive prices and all profits raised are donated to charitable causes within the diocese.

The Bookshop has been run by Noreen Metcalfe for the past 13 years and benefits from the many past and present volunteers who work tirelessly week after week. “All our volunteers are a credit to the diocese” said Noreen. Lyn Cuzzubbo, who volunteers on a Wednesday, commented on working in the Bookshop “it is a lovely environment and extremely interesting and I meet people from all over the world.”

Please try and make a visit, you will be assured of a warm welcome, opening hours are; Monday to Friday – 9.30-4.30; Sunday mornings – immediately following 10.00 Mass for one hour.

Date Claimer:
Feast of Our Lady of the Chain
Sunday 14th September

St Thomas’s Church Mareeba - Mass commences at 2.30pm followed by the procession of the statue and then entertainment and pesca [lucky dip], BBQ and licensed bar on the school oval. Fireworks end the evening at 8.15pm.
Saturday 31st of May 2014, saw the culmination of months of planning come to fruition, with a wonderful gala occurring at Good Counsel College. The La Valla Centre, complete with state of the art Library facility, Lecture Theatre, Graphics and Information Technology laboratories and general teaching areas, was officially opened by Senator Ian MacDonald, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. Bishop James Foley, Bishop of Cairns celebrated a Liturgy and Blessing Ceremony of the new building and Marcellin Champagnat statue. Distinguished guests included Federal Minister, Senator Ian MacDonald, the Cassowary Shire Coast Council representative, Mr Glenn Raleigh and Mr Bill Dixon, acting Executive Director Cairns Catholic Education Services.

120 people gathered to make this event a very special day in the life of the Good Counsel College family. The official opening coincided with the 75th Marist Anniversary Dinner, which was hosted to celebrate 75 years of Marist education in Innisfail. Hospitality students under the instruction of Hospitality teacher Ms Loretta Kreis worked diligently throughout the day to serve a beautiful three course dinner in the Champagnat Centre, which was transformed into an inviting restaurant area for the evening.

Acting Principal, Mr Luke Reed officiated over proceedings, with visiting Marist Brothers, Br Neville Solomon, Br John Curry, and Innisfail identities Br Ralph Arnell and Br Bill McAvoy, joining us to make the occasion memorable.

The guests were entertained with musical performances by Good Counsel College students Jack McKinstry and College Vice Captain, Eve Ah Shay, along with dance performances from Jasmine Corica, Nicole Grima and Paige Withnall. Our Marist charism of quality education, through love of work, simplicity, presence, family spirit and in the model of Mary, Mother of Jesus, certainly continues in a strong vein here at the College.

The celebrations usher in the next phase of Marist based education in Innisfail, as we model our founding charism, and continue to work towards the development of young people, by word and example, a sensitivity to diversity, the growth of spirituality, a sense of self-worth and respect for others, and the striving to give of one’s best.
The five winning students of the 2014 Premier’s Anzac Prize have arrived home after paying tribute to our nation’s soldiers at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. “It’s important that our young Queenslanders learn about our ANZAC history and its ongoing legacy,” Mr Newman said. “This once-in-a-lifetime trip to personally trace our military history has also been a great opportunity.”

The five 2014 winners were:
- Elizabeth Gardner, Year 10, Clayfield College, Brisbane
- Jamal Hammett-Ryan, Year 12, St Andrew’s Catholic College, Redlynch [pictured]
- Pyu San Min, Year 11, Pimlico State High School, Townsville
- Mackenzie Plath, Year 11, Tannum Sands State High School, Gladstone
- Tiffanie Turnbull, Year 11, Northpine Christian College, Dakabin

St John’s Parish, Silkwood, was once again the venue for the annual Feast of the Three Saints on Sunday 4 May. Approximately 3,500 devotees of Saints Alfio, Filadelfio and Cirino attended. Mass was celebrated in Italian by Father Luigi Usubelli followed by a solemn procession led by the statues of the Three Saints. Devotees enjoyed a day of faith, tradition and culture. Newly elected President of the organising association, Alf Strano, says he is pleased with the overall success of this year’s Feast and hopes that he will be able to continue and build upon the good work of recently retired President, Fred Maccarone. 2015 will mark the 65th anniversary of the Feast.

On Sunday, 15th June, the parish of Dimbulah celebrated the feast day of their Patron Saint – Saint Anthony of Padua. The feast commenced with a parish Mass, followed by the traditional “Pesca” [lucky dip] at the school grounds.

The celebrations were attended by a huge crowd of our local parishioners, school community and a full bus load of parishioners from Mareeba. During the Mass, our amazing choir raised the roof with their beautiful vocals, with lead from the outstanding Alteouise De Vaughn. Our statue of St Anthony was blessed and at the end of Mass, the congregation was given a piece of blessed bread, another tradition of the feast day.

The “Pesca” afterwards was again another huge hit. With many prizes being “fished” for and won, great entertainment provided by a two man band and Alteouise, hot food, drinks, delicious sweets, raffles and auctions.

Saint Anthony of Padua Feast Day was a very successful celebration and was enjoyed by all who attended.
CONFIRMATIONS CELEBRATED ACROSS THE DIOCESE

JUNE Northern Deanery
North Cairns/ Northern Beaches/Earlville/Gordonvale/Edmonton
JUNE Southern Deanery
Tully/South Johnstone/Innisfail/Babinda
JUNE Western Deanery
Atherton/ Ravenshoe/ Mareeba
JULY Mossman and Port Douglas
AUGUST West Cairns

When Confirmation is poorly understood, imaginative explanations fill the gap. While it is an opportunity to affirm the Baptism performed while an infant, Confirmation makes children neither “soldiers of Christ” nor adults in the Church. Confirmation is the second part of initiation. The first is Baptism, the ritual bath to wash away sin and make us fit to become members of Christ’s Body. The Holy Spirit is bestowed in Confirmation, sealing the baptised as a member of Christ’s Body, enabling them to join his priestly work. As stated in the Second Vatican Council’s Lumen Gentium (10), members of the Church, “by regeneration [baptism] and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are consecrated to be a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, that… they may offer spiritual sacrifices.” So, once prepared by Baptism, Confirmation enables participation in the Eucharist.

Originally they were celebrated together, as the Eastern Churches still do. The West delayed Confirmation and Communion, in many places until even the age of fourteen. Popes deplored as an abuse this practice of denying children the Eucharist, and in 1910 Pius X approved the decree Quam singulari that clearly declared children could receive from about seven. It did not mention Confirmation, and so as the earlier age of reception was adopted the meaning of Confirmation became confused. In this Diocese we returned a few years ago to the proper order: Confirmation, then Communion. [Rev. Dr. Barry Craig]

ROSIES CELEBRATES NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

During National Volunteer Week 2014 (12-18 May) Rosies Cairns volunteers joined Troy Bailey (new CEO) to celebrate the works of 6 million Australians who choose to serve.

In addition to Rosies normal outreaches, every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, there were a few events during the week to acknowledge volunteers who regularly invest time with our friends on the street – a number who have served for more than 10 years.

The annual 'Thank you lunch' [pictured above] held at the Mercy Sisters was well-received; additionally there was much fun and food enjoyed when team leaders came together with local police on Saturday night at the Marist Brothers.

Want to help? As the weather turns cooler there is an increased need for blankets - if you have spare blankets you can donate please contact Melissa 0410 562 579 or Lyall 4041 1445.

For more information about the work of Rosies friends on the street see rosies.org.au or facebook.com/rosies.qld

RETREAT OFFERS REFLECTIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH & FRIENDSHIP

Written by Jack Williams (Year 10 St Andrews Catholic College)

Surrounded by the beautiful country side of Genazzano, 155 St Andrew’s CC year 10 students were given the opportunity to reflect upon the person they are and the person they want to be in the future. It was an opportunity to nurture new friendships and to strengthen existing ones. They were given several ways to reflect upon themselves and those around them, often in the form of teacher-led group activities. It was an excellent opportunity for the students to sit back and take a good look at themselves over the course of the retreat.

During this time, the students were allowed to participate in a multitude of activities, ranging from discussing what the important things in their lives mean to them to writing a plethora of affirmations for their fellow students. It was a time in which they were able to connect and relate to their classmates. One particular activity that stood out to many of the students involved was most certainly the affirmation writing. It was an excellent way for the students to tell people what they meant to each other, and it undoubtedly strengthened the relationships of many.

PILGRIMAGE TO MERCY VALLEY BY NORTHERN DEANERY PARISHES

On Saturday the 26th of April to celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy parishioners from St Monica’s Cathedral Cairns, St Xavier Manunda and Our Lady Help of Christians Earlville went on a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Divine Mercy at Mercy Valley. Father Andrew, the officiating priest welcomed everyone and was so grateful to all who attended this celebration. The service was followed by a shared lunch and it was a great opportunity to meet and greet with other visitors. "I can only describe the experience as if I went to the cathedral in Rome because of the holiness and sacredness of the service," said Yolly Cuda. It was indeed a joyful and blessed day for everyone.

On Saturday the 26th of April to celebrate the Feast of the Divine Mercy parishioners from St Monica’s Cathedral Cairns, St Xavier Manunda and Our Lady Help of Christians Earlville went on a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Divine Mercy at Mercy Valley. Father Andrew, the officiating priest welcomed everyone and was so grateful to all who attended this celebration. The service was followed by a shared lunch and it was a great opportunity to meet and greet with other visitors. "I can only describe the experience as if I went to the cathedral in Rome because of the holiness and sacredness of the service," said Yolly Cuda. It was indeed a joyful and blessed day for everyone.
Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE) has refined a suite of services over a number of years that they utilise in all of their 130 schools. These services include but are not limited to payroll, financial reporting, student details and student reporting. BCE offered to provide the software and the implementation of these services to the Cairns Diocese. This is a significant investment for the Cairns Diocese but will place the diocese in a position that would have taken up to 10 years to integrate in schools and colleges and the implementation risk was considerable if the diocese continued along its current path.

Within 2 years the diocese will have a fully integrated reporting system that will be consistent across all schools and colleges and will be an enormous benefit to all staff and students. The first stage of the system is the payroll stage which will "go live" on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd June.

Talent 2 payroll system offers the Cairns Diocese a system-wide integrated data management system. The first stage of implementation of the new payroll system necessitated a change to Diocesan payroll systems. Web Self Service will enable staff to access an integrated system that will significantly improve access and services offered to schools, with a flow on effect for computerised payroll access for all agencies.

The roll out of systems in schools will occur over the next two years; however it is the first stage that will provide significant benefits for all diocesan staff in terms of Payroll and Employee Services. For most this will be mean enhanced service delivery but minimal change. For the small group of diocesan staff who until now had not had access to a web based HR and Payroll system, this new system will deliver enhanced services. The new WSS (Web Self Service) will replace the current ESS (Employee Self Service) system currently being used by the rest of Diocesan staff.

The impact on Diocesan Personnel Services has been significant not only in time and staff resources, but the huge workload of transferring over 2,000 diocesan staff records to the new payroll system. Tasks involved updating all staff profiles, configuring and mapping and learning the new processes central to the Talent 2 system.

Personnel Services Manager, Sarina Messina commented, “I am so appreciative of all the staff Kel (Assistant Payroll Manager), Joe, Dianne, Jacki, and Peter- their dedication, effort, and input towards providing a smooth transition to the new T2 system. Special mention to Peter Ellis who has come out of retirement to assist in the changeover.”
This diocesan project has also been an opportunity for different agency areas, including Catholic Education, Centacare and Information Technology, to come together to not only assist in establishing the new payroll system, but to connect as diocesan staff on a significant project which will benefit all staff.

Thanks and appreciation is also given to the staff of Brisbane Catholic Education for their concerted efforts in system implementation and in training Diocesan Personnel Services staff.

“This combined venture has strengthened diocesan ties and ‘value added’ to the already strong team work mentality of Diocesan Personnel Services. We look forward to the next phase where our improved school and agency systems will further benefit parishes and the diocese as a whole” said Sarina.

### MALABAR COMMUNITY MASSES

Father John Kunnathumadappillil travels from Townsville to celebrate Mass for the Malabar Community at St Monica’s Cathedral. Below are the dates and times of Mass for 2014:

- **September 2**  Tuesday 6.00pm
- **October 21**  Tuesday 6.00pm
- **December 16**  Tuesday 6.00pm

GRACES OF ITALY

A 16 day pilgrimage with Fr Peter Lamont PP

*Departing 29th September 2014*

Join us as we journey through Italy – from magical Venice to Rome, the Eternal City, visiting grace-filled shrines along the way.

*Also departing 29th Oct 2014*

**FROM** $5290*

*plus airfare

[www.harvestpilgrims.com](http://www.harvestpilgrims.com)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST A COPY OF OUR 2014 BROCHURE CONTACT HARVEST ON 1800 819 156

---

**It is important that your estate plans are regularly reviewed**

Make sure your plans remain relevant for your circumstances, and that they are effective from a legal and tax planning perspective. Queensland has seen a marked increase in disputes relating to wills. It is important that your estate plans cater for any potential challenge.

At Miller Harris Lawyers, we provide an experienced team of estate planning experts, who can advise on all aspects of estate planning, from business succession and tax planning for complex commercial entities, to simple wills and enduring powers of attorney.
This year, coinciding with the school's feast day in May, the Our Lady Help of Christians School Community celebrated 50 years of providing a Catholic Education to the children of Earlville and surrounding areas.

Our Lady Help of Christians School commenced in 1964 as a 'Church School' by the Sisters of Mercy. It began with 51 students from Grades 1-4 who worked in two classrooms and staffed by Sister M. Concilia Wallwork R.S.M., the founding principal, and Sister M. Agatha R.S.M. The classrooms were converted into a church on Friday afternoons by the sisters and the students in readiness for Sunday Masses celebrated by Fr Patrick McKenna, the parish's first priest. Monday mornings saw the church transformed back into classrooms. The school began offering co-educational classes to Year 1-7 students in 1984 with the addition of a preschool in 1994. The early success and growth of the school was due not only to the dedication of staff, but the strong support of parents and parishioners.

Currently the school has an enrolment in excess of 600 students supported by over 70 staff. The foundational Mercy vision is still very much evident in the continuing commitment of staff working with an enthusiastic parent community to provide a Catholic education for students in the school's care. During our Jubilee Year, the school recognises and celebrate the achievements of staff, parents, parishioners and students who have been part of the school's journey over the last 50 years, setting its sights on the challenges ahead with the same Spirit-inspired tenacity of its foundational forebears.

Over May 23rd to 26th there were a number of celebrations that welcomed the OLHOC community together... birthday cake, a whole school Eucharist on the Friday concelebrated by current parish priest Father Martin Kenny and first parish priest Father Patrick McKenna.
On 29th August last year, Father William Grundy visited St Rita’s School in Babinda for a very special whole school assembly. During this assembly, the school community helped Father celebrate his 80th birthday. After completing his secondary schooling at St Joseph’s Christian Brothers’ College at Gregory Terrace, Brisbane, Father Grundy entered the Banyo Seminary in 1952. After his ordination in 1958, Father Grundy was appointed to Cairns city and Tablelands parishes. He came to Babinda for the first time as parish priest in 1967. He remembers “spending a lot of time over at the school playing sports with the kids, as there were only Sisters of Mercy teaching here at that time”. After thirteen years in the St Rita’s Parish, Father Grundy left to undertake post-graduate studies in Italy and Belgium, followed by periods of ministering in Edmonton and Cairns.

Father Grundy was happy to return to St Rita’s in 1993, and he has continued being the parish priest of Babinda until his resignation this year due to ill health and age. St Rita’s School sincerely thanks Father Grundy for being our parish priest for so many years, and guiding and nurturing staff and students on their faith journey. This year, he is very much missed at our whole school Masses and liturgies.

Thank you from us all, Father Grundy!
Since 2003 the Oaktree Foundation, Australia’s largest youth-run organisation, has been working towards ending extreme poverty around the world. A number of fundraising events and volunteer trips have been run by the organisation, including the Make Poverty History concert in 2006, which featured bands such as U2 and Pearl Jam.

Live Below the Line is one of the Oaktree Foundation’s most impactful campaigns. Founded in 2010, the campaign challenges participants to eat on AU$2 a day for 5 consecutive days. This year a group of eight senior students from St Andrews Catholic College decided to come together, sharing the experience with each other and raising money for this great cause.

From May 5th to May 9th the students completed the hardest part of the challenge, eating together at lunch times and recording humorous daily video diaries to show to their fellow students.

Adam Fields felt that “it was terrific to finally grasp a slight understanding of what people in third world countries go through... it is only one battle out of hundreds that they deal with every day.”

“It really opened my eyes and it made me realise how much we take for granted,” Emily Johnston said about her experience.

Willie Davis said that he enjoyed the fact that he was “helping others less fortunate than himself. It was a unique and different way of raising awareness which [he] personally really enjoyed.”

All eight participants completed the five days successfully and received cash donations from many school and family members, as well as running a school based fundraiser themselves. Our college is extremely proud of their contribution to the wider community.

The group would like to thank everyone who supported them during this time and are still open for donations online at www.livebelowtheline.com.au/team/st-andrews-catholic-college.

Written by Kathryn Arenas
(Grade 12, St Andrews Catholic College)
**BROTHER PAUL HOUGH MOVES TO A NEW CHALLENGE**

*Written by Andrew McKenzie (Manager Executive Services Catholic Education Services)*

Br Paul leaves Catholic Education at the end of June, leaving behind an impressive list of achievements after his second stint in the Cairns Diocese.

During his time at Catholic Education in Cairns Br Paul has overseen the development of trade training centres at the secondary colleges, approval of a school for disengaged young people in Cairns and Cooktown, the employment of Indigenous liaison officers at all schools, an increase in Indigenous student numbers and achievements, more places for students with disabilities, planning for new schools at Weipa and Mt Peter, and a charitable foundation for young people in necessitous circumstances.

He joined Catholic Education in Cairns in 2010 as a consultant before becoming Executive Director in 2012. In his first period in Cairns he was Principal of St Augustine’s College from 1982 to 1987.

But he will not be lost altogether from the Diocese – his new role as Advocacy Officer for the Marist Province of Australia is likely to see him as a regular visitor to the Far North. In this role he will continue his lifetime’s work in education and support for the marginalised in the community.

“My personal emphasis here has been to ensure that our schools remain authentically Catholic in their mission, particularly in our outreach to the poor and the marginalised in our community,” he said.

Bishop James Foley said Br Paul was leaving Cairns on the eve of his Golden Jubilee as a Marist Brother on 2 July. Bishop Foley commented “This personal landmark will provide a suitable moment for him to finish his work in Cairns and to receive the recognition he deserves for the particular service he has given to the people of Far North Queensland.”

Bishop James thanked the Marist Brothers Provincial, Br Jeffrey Crowe for Br Paul’s services to the Cairns Diocese. Bishop James said he would make an appointment of a new Executive Director in the coming months, with Deputy Executive Director Bill Dixon acting in the role in the interim.

Bill Dixon recently returned to Cairns from his previous position as the State Manager for Capital Programs with the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. Before that Bill served as Cairns Catholic Education Services Capital, QA and Risk Manager from 2007 to 2010 and as Finance and Administration Manager at St Andrew’s Catholic College from 2004 to 2007.

---

**Musical Talent offers opportunity**

*Written by Jenny Piccolo*

In October last year, Andrew Chinn visited St Rita’s School, South Johnstone as part of his Queensland tour. As the students had already been exposed to Andrew’s music, they enjoyed singing along to the many songs that he sang.

During the morning Andrew listened to the children singing but one child in particular caught his eye. Rebecca Piccolo, a Year 7 student, was chosen to take part in a wonderful and exciting journey. In 2014 she was to travel to St Kieran’s School in Brighton, Queensland. This was a very proud moment for Rebecca and she was honoured to accept the invitation, and so her journey began. She met many other Queensland students who performed in a children’s choir and joined Andrew in compiling his new CD called “In Joyful Hope”. Considering that these children had never met before, and not sung together, they performed with grace and reverence.

Seven songs were recorded: “Strong In Our Faith”, “One Holy Family”, “Come and Follow Me”, “A Parent’s Prayer”, “We Walk with Mary”, “One Holy Spirit and Joyful Hope.”

Rebecca’s parents, along with the staff and students of St Rita’s are extremely proud of her success.
The protection of children is a responsibility which is allocated to us all. The announcement of a Royal Commission into Institutional Response to allegations of child sexual abuse has been necessary and essential in acknowledging the failings and building an awareness of what has been done and what needs to be done to ensure that no one in our community ignores this responsibility.

The Royal Commission has brought public the heart wrenching and darkest stories regarding Institutional responses to allegations of Child Sexual Abuse in this country. They have displayed the most horrifying of human behaviour in the form of a child sex offender as well as the most enlightening in the form of the resilience and strength of victims and families.

While there will be interim reports provided to the Federal Government from the Royal Commission, the full extent of its recommendations will not be known until the completion of the private and public hearings. The Catholic Church has already learnt much by the Royal Commission and has begun actively reviewing and assessing their own documentation and processes in recognition of the concerns raised by the Royal Commission so far.

Allegations of abuse by Church personnel in the Cairns Diocese are received by the Diocesan Towards Healing Advisory Group. Towards Healing sets out the principles that form the basis of the Church’s response to complaints of abuse and the procedures to be followed in responding to individual complaints. The current processes as produced by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Leaders of Religious Institutes, includes but is not limited to the notification to police regarding any allegation of a criminal matter. The Advisory Group also focuses on services adhering to the Child Safe Organisation guidelines as provided by the National Committee for Professional Standards. This includes developing resources and training materials for all staff and volunteers in the area of child protection.

While there is an enormous amount of heartache displayed during the Royal Commission, there is also much to be hopeful for. There is an openness and willingness to reform. The leaders of the Catholic Church in Australia have committed themselves to endeavour to repair the wrongs of the past, to listen to and hear victims, to put their needs first and to do everything to ensure a safer future for children.
Last year I was the recipient of the RSL Youth Leadership Development Grant. This grant, besides allowing me to achieve a chosen project, also has given me many valuable opportunities for development and growth. Upon receiving the grant I was invited to the RSL Youth Leadership Forum at Bond University on the Gold Coast. This consisted of two events, which involved leadership activities, teamwork and inspirational speakers. It was a fun day and I got a lot out of it. It was a great chance to meet people my own age with a lot of talents and skills and work with them to achieve activities. I learnt a lot about leadership and striving for success in our future careers and endeavours.

Upon talking to other recipients I was amazed at the variety of goals and achievements they were working towards with their grants. There were students travelling to Cambodia to volunteer, others who were competing at a state or national level, more still who were hoping to help the community. My grant is helping me to represent and teach other cultures about Australia at an international Girl Guide camp in Ireland. This is a great opportunity for me and I hope to experience new cultures and hopefully set straight some of their stereotypes!

The RSL Youth Development program runs for students in year 10 and 11. Upon receiving the grant it is used the year after. The RSL has partnered with Bond University to provide students with these opportunities. These grants are great because they don't focus on just one area of skills or talents. They are awarded for students who are talented at sport, academics, for those who are involved a lot in the community and those who are in between. With a bit of effort and an interesting project this grant can help you achieve your goals. Applications are open from Anzac Day through to Remembrance Day.

The RSL is making a difference in the lives of Australian soldiers, veterans and youth and is a great organisation to get behind. A big thanks for their help during the application and the wonderful experiences their grant is providing for me and hundreds of students Queensland wide.

For more information on previous applicants and upcoming dates, head to the Bond University or RSL website.
Boarding a plane in the mega-city of Harare the capital of Zimbabwe in southern Africa, to start a new life in Australia, Precious Magomo never imagined her destination would be a dusty and remote town in central Queensland.

After the long journey, the 18 year old disembarked with her family in the small but picturesque rural township of Longreach, a world apart from the bustling environment she had known. “When we got off the plane it was hot and I looked around and thought ‘where are we!’ I was in shock,” she said.

As the family started to settle into their new life, openly welcomed by the locals, the many challenges to life in a new culture and country emerged. Schooling, language, separation from extended family and learning new social customs all had to be negotiated. Precious described that this can be especially hard for children and teens with the additional peer pressures and tensions of meeting traditional expectations in a new culture.

“It was really hard at first and I felt isolated. Also, my English which I thought was good, I soon realised other people could not understand because of my accent,” she said. “This really impacted my confidence.”

Speaking from her home in Cairns where she has lived with her family since 2006, Precious described how these settlement pressures impact a person’s sense of identity. “You have to redefine who you are and how you fit into this new country. It takes real effort over many years and maintaining a healthy outlook and having goals is vital,” she said.

It is this unique lived experience and perspective that has seen Precious excel in her personal life and in her career working in social services with vulnerable communities. Recently she was awarded the Young African Australian Star Award for Professional Excellence 2014. The highly prestigious awards recognise and celebrate young Australians of African heritage living in Queensland who are high performers and demonstrate outstanding achievement.

Having achieved a Masters of Forensic Mental Health in 2012, this focus on maintaining mental and emotional wellbeing to support the settlement process is a key area of interest for Precious and has driven her work and studies in this area. Working as a case manager in migrant and refugee settlement for Cairns-based Centacare Migrant Services, she sees these challenges play out on a daily basis and this has helped in her decision to consider further study in clinical psychology.

“It understand all the things our clients want to do, but they don't understand how to or have other significant barriers such physical and age-related impairments. It can be very demoralising for them,” she said. “To know how we can help people to maintain good emotional and mental health and how they can build personal resilience to achieve the things they want to achieve is critical.”

“This is where I want to focus my efforts in the future, helping to build people's confidence in their own strengths and improve their settlement experience so that they can make the contributions to family and society that they want so much to do.”

FAITH TAKES ON A PRACTICAL EXPRESSION
IN A PASSION PLAY

Written by Peter Buckley

For many weeks leading up to the solemn Holy Week liturgy of the Passion and Death of Jesus and the glorious Resurrection and the joyful season of Easter, a dedicated group of St Francis Xavier’s parishioners gathered together to express their faith in a practical way. What resulted from their prayerful discussions was a commitment to prepare and present a play, commemorating Holy Week and Easter.

Led by Sean Moore and Gerry Keogh, the group was very active in the making of impressive costumes, props and backdrops, and assigning the various roles and scripts.

The Passion Play was performed in the backyard of Sean’s Westcourt home on Saturday, April 5, with actors, crew and audience all keen participants in the moving presentation. A barbecue then followed and it was a very happy and fitting conclusion to a wonderful project.

Sean, Gerry and their team are to be congratulated indeed on this devotional presentation, for providing both an expression of their own faith and also for creating such a community-building event. A yet bigger performance is planned for next year.

Sacramental programs have now commenced and children at the 8:00am Sunday Masses will be special participants during the Homily.

Fund raising for the Parish Centre continues, and we can hardly wait for construction to begin!
The celebration of Sister Katherine Coyne’s Sixtieth Jubilee at 11.00am last Thursday the 15th of May 2014 was a joyous occasion. It commenced in Our Lady Help of Christians Church Earlville, with Mass concelebrated by many priests of the Diocese, with deacons present, the main celebrant being Father Martin Kenny PP.

When all sisters and participants were seated, Sister Bev Strong, Northern Community Leader of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, welcomed the Congregation. Bev highlighted the purpose of the gathering which was to recognize Katherine’s life as a Religious and Sister of Mercy. Katherine has made a significant contribution to the Diocese of Cairns in the field of Education and to the Sisters of Mercy in Administration and Finance. “We are grateful to her for her generosity over these sixty years” said Bev.

At the conclusion of Mass the invited guests, the Sisters of Mercy, priests and deacons of the Diocese, Sisters of the Handmaids of Our Lord, Holy Spirit Sisters, Sister Irene Harrison, Sister of St Joseph, members of the choir, Associates of Sisters of Mercy, members of Our Lady Help of Christians parish, friends and past students of Katherine, went to the Seville Conference Centre Earlville to partake of a delicious meal. Sr Katherine reflected “she had received many spiritual blessings that day!”

All who attended the Mass and following celebration join with the Sisters of Mercy in a prayer for Sr Katherine “May you enjoy the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep her heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

You can afford to live a quality retirement lifestyle.

Great neighbours, cafe, hot meals, hairdresser, pool, gym, chapel and social activities

Peace of mind with Holy Spirit staff on site 24/7 and Bethlehem Nursing Centre for residents if required

Full range of Home Care Services available in your apartment

All over 65s welcome

VISIT: Sundays 10.30am to 11.30am.
Free cake and coffee at your first tour.

Winner 2013 Master Builders Lifestyle Housing for Seniors Award.

Chano Trentin’s
ALL WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE PTY LTD
ABN 14 010 468 694

ALSO DEALERS FOR:
SUZUKI & KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES

EMAIL
allwheeldrive@bigpond.com
www.chanosawdcentre.com.au

ATHERTON
4030 5400
CNR VERNON & LOUISE STS.

MAREEBA
4092 1800
BYRNES ST.

SISTERS OF MERCY AND CAIRNS DIOCESE CELEBRATES THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF Sister Katherine Coyne

Written by Sr Rovena Duffy RSM

Prices start from $281,200 (conditions apply)

You can afford to live a quality retirement lifestyle.

Chano Trentin’s
ALL WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE PTY LTD
ABN 14 010 468 694

ALSO DEALERS FOR:
SUZUKI & KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES

EMAIL
allwheeldrive@bigpond.com
www.chanosawdcentre.com.au

ATHERTON
4030 5400
CNR VERNON & LOUISE STS.

MAREEBA
4092 1800
BYRNES ST.

SISTERS OF MERCY AND CAIRNS DIOCESE CELEBRATES THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF Sister Katherine Coyne

Written by Sr Rovena Duffy RSM

Prices start from $281,200 (conditions apply)

You can afford to live a quality retirement lifestyle.

Chano Trentin’s
ALL WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE PTY LTD
ABN 14 010 468 694

ALSO DEALERS FOR:
SUZUKI & KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES

EMAIL
allwheeldrive@bigpond.com
www.chanosawdcentre.com.au

ATHERTON
4030 5400
CNR VERNON & LOUISE STS.

MAREEBA
4092 1800
BYRNES ST.

SISTERS OF MERCY AND CAIRNS DIOCESE CELEBRATES THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF Sister Katherine Coyne

Written by Sr Rovena Duffy RSM

Prices start from $281,200 (conditions apply)

You can afford to live a quality retirement lifestyle.

Chano Trentin’s
ALL WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE PTY LTD
ABN 14 010 468 694

ALSO DEALERS FOR:
SUZUKI & KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES

EMAIL
allwheeldrive@bigpond.com
www.chanosawdcentre.com.au

ATHERTON
4030 5400
CNR VERNON & LOUISE STS.

MAREEBA
4092 1800
BYRNES ST.

SISTERS OF MERCY AND CAIRNS DIOCESE CELEBRATES THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF Sister Katherine Coyne

Written by Sr Rovena Duffy RSM

Prices start from $281,200 (conditions apply)

You can afford to live a quality retirement lifestyle.

Chano Trentin’s
ALL WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE PTY LTD
ABN 14 010 468 694

ALSO DEALERS FOR:
SUZUKI & KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES

EMAIL
allwheeldrive@bigpond.com
www.chanosawdcentre.com.au

ATHERTON
4030 5400
CNR VERNON & LOUISE STS.

MAREEBA
4092 1800
BYRNES ST.

SISTERS OF MERCY AND CAIRNS DIOCESE CELEBRATES THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF Sister Katherine Coyne

Written by Sr Rovena Duffy RSM

Prices start from $281,200 (conditions apply)

You can afford to live a quality retirement lifestyle.

Chano Trentin’s
ALL WHEEL DRIVE CENTRE PTY LTD
ABN 14 010 468 694

ALSO DEALERS FOR:
SUZUKI & KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES

EMAIL
allwheeldrive@bigpond.com
www.chanosawdcentre.com.au

ATHERTON
4030 5400
CNR VERNON & LOUISE STS.

MAREEBA
4092 1800
BYRNES ST.
STRATFORD FAR EWELLS
ISABEL PELIZZARI

Written by Parishioners

Isabel Pelizzari (17/2/1919 – 19/2/2014) was the heart of St Augustine’s community at Stratford and a blessing to the people who knew her and loved her. She was very happy to have made it to her 95th birthday, albeit in hospital, surrounded by family and friends! Isabel’s chair, now standing empty at the front of the church, honours the memory of a very special person who was kind, humble, loving and very generous in work and in prayer.

Born in Halifax near Ingham, she commenced school in Ripple Creek, and when the family moved to Cairns she attended Caravonica, Redlynch, Freshwater and Hambledon schools. The family at one time lived in Duffy Street, near the Freshwater Church and moved to Marrett Street, Stratford in 1936.

Never one to sit idle, Isabel was involved in organising events such as dance nights at the Stratford and Freshwater Halls and she was always busy fund-raising to help the local church and school communities.

When Isabel retired from her café work, her life then became the church. St Augustine’s Stratford was her second home and she ensured it was kept to the same very high standards of her own home. She was “Mother” to the priests who lived in the presbytery. She cooked, cleaned, washed and ironed for them. When attending to the altar linen and church presentation, she believed in perfection.

In her care, the Wednesday afternoon Prayer Group flourished for many years. She was fervently devoted to Our Lady and saying her Rosary was a daily ritual. Isabel was the original prayer warrior. She was up late every night as it took up to two hours to get through her list of people to pray for.

As the faith community of St Augustine’s Church Stratford we are sure Isabel continues to pray for us all.

DOCEMUS AWARDS
‘Celebrating Outstanding Achievement’

Written by Gerard Kearney (Assistant Executive Director - School Development)

Catholic Education Week will be celebrated across Cairns Diocese from 27 July – 2 August, 2014. The culmination of this week long celebration will be the Annual Docemus Awards on Friday evening, 1 August.

The Docemus Awards were established in the Diocese in 2003 to acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional commitment, achievement and contribution to Catholic Education of staff and volunteers in the following categories: Primary Teacher, Secondary Teacher, School Officer, Leadership, Volunteer Supporter and Lifelong Contribution.

Since its inception 12 years ago, they have become cherished evenings in the diocesan calendar, not only because they honour the outstanding service of members of the wider Cairns Catholic Education family, as chosen by their peers; but they also serve as an ongoing tribute to the life and work of a truly great, educator, leader and Catholic community member - Tom Doolan.

Tom Doolan served both in the Brisbane and Cairns Diocese at Senior Leadership level. Throughout his entire involvement in education which spanned well over 40 years, he had a genuine concern and explicit focus on people. With his death in 2002, it was inevitable that a memorial be set up in his remembrance, which would also be centred around people. The name Docemus, is a Latin word meaning ‘we teach’ for Tom believed that we all teach each other and learn from each other, so we are all teachers and learners, regardless of our roles.
CATHOLIC PASTORAL MINISTRY TO PRISONERS AT LOTUS GLEN CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

Written by Francis Bedford (Pastoral Care Associate Pastoral Support Services)

Lotus Glen is a Queensland Correctional Centre on the Atherton Tablelands. There are approximately six hundred and eighty male offenders housed at the main centre with another hundred or so at the prison farm. The population would be made up of about seventy five percent Indigenous and Islander men. At the main centre the men are housed in accommodation blocks holding up to fifty inmates per unit.

Inmates are cared for by a number of security officers and administration staff who work continuous shifts around the clock. Lotus Glen is a High Security Centre that has workshops and educational facilities where the men can be trained and learn skills to assist them when released. Some of the programs are, White Card, Landscape, Welding, Engineering, Automotive - Pre Apprenticeship, Computers and First Aid. There are other courses also that benefit the men in future job application and placement.

The centre has a team of thirteen chaplains from various church denominations each attending on allotted days. At present there is a chapel and an education room which chaplains can utilise for bible studies and religious services.

Cairns Diocese has two pastoral care associates as staff of Pastoral Support Services, attending to the pastoral needs of the inmates at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre. Francis and Gaile Bedford attend Lotus Glen on their allotted day (Catholic) which is Monday and then every fourth Sunday to present an Ecumenical service that all men who are able to can attend.

Francis who is also an aspirant to Diaconate also attends on Fridays with chaplains from other Churches. The pastoral experience he is gaining in Prison Ministry is proving to be an enrichment of knowledge regarding other denominations and faiths.

When Francis and Gaile visit on Mondays they are able to make one to one contact with the men in their accommodation blocks. Here they are able to talk and listen to and pray with men of Catholic faith. Bibles, prayer cards and Rosary beads have been well accepted by some.

Francis and Gaile say and believe that visiting with the men and listening to their stories without any judgment or condemnation, praying and providing spiritual support for them, helps to sustain these inmates in their Christian faith while they are incarcerated.

Achievement’

This year 33 nominations were received from school communities, a reminder to us of the abundance of talent within our Diocese. The difficult task of short-listing the nominees is now being completed. All nominees will be presented with a letter and certificate recognising their contribution to Catholic Education, with the Award recipient from each category being announced on Friday evening 1 August. For each of the Award categories, the recipient will receive a framed certificate, as well as a professional development grant of $2000 to support them in their continuation of up-skilling themselves in their profession. We are grateful to those who have provided financial support to make these grants possible: The Primary and Secondary Catholic Principals; the Diocesan Parents & Friends Association; Catholic Education Services and the Sisters of Mercy.

The evening will commence at 5:00pm with a liturgy in the ‘Trinity Room’ at Rydges Tradewinds, Cairns with the award ceremony commencing at 5:15pm. The Docemus Awards receive wonderful support each year and we look forward to once again acknowledging the many talented members of our Diocese. All are welcome to attend. The evening will finish with drinks, canapés and congratulations to award recipients as well as recognising the many staff members and supporters who give exceptional service to our students, parents and parishes.
Jericho Journeys is a new initiative of the Sisters of the Good Samaritans whereby they offer return to communities where they previously ministered and to provide a spiritual outreach program. The Tully event was the launch of this project and was held, appropriately, in the Good Samaritan Room at St Clare’s, on the weekend of May 16 to 18, to nourish and uplift the Parish Community.

Friday’s Workshop was entitled ‘We Are Hungry too! Spirituality for the Second Half of Life’ and was led by Sister Pam Gray, an adult educator in pastoral ministry. Sister Pam led the discussion on how God’s presence may be experienced as we get older and she suggested ways to nourish the soul and live life to the full through scripture and art.

Saturday’s Mini-Retreat was on ‘The Joy of the Gospel – The Wisdom of Pope Francis for Our Daily Lives.’ Sister Patty Fawkner, writer, adult educator and facilitator, guided participants to reflect on their own life journeys in prayer, song and silence, and using words and images of Pope Francis.

Sunday’s session followed the morning Mass and was entitled ‘Embracing an Adult Faith, Building an Adult Church.’ Sister Patty and Sister Pam combined to explore how faith develops and the role that certainty and doubt play in underpinning a more matured faith. They also explored spiritual practices which nourish an adult faith.

Participants came from Tully, Mission Beach and Silkwood and while the numbers attending each session were small, those who did attend found them very fruitful and worthwhile. As it is the aim of the Tully Parish Council to provide spiritual and educational sessions for parishioners each year, they were keen to take advantage of the Jericho Journeys Project.

Sisters Patty and Pam were very gracious and generous presenters and certainly provided much nourishment for participants.

The Jamaican Catholic Church is helping people turn away from violence and crime to seek a new future through the power of education and the spirit of Jesus Christ.

The scripture verse ‘God who is rich in mercy... made us alive’ (Ephesians 2:1), will be used throughout the appeal to highlight both the new spiritual life and fruit of the spirit we can find through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and the practical help the Marist Missionary Sister Teresia Tinanisolow is providing to the people of Jamaica through education and employment so that they can live a positive, honest and full life.

Appeals will be held in parishes across Australia, inviting parishioners to support the vital work of the Jamaican Catholic Church and missionaries like Sister Teresia through their financial gifts and prayers. Catholic Mission supports are also given the opportunity to make their donation by responding to letters which will be sent to their home or alternatively by donating online. School children throughout Australia will also be involved in fundraising and formation activities as part of the 2014 Catholic Mission World Mission Appeal.

For further information contact Anna Jimenez Diocesan Coordinator
Mobile 0450 213 042 Freecall: 1800 257 296
Email: ajimenez@catholicmission.org.au
PO Box 763, Cairns QLD 4870
catholicmission.org.au
CREATIVE WRITING...
IMAGINATION,
SELF-EXPRESSION
AND EXCELLENCE

Written by Moara Crowley

Natasja Felicity Crowley, a young enthusiastic student in Year 6 at St Rita’s School, South Johnstone, has become an inspiration to many students within her school. Natasja is a quiet achiever. She started demonstrating expressive writing skills at an early age. Her classroom teacher, Mr Rossi requested that Natasja join a small group of writers under the supervision of teacher aide and local author, Miss Santina Lizzio. What an inspiration Miss Lizzio has been for Natasja. Natasja now expresses thoughts and ideas that even her parents never knew she possessed. Miss Lizzio has taught the students to unlock their passion for writing and Natasja and her fellow classmates thrive in this environment. They laugh and giggle at each others’ thoughts and during these sessions discover many beautiful, expressive and imaginative ideas.

Earlier this year an opportunity arose to enter an Australia wide short story competition - Write4fun.net. Natasja immediately jumped at this idea. That afternoon she weaved her imagination and wrote her short story, “Candy Land”. Natasja insisted that the story was to be all her own work and have absolutely no help from adults. She submitted the story online.

As time passed, Natasja completely forgot about entering the competition. Recently she received a letter in the mail advising her that the competition was well underway and the judges were currently in the process of making a decision on the winner and subsequent placing. At this stage, Natasja was still in the running for the $1000 first prize and other prizes on hand. The organizers also advised the exciting news that they were in the process of publishing a book called, WRITE AS RAIN and offered Natasja the opportunity of having her short story published. Natasja excitedly accepted this wonderful opportunity. The book will be published later this year.

Natasja’s accomplishments have inspired her peers to take more risks and have the confidence to enter competitions, believing in the worthiness of their work. Natasja’s parents and teachers are extremely proud of her achievement.

Novena to St Rita
Saint of Impossible Causes

O holy patroness of those in need, St. Rita, whose pleadings before thy Divine Lord are almost irresistible, who for thy lavishness in granting favours hast been called the Advocate of the hopeless and even of the impossible;
St. Rita, so humble, so pure, so mortified, so patient and of such compassionate love for thy Crucified Jesus that thou couldst obtain from Him whatsoever thou askest, on account of which all confidently have recourse to thee expecting, if not always relief, at least comfort; be propitious to our petition, showing thy power with God on behalf of thy suppliant; be lavish to us, as thou hast been in so many wonderful cases, for the greater glory of God, for the spreading of thine own devotion, and for the consolation of those who trust in thee.
We promise, if our petition is granted, to glorify thee by making known thy favour, to bless and sing thy praises forever. Relying then upon thy merits and power before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray thee grant that... (Make your request here...) as soon as God deems fit.
Amen.

PROCLAIM 2014
21-23 AUGUST

The Concourse, Chatswood (business district in Northern Sydney)

Proclaim 2014 will draw upon Pope Francis’ encyclical Evangelii Gaudium with its theme being ‘Living the Joy of the Gospel in Parishes’ and uses the practical suggestions in Rebuilt to help those involved in parishes across Australia to Awaken to the Challenges facing the Church, Live their Missionary Call and Transform the Parish.
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLIES EXPERIENCE

Written by Randa Habelrih (Marketing Manager and Pilgrimage Director The Harvest Group)

Year 12 students are now well into their final year of school. This means that after their final exams many of them will be seeking a destination to celebrate the end of a significant chapter of their lives, a celebration commonly referred to as “schoolies”.

If the word schoolies makes you a little uncomfortable you are not alone. Harvest INROADS has been motivated by the images seen on television at the end of every year, to do something positive and to offer graduates the opportunity to mark the end of formal schooling in a fun but meaningful way. They invite year 12 students to join them on an Alternative Schoolies Experience in Fiji!

Anne Chellingworth, Coordinator Cairns Catholic Youth Ministry commented “Spend a week unwinding in exotic Fiji – is there a better way to celebrate the end of your high school days? Harvest Inroads has come up with the perfect combination of schoolies fun and cultural immersion, and all in an environment that parents are sure to approve of! This is a great initiative run by a trustworthy team and I encourage school leavers (and their parents) to take a look at their website at http://inroadsschoolies.com/ and consider this exciting schoolies option.”

This alternative allows the students to unwind, relax and enjoy the natural beauty of this island paradise while also providing them with the opportunity to get involved with the locals and make a real difference by participating in established service programmes.

INROADS Schoolies will be immersed in the local culture and work alongside community partners. Immersion Activities during the Schoolies Experience include; helping with building and infrastructure projects within the nearby villages; teaching English to primary school students alongside their teachers and preparing traditional meals with villagers and delivering them to families in need.

Relaxation and adventure activities include enjoying the natural wonders and exotic beauty of Fiji. The cost for this experience is $1860 (land only, just add airfare) Nov 29 – Dec 6 2014.

This experience is strictly alcohol, drug and tobacco free

Harvest INROADS is already thinking ahead and year 11 students can book now for Alternative Schoolies 2015, check out the website www.inroadsschoolies.com for details or phone them on 1800 819 156

Let’s encourage our teens to consider this alternative and help them make meaningful memories rather than blurry regrets. Let’s be a part of this cultural change!