



Ad Clerum

December 2020

Newsletter of the
Archbishop of Sydney
Circular No. 8/2020

A Short Message From Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

*Dear Fellow Priests and Deacons
My fraternal greetings to you all!*

The government has announced a significant easing of restrictions upon places and activities of worship. The only cap on numbers at indoor Masses in churches and halls is now the two-square-metre rule, and on ticketed outdoor Masses, 2m². Of course, we must continue to observe appropriate hygiene and distancing practices. We know we are not out of the COVID woods yet. Along with this letter I will be issuing new liturgical directives for now.

In light of the significant easing of the restrictions upon church attendance, **I rescind my decree of 20 March 2020 dispensing the Catholics of Sydney from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and the Holy Days of Christmas and the Assumption. Attendance at Mass on those days is now obligatory once again** (under canon 1247). Of course, we want people to come out of love more than duty, but love itself brings responsibilities. And of course, those who are of great age, have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risks of COVID-19 are free to remain at home and find another way of keeping holy the Sunday Sabbath: I have indicated some ways in my previous letters.

After this extraordinary year we need the comfort and hope of the approaching Christmas, and the united community of the faithful worshipping together. We need it today more than ever. We need that light and joy.

I ask you to do all you can to bring the faithful back to Mass this Christmas, including those who have not been in years, and perhaps even those who have never been. We do not do so by force, but by opening our arms and hearts in imitation of that little baby, lying in a manger, reaching out His arms to the world.

As always please be assured of my continuing prayers for you all.

+ Anthony

2021

dates to remember

Encounter with the Archbishop Zoom
4 February 2021

Catechist Sunday
7 February 2021

Feast of St Bakhita
8 February 2021

All Day Clergy Conference
23 March 2021
Venue to be confirmed

Bicentenary Mass
2 May 2021
St Mary's Cathedral

**Twilight Clergy Conference with Vianney
and Bicentenary Dinner**
19 May 2021
Venue to be confirmed

inside

- ◆ **The Last Word from WHS:**
Be Safe and Merry Christmas
- ◆ **Ongoing Formation**
 - Venerable English College, Rome
 - 2021 Sabbaticals – PNAC
 - 2021 - Tantar Ecumenical Institute
 - Latin Course in Rome

Please pray...



For the repose of the soul of ...

Fr Norberto Pittorino OFM – RIP, 23 June 2020.
Fr Robert Flaherty – RIP, 14 December 2020.

For those that are sick in our community ...

Fr Janus Bieniek CSMA, Fr Robert Flaherty, Fr Barry Swift, Fr John Alt, Fr Peter Maher, Fr Don Willoughby, Fr Noel Short, Fr David Coffey, Fr Michael Kelly, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, Fr Anthony Simari, Fr Michael McCarthy, and Fr John Snehadass who are currently unwell.

For special anniversaries occurring in January and February

I ask that you download the attached list  (January)  (February) and pray for our brother priests who have gone before us and for those who are celebrating their Anniversary of Ordination.

Congratulations to...

Br. Daniel Michael Drum fmvd, who was ordained to the Diaconate on Sunday 29th November, 2020 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Ryde by Bishop Terry Brady.

Congratulations also to **Fr Cameron Smith MGL**, who has been ministering in Peakhurst/Penshurst parishes during his diaconate. He was ordained on Friday 4 December at St Benedict's, Burwood (Melbourne), the parish where he will be serving as assistant priest in the new year. Fr Cameron was ordained by Bishop Les Tomlinson, who was also Cameron's parish priest as a child, baptising him and ministering to him his first Holy Communion.

Please continue to keep **Deacon Daniel** and his brother **Stephen** (who earlier this year was ordained to the Diaconate), together with Raymond, Anderson, Rafael and Cameron in your prayers as they transition into this new phase of their ministry.

Congratulations and welcome to **Fr Peter Joseph**, administrator of the Parish of St Dominic, Homebush West who was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Sydney on 8 December 2020.

CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS

I recently made the following appointments:

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

Rev Mr Brendan Boyce FSSP

Appointed Deacon of the Parish of the Maternal Heart of Mary, Lewisham from 24 November 2020.

Rev Br Daniel Drum FMVD

Appointed Deacon of the Parish of St Charles Borromeo and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Ryde-Gladesville from 29 November 2020.

Rev Roger Gilbride FSSP

Appointed Assistant Priest of the Parish of the Maternal Heart of Mary, Lewisham from 20 November 2020.

Rev George Gorzkowski CSMA

Appointed Administrator of the Parish of St Michael, Hurstville from 11 November 2020.

Rev Mr Raymond Hung

Appointed Permanent Deacon to the Parish of St Thomas Moore, Brighton-Le-Sands from 19 November 2020.

Rev Mr Aisavali Salu

Appointed Co-ordinator of the Samoan Catholic Chaplaincy in the Archdiocese of Sydney. From 1 December 2020 for a term of three years.

NON CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS


Ms Mouna Roche

Appointed a Member of the Archdiocese of Sydney Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Advisory Committee from 16 November 2020 for a term of three years.

IMPORTANT MATTERS

Covid Update

Please right click on the links below to read the latest Pastoral Letter and Liturgical Directives following the latest easing of COVID restrictions.

1. **COVID Safe Liturgical Directions as at 9 December 2020** 
2. **Come Home to Mass 13.12.20** 

CATECHIST SUNDAY 7 February 2021

“Catechist Sunday” is celebrated in most Parishes on the first Sunday of February, which enables new recruits to be trained for the early-mid Term 1 start of public school ‘Scripture’ classes.

CCD will supply Parishes with “Catechist Sunday Liturgy & Recruitment” recommendations, as well as Catechist 5 & 10 Year Service Certificates for Priests to sign and present at Masses.

May your Catechist Sunday prayers, recruitment calls and awards for public school catechists provide an opportunity to also thank parishioners who help with Children's Liturgy, Sacraments of Initiation and teach in Catholic schools.

2020 Annual Catechist Mass rescheduled to 7 February 2021

CCD plans to recognise the 2020 Parish Catechist Awardees following a 2.30pm "Catechist Sunday" Cathedral Mass on 7 February 2021. Details for clergy and awardees will be confirmed nearer the time.

Thank you

In thanking you, I wish you to know that the most spontaneous, resounding applause I have ever heard occurred after a Mass and Catechist Award Ceremony in the Cathedral – and it was for you, our Bishops, Priests and Deacons – thank you for your enduring support and prayers.

Doug Mawhinney, CCD Parish Catechist Support
P: 9307 8330 E: office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Donation to the Seminary Fund

I would like to thank you for your ongoing contribution to the Seminary Fund. I am sure you are well aware of the costs involved in caring for the students and staff and maintaining the Seminary. It is the custom for Diocesan Priests to make a contribution towards this all important commitment. The Seminary Fund has been established for this purpose and the contribution is currently One Hundred Dollars (\$100) per annum. By virtue of the Faculty granted in the Motu Proprio 'Firma in Traditione' the Ordinary of the Diocese can grant the Faculty that Priests may accept a stipend for binated and trinated Masses, provided the stipend is given to the Archdiocese for the training of Priests, and I am happy to grant you this faculty.

In relation to the Seminary Fund there are two ways of contributing:

1. **EFT to Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney**
 BSB: **062-000 Account No.: 10289801**
 Ref: **Sem Fund, or**
2. **Cheque:** drawn in favour of Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

Thanking you in anticipation for your generosity.

THE SYDNEY CENTRE FOR EVANGELISATION

Go Make Disciples Update

Thank you to parishes and migrant chaplaincies across the Archdiocese of Sydney for your valuable support following

last weekend's successful launch of our new Archdiocesan Mission Plan, Go Make Disciples.

It was wonderful to see so many parishes well represented at last Sunday's Mass at St Mary's Cathedral and our priests preach in their churches about the call to ensure all our parishes are true centres of the new evangelisation.

Go Make Disciples is an invitation to our parishes and other Eucharistic communities to contemplate Jesus again, to ask how we as communities can live His life and mission more fully, and to listen prayerfully and carefully, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide our decisions and actions in this changing city and suburbs of ours.

The new plan is very much a practical resource for parishes, focused on strategies and actions that parishes and chaplaincies can take up in the spiritual renewal of their community.

Please share the plan widely with your parish staff and key ministry leaders as well as a shorter, summary version for your parishioners. You will also find useful resources to complement the plan, including practical programs and personal faith testimonies on the Go Make Disciples website at this address alongside downloadable copies of the plan: **www.gomakedisciples.org.au**

Ongoing Support

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation team will be readily available to support parishes in the implementation of the strategies and resources for evangelisation contained within the Mission Plan.

This support will include continuing regional launches of the Mission Plan in the New Year and in local communities, including Parishes for Mission days, to be held within deaneries in the first half of 2021.

If you have any enquiries about the Mission Plan, please contact the **Parish Renewal Team** at **elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org** or **(02) 9390 5307**.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support as we work together to serve ever more faithfully the mission of Jesus Christ, ensuring our parishes can continue to nurture the faith of future generations of Catholics in Sydney.

Daniel Ang
Director, Sydney Centre for Evangelisation

Elizabeth Arblaster,
Parish Renewal Implementation Manager,
Sydney Centre for Evangelisation


PARISH SUPPORT TEAM

Last week Parish Support and Development emailed a survey to all Parish Priests and Administrators and Parish Secretaries/Bookkeepers to obtain your feedback on the support we have provide to you during 2020. As we all

know 2020 has been a challenging year starting off with bushfires, a massive rain event on 1 and 2 February and then we needed to deal with COVID-19 and the closure of our churches.

During the year Parish Support has provided assistance to our parishes and has tried to provide accurate and up to date information and provide the assistance required for you to administer your parish.

To this end we are asking for your feedback on our performance this year with a few simple questions and we would also ask you to provide your thoughts on what we could do in 2021 and beyond that will assist you administering your parish.

Please complete the online version of this survey or the hard copy version and return to Parish Support by 15 January 2021 

CATHOLICS AND CREMATION

Cremation and the Disposition of Cremated Remains

The following was written in November 2016, shortly after the Holy See issued an Instruction regarding cremation and the disposition of the cremated remains, which attracted some attention in the local press. The provision of that Instruction remain in force.

Catholics and Cremation - A New Instruction

It is customary during the month of November, which begins with All Saints' Day on November 1st and All Souls' Day on November 2nd, for Catholics to pray for the dead and to visit their graves. The very ancient Christian tradition of burying the dead and praying for them is an important expression of faith the resurrection of the dead, in the integrity and goodness of the human person, body and soul. It fosters an awareness of the positive meaning of death in Christ - and allows a healthy process of grieving.

With increasing numbers of Catholics around the world choosing to cremate the bodies of their deceased loved ones, Pope Francis has approved a new Instruction from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Regarding the Burial of the Deceased and the Conservation of the Ashes in the Case of Cremation," dated 15th August 2016.

Cremation of the deceased person's body does not affect his or her soul, nor does it prevent God, the all-powerful, from raising up the deceased's body to new life, but the Catholic Church continues to prefer the burial of the bodies of the deceased and considers burial a more fitting sign of Christian faith in the resurrection of the body. The Church has regard for the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person who through Baptism has become the temple of the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless,

although they were for many centuries forbidden by the Church to cremate the bodies of the deceased, since 1963 Catholics have been permitted to cremate provided that this is not done as a denial of Christian beliefs or hatred of the Church as was historically often the case.

When cremation is chosen, the remains of the deceased should be treated with dignity and respect, in a way which affirms the Christian faith. The cremated remains - the "ashes"- of the deceased should be treated with the respect that was due the body before cremation.

The new Instruction makes it clear that the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a cemetery, a church, or a special area set aside with the blessing of the appropriate Church authority. This is the way in which the Christian tradition has upheld the relationship between the living and the dead and to keep show that, in Christ, death has a positive meaning. Through burial of the body in a grave, like the body of Jesus, Christian faith in the resurrection of the body is affirmed, the remains of the faithful are shown due respect, their family members and the whole Christian community are encouraged to pray for and remember the dead (even when the immediate generations have passed), and any unfitting or superstitious practices are prevented. Such practices as keeping the cremated remains "at home", or dividing the ashes up between several people as keepsakes, are considered incompatible with the proper reverence for the bodies of the Baptised.

Responding to certain new trends as well as age-old errors, the Instruction prohibits those ways of treating the cremated remains which are incompatible with the Christian understanding of the significance of the human body. These include rituals which suggest that bodily death is the annihilation of the person so that they no longer exist; or that death is the moment the deceased person is fused with the universe or Mother Nature; or that death is just a stage in a continuous cycle of regeneration; or that death sets us free from the body as if it were a prison and not an integral part of the human person. For these reasons, the Instruction expressly forbids Catholics from scattering the cremated bodies of the faithful in the air, or at sea, or across the landscape or in some other way. The Church also considers the practice of turning part of the cremated remains into pieces of jewellery, mementos or other objects, to be wrong and the Instruction forbids them.

In the Catholic section of Sydney's Rookwood Cemetery there is a specially designed and blessed Crematorium Chapel of Mary, Mother of Mercy, to assist Catholics who choose cremation for valid reasons to surround the funeral and cremation rites with appropriate signs of Christian faith. But regardless of where the actual cremation is carried out, the ashes should be interred in a cemetery or other specially designated sacred place.

*Rev. Donald Richardson
Director, Liturgy Office, Archdiocese of Sydney*

FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE COLLECT PRAYERS AT MASS

As of 29 November 2020, the First Sunday of Advent, the conclusions to the Collects (Opening Prayers) at Masses in English will change.

The change is mandated by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in response to a direction of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (CDW) to all the English-speaking Episcopal Conferences concerning the appropriate translation of the Latin *Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum*.

The present translation includes the word “one” before God. The corrected translation will omit the word “one” before God.

So, as of last 29 November, the conclusions to the collects will be as follows:

If the prayer is directed to the Father:


**Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.**

Or, if the prayer is directed to the Father, but the Son is mentioned at the end:

**Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.**

Or, if the prayer is directed to the Son:

**Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.**

Further details are given in a Memorandum from the Liturgy Office Director, Fr Don Richardson, included with this Ad Clerum 

Red Book, Distribution


The long awaited “Red Book” *Celebrating Marriage in the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney*, was distributed at the Clergy Conference on the 20th October.

The following clergy would have received one free copy

- Incardinated Priests
- Religious Parish Priests
- Administrators
- Chaplains

The books that were not picked up at the Conference were sent home with your Dean. If you are eligible for a free copy of the Red Book could you please contact your Dean to arrange a suitable time to pick this up.

Extra copies may be ordered through the Mustard Seed Bookshop at a cost of \$35.00 each plus \$10 postage.

Please find attached  the order form if you wish to purchase additional copies. You would have received a few

copies of the new Marriage forms with the Red Book. You are unable to purchase additional forms so it is suggested you keep one set as a master copy to photocopy for future use.

These forms are available for the clergy on the Clergy app/website, under Quick Links <https://www.sydneyclergy.org/pastoral/sacraments/> or they can also be accessed via the Intranet on <http://sydarch.org.au/parish/>

If you have any questions please feel free to contact **Maria Cavallaro** on **9390 5922** or maria.cavallaro@sydneycatholic.org or **Paula Mortel** on paulam@sydneytribunal.org.au

Red Book Pastoral Tip N.3



Do you believe you need to delay or refuse a wedding to a couple? Since marriage is a natural right and Church law presumes clergy will assist a couple to exercise that right any delay or refusal of a wedding is a very serious matter.

No priest or deacon of his own initiative should refuse a wedding. The matter should always be referred to the Chancery for advice/consultation using the form “Referral to Chancery”.

The form “Referral to Chancery” may be used to refer any issue concerning weddings to the Chancery for advice or assistance. It can be found on the website along with the other marriage forms.

Fr Julian B. Wellspring JV

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENT

Dear Rev Fathers

I have attached the announcement  regarding the appointment of Anthony Micallef to the position of Director, People and Culture to manage the employment services function for the Archdiocese. I am sure many of you already know and have had good experience with Anthony assisting your parish through his former secondment to the Archdiocese from CCER.

Renee Elias, who has been with us now for some time, will report directly to Anthony who will report directly to me.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Anthony with any query or support you may need from him.

With best wishes for the Christmas season and for a healthy and safe new year.

Kind regards

*Michael Digges
Executive Director, Administration & Finance*

Archives Trash or Treasure

As the year comes to an end and our minds turn towards the New Year, this may be an opportunity to tidy away items that will become part of tomorrow's archive. Has your parish been working on property developments over the past year? It may be a good idea to protect the paperwork and plans by sending them in for safe storage, either to the Parish Support & Development Team (email: parish.support@sydneycatholic.org) or to the Sydney Archdiocesan Archives (archives@sydneycatholic.org). Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the **Archives** on **9390 5430**.


Lienntje Cornelissen
Archives Services Manager

PLENARY COUNCIL

The Season of Advent is one of anticipation and for Clergy and Parish communities it entails a flurry of activity ranging from organising outreach and support for vulnerable members of our community, to liturgical preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. This year we feel a similar sense of anticipation and hope as we approach the First Assembly of the Plenary Council in October. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have the promise that discernment and prayer will help facilitate rich dialogue about the life of the Catholic Church in Australia among the delegates and consultants attending the Assemblies.

The October 2021 Assembly will no longer see the gathering of delegates in Adelaide, as initially planned. Despite certain restrictions being lifted across the country in relation to COVID 19, there remains uncertainty about whether the present situation will continue into next year, or whether we will see new travel restrictions and further distancing requirements or other limitations put in place. These and other matters were recently considered by the Bishops Conference and a decision was made to hold the October 2021 assembly via a "multi-modal" format (a combination of online and face to face meetings by local-diocesan and interdiocesan gatherings). This is not ideal but it is realistic in the present uncertain situation.

For more information:

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/FIRST-PLENARY-COUNCIL-ASSEMBLY-MIXES-IN-PERSON-ONLINE.pdf> 

The Archdiocese will work in partnership with other dioceses and the Plenary Council facilitation team to look at possible options to bring NSW delegates together for the October Assembly. The Archdiocese will undertake a commissioning of delegates to the Assemblies early next

year with planning underway for a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral with Archbishop Anthony Fisher to lead us in this momentous initiative. The delegates from the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney come from many varied backgrounds and experiences and we ask for the ongoing prayers of our parish communities for both the Plenary Council and the delegates as they gather together over the course of next year to prepare for the first Assembly. The delegates who will be attending Assemblies 1 and 2 (2022) from the Sydney Archdiocese are:


Archbishop Anthony Fisher	Fr Isidore Anantharaj
Bishop Terence Brady	Fr Eric Skruzny
Bishop Richard Umbers	Fr Julian Wellspring
Fr Gerald Gleeson	Ms Selina Hasham
Fr Michael de Stoop	Mr Christopher Lee
Fr Kelvin Lovegrove	Mrs Francine Pirola
Fr Michael McLean	Gabriel Turchi
Fr Paul Monkerud	Professor Hayden Ramsay
Professor Dermott Nester	Professor Zlatko Skrbis
Professor Renee Kohler-Ryan	Sr Isabelle Naumann
Dr Rohan Curnow	Professor Michele Riondino

The New Year will provide an opportunity for parishes and the Sydney Plenary Council working group to re-engage with the Plenary Council journey. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on how this may be achieved and what support you would consider might be beneficial to assist you and parish ambassadors to lead your community's participation in the final phase of the Plenary Council journey.

Many blessings to you for a joyous Christmas and New Year. May the birth of our Saviour Jesus bring Peace to your Heart.

Bishop Terry Brady and Professor Sandra Lynch
Co-Chairs Sydney Plenary Council Working Group

Plenary Council Website

What are we called to do? Who are we called to be? How do we need to change? For all your Plenary Council needs and resources, please go to this website 



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF CLERGY REMUNERATION SYSTEM AND CLERICAL FUND

For those unable to attend the Annual General Meetings of both the Clerical Fund and Clergy Remuneration System, the recordings, presentations and documentations are now available to clergy.

If you have not received your electronic copy, please contact the office on clergysy@gmail.com.

CRS NOTICES

JOBKEEPER: Phase 2 is now in operation. As previously mentioned, phase 2 will be insufficient to fund all the remuneration of clergy. Please provide opportunities for parishioners to contribute generously towards Pastoral Revenue so that the System can return to viability as Government support is reduced.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: The Board requests your participation in providing Christmas Offering Envelopes throughout December and January. Please contact the office on **9390 5166** if you require supplies. For those with TAP and GO, please consider dedicating a TAP for Christmas Offerings during the Advent and Christmas Seasons. An information label to attach to your device can be downloaded from here.

The Board would like to thank you for your assistance during 2020. Every effort to facilitate contributions and encourage the faithful is appreciated by the Board.

With blessings to you for Advent and the Christmas Season, and may the Holy Spirit be with us as we navigate 2021.

CLERICAL FUND NOTICES

Please submit your claims to the Clerical Fund for approval and processing.

We would appreciate, where possible, electronic submission to clergysy@gmail.com

Clerical Fund Management Committee Meetings for 2021:

- 25.02.2021
- 03.06.2021
- 02.09.2021
- 14.10.2021
- 09.12.2021

Claims should reach us two weeks prior to the meeting date, otherwise they may be held over until the next meeting. Please email or phone the office (9390 5166) with any query in regard to claims.

A reminder of the new claim cap:

- \$4000 – for those who have claimed under \$2000 during the previous 2 financial years
- \$2000 – for those who have claimed more than \$2000 during the previous 2 financial years.

A priest is more than welcome to submit a claim that will take them over the cap, however the Committee will need to carefully consider the financial position of the Fund and the equitable distribution of the assets amongst the presbyterate prior to paying any claim.

New Email Address for Marriage Dispensations

Please note that Paula Mortel from the Tribunal now has a new email address for all inquiries about dispensations. Please send emails to: dispensations@sydneycatholic.org

PLEASE NOTE: The process for Overseas Marriages has not changed and any queries or correspondence should be emailed to paulam@sydneytribunal.org.au

Supply

To help cover our priests in parishes and to allow them to plan sabbaticals we are in search of men who are able to help parishes with supply.

We are also looking for priests who are able to celebrate weddings on weekends all over the Archdiocese.

If you are able to help please fill in the form: 

Can you celebrate Mass in another language?

We often have calls asking for priests who can say Mass or minister to people in a foreign language outside those languages that are supplied by our foreign chaplains. This may be Mass but it also includes visiting the sick, the Last Rites, Marriage Preparation, and general pastoral care. We are currently working on a register of clergy who can say Mass in a language other than English. If you are able to help please send an email with your name and the language you can say Mass in or fill in the form below.

Google form here: 

Important News about WWCC renewal

Please note this important information from the Office of the Children's Guardian:

PERSONAL DETAILS MUST BE UPDATED

Everyone who holds a Check is now legally required to update their contact details, including any name or address changes, within three months – just like your driver licence. And like your licence, penalties will apply for people who don't update. Updating your details is simple – go to [🌐](#) and follow the directions. You can even find your Check number here if you don't have it to hand.

Office of the Children's Guardian

For information and to renew your WWCC number click here [📄](#)

Please advise the Chancery when you have updated your WWCC number.

Sabbatical considerations

Please find below some Sabbatical options that may be of interest. Please click on the link below for a full list of recommended Sabbatical options for you to consider, both locally and overseas. [📄](#)

Italian Institute For Classical Studies

Lingua Ecclesiae is the first intensive summer Latin course specifically designed for ecclesiastics.

Students will be hosted at the Casa per ferie Mater Mundi, run by the Augustinian Sisters of Divine Love. Pedagogical activities are accompanied by the daily celebration of the Liturgy.

To favor the students' rapid and solid learning, all courses are conducted directly in Latin, just like all other daily activities: Latin is the only language of communication within the residence throughout the entire month of stay.

Pedagogical activities are subdivided into those that are part of the curriculum (where participation is required) and those that are optional.

The Lingua Latina course is structured in three classes: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced.

The students will be required to take an entrance test in order to be placed in the more appropriate group.

Click here: [🌐](#) for more information or here [📄](#) to download the brochure.

NEW

Venerable English College, Rome

The Venerable English College prepares men for the Catholic priesthood.

The seminary was founded in 1579, as a place for preparing priests to serve on the "English Mission", but there has

been an English presence on via di Monserrato since 1362, when the site was acquired by a confraternity of Englishmen living at Rome. The English Hospice, as it came to be known, offered a welcome to generations of pilgrims.

As well as seminarians and formation staff, there are also priests doing further studies living at the College. There are currently about fifty people who live and work at the seminary. Mgr Philip Whitmore, of the Archdiocese of Westminster, is the present Rector.

We welcome many people in the course of the year: groups and individuals can make pre-arranged visits for a tour of the College or simply turn up for one of our regular Masses or other advertised events. For more information click [🌐](#)

Institute for Continuing Theological Education

Pontifical North American College – Rome

Please click on the link to find out what the PNAC is offering for Sabbaticals in 2021 [📄](#)

Tantur Ecumenical Institute

Please click on the link [📄](#) to find out what Tantur is offering for Sabbaticals in 2021.

Considering a pilgrimage for one's Sabbatical

It is a common occurrence in today's world that Priests undertake a Sabbatical at some point during their time of service to the Church. Generally, a Sabbatical can best be described as "a period of leave granted for study or travel". Traditionally it is one year for every seven years worked.



■ Pilgrim path: The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

It is not just an opportunity for another holiday but is taken as an opportunity to pursue an active service relevant to one's spiritual life. It should be life changing!

In this context, one of the best opportunities for refreshing one's spiritual life would have to be to travel with like minded pilgrims on pilgrimage. Being an effective Religious necessitates continual spiritual growth and a pilgrimage has

all the elements necessary for this to occur. A pilgrimage journey can lift the heart, evoke emotions that are beyond words, and give us peace that “the world cannot give” (John 14:27). “Whether it’s immersing oneself in the healing waters of Lourdes, ‘praying with your feet’ along the Camino de Santiago, joining with thousands of pilgrims in St Peter’s Square, touching the rock of Calvary in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – pilgrimage has many forms and destinations, all with the same purpose – stepping out towards the sacred or seeking an encounter with our loving God.” As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said: **“To go on**

pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history ... To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.”

Thinking about doing a pilgrimage on your Sabbatical? Harvest Journeys is Australia’s leading expert in catholic pilgrimage tours. Harvest has been the trusted name in pilgrimage travel on behalf of the Catholic Church in Australia for over 30 years, having served various appointments over many years.

With my best wishes.
Yours fraternally in Christ



Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP
ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY

THE LAST WORD: WORK HEALTH & SAFETY



BE SAFE during the lead up to the holiday and Christmas period!

Continue to look after your parish volunteers and staff

From your *Parish WHS A Team*

we'd like to wish you and your families a very

*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year*

~ 2021 ~



See the Parish Intranet Site
for all your WHS needs:
sydarch.org.au/parish


**WORK
HEALTH
+ SAFETY**

ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Agency News


8 February 2021 St Bakhita Feast Day

St Josephine Bakhita is the Patron Saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking and the Patron Saint of Sudan and South Sudan. The Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita is celebrated each year on 8th February. On this day, Catholics are encouraged by Pope Francis to pray for all those affected by modern slavery and human trafficking, and for the people who volunteer and work to eradicate modern slavery in our generation.

Download  a newly designed St Bakhita Prayer Card that includes space on the back to add your crest for distribution to parishioners and schools.

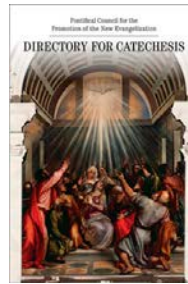
Commemorating St Bakhita on 8 February is a way to raise awareness about anti-slavery action by the Church.

From the Mustard Seed Bookshop

The Annuals for 2021 are now available. [Click Here](#)  to find out more.

Directory for Catechesis, revised (2020)

By US Conference Of Catholic Bishops Newly Revised. As the Catholic Church embarks on the mission of teaching the Christian faith, the new Directory for Catechesis (2020) lays the how-to guidelines for catechesis and presents



universal norms to guide pastors and catechists in the work of evangelisation. The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization presents the Directory to guide the proclamation of the Gospel by the Christian faithful to people of all ages and in all seasons of life.

From CatholicCare

HOPE for Young Mums

As we approach Christmas Day and think about the reality of the conditions in which Jesus was born, we may draw our thoughts to children today and their circumstances.



In the Archdiocese of Sydney, it is unlikely that a young mum would be travelling on the back of a donkey to finally give birth in a barn. However the grim reality is that there are many young mums who are isolated, with no real family or community connections. Some are homeless or at

SACRAMENTAL RETREAT DAY OUT AT BENEDICT XVI

Sacramental Preparation Retreat Days

Considering a retreat day for sacramental preparation recipients? The Benedict XVI Retreat Centre is host to a stunning 40 acres of bushland, approximately 70 minutes from Sydney's CBD. Contact our Centre Managers Phillippe & Paula Sanders-Agius today for more information on our day packages (02) 4572 2899.



risk of becoming homeless and living in unsafe situations.

Young women like Lepeka who called CatholicCare when she was 21 years old, 20 weeks pregnant, and on the verge of homelessness. She had just broken up with her partner and had no other support. She didn't know what she was going to do.

Thankfully she called CatholicCare, who found her a counsellor to help her deal with her situation. She was then referred to CatholicCare's HOPE program that was able to provide her with so much more.

The HOPE program provides specialised support to young mothers under the age of 25 who are pregnant or have a child under the age of two.

Lepeka received accommodation in one of HOPE's transitional properties for 18 months to provide a safe place for her and her newborn son, Kaleb, to begin their lives and get on their feet.

However, housing was not the only support she received. When young families start working with CatholicCare's HOPE program, a detailed case plan is developed and tailored to meet each family's individual goals and needs. Lepeka was immediately connected to an early childhood nurse, who visited her at home to check on the health and development of her son and to make sure she was coping okay. The program also helped her apply for Centrelink payments because she had no source of income.

Lepeka's case worker, Nurmala, visited weekly to make sure her son, Kaleb, was reaching his developmental milestones and to check in with Lepeka to ensure they were on track to reach the goals she set in her plan.

Not all families need assistance with housing. Some need more extensive support to develop their parenting skills or help to build and maintain healthy relationships with their friends, family or partners. While other young mothers may need assistance to manage issues around domestic violence or addiction.

The aim of HOPE is to first make sure there is a safe home environment for the child to grow. Secondly, to give

the young mother all the tools and support she needs to be the best parent she can be. The final stage is to support the young mother to reach her full potential, through further education, training or employment, providing a strong foundation for her family's future.

With support from HOPE, Lepeka and Kaleb have found housing through a private rental that they now call home. Kaleb has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy but thanks to the help provided through HOPE's Early Childhood nurse he is doing really well and is now attending childcare. Lepeka is excited about her future and has started studying a Certificate in Medical Administration at TAFE, while looking for work as a Disability Support Worker.

Lepeka is just one of many hundreds of young mothers the HOPE program has helped over the years. HOPE gives children the best possible start in life and supports families to live and thrive.

To find out more about CatholicCare Sydney's HOPE program please visit www.BuildingHOPEsydney.org or call **CCareline** on **13 18 19**.

Michelle's Story

Practical help and emotional support in the home are vital to people's physical health and well-being as they age.

Staff at CatholicCare Sydney's Seniors' services are passionate about ensuring people continue living independently in their homes for as long as possible.

Michelle, aged 63, says the process of getting support at home is not easy.

"The Aged Care System for me was like being thrown into a cyclone and not knowing what direction to go, what help is available to me and how to access it," Michelle said. "It was really confusing and stressful."

Thanks to some guidance from a friend, Michelle called CatholicCare Sydney. She says it was the best decision she ever made.

Only a few short years before, Michelle had been working full-time as a midwife. The idea of slowing down didn't



'Catholic clarity for complex times'

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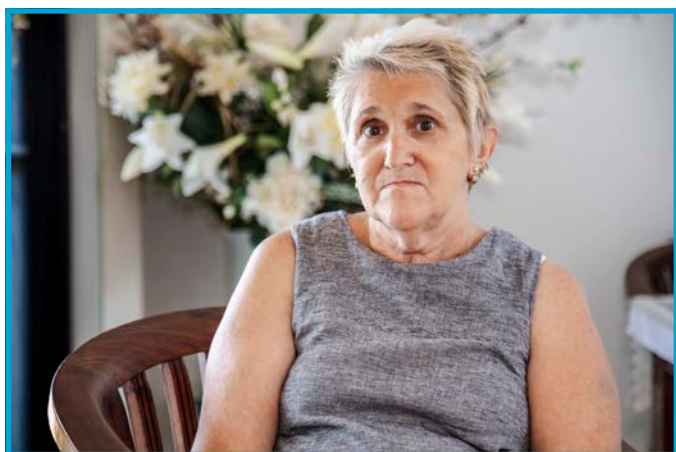
even enter her mind. Then, with the sudden loss of her husband, Michelle experienced significant stress and knew that she needed to take a break. It was during this break, that an incident changed her life.

One day when out shopping, Michelle tripped on a bit of concrete and fell flat on her face. “I didn’t break my glasses or chip a bone, but after a few weeks, I noticed that my sight in one eye was deteriorating.

“The doctor confirmed that the bruising from the incident had permanently damaged my eye.”

Michelle started getting bad back pain, felt tired and constantly lacked energy. She was diagnosed with progressive osteoarthritis and Small Vessel Disease which was affecting the arteries of her heart.

Soon she required an assisted walker and crutches to get around and previously simple tasks became difficult. She knew it was time to get some support at home, but didn’t know where to start.



“Everyone thinks because you’ve been a midwife or you’ve worked in the medical industry that you know a lot about aged care,” Michelle said, “but I didn’t know where to start to get help.”

She reached out to a friend who helped her complete the online application forms and spoke to My Aged Care on her behalf.

When she was assigned a Home Care package, her friend suggested that she call CatholicCare to visit her

home and go through everything with her.

“I didn’t know anything about My Aged Care and it’s a difficult system to navigate,” she said. “CatholicCare has been amazing. Every question was answered and everything I didn’t know was explained clearly to me.”

Now with her support services in place Michelle lives her life to the full.

“My care worker is amazing,” she said. “The first thing she does is get me a cup of coffee in the morning. Then she gives me a shower, gets me dressed and helps me make the bed.

“She does my washing for me, takes me to appointments, gets groceries, helps me prepare meals and makes sure I take my medication.

“She’ll also ring me every second night to check on me. It’s just nice to know that someone cares.”

If you need support at home you can call **CatholicCare** on **13 18 19** for more information or to make an appointment with their Community Care Worker based at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Fairfield. They’ll arrange a home visit from a specialist who really cares and knows the My Aged Care System and will support you through every step of the process.



*Roza Vukovich
Community Engagement Manager*

Safeguarding

Merry Christmas

Christmas is fast approaching! The past year has brought with it many struggles and challenges to our usual way of life. Whilst many difficulties presented themselves, it has been wonderful to see our communities come together to support each other during such trying times. Thank you all so much for all your all your hard work completing your self-assessments and participating in our online safeguarding training.

Do you know someone who could be a foster carer?

Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer.

They can learn more about becoming a carer by registering for our next online information session on **Wednesday, 25th November 2020: 12.30pm – 1.30pm.**

To register call

Family Spirit 131819

FamilySpirit.org

✉ **connect@familyspirit.org**

🕒 **8am – 6pm Monday – Friday**



The Safeguarding Office would like to take the time to wish you and all your loved ones a happy, holy and safe Christmas. The Safeguarding Office will be closed from 23 December 2020 and will be back on 4 January 2021.

We are looking forward to the new year and resuming Safeguarding training in a new and Covid-safe way.

Anna Sammut
Safeguarding Office - Training and Development

Safeguarding Bite No. 37



Don't Forget!

It nearly Christmas and we all know more photos are taken around this time of the year.

The Archdiocese has guidelines on Photography and Filming that are available for download on the Archdiocese Website.

The Safeguarding Team



THE Catholic Weekly

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