



Sandpiper e-News



CatholicCare Victoria Victorian Catholic Social Services unite

On 1 January 2021, CatholicCare Sandhurst will merge with Centacare Ballarat and CatholicCare Melbourne/Gippsland to form a new entity, CatholicCare Victoria. "It's a really exciting prospect, which will allow us to build on the mission we share, to build on the strengths of each organisation and make those strengths and expertise more available across the whole state," said Bishop Shane Mackinlay.

[Read more](#)

The decision to merge the three agencies into one state-wide entity was made by the bishops of Victoria with the aim of delivering a broader range of services to Victorians across the state. "This decision was made by the Bishops after several months of consultation, due diligence and planning with the boards of each organisation," said Bishop Shane.

The merge will allow people to benefit from the deep expertise developed by each of these entities. In Sandhurst, there is a wealth of specialist expertise in Children's Support services. Ballarat has developed expertise in providing social housing, Melbourne has been involved in school counselling and prison chaplaincy, and Gippsland has built up expertise in emergency relief.

CatholicCare Victoria will draw on a combined 184 years of experience in delivering excellence in a broad range of child, family and community services. It also consolidates leadership and expertise in the areas of school counselling, pastoral services, social housing, employment and advocacy services.

It will operate from 20 office locations and 107 delivery sites, extending much-needed services to all corners of the state with offices in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Shepparton. It will support 50,000 people each year, including children, individuals and families experiencing difficulty or disadvantage, people

in prisons, newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers, people with disabilities, people who are sick, people who are unemployed and people who are homeless.

CatholicCare Victoria's workforce of 500 Staff and over 200 volunteers, inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, will work together in a shared mission for a stronger, more inclusive society.

"I look forward to working with the staff and partners of CatholicCare Sandhurst as the integration of these services take place, which I am confident will make it possible for us to deliver enhanced services and advocacy for those in need across Victoria," said Bishop Shane.



St Malachy's Presbytery finds new life as The Kearns Centre

After 16 years of vacancy, the former St Malachy's Presbytery will soon be buzzing with life and laughter as it re-emerges as the Kearns Centre, home to Nagambie Lakes Community House. The restoration of this elegant heritage building is a testament to the vision and hard work of the Nagambie Parish Council.

[Read more](#)

In 2021, the 140-year-old presbytery at St Malachy's in High Street Nagambie will be buzzing with life and laughter, as Nagambie residents enjoy community gardening, cooking, writing and craft workshops, music and drama classes, pizza nights and a plethora of other activities organised by Nagambie Lakes Community House.

In 2011, the former presbytery came close to being demolished. Thanks to the vision and tireless work of St Malachy's Pastoral Council, the presbytery has not only been saved, but fully restored and repurposed as a hub for the Nagambie Community.

St Malachy's presbytery will be tenanted to Nagambie Lakes Community House, a non-profit organisation offering a range of social and educational activities to the Nagambie community, and will be re-named the Kearns Centre, in honour of Fr Patrick Kearns, the inaugural parish priest of St Malachy's Nagambie, who raised funds for and commissioned the design and build of the presbytery.

The Catholic heritage of the Kearns Centre will be referenced by a show-case in the main hall, which will display the illuminated address and testimony presented to Fr Kearns by St Malachy's parishioners on the eve of his transfer to Heathcote. It is an exquisite testimony, bound in moroccan leather with gold sidings, and 'terms of endearment'.

A bronze commemorative plaque, with a brief description of the history and achievements of the Parish will also be on display.

Until Fr Kearns' arrival in 1875, Nagambie was supplied by missionary priests from Kilmore. All priests, including Fr Kearns, stayed at the Royal Mail Hotel, so it's not surprising that building a presbytery was high on Fr Kearns' "to do" list.

The presbytery was built in 1881 with 1000 pounds raised by the Nagambie community through donations and fundraising efforts, such as raffles and fairs. Fr Kearns himself donated 100 pounds towards the build.

Fr Kearns and St Malachy's had a major coup in securing then prominent Melbourne architects, Reed and Barnes Architecture to design the building; the same architects who had designed the Melbourne Town Hall, Trades Hall, State Library of Victoria, the Royal Exhibition Building, and Menzies Hotel, just to name a few. The result, a very stately and elegant presbytery that was home to Fr Kearns for twelve years.

Over the next 118 years, St Malachy's presbytery was home to another nine parish priests and many assistant priests. Fr Chris Reay was the last Parish Priest to reside at St Malachy's presbytery, living there until 2004. Thereafter, Nagambie had no resident Parish Priest and was administered by the Parish Priest of Euroa. The presbytery remained vacant.

In 2011, Euro Parish Priest and Nagambie Parish Administrator, Fr Tony Hill, held a meeting with the Nagambie Parish Council; there was pressure from the Chancery to make a decision about the building and a quote for its demolition and a loan for this, had been presented as an option. In the 1980s, quotes to repair issues such as rising damp, cracks in walls and the leaking roof had amounted to over \$300,000. This was money the parish just didn't have, so the presbytery remained not only vacant, but became less and less salvageable as time went by. The external pressure and the thought of imminent demolition of the building spurred the Parish Council to find a way to keep their parish heritage. What they have achieved is remarkable, and is as wonderful a testimony to their spirit as that of the Parish Council which built the presbytery back in the 1880s.

The Parish Council secured a Heritage Victoria Grant, which provided \$1 for every \$1 contributed by the Parish, and busily started fundraising the way their forebears had done, with fairs and by catering for nearby rowing events.

A grant from the Department of Justice provided security fencing and lighting and a Heathcote Community Grant provided for the disabled and unisex toilets to be built at the rear.

Over eight years, with \$65,000 in grants, \$135,000 raised by the Parish and many hours of in-kind work from parishioners and local trades, the presbytery now stands proud with a new roof and storm-water system, new electrical system, new painted internal plaster, polished timber floors, new carpet, air conditioning, hot-water system and renovated bathroom and kitchen.

Interestingly, a Moreton Bay Fig Tree has played a niche role in the preservation of the St Malachy's presbytery. The presbytery has an extensive cellar, which was prone to flooding. Apparently, by way of solution, a Moreton Bay Fig was planted in the 1930s as a means to draw water from the underground stream that was bedevilling the presbytery. This proved to be an ingenious low-tech solution, which not only contributed to the drying out of the cellar, but also created a spectacular natural Nagambie landmark, still resplendent next to the building. A win-win!

It seems creating win-win situations is the Nagambie way of doing things. Nagambie Parish Council is thrilled that Nagambie Lakes Community House is now leasing the 'Kearns Centre', turning it into a community hub,

yet again a home – this time to the broader Nagambie community. When you think about it, St Malachy's presbytery is a building, built by the people, for the people – twice over.

When COVID-19 restrictions allow, Bishop Shane Mackinlay will formally bless the Kearns Centre. Nagambie Lakes Community House would like to invite any relatives of Fr Kearns to this occasion and ask they get in touch with them.



The Kearns Centre and Moreton Bay Fig as they are today



A postcard featuring St Malachy's Church and Presbytery.



Fr Patrick Kearns

A legacy in building community

The proposed re-naming of the former St Malachy's presbytery to The Kearns Centre after Fr Patrick Kearns, Nagambie's first Parish Priest, prompted diocesan archivist **Dr Donna Bailey** to find out more about this extravagant, idiosyncratic and much-loved pioneering priest.

[Read more](#)

By Dr Donna Bailey, Diocesan Archivist

A recent proposal of the St Malachy's Parish Pastoral Council to rename the current Nagambie Lakes Community House to The Kearns Centre, prompted a closer inspection of the diocesan archives, Colonial Priests Collection.

Knowing something of the story of this nineteenth century pioneering priest, Fr Patrick Kearns, I accessed the archive collection eagerly. His portrait, an item in the collection is a standout; it depicts a colonial era man, seemingly resolute and sure of himself. He strikes a pose with folded arms across his faded riding coat – not casually, but rather determinedly. It is a portrait that one cannot walk away from without thinking about the subject.

As I delved through primary and secondary records I was struck by a letter from Kearns to his former parishioner, Mrs Gaffy. The 1911 letter was penned over a decade after Kearns' removal from the diocese. Kearns reflected,

"I am as happy and content as I could desire. Long ago I have come to look on the little crosses and sufferings I had at Nagambie and Heathcote parishes, not as evils but rather as blessings in disguise and the authors of them, not as enemies but friends. What seemed to be a great hardship at the time has turned out to be an advantage, and God has arranged everything for the best. One reflection gives me great consolation, namely that my removal from Nagambie and Heathcote was not on account of any fault the parishioners had to find with me or I them. The relations between us were good up to the last".

One hundred and thirty-two years after leaving the diocese, Nagambie parishioners remember their first Parish Priest, a man instrumental in building schools, churches and presbyteries at the Nagambie Mission, as well as in Heathcote, Tatura, Rushworth, Undera, Mooroopna, Arcadia, Toolamba and Moorilim. A brass plaque will be placed at the front of the building, formerly the Catholic presbytery built by Kearns, and a unique illuminated address presented to Kearns in 1888 will be framed and displayed within the building.

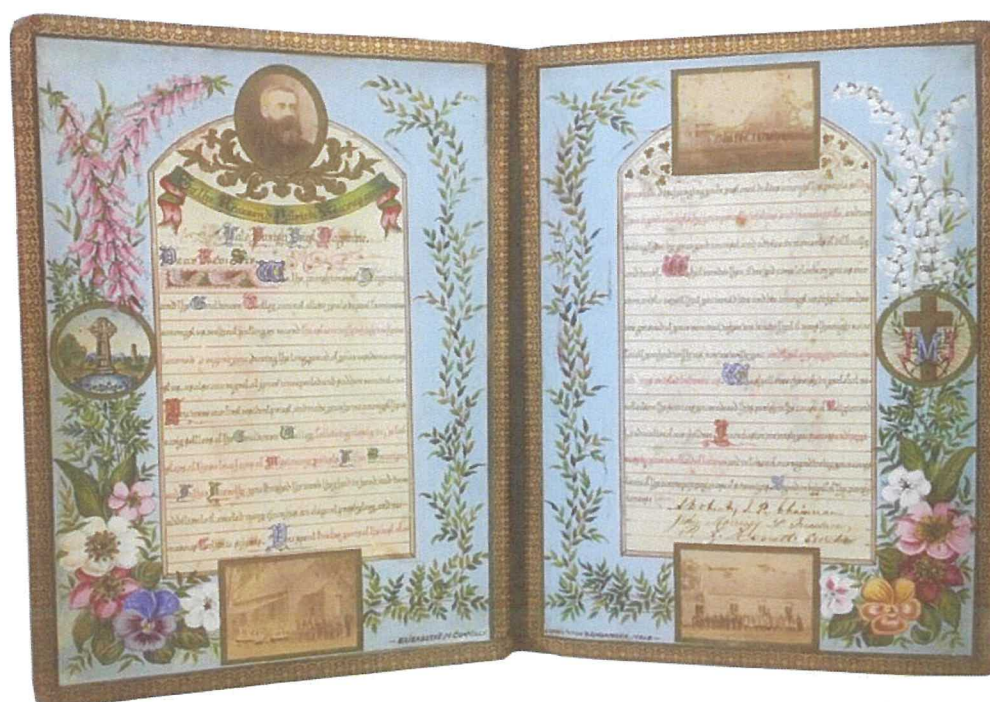
Irish by birth, Kearns lived with his parents and siblings in Tasmania from a young age. He returned to Ireland (All Hallows, Dublin) in 1862 to study for the priesthood, arriving back in Australia in 1869. His first years as a priest were at Mansfield and Port Fairy and, by 1875, he was at the Nagambie Mission. Records demonstrate that, as Kearns earned the respect of the people through his many good works, his relationship with Bishops Crane and Reville slowly deteriorated. Newspapers of the time report that, in 1887 when he was moved from Nagambie to Heathcote, 'heartfelt regret' was felt by the people of Nagambie; so much so, that over 400 hundred signatures were gathered and presented to Bishop Reville in a petition. The petition was unsuccessful. In May 1888, the parishioners and people of Nagambie marked their respect for Kearns, presenting him with a beautifully illustrated Illuminated address and a purse of 200 sovereigns.

Kearns served at Heathcote, happily it would seem, until 1896 when history was repeated and he was removed; only this time, entirely from the Sandhurst Diocese – and without charge. An 1897 illuminated address presented by the people of Heathcote to Kearns survives and is pictured here.

One hundred and thirty years is a long time to consider the actions and personalities of the key players in this story. Kearns was known to be extravagant and idiosyncratic. The presbyteries that he built in Heathcote and Nagambie were considerable buildings, only just surpassed by the Bishop's Palace at Bendigo; indicating a degree of competition on Kearns part toward his superiors. Reports that the Coadjutor Bishop, Reville, refused to hear a petition from the people of Heathcote and Cornella would no doubt have been extremely disappointing for the people who argued in vain to keep their beloved pastor, and indicate a degree of stubbornness on his part.

A newspaper report of July 1897 stated that Kearns returned to Heathcote to celebrate his last Mass there, after a nine-month hiatus 'owing to some misunderstanding with his Bishop'. This last Mass occurred on July 18, 1897. Later, and with the financial support of his parishioners and supporters, Kearns took his battle for justice and compensation to Rome and eventually, Bishop Reville was instructed to pay Kearns a pension for the remainder of his life.

Kearns' life ended a far cry from the central Victorian goldfields where he had cared for the Catholic population for over twenty-two years. He died at Brighton, England aged eighty-three, in 1927 where he had been the chaplain to the Augustinian Nuns for sixteen years.



The Illuminated Address presented to Fr Kearns by Nagambie Parishioners



Fr Novelito Lim marks Five Years as a Priest

Friday 23 October 2020 marked the fifth anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Father Novelito Lim. Parishioners of St Patrick's Kerang, St Mary's Cohuna and St Patrick's Pyramid Hill took the opportunity to show their appreciation to their much-loved 'Fr Novie'.

[Read more](#)

By Christine O'Donaghue

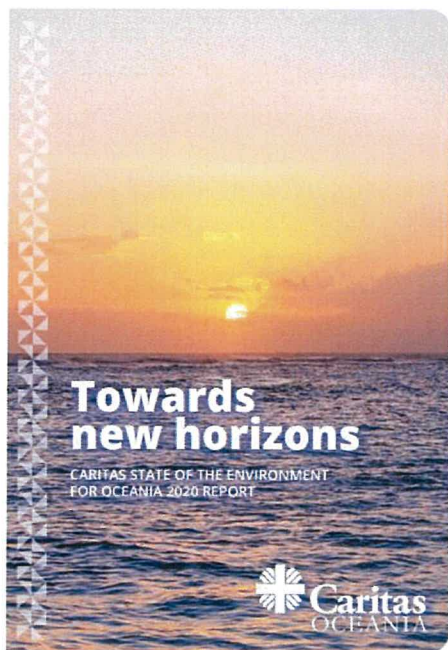
Father Novie's housekeeper, Bernadette, made Father a special cake to remember and celebrate the occasion and Father was given vegie seedlings for his new vegetable plot at the rear of the Presbytery, as a small token of appreciation.

As a special treat for all his parishioners Father Novie presented a short YouTube clip of his ordination at the Zoom Mass on Saturday evening, 24 October. This gave parishioners an insight into the memorable event that has ultimately brought Fr Novie to us here in regional Victoria.

Our Zoom Masses will now conclude after eleven spiritual celebrations, made possible by Father's experience with modern technology! Congratulations Father and special thanks for all you do for our three parishes. May God continue to bless you for your work within our three parishes.



Fr Novie's minimalist cake.



Towards New Horizons

Caritas State of the Environment Report

By Kerry Stone

Caritas Australia has released its latest State of the Environment Report on environmental changes in Oceania - Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. This year's report titled "Towards New Horizons" includes findings that local indigenous communities are experiencing severe impacts as a result of a changing climate.

[Read more](#)

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand published the report "Towards New Horizons", with contributions from Caritas agencies in Tonga, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Australia.

"Towards New Horizons" tracks the direct impact of five key issues on people in the region: coastal erosion/sea-level rise, access to food and water, extreme weather, offshore mining and drilling and climate finance.

Mr Bernard Holland, the manager of Caritas Australia's Social and Ecological Justice Animators said, "We need to pay attention to these environmental changes because they have disproportionate impacts on some of the most marginalised communities."

The report, "Towards New Horizons" is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si', and his call to urgently address the environmental challenges that will affect generations to come.

"In this report, we learn about the impacts of environmental changes on communities like the Carteret Islanders, who have been forced to relocate to the mainland in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, in Papua New Guinea," says Mr Holland.

"Hearing these stories is vital to understanding how severe these environmental changes already are for some communities. This isn't a distant problem; it's something that's happening right now." "Towards New Horizons" also looks at how a changing climate disproportionately impacts Indigenous communities, including First Australians communities.

Tom Powell through the Red Dust Healing, an indigenous cultural healing programme supported by Caritas Australia, provided mental health support to local Indigenous communities who had lost incomes and sacred sites as a result of the Australian bush fires.

“Some people were evacuated four, and sometimes five, times down the South Coast because of the bushfires,” says Mr Powell. “Before that there was a drought, and after there was a pandemic. People are exhausted; they feel as if their lives are not in their control.”

The Red Dust Healing program focuses on empowering participants to be a part of their own solution by restoring family structures and reconnecting participants to traditional ways of healing.

You can read the full report at

www.caritas.org.au/docs/default-source/oceania/towards-new-horizons_sefo2020.pdf

As mentioned in the introduction, the report provides further impetus for action on ecological justice. Should you feel motivated to do so, you are invited to join our Sandhurst Care for Creation network.

Sandhurst Diocesan Coordinator:

Kerry Stone : 0408 579904

Email caritasjustice@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



Online Reflection Session

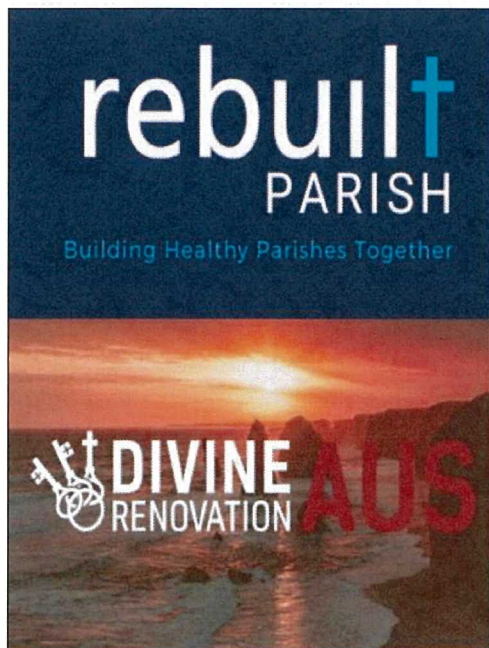
Discerning the way to the Plenary Council

The People of Sandhurst are invited to take part in an online reflection session to participate in prayerful communal discernment around the theme of the month, **Inclusive, participatory and synodal**. This is the first of six themes to be presented over the coming months.

Wednesday 18 November 7:30 p.m.

Register for the Zoom Session

To register please email: plenary@sandhurst.catholic.org.au



Resources for Parish Renewal

By Lyn Breen

The titles 'Divine Renovation' and 'Rebuilt Parish' processes and resources for parish renewal are becoming more widely known in Australia. Each movement has developed a substantial international presence, with books, resources and practical ideas offered on comprehensive websites, social media, podcasts, webinars, direct coaching and more. The Divine Renovation network has now established an Australasian base.

[Read more](#)

By Lyn Breen

Divine Renovation

Divine Renovation began with the work of Father James Mallon, Parish Priest of Saint Benedict Parish in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. As a young priest aged 31, he and his co-workers faced challenges and questions that parish teams and leaders have faced all over the world: "How do we continue to bring people to Jesus Christ in a society and culture that are constantly moving away from that relationship?" "What would it look like if a parish was full of missionary disciples on fire for mission? What could a pastor accomplish if they had the energy and capacity to lead?" Fr James gathered a parish leadership team together, which was committed to prayer, effective formation in faith as disciples of Jesus, for themselves and others, and to finding practical ways to bring their parish 'from maintenance to mission'. There were successes and failures along the way and the story of 'Divine Renovation' unfolded from there. One feature of their success was the use of a process called 'Alpha', as a tool to introduce parishioners, enabling them to talk with others about faith and discover possibilities for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Fr James' first book, Divine Renovation: Bringing your parish from maintenance to mission, was published in 2014. Further books, podcasts, resources and coaching for other parishes followed. The international Divine Renovation network now extends to Australia and New Zealand. On Saturday, 24 October 2020, Divine Renovation Australasia was launched.

Kevin Bailey, the newly appointed Regional Director for Divine Renovation Australia, writes: "We recognise the primacy of Evangelisation, animated and led with reliance on the Holy Spirit and a focus on the best leadership principles and practices."

[View the Divine Renovation Launch event on YouTube.](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPSXxdB5rkQ&feature=youtu.be>

To find out more, go to the [Divine Renovation Australasia website](https://divinerenovation.org/australia).
<https://divinerenovation.org/australia>

Alpha and Alpha Online

Alpha, which originated in the United Kingdom, is now accessed by people throughout the world. An Alpha process, supported by the Alpha Australia network has been adopted by many Australian parishes. The face-to-face model, which Alpha follows involves shared meals, short videos followed by discussion. While face-to-face options have been impossible in 2020, Australian Alpha Online opportunities have attracted large numbers.

To find out more, [go to the Alpha website](https://www.alpha.org.au).
<https://www.alpha.org.au>

Rebuilt Parish

Rebuilt Parish is a movement that began with Fr Michael White and Tom Corcoran, leaders of the Church of the Nativity, in Timonium, United States. The story and aims of this movement are similar in many ways to those of Divine Renovation, as noted on the Rebuilt Parish website:

“Rebuilt Parish is a movement aimed at impacting the minds and hearts of parish leaders so they can refocus on reaching the un-churched, creating a clear discipleship path, and rebuilding their parish culture. Our personal Rebuilt journey, from our own home parish, developed field-tested tools to establish an irresistible Catholic parish making disciples in our community. This growth continues in real-time as we develop new resources and tools to fulfil the mission God gave us: go make disciples.”

During the 2020 pandemic, the Rebuilt Community has continued to offer free webinars and a ‘COVID-19 Support Pack’ to support parishes through these difficult times. The focus of current 2020 webinars is ‘A Christmas to Remember’.

To find out more, [go to the Rebuilt Parish website](https://www.rebuiltparish.com).
<https://www.rebuiltparish.com>

Open Days 2020



CTC Open Days

10 - 17 November 2020

This year Catholic Theological College is running Virtual Open Days, so you can explore courses from wherever you are. The Open Days will include live session, in which you will have the opportunity to ask questions, as well a number of video resources for you to view at your convenience.

[Read more](#)

Whether you are interested in learning more about your faith, have a desire to study and research, wish to pursue a career in ministry or pastoral areas or need to gain qualifications to assist your current teaching or ministry position, you will find something at CTC to meet your needs.

We are offering a number of live information sessions as well as a number of video resources to assist you in making the right decision. Please register online for the sessions. During the sessions, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers.

Undergraduate Sessions (such as Diploma and Bachelors)

- Tuesday 10 November, at 7.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 11 November, at 7.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 17 November, at 7.00 p.m.

Postgraduate Sessions (such as Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters)

- Tuesday 10 November, at 7.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 11 November, at 7.00 p.m.

Minor Thesis and Research Session

- Tuesday 17 November, at 10.00 a.m.

2021 Timetable

Visit CTC website: ctc.edu.au/study/timetable/



CTC Knox Public Lecture 2020

Safe Church: Commitment, awareness and action for cultural change

Sheree Limbrick, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL), explores some of the trends and findings emerging from CPSL's audit work, as well as the directions of the groundbreaking framework for the safeguarding of adults.

[Read more](#)

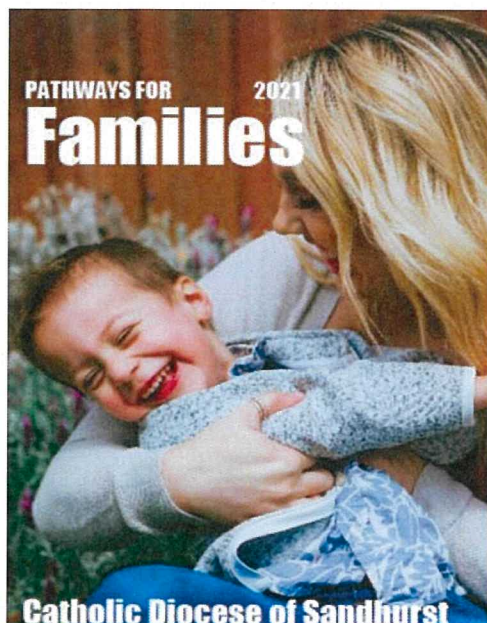
Thursday 5 November , 7:00-8:00 p.m.

The annual Knox Public Lecture is an important date in the calendar of Catholic Theological College. It commemorates the life and ministry of the founder of The College, the late James Robert Cardinal Knox, fifth Archbishop of Melbourne.

This year, the lecture titled '*Safe Church: Commitment, awareness and action for cultural change*' will be presented online by Sheree Limbrick, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL).

In May 2019 Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL) published the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. More than 20 Church entities have been audited to date to assess the extent to which they are implementing necessary safeguards for children, with audits revealing a strong commitment and dedicated action to create child safe environments. Since late 2019, CPSL has been working to expand the Standards to include protections for adults engaging with Church Ministry. This lecture will explore some of the trends and findings emerging from CPSL's audit work, as well as the directions of the groundbreaking framework for the safeguarding of adults.

To register for event and receive zoom details [click here](#).



Pathways for Families 2021

Sandhurst 'Pathways for Families 2021' introduces a wide range of resources for topics of interest to families and those who support them, including: Marriage and Family Life, Children, Teens & Young Adults, Grandparents, Spirituality & Prayer, Social Media options, Reaching Out, Community Connections, Learning About Faith, Help & Support. Click live links for quick access or scroll down using computer, smartphone or laptop.

[Read more](#)



Super Typhoon Goni strikes Philippines days after Typhoon Quinta

Caritas Australia's partners are on the ground monitoring the impact of Super Typhoon Goni, the world's most powerful storm this year, which has struck the Philippines and will soon hit Vietnam, only a week after Typhoon Quinta.

[Read more](#)

Typhoon Goni hit the eastern island province of Catanduanes from the Pacific, with winds of 225 kilometres per hour and gusts of 280 km/h.

The storm moved through heavily populated regions including the main island of Luzon, causing at least ten deaths and leaving three people missing, before shifting towards Vietnam.

Over 390,000 people have fled their homes, including more than 345,000 people to evacuation centres, raising concerns about further spreading COVID-19.

The Philippines has had more than 383,000 cases of the virus, the second-highest number in South-East Asia. The number of active cases in the country is 27,115, with 2,396 new cases confirmed on Sunday. Approximately 80 per cent of the country's ventilators are in use.

Typhoon Goni has wreaked havoc on local communities still reeling from the impacts of Typhoon Quinta and COVID-19, with assessments still being made as to the scale of the devastation.

On October 23, Typhoon Quinta brought heavy rains and flooding to the Philippines, causing 22 deaths, 39 injuries and leaving 4 people missing. A further 176,532 families were affected by the typhoon across seven regions.

Typhoon Quinta damaged 52,689 houses, and caused 90 million pesos, equivalent to AUD \$8,519,936.07, worth of infrastructure damage.

The National Director of Caritas Philippines, Bishop Colin Bagaforo says, "The typhoon will surely bring greater poverty to our communities, as they have also been battling against the effects of COVID-19. So, with humility, we appeal for everyone's sincere acts of kindness, generosity and compassion."

Caritas Philippines is monitoring the progress of Typhoon Goni, and is working with local church organisations to respond. At this stage, challenges include infrastructure damage and shelter.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, support will be channelled through Caritas Australia's church and non-government organisation (NGO) partners on the ground.

Caritas Australia's thoughts and prayers are with the people of the Philippines as they face the challenges of Typhoons and COVID-19.

Donations can be made to Caritas Australia to provide support for emergencies like Super Typhoon Goni at caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.



Pope Francis 
@Pontifex



Pope Francis on Twitter

Choosing purity, meekness and mercy; choosing to entrust oneself to the Lord in poverty of spirit and in affliction; dedicating oneself to justice and peace – this means going against the current. This evangelical path was trodden by [#AllTheSaints](#) and Blessed.

11:00 p.m. 1 November 2020

(Pope Francis has over 40 million followers on Twitter)
