

WELCOME TO

ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

21 August 2022

First Reading Is 66:18-21

They will gather all of your people from all nations.

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

(R.) *Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.*

or

(R.) *Alleluia!*

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations,
acclaim him all you peoples! (R.)
2. Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

The Lord disciplines those he loves.

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the way, the truth, and the life,
says the Lord;*

*no one comes to the Father, except
through me.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 13:22-30

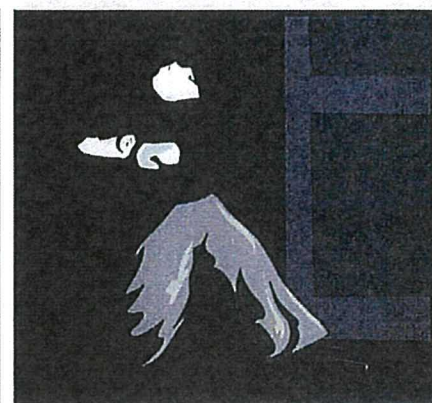
From East and West they will come to take their place in the kingdom of God.

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel passage picks up one of the major themes that runs throughout the gospel of Luke: the message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews, but is for all people; Jew and Gentile alike. A number of times in this gospel, the writer makes a point of having Jesus relate this controversial and fairly unpopular message to his audience. Today's gospel makes clear that to gain salvation, you have to do more than just show up! Like those knocking on the locked door and claiming friendship, we can't just turn up at the last minute and expect to be received. Salvation – entrance into the kingdom of God – belongs to those who accept the message of Jesus and act on it for the rest of their lives.

The gospel makes plain to the Jewish people of the time that unless they accept the message of Jesus and act upon it, they will get a terrible shock ('weeping and grinding of teeth') at the coming of the kingdom. Those who believe in name only will find themselves looking in from the outside and will see the greatest prophets in the kingdom while they themselves are denied access. To further make the point, they are told that people from east and west, north and south will be welcomed into the feast of the kingdom. References to people from the four points of the compass always indicate people from other lands – non-Jews. Jesus tells his audience that people who are faithful to his message, even though they may be Gentile, will gain salvation before anyone who thinks they deserve it because of their birth or title. The kingdom must be earned through faithful effort, not by just turning up and claiming to be a believer.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1983 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



121 Knight Street, Shepparton
Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au
Facebook: [sheppartoncatholic](https://www.facebook.com/sheppartoncatholic)
Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor
Priest in Residence: Fr Varghese Vithayathil
Associate Priest: Fr. Jackson Saunders
Deacon: Francois Baguma
Office Manager: Diane Teitzel
Child Safe Officer: Jason Giuliani Ph: 5821 2633
Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



*Christ in community ...
the heart of our faith*

Recently Deceased: Ken Gervasoni, Joan McLinden, Angela Herring, Jack Winters, Eileen Herriman.

Anniversaries: Rose Clurey, Eliza Dunne, Concettina Ganino, James Clurey

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

Preparation & Consultation Meeting for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council

On 27 April 2022 Bishop Shane Mackinlay announced a year of Preparation and Consultation for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC).

Dr Chris Cotter (Sandhurst Director of Mission and Pastoral Life) and Ruth Lawlor (Sandhurst Youth Ministry Coordinator) will be conducting a Preparation & Consultation Meeting at the Pastoral Centre, St Brendan's on **31st August at 6.00pm**. The meeting will run for no more than 90 minutes. At the meeting you will:

- find out about the SMPC
- participate in a 'Listening and Dialogue' process (as used in the first phase of the Plenary Council)
- provide feedback and ask questions which will contribute to the establishment of a structure that will support synodality in our diocese.

All are welcome

St Brendan's Friendship Group

We will meet again for lunch; Sunday 21 August at the Sherbourne Hotel (Maguire Bistro), 109 Wyndham St, at 12.30pm.

Anyone new to the parish is most welcome to join in. Love to see everyone there.

All enquiries to Pat Simpson 5821 1269.

Readers & Commentators 27th & 28th Aug 2022

6pm	B. Lindsay	T. Chandler
8am	L. Billings	P. Stein
11am	A. Madeira	J. Pilkington

The committee of VOICE FOR SILENT PEOPLE
thank St. Brendan's parishioners for your very generous support of our stall.

Thankyou also to Frank DePalma for supplying walnuts, Kewstoke Olive Estate for the olive oil soap, Chris Curtis for the red gum crosses and Cate O'Dwyer for the plants. We raised \$959.50

High Tea at the Woolshed Sunday 28 August

1.30pm for 2.00pm start

\$60.00 per head (drinks at Bar Prices)



Tickets available from St Brendan's Parish Office

All proceeds to L'Arche
Helping people with disabilities

For further information please
phone Denise on 0432 054 003

Online bookings \$61.50 www.trybooking.com/CBVPS

Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter Program (GSWNS)

It was a quiet night this week at the lakeside with 9 guests. Chicken drumsticks, roast vegies and chicken & corn soup were on the menu and much appreciated by those in attendance. After discussion last week, we provided hot water bottles for anyone who wanted them. One of our guests tucked it in to her jumper and kept repeating "I am so warm, I am going to sleep well tonight."

Another huge thank you to our volunteers for making sure our guests are well cared for each week.

Kathy Hunt: 0416 058 431



Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am

Saturday 8.30am *Syro Malabar Rite*, Sunday 5.30pm *Syro Malabar Rite*

Rosary— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

Holy Hour— Thursdays 7pm to 8pm

Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Reconciliation Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament— Fridays 5pm to 6pm

2022 Sacramental Program

This weekend we welcome Bishop Shane Mackinlay who will Confirm and/or celebrate the First Holy Communion with our Sacramental children.

This is an important faith occasion in the candidates faith development and a special time of celebration for all involved.

Congratulations to the following Sacramental candidates who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and/or the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist for the first time.

6pm, Saturday 20th August

Maya Cirillo	Talia De Rose	Karl Gabriel Igat
Connor Jenkins	Noah Jenkins	Jace Joseph
Jess Joseph	Aiden Lancaster	Ryan Lancaster
Dean Lines	Ellie Lines	Michael Mandoo
Caitlyn Mills	Leo Moodie	Zacchaeus Mustey
Harry Neall	Sean Neall	Reese Opie
Cristiano Spadaro	Aaron Stino	Antonia Tassoni
Parker van Popering	Smith van Popering	Grace Weber
Reese Young	Stevie Young	

11am, Sunday 21st August 2022

Luca Boncaldo	Sam Caltabiano	Charlie Comensoli
Victoria Comensoli	Annalise Gallace	Flynn Gemmill
Lee Gonzales	Anastasia Greco	Zoe Kirby
Taj Leader	Zoe Liddell	Moses McIntosh
Shifra Massey	Mackenzie Michel	Philip Misipati
Rocco Morley	Lia Morley	Charlie Muston
Joshua Nardella	Elijah Nfundiko	
Ella Niglia	Luke Putman	
William Raleigh	Kaila Rosato	
Nina Samalca	Fletcher Smith	
Alyssa Tayag	Abot Yel	



The Sacramental Program for next year is changing! Spread the Word.....

The program will be delivered over a two-year period instead of one year. This will give extra time to understand and appreciate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, First Eucharist and Reconciliation.

The new format is open to all children in Grade 3 (2022) or higher.

The 2022/2023 Primary Aged Sacramental Program:
Enrolments in September 2022

- Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in October and November 2022
- Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation end of November 2022
- The Children enrolled in the program will then return in 2023 Mid Term one to begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.
- The Sacramental Masses will be held in June 2023.

All enquiries to sacramental.coord@bigpond.com.au or call Laura at the parish office WEDNESDAY mornings 5821 2633.

The Secondary School program will not change BUT will enrolments will commence earlier in February 2023.



FOOD FOR FAITH

This week Anthony shares a story presenting the life of Australia's first saint St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, who's feast day we celebrated Monday August 8.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSKmITeucV8>



TAP N GO PAYMENTS:

If you would like to donate to our Parish and don't have loose change—we have 2 TapNGo locations for your convenience,



located in the Piety store and the Narthex.

\$10.00 donations are made easy by holding your debit or credit card over the screen.

A green tick will show on the screen once the transaction goes through.

We thank you for your generous support!



PRAYING With CHILDREN
SUNDAY LITURGY
Join us at the 11am MASS

We wish Fr. Jophin Joy all the best for his new appointment as the Parish Priest of the Numurkah & Nathalia parishes. We are thankful for your faithful ministry to our Parish at St Brendan's.

*Farewell
Good luck*

Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



door
feast
important
knock
least
narrow
outside
owner
prophets
saved
teeth
weep

V	H	J	V	P	M	T	P	S	A	I	W	N	V	U
Y	B	V	Z	R	F	E	A	S	T	Y	H	Z	B	C
L	Q	W	F	O	F	B	E	Q	G	L	U	H	A	W
F	V	E	G	P	N	A	R	R	O	W	Z	Q	X	V
D	A	E	U	H	D	X	U	K	G	F	S	V	V	B
W	X	P	G	E	M	R	C	J	F	C	U	S	J	I
Y	I	F	W	T	X	H	L	U	D	O	O	R	Z	S
W	C	D	R	S	J	H	G	U	K	B	V	W	L	M
N	T	K	Q	O	U	T	S	I	D	E	I	F	N	L
S	I	J	L	U	S	L	N	P	F	S	W	G	J	B
U	L	J	E	Z	I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	T	E
T	T	B	A	Q	X	A	V	J	K	N	O	C	K	F
H	C	N	S	X	C	I	K	W	C	T	E	F	H	J
H	V	C	T	E	O	W	N	E	R	T	E	E	T	H
S	A	V	E	D	P	P	S	D	Y	V	V	H	J	O



**INTERWEALTH
Lending**

helping you finance your dreams

Whether you are just starting out with your first home or you are a seasoned investor, we are committed to helping you find the right loan to suit your needs!

Talk to your local Mortgage Broker today!

Fortuna Alexandrow, Mortgage and Finance Broker

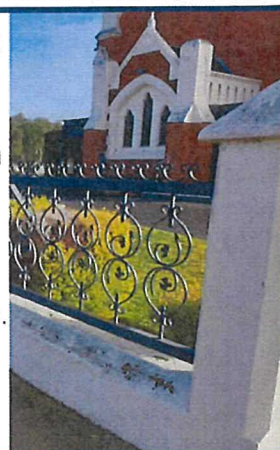
0458 88 0707 | fortuna@interwealth.com.au |
interwealth.com.au | 214 Fryers St, Shepparton. Vic. 3630

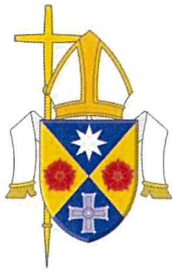


PAINTING OF THE EXTERIOR OF OUR CHURCH

We are currently applying through the Greater Shepparton Heritage Grants Program 2022/2023 for funding to hopefully be successful to put towards the painting of the exterior of our church and fence.

The painting will commence, either way (grant or no grant) in early November.





Sandpiper e-News

BENDIGO ABLAZE!



By Jenni Kennedy

For the first time in three years well-known Sandhurst priest, Fr Rob Galea and his band performed live for more than 1200 students over two days at the Ablaze Youth Festival at Ulumbarra Theatre in Bendigo last week.

The full-scale rock concert took place between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Monday 1 August for senior primary students and on Tuesday 2 August for secondary students from Years 9 - 11.

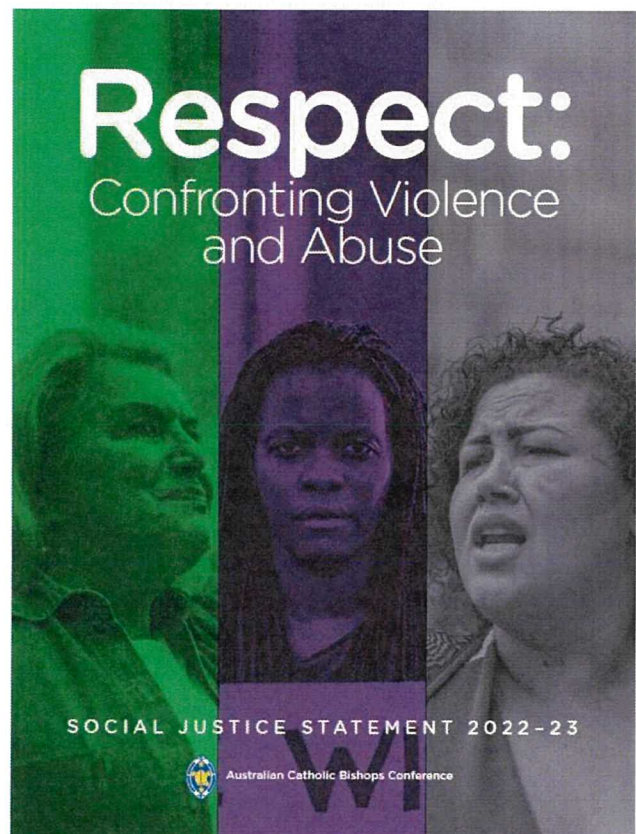
This is also the first time that the Ablaze youth concert included an event for educators and Catholic Education Office staff, which took place on Monday afternoon at 4.15 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.

The event hit the right note with students of all ages with high-energy music, testimonials and liturgy. The event also included testimonials from notable local youth ministry speakers, along with Fr Rob and his band.

Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd; in partnership with FRG Ministry and Sandhurst Youth Ministry have been excited to present Ablaze in 2022 as part of the exploration of this year's theme, 'Tell the Good News.'

The Ablaze Youth Day is an initiative of Catholic Education Sandhurst to reach out to young people, providing a forum that combines live music, engaging speakers and an opportunity for students to celebrate and learn about their faith.

BISHOP'S SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT FOCUSES ON DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE



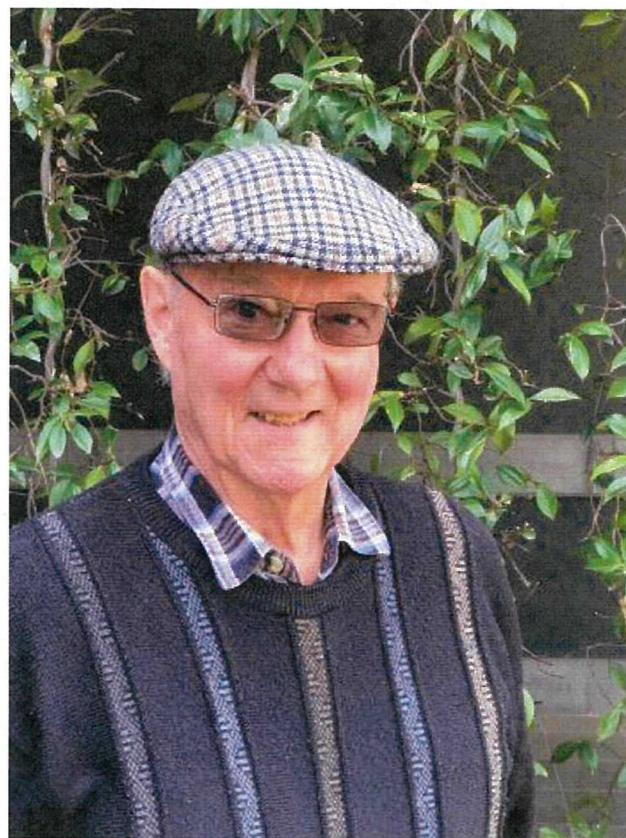
Australia's bishops have used their annual social justice statement to condemn the scourge of domestic and family violence, saying relationships must be "marked by respect and freedom rather than coercion and control".

The Church in Australia has published social justice statements each year since the 1940s on a wide range of topics. This year's statement is titled *Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse*.

The document draws on data around family and domestic violence and gathers the insights of people – especially women – on that data. It also reflects on the words and example of Jesus.

"The teaching of Christ urges us to promote relationships marked by respect and freedom rather than coercion and control," Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

BR MARK NEEDHAM 60 YEARS A MARIST



Congratulations to Br Mark Needham who recently celebrated 60 years as a professed Marist Brother, 15 of those years serving in the Diocese of Sandhurst as a teacher, football coach, representative tennis player, Religious Education Coordinator, Youth Group Leader, Sports master, Retreat Centre Director and as one of the founding staff at Marist College, Maiden Gully. Would he do it all again? Absolutely!

"The great rewards of being a Marist Brother," says Br Mark, "are the many connections that I've made with the kids I've taught; the parents and staff in different places I've been; the many fantastic times immersed in community life; and the times when I could see that I'd made a positive impact on a young person's life."

"Professed life," he says, "has opened doors to a diverse range of opportunities and experiences." As a Marist Brother and trained teacher, Br Mark has worked in remote Australian communities, such as Broken Hill and Alice Springs. He has also worked in education in Papua New Guinea and Marist formation in Fiji and the Philippines, which he recounts as deeply rewarding learning experiences.

president, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB writes in the foreword.

"The message of the Gospel is not a message of domination of one person over another but a message of mutual esteem and kindness."

The statement, citing the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, explains that family and domestic violence "affects people of all ages and from all backgrounds", but notes it "predominantly affects women and children".

Younger women, women with disabilities, people in regional areas, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and members of the LGBTQI+ community are highlighted as particularly vulnerable to violence, various studies have found.

The statement also points out that "family and domestic violence is a painful and complex reality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities".

The document's sections cover the importance of listening to women and children, the drivers and enablers of violence, supporting respectful relationships and the importance of respect, dignity and justice, as well as transformation and hope.

The statement concedes that, in some contexts, Scripture has been used to explain or even justify instances of violence against women or children. It rejects such distortions.

Passages used to imply the inferiority of women or children "do not reflect a context in which the equal dignity of every human being created in the image and likeness of God is acknowledged, or in which marriage is based on a relationship of love, mutuality and partnership".

"The respect due to each member of a family, household or community should reflect the respect and care shown for others by Christ," the statement says.

The statement promotes programs and agencies that support those who suffer various forms of violence, but also highlights the importance of support for those who perpetrate such violence.

The Catholic Church is a major provider of services for all people affected by domestic and family violence through its dioceses, agencies, religious institutes, and other organisations.

Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse has been published ahead of the Catholic Church's celebration of Social Justice Sunday on the last Sunday of August – August 28 this year.

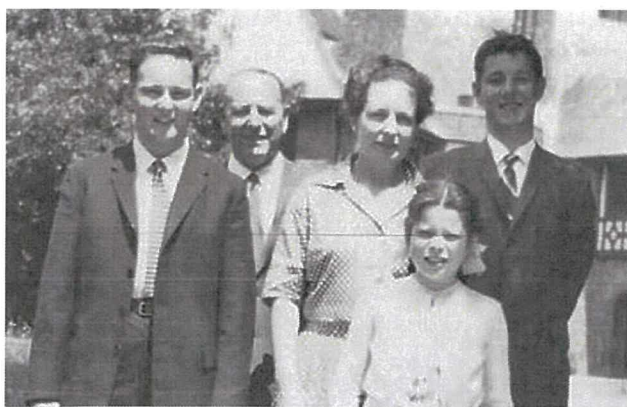
The statement and associated resources can be found at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au.

"Being a Marist has given me those experiences where, for example, I was confronted by poverty, it spurred me on to try to do something to make a difference and it challenges one's own lifestyle. Religious vows offer the freedom to go anywhere as needed, often where others can't go," says Br Mark.

Brother Mark also appreciates the educational opportunities he has had by virtue of being a Marist. He has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Education, two Graduate Diplomas in Religious Education and is accredited in Clinical Pastoral Education.

"The high point for me professionally," says Br Mark, "was my time as Principal of a small, disadvantaged school in Broken Hill (1983-1987). Traditional approaches to learning weren't working, so after much research, we decided to vertically stream Years 8-10. Students did courses according to interest, need and ability. A unit was one period a day for ten weeks, and students were consulted about which courses they did. The result was that in two years, morale greatly improved, and students achieved at a much higher level. Doing large scale musicals also helped as students made the set, did the marketing were able to control the lighting for example, so a real community activity."

Brother Mark's parents were staunch Catholics; he would often accompany his father to morning Mass before school. He was an altar server and was involved in Parish life, yet it was the life of a Marist Brother that he was drawn to. "I felt a calling, of course, but there was that influence from the Marist Brothers themselves," says Br Mark. "The brothers who taught me were inspiring wonderful men; they were interested in us, kept us active and engaged, they were dedicated and happy, and this had a strong impression on me. I dreamed of becoming a Marist Brother."

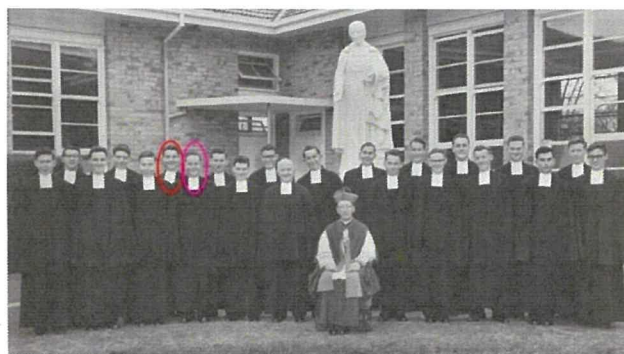


The Needham Family: (L-R) Damian, John, Esther, MaryAnne, Mark. At Macedon in 1961.

It was his strong commitment to this dream that helped Br Mark work through the rigorous Marist formation regime. "I look back at it now and I wonder how I survived!" he quips. But times have changed.

Br Mark says in the early days, formation was "very tough going" because it demanded conformity rather than imagination.

"We worked hard. The bell went at 5.25 each morning and we were in the chapel at 5:50 for morning prayer and meditation, then Mass. Then we'd come back for breakfast – off to school – and away we went. Fortunately, this monastic style has, over time, been replaced by something more apostolic."



1962 Novices and Profession, Champagnat College, Wangaratta.

Br Mark left home to join the Juniorate at Champagnat College Wangaratta in 1957, the year he turned 13, following his elder brother who had entered the College two years prior. "The College had day students, boarders, and Juniors, (boys who expressed interest in becoming a Marist Brother). As Juniors, we were only allowed to go home at Christmas," recalls Br Mark.

For Br Mark one of the most difficult aspects of the Juniorate and later the novitiate was conformity. "My parents encouraged their children to participate in sport and community events, to explore their world, to be imaginative and creative and think outside the box and be a self-starter," he says. "As a kid, I would make my own way to the tennis courts, make my own way home, head up to the park, muck around, go to the swimming pool, go to the pictures ..." he recalls.

Br Mark says he went from thinking for himself and making decisions to a heavily structured life in which many decisions were made for him. During this time, sport became his respite, "It was sport that kept me going," he says.

Despite the structured days Br Mark says community life was rewarding. "We did a lot of things together and had a lot of fun," he says.

In 60 years, Br Mark has seen great advances in the way education is delivered in Australia. When he first started teaching, in 1968, there was no such thing as a "free period" and the curriculum was limited. In his first year out, he taught classes before school, as it was the only way to fit them into the timetable. In his second year out, in 1969 at Marist College Bendigo, he taught four Year 12 subjects and at one stage had a Year 10 Geography class of 76 students.

Speaking of the brothers who taught before him Br Mark says, "Many Marist Brothers went out as young men into schools where they taught students not much younger than themselves. They worked long hours, with little specialist training in education, large class sizes of up to 100 kids, many combined classes and very little financial resources."

"Catholic education in Australia has been built on the back of those Religious who lived off the smell of an oily rag; they were martyrs really."

"When the Marists started the school in Bendigo in 1893, they used the St Kilian's Hall. There were four classes in there, with no dividers. One of the ways they got a bit of extra money to live on, was that they had someone who taught music, on a Saturday outside of school time, so they could charge a fee."

"Government funding has changed Catholic schools dramatically," says Br Mark. "When I first came to Bendigo school fees for Year 12 were \$90 a year! We had no other funding. Back then, we really needed the community to back us. There were so many community fundraising events to buy resources for the school; walkathons, bottle-drives and so on. It was very social and great for building relationships in the wider community."

Br Mark says that the efforts of the Marist brothers and their circumstances weren't unnoticed by their students. "The Bendigo Old Collegians, they formed up to support the Brothers, not the school. All those fellows are now in their late 70s and 80s," says Br Mark.

"Catholic education in Australia has been built on the back of those Religious who lived off the smell of an oily rag; they were martyrs really."

Over the years the formation system for Marist Brothers has also changed and Br Mark is all for it.

"Back in the day, when you entered religious life, in a sense, you were cutting yourself off from the world, even to the point where you would take a religious name and leave your given name behind you. I was in the last group of Brothers to receive a religious name, in 1962. We were given a list of possibilities, chose three and then someone else chose our name. Mine was Paschal. In 1967, the rules changed, and we were allowed to revert to our Christian (given) name. I chose to use the name my parents gave me -Mark. I did this as soon as I could."

Given that for Br Mark one of the most rewarding aspects of professed life is the bonds formed with people and community, it makes sense that being constantly moved from one place to another, without any choice in the matter, was one of the most difficult aspects of Marist life.

Brother Mark's move to Bendigo in 2014 was his 24th move!

"In the early days, before my time, Brothers would go to Kilmore for retreat, later summer school, then their Provincial would read aloud the appointments for the next year. We had to attend the retreat with all of our belongings in one bag; we were only allowed one bag, and we would move straight from the retreat to our new posting. If you were moved, you didn't have an opportunity to say goodbye," says Br Mark.

Br Mark has lived in Bendigo for nine years, "It's the longest I have lived anywhere," he says. He returned to Bendigo in 2014 to be part of the staff of Marist College in Maiden Gully; his third appointment as a Brother in Sandhurst.

Br Mark's first appointment in Sandhurst was at Marist Brothers College Bendigo (1969-1971), where he taught Year 12 subjects, coached the U16 football team to 2 premierships and a runner-up and was heavily involved with Maristians Cricket Club, St Kilian's Tennis Club and YCW football and was secretary of Bendigo English Teachers Association.

He was Religious Education Coordinator and Sports master among other responsibilities at St Colman's College Shepparton (1976-1978), where he also led the Youth Group and Parish Prayer Group at Mooroopna.

At this time, he was also involved with Marriage Encounter outreach programs such as "Choice" for 18–25-year-olds. "Fr Des Welladsen was a part of this along with Mike and

Nan Lawlor and Brian and Jenny Walsh. The highlight for me was the weekend we ran for the over 30s and we had every form of singleness present. It was a powerful experience," he said.

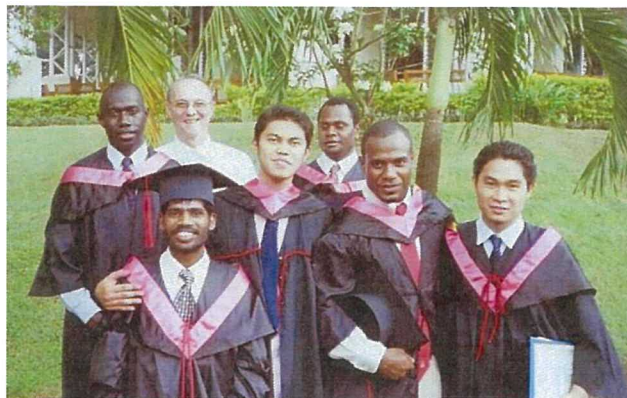
He was Director of the Marist Retreat Centre at Macedon from 2000 to 2002. Retreats were held mostly for Year 12 students from across Sandhurst and other dioceses.

Br Mark is now retired and living in a community of Marists in Bendigo and has replaced tennis with golf. His main ministry now is volunteering for Lifeline, a phone service for people experiencing crisis in their life. "It's not enjoyable but it is rewarding. It's serving a need. With every phone call, you never know what's going to happen. We aim to empower the caller to see a way forward for themselves."

Br Mark is an accredited Spiritual Director, an area in his life which he finds to be tremendously rewarding. His views on religion and spirituality are constantly becoming enriched as he pursues his interest in this area. Relating religion to the secularisation of Australian culture he says, "One of the big changes is from institutional religion to spirituality. We are all spiritual; we all have a spirit, our innermost self. We are spiritual before we are ever religious; the key is to work out how they connect. Spirituality is about how we live out our spirit authentically, building a personal relationship with our God"



Br Mark is now Chaplain to the staff at Marist College Bendigo.



Br Mark with Graduates at the Marist Pacific Centre, Marikina City, the Philippines.

NEW HISTORY MARKS MARISTS' SESQUICENTENARY

The Marist Brothers are marking their Australian Sesquicentenary with a new history "*Sub Tuum Praesidium: Marist Brothers in Australia 1872-2022*". Provincial Peter Carroll sees this new history as significant for the Marist sesquicentenary in Australia – an opportunity 'to celebrate achievements, apologise for our failures and give thanks to God and all those who have supported us in our life and mission'.

In April 1872, four Marist Brothers began the first Marist school in Australia in St Patrick's Parish, Church Hill, Sydney. Irish Catholics of The Rocks called them the 'French Brothers' because their headquarters was in France and their leader was an outgoing Frenchman, Br Ludovic Laboureyras.

Australian recruits quickly joined them and by the 1960s there were over 600 Marist Brothers in five states of Australia. As with other teaching congregations they were in great demand when there was minimal government funding for schools.

From 1970 this momentum of growth and achievement of the first century weakened sharply. Recruitment to the congregation dwindled and communities aged. One recent leader wrote that 'brothers were now living out their vows and consecration in a totally different sub-culture, mostly engaged in some form of ministry, but with few directly participating in schools'. Add to this the

revelations and deep impact of the recent Royal Commission.

A bleak outcome after 150 years? The congregation has declined in numbers, but the Marist mission continues in new forms. The spirituality of St Marcellin Champagnat has been embraced by lay colleagues, friends and students. The Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat has grown quickly to 900 members, mostly lay Marists. The original charism continues in the 56 schools of Marist Schools Australia, in youth services provided by Marist180, and in the international outreach of Australian Marist Solidarity.

So, in this sesquicentenary, Marists Brothers and lay Marists are reflecting on a complex history in Australia. St Patrick's Parish Church Hill commissioned a bust of the first Director, Br Ludovic. It was unveiled in the parish courtyard on April 8, to commemorate the opening of the first Marist school on 8 April 1872.

A new history of the congregation was launched in early June, under the title *Sub Tuum Praesidium: Marist Brothers in Australia 1872 – 2022*. The authors, Brothers Julian Casey, John Luttrell, Neville Solomon and Peter Rodney, share a broad experience of the Marist story.

Provincial Peter Carroll sees this new history as significant for the Marist sesquicentenary in Australia – an opportunity 'to celebrate achievements, apologise for our failures and give thanks to God and all those who have supported us in our life and mission'. It is available from The Hermitage, Mittagong:

<https://www.thehermitage.org.au/product-category/marist-resources/>.

PLENARY REFLECTIONS ON COMMON HOME TV

Common Home TV presents exclusive interviews about the Second Assembly of the Plenary Council, available now on YouTube.

With diverse roles and perspectives, these videos will serve to inform both the average Catholic churchgoer and those in institutional and educational roles.

Francis Sullivan reflects on a post-council Catholic identity. "Sometimes in our conversations, we can too narrowly define, or confine in a better word, the identity

of the church. Identity is important, but the essence is more important and we, as Catholics at our heart are attempting to try and live the gospel message; that's the essence of following Jesus, being attentive to the spirit; that's the essence. Our identity is how that's expressed. Our identity is in us if you like, our positions in relationships in society, but that identity needs to change in order for the essence of what we're about to be preserved. That's our challenge in the modern world."

Experts interviewed include:

Professor John Warhurst

- (Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn)

Dr Elissa Roper

- Plenary Council Drafting Committee

Phyllis Zagano

- Women's Diaconate in the Catholic Church

Francis Sullivan

- former CEO Truth, Justice and Healing Council

Dr Maeve Louise Heaney

- Director, Xavier Centre of Theology, ACU

Common Home TV is an apostolate of the Redemptorists of Oceania that aims to provide a platform for quality Catholic video content from producers both national and international.

[Go to Common Home TV on YouTube.](#)

[Go to Common Home TV on Facebook.](#)

AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE BACKS CALL TO SUPPORT WOMEN LIVING IN POVERTY

"Women's empowerment and gender equality make countries more stable, less vulnerable to conflict and, in general, better governed. If our aim is to contribute to global stability and prosperity, it therefore makes sense that gender equality and the removal of barriers to women's economic and social inclusion should be central pillars of our foreign policy in Australia."

Her Excellency Chiara Porro,
Australian Ambassador to the Holy See



L-R: Caritas Australia CEO, Kirsty Robertson Her Excellency Chiara Porro, the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, and Caritas Australia Chair, Robert Fitzgerald.

To commence its annual Women for the World campaign, Caritas Australia last week held an event to celebrate and honour women as leaders across the world.

Addressing the event as special guest was Her Excellency Chiara Porro, the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See, who spoke on women's leadership, the Church and the role of women in development.

"Women's empowerment and gender equality make countries more stable, less vulnerable to conflict and, in general, better governed. If our aim is to contribute to global stability and prosperity, it therefore makes sense that gender equality and the removal of barriers to women's economic and social inclusion should be central pillars of our foreign policy in Australia," said Her Excellency, Ambassador Porro.

"Since arriving at the Holy See, 'women in leadership' has been a key focus of my work. We've showcased trailblazing women who have shaped the history of the Catholic Church and its contribution to society and developed platforms to support emerging female leaders and promote gender equality at the highest levels."

"To truly achieve gender equality, we need leadership to model inclusive, constructive and supportive leadership and make sure everyone's on board. Without this, real change won't come about."

Attended by new and long-term Caritas Australia supporters, the event also heard from Caritas Australia CEO, Kirsty Robertson who talked about her recent experience in Ethiopia, a country currently in the grips of a food crisis, where she visited last month.

"Often, we heard stories of women in Africa getting water and looking at the water, knowing it was going to make them sick, yet they drink it anyway out of necessity. A number of the women who we spoke to in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps were also really worried about stopping and walking because, if you stop, you're much more at risk of the army, and the consequences of that for women, girls, and children is obviously devastating as well," said Ms Robertson.

"It's those conversations, which in some ways are tragic, but in other ways are a real reminder that the world is not fair, and that is what really motivates me and compels Caritas Australia forward."

This year alone, there are an estimated to be 388 million women and girls worldwide living in extreme poverty. These women and girls face many challenges including lack of education and training, food insecurity, inadequate access to health care, gender-based violence and discrimination.

"Now, more than ever, it is important for us to band together for women and girls across the world, as they face increasing challenges from conflict, COVID-19, climate change and now, the increase in food and fuel prices from the war in Ukraine," said Ms Robertson.

"There are more than 130 million girls out of school. But if all girls can finish their secondary education or equivalent, our global GDP can increase by 10 per cent over the next decade. This just shows that when we empower women and girls, really, we empower everybody."

Since 2013, Caritas Australia's dedicated Women for the World community has helped provide education, develop livelihoods and improve healthcare and protection for some of the most vulnerable women and girls in marginalised communities.

Go to <https://www.womenfortheworld.org.au/> to learn more.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA JOINS PUSH FOR AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO HELP FIGHT FAMINE



Representative members of the Help Fight Famine Alliance outside Parliament House on 1 August 2022. Caritas CEO, Kirsty Robertson, spoke in the Senate Courtyard at the campaign launch.

Caritas Australia has joined many of Australia's leading aid and development organisations to urge the Australian Government to help prevent a humanitarian crisis.

Caritas Australia has joined the [Help FightFamine](#) alliance calling for Australia to:

- **Save lives now** through an urgent Famine Prevention Package of \$150 million avert catastrophe in the worst-affected hunger hotspots;
- **tackle the root causes of the global hunger crisis** through investing long-term in a targeted Global Food Security Strategy; and,
- **Strengthen resilience of the Asia Pacific region** to climate change, disasters, and economic shocks by increasing Australia's development assistance

Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO, spoke at the Help Fight Famine launch in the Senate Courtyard at Parliament House in Canberra:

"We've all heard the statistics but there are faces behind those statistics. I've just come back from Ethiopia and the reality on the ground is even more catastrophic than the numbers suggest."

"Imagine losing all of your crops and livestock to drought. Imagine being a single mum to four children, but only being able to feed them every second day. Imagine walking 18 hours to get one jerry can of muddy water because that is the only option."

"I met people living this life on a recent trip to Ethiopia. There are millions of people facing similar problems across the Horn of Africa, and indeed across the world. The time to act is now."

Help Fight Famine launched a budget submission paper which outlines the practical steps Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Treasurer Jim Chalmers should take when the new 2022/23 budget is delivered on October 25.

The paper calls for the Albanese Government to deliver an urgent \$150 million Famine Prevention Package to stop a catastrophe in the worst-affected hunger hotspots in the

Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen. Help Fight Famine also calls out the need to invest in a long-term, targeted Global Food Security Strategy, and include measures to strengthen resilience of the Asia Pacific region to climate change, disasters, and economic shocks.

"The war in Ukraine has sent food prices skyrocketing around the world with the most vulnerable, women and children especially hard hit. Without immediate and urgent action, the deepening hunger crisis will kill more people annually than the entire COVID-19 pandemic," said Damian Spruce, Caritas Australia's Associate Director for Advocacy.

"We're calling on the government to face its first humanitarian test. The Prime Minister has said that international aid is the right thing to do and in Australia's interest as a nation – but now will he commit to averting a humanitarian catastrophe? We can help save millions of lives from starvation if we act now."

HELP CARITAS 'MAKE HUNGER HISTORY'

Right now, 49 million people are on the brink of famine. Conflict, COVID, climate shocks and now the war in Ukraine, have created the perfect storm for an unprecedented global hunger crisis. In the horn of Africa the worst drought in decades has devastated crops and livestock across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

You can help fight famine with Caritas by writing to your member of parliament, calling for action and creating awareness in your parishes and schools -- all through Caritas' Make Hunger History campaign.

Caritas Australia is taking its Make Hunger History campaign to parishes and schools across Australia to raise funds for its Africa Food Crisis Appeal. Schools and parishes can download PowerPoints, videos, a Grace Prayer and much more to spread the word in their communities.

The funds raised will provide urgently needed humanitarian aid to countries in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea. Through partners on the ground, donations to the appeal will go towards food distributions, support for children impacted by malnutrition, clean drinking water, cash transfers to households at risk of poverty, hygiene supplies, as well as seeds and household items for families who have been displaced by conflict in Africa.

Kirsty Robertson, Caritas Australia's CEO, has just returned from a visit to Ethiopia: "In Ethiopia I met communities already on the brink of starvation, with almost no options left to feed themselves and their families. I met women who walk over 18 hours to get water, knowing that they have very little or even nothing to feed their children once they return."

"These horrifying conditions are some of the worst I have seen in over 20 years in this sector. And there are thousands upon thousands of communities facing these same problems or even worse. This impending hunger crisis is shaping up to be the worst we have seen in our lifetime, which is why we're urging our supporters and the Catholic community to support our Africa Food Crisis Appeal and make hunger history."

The war in Ukraine has only made the situation worse for countries already experiencing hunger. Food and fuel prices are skyrocketing, and countries that rely heavily on

wheat, fuel and vegetable oil imports from Ukraine and Russia can no longer afford these basics.

Child hunger and malnutrition have increased globally as communities run out of options for food.

"Food prices were already on the rise, and now they're reaching impossible levels. The Horn of Africa is heavily reliant on imported grains and fertilisers from Ukraine and Russia, which are largely no longer available. This is truly a crisis."

According to a recently released Global Report on Food Crises, nearly 193 million people need urgent assistance for food across the world, an increase of nearly 40 million since 2020.

CHA WELCOMES ROYAL COMMISSION AGED CARE LEGISLATION AND IS READY TO GET DOWN TO WORK!

Catholic Health Australia welcomes the passage of crucial legislation – the first from the Albanese Government – that paves the way for a new and more transparent funding regime for aged-care providers.

The passage of the Aged Care and Other Legislation Amendment (Royal Commission Response) Bill 2022 through the Parliament today signals a positive start for the Albanese Government in its pledge to reform the aged-care sector.

Catholic not-for-profit aged-care providers welcome the creation of a new independent pricing authority, greater protections for aged-care residents and new powers for the regulator.

CHA Director of Aged Care Jason Kara said: "The passage of this Bill is a positive start and sets the sector on a path of much-needed reform. It is encouraging that the first Bill to pass in this new Parliament is a response to the Royal Commission which handed down its final report almost 18 months ago.

"The real work of implementation begins today. Our members stand by ready to work with the Government on the detail of the new funding model that will deliver more funds, and deliver higher quality care to residents. We welcome the publication of provider financial information

and the creation of the expanded Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority. We will continue to lobby to ensure that the Authority's annual advice on prices will be publicly available to support continued improvements in client outcomes."

"CHA will also be a strong voice in the recently announced capability review of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. We will be supportive of moves to ensure that the Government and aged-care sector work in partnership to support older Australians in need of care."

"CHA is confident that this legislation and continued reform will usher in a new era of cooperation between government, regulators and providers to ensure standards of care rise."

BENDIGO ABLAZE (continued)



2 August Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo: Year 9-11 Students heard from inspirational speakers and learned more about their faith at the Ablaze Youth Day event, which was themed "Tell the Good News." *Photograph by Jenni Kennedy.*



2 August, Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo: Sandhurst Youth Ministry Coordinator Ruth Lawlor, plays a game with students at the Ablaze Youth Day event. *Photograph by Jenni Kennedy.*

PARISHIONERS IN NORTH-EAST GIVE WARM WELCOME TO CHRIS AND RUTH



28 July Wodonga: Members of Wodonga parish gathered to attend preparation and consultation meetings for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC). The meetings, facilitated by Dr Chris Cotter and Ruth Lawlor, are an integral part of a 'Listening and Dialogue' process and provide an opportunity for participants to give input and ask questions about the SMPC.



6 August Wangaratta: Dr Chris Cotter and Ruth Lawlor facilitated preparation and consultation meetings. Chris and Ruth aim to visit as many Sandhurst parish communities as possible as we, as a diocese, prepare for a SMPC.



7 August Benalla: Participants at the Benalla SMPC consultation meetings are focused and engaged with the process.



BISHOPS' CALENDAR

- Sunday 7 August – Confirmation and First Eucharist, St Mary's Church, Cohuna, 2pm
- Tuesday 9 August – College of Consultors, Bendigo
- Saturday 13 August – Confirmation and First Eucharist, St Augustine's Parish, Kyabram, 6.00pm
- Sunday 14 August – Confirmation and First Eucharist, St Augustine's Parish, Kyabram, 10.00am.
- Monday 15 – Thursday 18 August – Clergy Inservice, Moama
- Sunday 20 August – Farewell Mass, St Francis' Church, Bethanga, 11.00am
- Saturday 20 August – Confirmation and First Eucharist, St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton, 6pm
- Sunday 21 August – Confirmation and First Eucharist, St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton, 11.00 am
- Tuesday 23 August – Parish Secretaries Conference
- Wednesday 24 August – Pastoral Associates, Lay Coordinators and Clergy meeting, Kyabram
- Thursday 25 August – Diocesan Finance Council
- Friday 26 August – Backhaus Estate Trustees
- Sunday 28 August – Confirmation and First Eucharist, St Mary's Parish, Rushworth, 10.00 am
- Thursday 1 September – Thursday 8 September – Formation for New Bishops, Rome

