



LOOKING IN



JOURNAL OF THE MURRAY BRIDGE, MURRAY MALLEE AND MALLEE BORDER CATHOLIC PARISHES

APRIL 2025 — VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

St Joseph's School Centenary Celebrations



Principal
Ros Oates
and Dale
Oates



Michael Gates receiving a
certificate recognising 25 years
service from Fr Phillip Marshall



Past students from the 60's - Lynne Liebich, Denise
Rothall, Bernie Gates, Monica Klingberg, Sharon
Polkinghorne & Anne March



Past students Gloria Mundy and
Helena Willis



Past student,
1944-1955, Jeff
Martin with his
wife Aileen and
granddaughter
Amy Aunger, a
current teacher.

Lisa and John Watkins and Nikki
and Daniel Clifford



Nathan
and
Matthew
Gates



Joshua Law and Michael Gates,
MC's for the Gala Dinner

Ros Oates, Sou Tran and Alvin Nguyen



Guinevere Flavel (Probyn), Meghan Row-
land (Gates), Erin Eckermann (Wynne)

MISSION STATEMENT:

*To reflect and
encourage the social
interaction of Catholic
Families and
Communities in the
Districts.*

**We believe that the
only way to know
what is going on
inside is to be
inside.**

***Will we see you at
church next
weekend?***

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100 Years Congratulations

St Joseph's School Time Capsule Opened

The contents of the Time Capsule were celebrated at the school's Centenary Gala Dinner on February 8th.

In 1988 the idea of a Time Capsule was first thought of but it was not until St Joseph's Day 1992 that it was actually completed and put into the ground. This explained why people had contacted the school believing there were 2 capsules. The capsule contained items from 1988, 1991 and 1992. There were items of memorabilia from the era as well as students work and letters from parents to their children

Over the years with building projects and changes to the grounds there was some confusion as to the capsule's location. While plumbers were searching for a water leak a few years ago and with the help of some old photos it was located, it was sitting in about 30cm's of water so it was decided to remove it from the ground. The capsule was a large Poly Pipe which is on display, sealed at both ends so it was thought the contents would be unaffected by the water. It was safely stored with the intention for it to be opened as part of the 100 Years Celebrations.

Late last year the Centenary Committee decided it should be opened to ensure the contents were intact, unfortunately it had leaked and the bottom third of the contents were wet, items were carefully removed and dried to preserve them, unfortunately some items were damaged. All of the letters from parents were unaffected.

Sr Elizabeth Murphy, the Principal of the school in 1992, had written a letter to the school community 25 years in to the future. This letter was placed in the capsule. A copy of the letter is included in this edition of Looking In. It was also shared with those present at the Gala Dinner. She refers to 25 years and the capsule being opened in 2017 as this was her understanding at the time of writing.

Micheal Gates



School Board Chairperson 1992 David Spencer & Des O'Sullivan prepare to place the Time Capsule in the ground.



Sr Elizabeth Murphy addressing the school assembly St Joseph's Day 1992 at the ceremony placing the Time Capsule into the ground.



Children looking at the Time Capsule in the ground



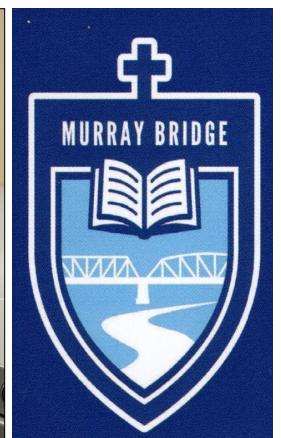
Happy Easter



Michael Gates opening the Capsule to check the condition of the contents, Deb Holland and Meghan Rowland watch on.



Time Capsule contents



Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years

Mass Times

Murray Bridge

Recon MB Saturday 5:20pm—5:50pm

Saturday 6 pm Mass

Sundays 11 am Mass

Mannum

Saturday 4:00pm Mass/LWHC

Tailem Bend

1st and 3rd Sunday 9am Mass/LWHC

2nd and 4th Sunday 10am
LWHC

Meningie

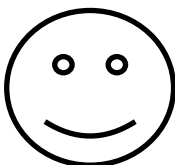
Sundays 9am Mass/LWHC

Pinnaroo/Lameroo

Sunday 10:30am Mass/LWHC

Finances

Our parishes rely on the generosity of parishioners. The first collection goes to support the priests of the Archdiocese. The second collection goes to support our local parish. The second collection is comprised of planned giving (envelopes) and unpledged donations. Many thanks to all our generous supporters.



I had a terrifying experience last night, I was home alone having a bath, when all of a sudden.....

"I felt a tap on my shoulder"

**I DON'T KNOW WHO
NEEDS TO KNOW THIS
BUT EVEN IF A BEAR
WEARS SOCKS & SHOES
HE STILL HAS BEAR FEET!**

I want to be 18 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

HIRE of MB PARISH HALL

Reasonable Rates

Catering equipment is available

Editors

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Lynne Liebich

Teacher

What was it about St Joseph's School that led you to stay for over 25 years?

I have had a long and meaningful association with St. Joseph's School in Murray Bridge, beginning in 1967 when I joined as a Year 2 student. It was during these formative years that my strong faith in God was nurtured, marking the beginning of my faith journey.

My love for singing and music was profoundly influenced by Sister Colleen Roberts, who instilled in me the joy of worship through song during Masses. Alongside a close school friend, Denise Rothall, and supportive family members, I discovered a deep connection to worship through music.

Over the years, my connection to St. Joseph's remained steadfast as I played for Masses and school events, eventually leading to my employment in 1997 as a Performing Arts teacher—a role I have cherished and continue to serve in to this day.

I feel privileged to have been part of the St. Joseph's community, supported by wonderful friends, teachers, and colleagues who have enriched my teaching career. This journey has been one of love, passion, and a lifelong commitment to the Christian faith, which remains at the heart of everything I do.

LOOKING IN

Published April, August and December

For "Looking In" by email contact the office

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Opinions published in the "Looking In" are not necessarily those of the Editors.

All contributions by the **20th of the month** prior to issue to ...

The Editors *Looking In*, Box 201 MURRAY BRIDGE or deliver to the Parish Centre alongside the Church or email to mbcatholic@bigpond.com

Letters to the Editors are welcome, but must be signed.

Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Milestones

Recently deceased

Kevin Markham
Kevin Shillabeer
Coral Henry
Peter O'Loughlin
Sr Carita Higgins RSJ



Rose Critchley
John Kiely

We pray for those who have died their family and friends

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism on 21st December 2024 of Maria Tiamzon daughter of Joey and Vian.



Hannah Nguyen daughter of Dang and Thi was baptised on 28th December 2024

Birthdays

Happy birthday to Parishioners who have reached another milestone. Wishing you many more happy years.

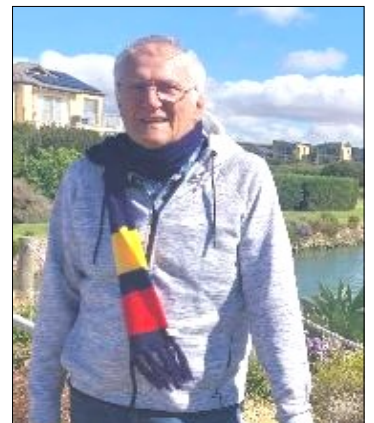
Mary celebrated her 70th birthday in Hawaii style.



Chris Law 75 years



Jim Cannard 80 years



We pray for those who are not well

Eda Abbondandola	Bill Allam
Luigino Antonello	Thomas Arnold
Lyn Ayunon	Marion Ayres
Greg Baily	Simon Boyce
Kathy Broster	Colleen Buchan
Jim Byrne	Joan Carey
Alyn Catipay	Kathalia Celestine
Jackie Clarke	Peter Connolly
Pat Connolly	John Cooper
Cynthia Crosley	Kathleen Daniel
Eugenia Delena	Pat Duxbury
Shona Edwards	Alex Gregory
Kevin Glancy	Niall Glancy
Lottie Grabski	Angela Groves
Nilda Guadagnin	Cynthia Harbour
Duane Henness	Helen Hogan
Vin Hollis	Judith Meaney
Carol Hunt	Raelene Hurle
Roger Hurle	Maureen Johnson
Adriana Lai	Lorraine Ledgard
Ann Loughran	Anita Lindner
Ashley Mason	Bernard McInerney
Sam May	Mick Nearmy
Lillian Nagy	Virgie Nichols
Raelene O'Driscoll	Pat Pfeffer
Pauline Pfeffer	Ross Pfeffer
Maria Rocca	Vince Rocca
Charles Rusidi	Natasha Slevic
Ron Scannell	Yvonne Shillabeer
Charlotte Tottman	Isabel Turner
Nucileide Jesus Da Silva	Margaret Vial
Abby Vivian	Bernadina Wassenner
Jan Winter	Arturo Nigro
Ronda Nigro	Liz Rossiter
Robin Scott	Janita Nearmy
Joel Paca-anas	

Mary Curtis 80 years
Peter Nearmy



CWL news



CWL members and friends enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Community Club- it was a great way to end the year in good company and festive fun.

Dianne attended the Yr 9 graduation service at St Joseph's School and presented a monetary award to an outstanding student.

Thanks to the support of our parishioners through our raffles, we were able to donate \$500 towards the Deacon's Assembly held earlier this year.

Most Holy Redeemer hosted the World Day of Prayer this year. It was a great occasion as we celebrated with the ladies of the Cook Islands. The Church looked like a riot of colour with all the fresh and artificial flowers in place. \$380 was given in donations which will be forwarded to Scripture Union for distribution to various Christian Agencies working in schools. More details in the next edition of Looking In.

Our ladies had an enjoyable coffee and chat at the Bridgeport Hotel recently- remember you are welcome to join us anytime- you do not have to be a member of the CWL.

We are going to have a Palm Cross working bee shortly, Wednesday April 9th after the 9.30 Liturgy of the Word- keep the date free and join us if you are able. You will be fully instructed and it should be a fun morning.

Our next major fun-raiser will be the Mother's Day raffle- we have some exciting prizes ! **Dianne Czechowski**

Christmas Lunch at the Community Club



Morning Tea



Baptism

Sienna Molnar, daughter of Dylan and Kaitlin, was baptised on 16th March 2025

Morning Tea



Men's group meets at the Community Club on the last Friday of the month between 12 and 12:30pm for lunch and discussion. Please join them.

Laurel's lunch is on the first Tuesday of the month at the Murray Bridge Hotel at noon. Why don't you join in and have some friendly conversation. You might be served by this cheeky guy!



If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous!!

Bridge Family Group Outings

Sunday 9th March, saw our Bridge Family Group begin the New Year hosting the morning cuppas after the 11am Mass where there was a good number of parishioners who came for a cuppa and a chat. This was followed with our planning meeting for 2025 with suggestions from members enjoying a lovely shared lunch (well done everyone) with much happy chatter catching up with each other after our Christmas break.

We were pleased to welcome Angela, who joined us for our meeting and lunch and also mentioned Bev who was unable to come but will also be joining our family group. It was mentioned also, that Kevin Hollis who has been in our family group for many years has now moved to Oaklands Park in Adelaide. Kevin has happily settled in and meeting new people when speaking with him recently and will be missed at our functions. Not only could you always have a good and interesting conversation with Kevin but he knows his football and is a devoted crows supporter!! We wish him all the best in his new home.

Sunday 6th April, lunch at Doyles function centre

Thursday 22nd May, concert in town hall

Friday 20th June, combined dinner at RSL with the M&M's family group

Sunday 13/14th July, remembering past family group members in the prayers of the faithful. Responsible for cuppas Sunday after Mass

Sunday 10th August, lunch at the Finnis General store café

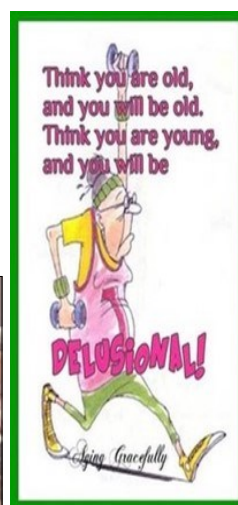
Monday 15th September, movie at Cameo with lunch afterwards

Sunday 12th October, history of our parish/church, talk by Carmel Critchley

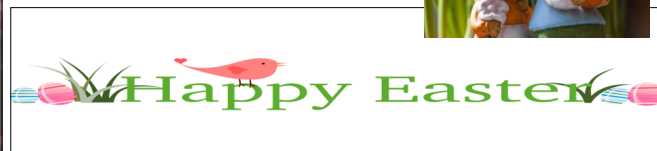
Sunday 30th November, celebrating Christmas with lunch at the Mannum Community Club.

Family group members please watch the bulletin for details as each outing draws near. Anyone who would like to join us are most welcome. Looking forward to a year of good company and good times. Easter blessings to everyone.

Helena



Nilda Guadagnin sinks a putt for Resthaven Murray Bridge as staff and other residents look on. Photo: Peri Strathearn.



The residents of Resthaven have proven that a competition fire still burns within them at an octogenarian Olympics. Red clad residents defeated a Blue team from Pt Elliot during a day of spirited competition. The events at these games included putting, bocce, bean bag tossing and scrabble.

I bought a world map this morning, gave my wife a dart and told her to throw it at the map and wherever it lands I'll take her for our next holiday.

Turns out we'll be spending 3 weeks behind the fridge (start practicing your dart throwing ladies) ED

FAMILY GROUPS....a place where friends meet and everyone cares.



Jo is very happy with donations



Past member Helen caught up with Elaine and Yvonne

M&M's Family Group Outings



Dressed in their Christmassy gear with decorations for the table, a very happy and large group of M&M's celebrated the Christmas season at the end of November. We know how to communicate, be happy and look after each other. The celebration at the Swanport Hotel raised \$255 for the National Australian Deacon's conference In Hahndorf. Well done members!



What else could possibly go wrong this year?



Planning Meeting

Well done M & M's. Another year has ended with most outings being well represented. What a great group we are!

A BBQ at the Church Hall on 16th February was held to plan a new year's outings.

Thank you to Michael Callery for supplying the snags and patties again and thanks to everybody else for the lovely salads and desserts. My favourites were the Rhubarb pie and trifle.

It was a good meeting with lots of input, taking into consideration we are aging and do not need trips that are too complex.

Thanks to all our committee who all resumed their positions except for Peter Keily who resigned due to health concerns. His position was filled by Bernie Gates.

A great get together as usual.

Onya M & Ms

Cheers Deanna



Laugh a Little

"If one doesn't have a sense of humour, it's very difficult to be happy" - Pope Francis

This is why Shetland ponies never caught on in Wyoming.



When I get a headache I take two aspirin and keep away from children just like the bottle says.

Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40-minute flute solo."

Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?

Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, "Close enough."

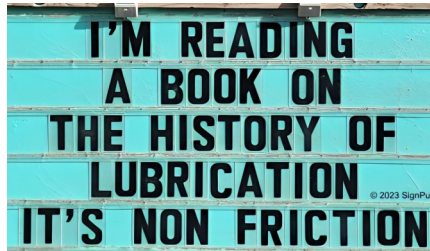
I now know how it will all end for me, one of my kids will unplug my life support to charge their phone.

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless. Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

Whatever you do,
Don't yell into this...



You'll strain your voice.



Being old is when you don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go too.

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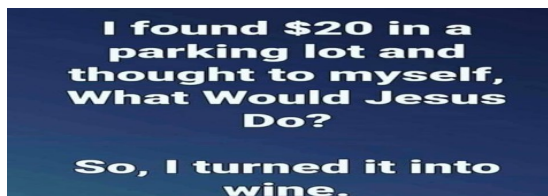
(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"



Three golf clubs went into a pub and the putter ordered a beer, the wedge ordered a tequila and third said "Nothing for me, I'm the driver"!



Well played IKEA 🤔



When you finally locate your Mom's last nerve



The kids keep laughing about my memory. They won't be laughing at Christmas when there's no eggs under the tree!

If you spell the words "absolutely nothing" backwards, you get "gnihton yletulosba". Which, ironically, means absolutely nothing.

As I've got older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy-efficient. I haven't got anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.

It's not my age that bothers me - it's the side effects.

I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the gutter on rubbish collection day.

My mind is like an internet browser. At least 18 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen and I have no clue where the music is coming from .

SCHOOL ROOMS

In 1934, two stone school rooms were built and blessed by Most Rev. Andrew Killian D.D.



School History

The story of St Joseph's School began in 1925 on Ngarrindjeri Land, with the opening of St Joseph's Convent School on Railway Terrace, marking a significant milestone in the history of the Roman Catholic Church at Murray Bridge. The grand opening on Sunday, January 25th was officiated by Rev. Father O'Connell, the Parish priest and the Rev. Father Gatzemeyer, with the presence of Sister Marion, Sister Carolus, Sister Francis Raphael, Sister Mary Claude (Provincial of the Order) and Sister Teresa who were the first permanent teachers from the Order of St Joseph's. Although the town had long dreamed of a Catholic School, financial debt from both the church and the presbytery delayed its establishment. Fr. O'Connell, who had requested the support of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1925, saw the school open with an enrolment of 114 students. Initially, Captain William Randell's house on Mannum Road was purchased by Fr O'Connell for the school and convent, and the term

"convent school" likely referred to the use of rooms in the Sister's convent. By 1934, two stone school rooms were built and the original classroom block, which later became the administration building, was expanded to accommodate growing numbers. A new convent and additional facilities were required by 1964 to meet increasing enrolment, prompting the construction of a two-story convent on Florence Street. Significant milestones continued, including the appointment of the school's first male teacher in 1974 and the hiring of the first lay teacher by 1975, creating a balanced staff of fifty-fifty lay and religious teachers. The Sisters of St Joseph led the school until 1998, when Mr Mark Fitzpatrick became the first lay Principal. Over the years, the school grew and in 2023 the school expanded to include Secondary Middle Schooling Years 7,8 and 9. St Joseph's School is today a Reception to Year 9 Catholic School that is an integral part of the Hills cluster of Catholic Schools with enrolments of up to 470 students, marking a long history of development and success.



Deb Holland

APRIM - Teacher

Name a role model who has inspired you in your career at St Joseph's and why?

I arrived at St Joseph's in Term 4, 1992 and was welcomed onto a small and dedicated staff team. The following year Kath O'Neil and I began an eleven-year partnership team teaching in the Early Years. Kath and I worked well together, never having any disagreements and always making sure our classes knew we were a team. I also learnt to answer to Mrs O'Neil on my working days. Elizabeth Kwan was always there for all staff, supporting us with her vast knowledge and understanding of student development and curriculum. Elizabeth taught me so much and became a very valued friend and confidante.

Years of employment

12/10/1992

Current



Elizabeth Kwan

Teacher

An outstanding human being with an impressive tenure of 36 years. Our longest-serving staff member at St Joseph's School who has left an indelible mark on our school community. A passionate advocate for English and Mathematics, Elizabeth was instrumental in establishing the Literacy Intervention program, which significantly enhanced student learning during her time. Her unwavering kindness, nurturing demeanour, and commitment to high standards made her a beloved teacher and a trusted colleague. She played a vital role in teaching curriculum, Sacramental Programs and coordinating literacy and library resources. As a mentor to many on the staff, she generously shared her extensive knowledge, fostering professional growth in many teaching colleagues. Her legacy is one of dedication, compassion and love for the St Joseph's school community.

Years of employment

1/02/1976 - 6/07/2012

36 Years



St Joseph's 100 years centenary

St Joseph's School Centenary Celebration – Gala Dinner

On Saturday February 8th a Gala Dinner was held at the Venue Centre, Murray Bridge Racing Club to celebrate the Centenary of St Joseph's School. Over 170 people attended, some having travelled from interstate to celebrate 100 years of Catholic Education in Murray Bridge, the Josephite Sisters arrived in Murray Bridge 12th of January 2025 to establish St Joseph's School. The MC's for the evening were Joshua Law a past student and current teacher and Michael Gates who recently retired after almost 26 years working in administration at the school.

Current Principal Ros Oates welcomed everyone and gave a heartfelt speech evidencing her passion and dedication to the school community. She made special mention of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop who she stated is her inspiration for her style of leadership, she also mentioned the influence Sr Teresa Brooks the principal during her time as a teacher at the school in the 1990's. She spoke of the many challenges of being a leader in education today and she referenced to those present Mary MacKillops quote "Never see a need without doing something about it".

A focus of the evening was the contents of the Time Capsule that had been placed in the ground on St Joseph's Day 1992. A letter from the principal at that time Sr Elizabeth Murphy which was included in the capsule was read out. The capsule contained students work, newspaper articles, other mementos from that time and letters that parents had written to their children. Some of the items were shared and they were all on display and available for those present to collect.

There was also a large display of memorabilia which created great interest amongst those in attendance. A fun part of the night was a "St Joseph's Quiz" testing people's knowledge of the history of the school.

A role call for each decade of the school was conducted to recognise past students present. They were reminded that their presence and contributions helped shape the rich history and spirit of the school community. Past students who are now current staff members were also acknowledged Lynne Liebich (nee Hodgen), Meghan Rowland (nee Gates), Georgia Pfeiffer (nee O'Neil), Joshua Law and Luke Woods

The oldest student present was Mr Jeff Martin who attended from 1944 to 1955, he was invited to speak and gave an informative and humorous speech.

The past Principals and Deputy Principals were acknowledged and thanked for their leadership, vision and unwavering commitment to the school community, Mark Corrigan, Brady Stallard and Sonja Smith were in attendance. The legacy that the Sisters of St Joseph's built during their leadership from 1925 to 1998 was acknowledged, during this time 71 Sisters were a part of the school. At this time Sr Brigitte Sipa the Regional Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph's from Kensington gave a wonderful speech celebrating the rich history of the school and the dedication of staff, past and present. The first Lay Principal of the School Mark Fitzpatrick appointed in 1999 was also acknowledged as were current Principal Ros Oates and Deputy Principal Jamie Mulcahy.

Many past and present staff were in attendance and heartfelt gratitude was extended to them for their dedication, service and contribution to the school community. Elizabeth Kwan while not in attendance was acknowledged as the longest serving staff member.

Fr Phillip Marshall then came forward to present past and present staff with certificates in recognition of their significant milestone years of service to the school. It was acknowledged that their legacy of service is deeply valued and they were thanked for the many years of care and commitment they had given to St Joseph's.

10 Years Service: - Leesa Angove, Alison Barr, Christopher Curran, Krystina Dawe, Mark Fitzpatrick, James McLaren, Helen Naylor, Sarsha Pearson, Nancy Plummer, Judith Saunders, Sarah Stephen.

15 Years Service: - Alex Anastasiou, John McLaren, Mary McLaren, Gabby Merritt

20 Years Service: - Prue Boland, Debbie Driver, Rachel Law, Joshua Law, Trish Margetts, Sally Nurse, Louise O'Neil, Wilma O'Sullivan, Meghan Rowland, Valerie Scott, Lisa Watkins, Rick Ferenc, Merike O'Connor.

25 Years and Beyond Service: - Elizabeth Kwan, Kath O'Neil, Deb Holland, Lynne Liebich, Sue Christian, Carol Rowland, Michael Gates.

The night concluded with a thankyou to everyone who had travelled from near and far and a reminder that each person present had in so many different ways contributed to the story of St Joseph's School.

In summary it was stated that current and future generations of children will continue to be educated and nurtured just as they were 100 years ago by the school's wonderful founder St Mary of The Cross MacKillop, with the Josephite Traditions always showing the way.

A great night was had by all renewing acquaintances and sharing stories. Following Mass, the next day there was an Open Day at the school and many people took the opportunity to visit. There will be further activities throughout the year as the celebrations continue.

Michael Gates

St Joseph's 100 years centenary



Trish Margetts, Prue Boland, Kath O'Neil, Mary McLaren, Deb Holland, Paula Wesley, Gabby Merritt & Sue Christian

Time Capsule letter 16.03.92

Dear People who have gathered to share the history, the story that is represented in this time capsule.

I greet you warmly!

Right now we are preparing to seal this capsule. We have talked about putting down the capsule for the last four years. It was a dream of David Spencer to do so, he just never dreamt we would take as long to do so. Nor did he dream that, in the end we would still be rushing to have all in place by St Joseph's day. Rush has been a bit of a mark of the 80's and 90's. Maybe in twenty-five years time there might be a better balance between 'rush' and 'reflection'.

I hope that when the capsule is opened you will enjoy the remembering of days past, that you will find joy in what has been good & healing for whatever was difficult. I hope that a lot of today's families are able to be in touch with this place which has had a part to play in the old fabric of life – a place where you meet each other and your God, he's always waiting to be met so 'he'll' be here for you in 2017.

Over these next 25 years we will all experience the totality of being human, being glad, being sad, succeeding, failing, something of living and dying. May the Jesus who was 100% human and still lives that in us, be your companion.

When you open the capsule, I'd like to think that you might find the story of Fr Crowley in the little blue book and the history of the parish. I believe the second to last paragraph about this man also is Murray Bridge's St Francis Xavier, is God's call to us now, to you 2017 people. I believe, too, that the fact that the Murray, Australia's "water way" is not here by accident but is the work of a "Provider God". I hope that it is still a water way providing life.

I have spent five years here. I've enjoyed the time which has been full of challenges & opportunities & a few heartaches. It has been a time when as a community we tried to re-develop the school plant. That involved considerable money, effort & at some stages the "rush" of doing things differently. I've appreciated the efforts of each of the Board, P & F, people in the community, the staff & children.

Quite a few people gave tremendous service but it would be remiss not to mention Ray Schliebs and Dennis Willis's who in the '87, '88 planning time were able to "see" a lot could be done if we worked together. Succeeding Boards & their Chairpersons, David Spencer, and now Des O'Sullivan have continued to lead by serving.

There may, or may not be, Sisters of St Joseph working in the school in 2017. Whether that be the case or not, I hope that the spirit of Mary MacKillop is active and urgent in this place and your lives. I hope too that young women will know what a great way it is to live one's life a Josephite. Maybe 2017 could be the year of the call for some of you.

To the young folk of 1992 – you are in a different place in your lives, now in 2017! I do hope that life is unfolding well for you. Should, right now it be one of the difficult a 'struggle' times of your life, may you emerge from it just a bit more compassionate and a bit more human – struggle is like that! Your God knows how you feel and he will bring you out of it. Let God gentle you and love you – then dot that for each other.

I hope some of the "teachers of today" 16th March '92 can be with you. I assure you that we're all a very ordinary group of people but our concern for you is great! We do love you.

God's blessing,

Elisabeth A Murphy RSJ

OUR VIETNAMESE WEDDING TRIP – BERNIE & MICHAEL GATES

In November last year, Bernie and I travelled to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to attend the wedding of our friends Jane and David Nguyen. David is the brother of Alvin who is a member of the Murray Bridge Parish.

Travelling to Vietnam and attending the wedding was an experience that 10 years ago we could never have imagined taking place. It came about because Alvin came to Murray Bridge in 2017 on a VISA to work at Thomas Foods, shortly before that his brother also came to Australia but was working at an abattoir in Swan Hill. Through English Lessons that I was running for the Vietnamese community at that time I met Alvin soon after his arrival and this was the beginning of a very special relationship not only with him but his whole family here in Australia and in Vietnam. In time we met David and later his then girlfriend Jane.

The wedding was over 2 days and totally different to traditional Weddings as we know them. We travelled to Vietnam with Alvin arriving the Tuesday before the Wedding and were met at the Airport by Alvin's fiancé Sou's parents, the next day we spent the whole day together with them and Alvin taking a tour to the Mekong Delta. We were treated to a boat trip around the Delta visiting, at one stop while treated to morning tea under the Coconut Palms we were treated to traditional Vietnamese Musical instruments and singing by the family members who hosted us.

Thursday morning began with a traditional breakfast of Pho with Sou's Dad and Alvin's brother Daniel who still lives in Vietnam with their Mum. Later that morning we had a chance to relax with Sou's Mum and Dad. We were treated to an incredible massage at the most beautiful salon, followed by lunch at an amazing restaurant. David's family were busy all day with preparations for the 2 days to follow.

Sou's parents' names are Phan Thi Thanh Dung and Lan Tran during the first 2 days we asked did they want us to give them English names, after a few suggestions to consider they were happy with Joan and Jack which we now know them as.



David & Jane Nguyen at the Cultural Ceremony

Thursday night, it was our time to be adventurous we set out by ourselves to do a Jeep Tour of the city ending up at a rooftop bar for cocktails. We saw many of the cities tourist attractions and even managed to cross an extremely busy road, this was a great achievement, the traffic in the city has to be seen to be believed, Bernie had the strategy to get us across, we were actually congratulated by other tourists who were watching us.

It was an early start on Friday, 6:30am, David's family, relatives and friends took a 3-hour Bus Journey south of the city to Jane's family home in BenTre Province for a traditional marriage ceremony for the joining together of the 2 families. The Bride's family gives their blessing for their daughter to leave and now become part of the grooms family. The ceremony included a traditional commitment ceremony between the families and between David and Jane, there was also the presentation of gifts from each family, a meal for around 100 relatives and friends of Jane's family followed the ceremony. It was a very warm day and very humid of course, Jane spoilt us by insisting we take a break in an air- conditioned room, we tried to say we were ok but they insisted maybe our perspiration suggested otherwise.

Alvin also took advantage and joined us. As is tradition the couple then return to the groom's family home, so we boarded the bus and began the 3 hour return trip to the city.

At David's family home, another ceremony took place firstly there were prayers said including the Rosary to ask for the blessing of their ancestors. This was very moving as it was done in front of the beautiful decorated altar where deceased family members photos are displayed. This was followed by extended family presenting David and Jane with gifts. For the celebrations on this day Jane and David both wore traditional Vietnamese clothes the "Ao Dai". We were then back on the bus and went to a restaurant for dinner with both families and close friends of the couple, the day ended at around 10pm.

Saturday November 16th was the wedding day which took place at David's families Parish Church. It is a beautiful Church just 400metres from their home. David's Mum attends Mass here every day. This was a traditional Nuptial Mass in Vietnamese of course. Bernie and I could still feel the wonderful connection the Priest had to the community and we certainly felt his passion as he spoke of the meaning of Love.



David & Jane with David's brother Alvin and Mum Huang at the Wedding Party

OUR VIETNAMESE WEDDING TRIP – BERNIE & MICHAEL GATES

Bernie and I were very honoured to be chosen as the witnesses to sign the Marriage Certificate.

The Church was filled with the sounds of a beautiful choir during the Mass. It was interesting that only a small number of people mainly family attended the Mass. After the Mass, we visited the Columbarium behind the church to pay respect to the remains of the family's ancestors, this was another very emotional experience.

Saturday night it was time for the Wedding Party where about 150 people attended. The party was very different to an Australian Wedding Reception it was more casual with a definite Party atmosphere even including party games which took us by surprise. Again, another honour was when I was asked to make a speech at the party, Jane translated what I was saying. We were surprised that the party ended very early it was soon after the meals were finished which was around 9pm

During the 2 days of the wedding as is tradition Jane had many different beautiful dresses including a magnificent wedding gown similar to what we see as traditional in Australia.

On Sunday we visited Sou's Family home and then with her Mum and Dad, we toured the Independence Palace in the city. The Palace was very elaborate and had high quality furnishings throughout. To go down in to the Bunkers under the Palace was incredible, the extent of them amazed me, they just went on and on. That evening we had Dinner at a restaurant with a German Cuisine, it really surprised us, it was more like Hahndorf than Vietnam.

It had been a hectic time since we arrived, on Monday we had time to relax and spend time with David's whole family and enjoy lunch with them at his Mum's home.



David & Jane with Bernie & Michael Gates at the Nuptial Mass

Late Monday afternoon we travelled in to the centre of the city where we went swimming in an Infinity Pool and enjoyed High Tea on the rooftop of the Terra Royal Hotel 25 stories up with absolutely spectacular panoramic views of the city. This was another very special possibly once in a lifetime experience swimming with the skyline of Ho Chi Minh City all around us.

After swimming and as evening came, we took a cruise on the Saigon River. We had spectacular views of the city lights of the many skyscrapers. Another memorable day came to an end after dinner at a very busy restaurant in the style of an Aussie Pub.

Our final day was Tuesday, after packing our luggage and checking out of the Hotel Alvin had booked us in for another amazing massage to relax us before the flight home. After the massage, we went on the back of Motorcycles back to the Hotel to collect our luggage, we couldn't believe our luggage was also on the bikes with us, mind you what you see on bikes never ceases to amaze you. We joined with David's extended family together with Sou's Mum and Dad for a farewell lunch at a Hot Pot Restaurant for lunch.

Then it was time to head for the Airport, time to say goodbye to Alvin's Mum and Sou's Mum and Dad for our overnight flight back to Australia,

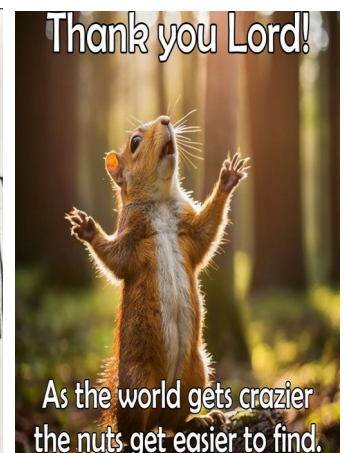
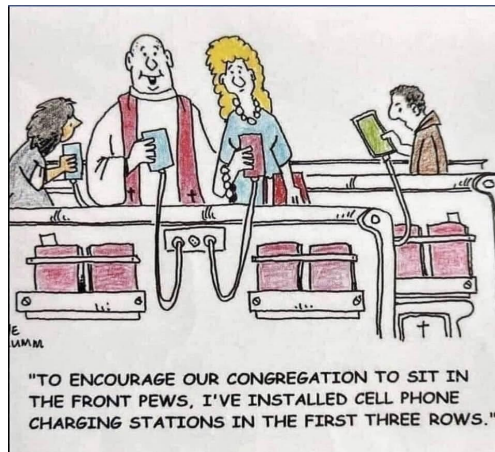
What an amazing 9 days we had with such beautiful people. We look forward to Sou's Mum and Dad visiting Murray Bridge hopefully in 2025 and again welcoming David and Alvin's Mum next time she visits Australia.



Michael & Bernie Gates at the Infinity Pool in Ho Chi Minh City

For us the connection we have with both families now are such a blessing and we thank God that it was part of his plan for us to meet Alvin when he made the huge decision and long journey to Murray Bridge to begin a new life.

We will have another experience of a Vietnamese wedding when we return for Sou and Alvin's wedding. **Michael**



PARISH AWARDS - PETER NEARMY



Peter Nearmy receiving an award from Knights of the Southern Cross area coordinator Michael Galea, in recognition for outstanding service to the order over many years. **Mark Scott**

Congratulations and well done Peter, two awards! ED



I am sending you these photos as Peter Nearmy was given a certificate of volunteering at Vinnies Conference for an amazing 30 years.

His dedication is truly amazing and to be able to present it Pete was an honour.

Peter's volunteer contribution of 30 years is valued by myself and the Society as without people like Peter Nearmy, Vinnies cannot help the less fortunate people in this world of high rising costs of living and homelessness, which then creates mental health to many people. Pete made a commitment to share the most precious of resources -HIS TIME- to make life better for those who are in need. Thank you Pete, **Dianne Smith**



Meningie News

Christmas was a special day for us as we had Father Justin from the Monastery come and say Mass for us. Such a lovely Priest we were very blessed to have him. Our church was beautifully decorated by Mae and how lovely it looked..

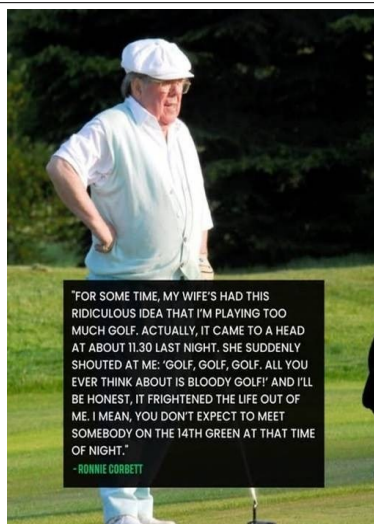
We are still waiting for the rains to come and are feeling for businesses and farmers who are struggling and we also know there are so many families that are in need we keep them in our prayers.

World Day of Prayer was held at the Uniting Church and was attended by members of our Church it was a very special day and we realise how lucky we are here in Australia.

As Easter approaches may our Lenten journey be a time of peace and healing.

We thank the priests who continue to serve us, Father John V, Father Richard and Deacon Arturo. We are so appreciative of your support. From the Meningie Community Gods Blessings.

Rayleen Hurle 🙏🙏🙏



How good is this ...
A combined BBQ & Beer Cooler
This, surely, is Aussie engineering at its very best!



OMG ... is this a great country, or what?

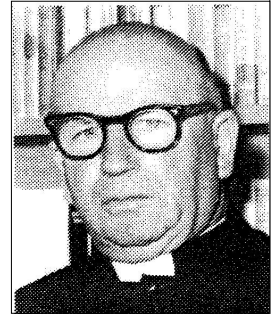
OUR SANDSTONE FUTURE

The second Vatican council began in October 1962. The Holy Father Pope John XXIII called the cardinals of the world to Rome to discuss the modernisation of the Church after 20 centuries of life. This milestone in church history set off a deep transformation within the Church itself, in its relations with the 20th century modern world and with other Christian churches, and the way liturgical services were done.

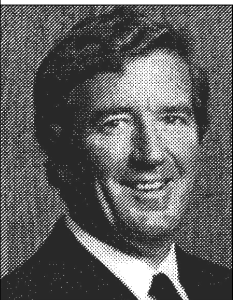
Languages other than Latin were to be used and the participation of the laity was encouraged, to a greater degree than ever before. The legacy of Vatican II is a divided one. The truths of the Church were not altered. This century has seen a worldwide improvement in reading ability throughout the world. Vatican II issued 16 documents of explanation of our faith and altered ways of liturgy.

For some Catholics the promise of far reaching reforms seems unfulfilled.- for others the reforms went too far...it was easier when the priests made all the decisions and that the traditional beauty of the Latin Mass was lost and the liturgical reforms changed the way we pray, - change is always unsettling.

Father John Honner made extensive renovations to the sanctuary in Holy Redeemer church, because the Vatican council decreed that the priest celebrate Mass facing the people, in the language that was commonly used in that country. The first Mass was said here in 1971 on a new altar, with no altar rails and the congregation standing to receive Holy Communion. It was a very hard time for the elderly priests who had given a lifetime of service, in Latin but we are always "in safe hands" when we follow the Holy Father's instructions.



Fr Honner told me. he made the structural changes to the Church building, but it was with Fr David Abfalter in 1976 that a new level of participation became a reality. This happy, holy priest who followed Fr John had a way of instilling enthusiasm to all he came in contact with and he instituted a wider involvement of lay people in the management of Parish affairs as requested by Vatican II.



Father David was friends with everyone - what ever their age. Soon the local Sunday Masses became three instead of two each weekend with the introduction of the Saturday evening Mass. The length of time required for fasting was shortened and the reception of Holy Communion at each Mass was encouraged.

The management of the Parish affairs was run by a Parish Pastoral Council with the priest having the power to veto any decision. Our first Parish Council chairman was the late John Uren. The council consisted of delegates from the many active groups in the Parish and sub committees from 1. finance, 2. the school, 3. parents and friends, 4. Catholic women's league, 5.

St Vincent de Paul group, 6. Liturgy and Faith, 7. Christian life and community care group.

The school was still expanding but the number of children in State schools and the High school worried Fr David. He applied to the Josephite order and was granted a pastoral associate to work amongst the Parish half time, the other 50% was spent in the Birdwood parish. Sr Anna was a great help to Fr David. During his time here he invited the Little Sister of Jesus followers of the St Charles de Foucauld order, to live in Murray Bridge. This group of self sufficient social workers helped so many people in the town, concentrating on those in trouble, or underprivileged. Two religious orders doing three different works of charity!!! Indeed a vibrant parish!!!

In 1977, the parish saw the induction of the first Lay ministers in our church. They were Wendy Uren, Maureen Mobbs, Lorna Dickinson and 5 men who are now all deceased. J Huppatz, G O'Neil, J Starmans. J Monaghan and J Farmilo and all our current ministers have followed in their footsteps.



In Father David's time, the Parish joined in a huge celebration of Italian culture with people from all over the state. Thousands joined our strong Italian families in the SAGRA festival. The 70th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone was a large celebration with many former priests celebrating in the now modernised church.

Father David was highly respected by the other Christian churches and they formed a combined churches group among the ministers. In 1979, Father David suffered major heart failure and it became obvious he could not continue. He, like many other priests before him, and certainly since him, burnt himself out in the service of God and his people. He made every person feel special and his popularity in the town was evident at his farewell. He transferred to the Parish of Tranmere, where sadly a short time later he died at a young age but will always be remembered by those who knew him.

Carmel Critchley

Children's Page

Naaman

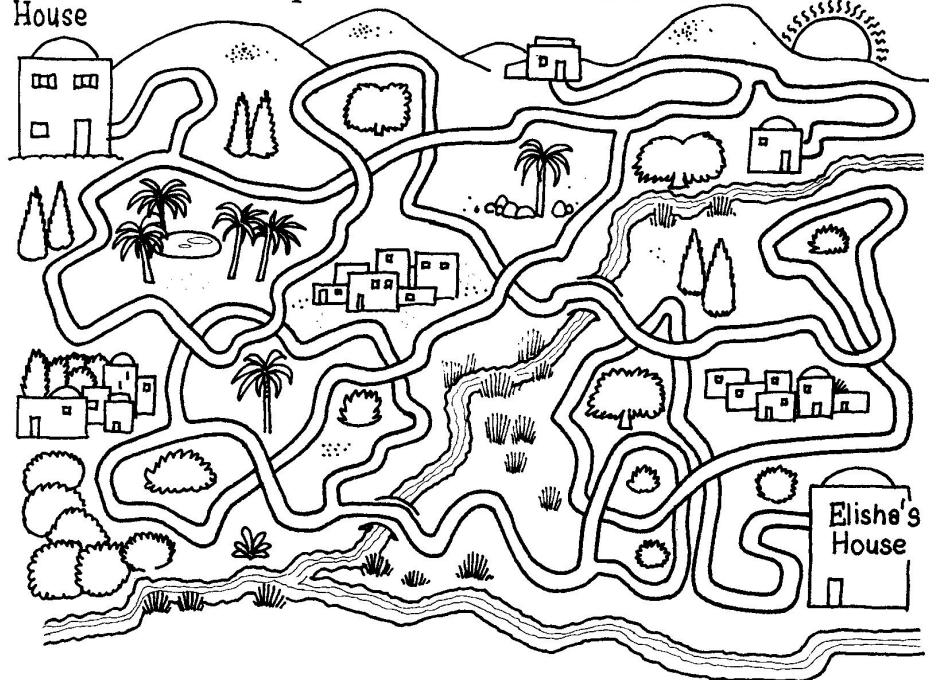
Read 2 Kings 5



**Naaman's Wife's
Servant**
(God can use you too!)

**Naaman's
House**

Help Naaman find Elisha's House



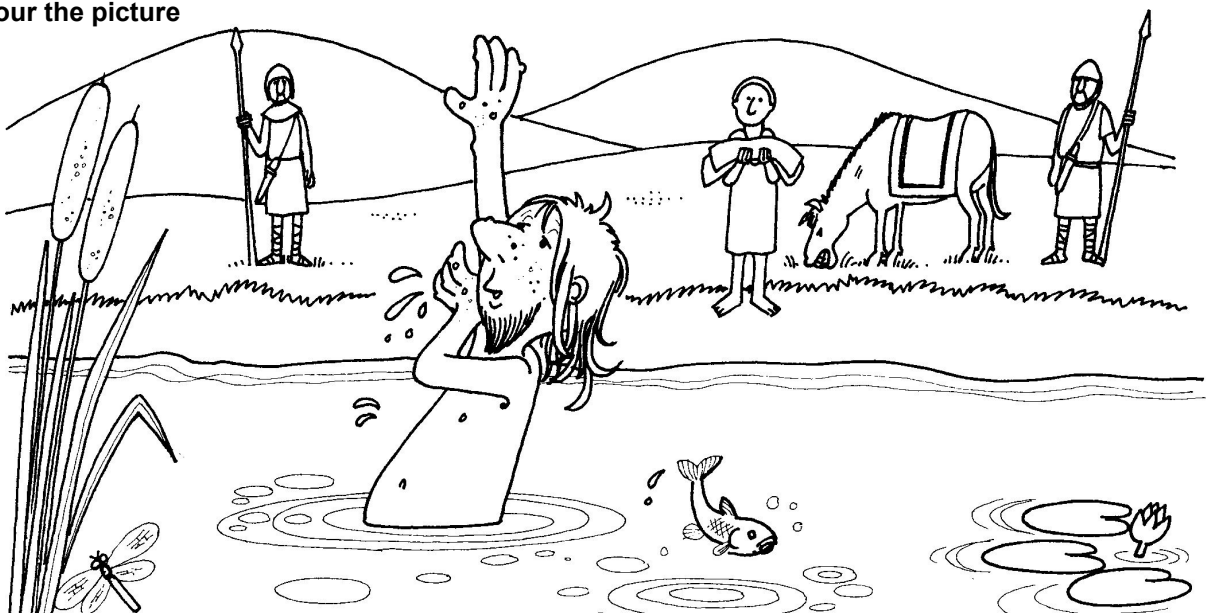
Word search

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ARMY	ISRAEL
CURE	JORDAN
DISEASE	KING
ELISHA	NAAMAN
FLESH	PROPHET
GEHAZI	RAGE
GIFT	RIVER
GIRL	SERVANT
GOD	SEVEN

**Can you make 10 or more
words from SERVANT ?**

Colour the picture



Arturo our Parish Deacon

Dear Friends,

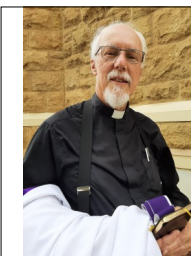
It seems only yesterday that Mary and I came to serve in Murray Bridge – that was in May 2022 when I was sent, in my capacity as a deacon, by the Archbishop to assist Fr Philip, who was then the administrator of the Murray Lands cluster of parishes: Murray Bridge, Murray Mallee & Mallee Border. Before we came over, my thinking was that Murray Bridge is only an hour and a half travel from our home in Adelaide, no worries, we can do the commuting alright. I found out later that assignment to Murray Bridge includes Mannum, Tailem Bend, Meningie, Lamerook and Pinnaroo!



I do not know if it was pre-planned by the archdiocese - or it is just the way that the Lord worked it out – but come January 2023, Fr Philip was asked to be the Parish priest of Mt Barker & Strathalbyn; and I was asked to carry on as Pastoral Director of the Murray Lands cluster! It was good, however, that Fr Philip was made also my Moderator and he has actively and greatly supported me in my role – he was very visible and involved with the parishioners in the area and regularly celebrating Masses at all the churches near and far! In addition, I must say that the generous support of many retired priests such as Fr John Vildzius, Fr Richard Morris, Fr Leon Czechowich, Fr Alan Winter and other priests still in active duty from all over the Archdiocese of Adelaide, made it possible to address and meet the needs of all for priestly ministrations – which, as a permanent deacon, I am unable to do – therefore, to all of them, my grateful thanks.

However, it has always been the prayerful hope and ardent yearning of all parishioners for a resident Parish Priest to be in the area. This has finally come about and the Archdiocese has assigned Fr George Olouch to be administrator of the Murray Lands Cluster. Fr George hails from Kenya and prior to this appointment, he has been serving since 2023 as an assistant priest at the Cathedral. He is a very capable priest and his command of the English language is very good. I hope that you will welcome him in your midst with open arms and caring hearts. I am sure that you will grow to love him, given the chance.

When Fr George arrives at the end of April, my role will revert to that of an assisting cleric, i.e. a deacon in the parish. Mary and I will continue to be with you, for a while longer, to assist Fr George to settle in. We hope we can all work together, as we have been doing in the past couple of years, to revitalize our parishes. Let us all pray together for this. Your brother in Christ, **Deacon Arturo Jimenea** **18 March 2025**



Pinnaroo News



LWHC at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Pinnaroo was held in the hall as it was too hot, 41, for the church.

Glenys Boseley and Max Wurtel of the Pinnaroo Tourist and Heritage Centre that won the Community Event of the Year award. Congratulations to both. **ED**



PARISHIONER STORY



Beverly (Bev) Villaver; was born on Oct. 22, in the Philippines;

I was baptised as an infant; thus, I can't remember, 😊 My childhood was not very interesting. My parents were more focused with work to provide for the family. I am the eldest of 6 siblings: 4 girls and 2 boys.

Grandma's influence, on Papa's side, is very special. She took me to church on Sundays, not far from their Spanish house in San Fernando. Grandpa had a tradition for non-stop cantata every Easter and workers from the mountains came and stayed with us for the week. Grandpa said "Prayers are private. You pray behind closed doors." Every 4:00 AM, I would hear music from a nearby church, which woke me up. I was probably 5 years old when I was drawn to Mario Lanza's amazing voice.

In my teens, my favorite quote was The Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12). I didn't know this was biblical. Bible reading then was reserved for priests. I went to church three times a week in High School, thinking doing so will save me. I was naïve.

During uni holidays in the Philippines, I taught catechism to the neighborhood children, offering them food/snacks. I had 25+ children in an old wooden make-shift chapel, making sure each child learnt the basics, especially The Lord's Prayer.

I started singing solo in my cousins' Police Band, to a trio, then with a band in Manila. My manager formed a Future Generation band where we worked in Singapore and Malaysia for over 2 years. Fast forward, I was married to a farmer in Culburra, a farming community between Coonaplyn and Tintinara. My 2 children were baptised in a Catholic church in Tinty. When my marriage broke down, we moved so much: 6 times in 7 years. We lived in Kingston, S.E. in our beach shack there. I "cried buckets" during weekly visits from a Uniting Church (UC) lady referred by my ex-husband's cousin. My children became my strength but God always provided. I travelled back and forth and the children stayed with their grandparents in Tinty while I studied. It wasn't ideal to have my children live in 3 different houses in a week, so I applied for a Housing Trust in Murray Bridge, to be closer to TAFE.

One of my TAFE lecturers suggested I study at uni. The rest is now history. My Medical Technology (Philippines) background helped with my SATAC application. I was accepted at Flinders University to study Bachelor of Behavioral Science (Psychology), picked up part-time work at Disability SA, then Women's Health at Country Health. The UC supported me a lot and am forever grateful my children put up with me during stressful times being a student.

In mid-90's, I was asked by Holy Trinity Brompton to join a 2-week International Alpha Convention in London with Nicky Gumbel, which they all pay for. I taught Alpha in Philippines before "Alpha for Catholics" was introduced. It was tough introducing "something un-Catholic" to a strongly Catholic country. Again, food helped me to get through to people's hearts. I delivered Alpha at a local primary school. While still in the Philippines, I noted people put Bibles on lay-by and thought this was crazy. I rang UC here and parishioners donated money for "Bibles in the Philippines". The Bibles arrived as I left Cebu so Papa delivered the Catholic Bibles in our language at the local church and the priest blessed the 7 boxes of Bibles, each box has 20 Bibles! There were no photos or Facebook at the time but I'm sure Papa was very proud.

I was with the Trauma Counselling Team in late-90's, in the mountains of Bougainville, the first SA trauma counseling team after PNG's 20 years of war. The team contracted malaria while there, even with medications. I was sick with malaria coming back.

I was a member of the Heysen Trail Walking Group for many years. Sadly, its members are now either too old or passed away. I enjoyed this group very much. I write poetry, but one has to be spiritually quiet to "listen" and be guided, pen in hand, to write something down. I am better writing than speaking. I still love music but practice is now scarce. My son, also a "muso," works as FIFO in WA. My daughter is an artist in Melbourne. I instilled in my children "to follow their heart in whatever they do".

I earned my Masters in Social Work through Flinders University, still working full-time and studying part-time. I am not fond of online studies but finally finished it over 3 years. I joined Salisbury choir, Frustus Agustini (FA) pre-covid, attended morning mass in Murray Bridge then FA choir practice in Salisbury for Sunday nights mass. The maestro happened to be my pianist's son in Cebu. Such a small world indeed!

Since being active in MB Catholic Parish I have studied online at Dayton University – Ohio, supported by Adelaide Archdiocese. I'm doing this to activate my brain at my age. I became the Child Protection Contact Person and lead the Children's Liturgy with 2 other volunteers. This year, I decided to retire and volunteer (again) at MB Resthaven 2 days a week. I miss the routine of work but also love catching up with myself. I enjoy singing at church here and hope to rejoin FA choir in Salisbury, who are only happy to welcome me back. Only time will tell. I leave everything in God's Hands. His timing is always perfect.

Another wonderful story, thank you Bev. ED

St Joseph's School News



The 2025 school year is a very special year for St Joseph's School: as it is 100 years old. The school began in January 1925 with the Sisters of St Joseph. We feel very blessed that our wonderful school has reached its centenary year. We began this year with 22 classes from Reception to Year 9 and our theme for the year: "Opening a Window to Make a Difference Through Kindness". We also welcomed several new teachers and Education Support Officers (ESO). The staff had a commissioning mass with St Francis and St Catharine's school staff before the beginning of the year. 440 students arrived at school on the first day of the term excited to meet their new teacher, reconnect with old friends and ready to learn.

At our first Community Prayer we thanked God for our school community and the 100 years of Catholic Education in Murray Bridge and at the end of the second week we opened our school for tours which was taken up by many groups of past students and families. On the Saturday night we had a Gala celebration at the racecourse. It was a very successful night where many old friends caught up and reconnected with teachers.

We were pleased to invite our parents and friends once again into school to cook pancakes for us on Shrove Tuesday. To begin Lent, Fr Philip and Deacon Arturo led us with the support of our Year 9 students in a Mass to celebrate Ash Wednesday. We are very appreciative of the support from Fr Philip and Deacon Arturo as we continue to celebrate Masses with our classes and school during this time of visiting priests. At the beginning of Lent each family received a Project Compassion box and were invited to take part in this major fundraiser for the church through Caritas.



Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students took part in this year's NAPLAN tests in March. Classes celebrated St Joseph's Day with a school Mass led by Fr Philip and Deacon Arturo and Year 6 students, followed by sports day activities organised by team captains. We were blessed with beautiful weather and students looked very colourful in their Sports Day coloured shirts and had a wonderful time.

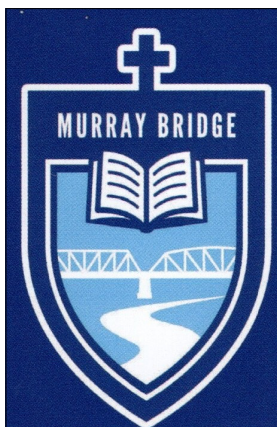
Mrs Lynne Liebich with our Year 5 students has been preparing our Easter Plays to share with the school and Parish communities during the last week of term. This year Lynne is using shadow puppets to tell the story of the journey Jesus made from Palm Sunday to his crucifixion on the cross.

This will be my last article from St Joseph's School for the Looking In magazine as I am retiring after a long and rewarding career in education. I thank Jan for her hard work in putting together our parish magazine and for her patience when I am running late with the school article. I would also like to thank Fr Philip, Arturo and Mary, Trudy and all those I have had the pleasure to work with over the years and the support I have received from parishioners. I will continue to join with you in our Sunday Eucharist and know you will continue to support the new APRIM and the St Joseph's School community.

We wish Easter blessings on all in our community.

Deb Holland Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM)

School Captains





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Guests dress up in Hawaiian style for Mary's 70th

Q: What do you Call an Overweight Psychic?
A: A four-chin teller 🤔🤔

I didn't want to believe that my son was stealing from his job as a road worker. But when I got home, all the signs were there.

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair

So Who Is This "Moderation" Everyone Keeps Telling Me To Drink With?