

Carols at St Mary's Cathedral

St. Mary's Cathedral will host its ever popular and colourful Christmas Carols Service this year, featuring a spectacular repertoire of music.

The carols will take place on Sunday, 22nd December 2002 at 7:30pm. The well loved event will be presided over by Archbishop George Pell, and many Catholics and non-Catholics are expected to attend.

Three Cathedral choirs will be performing — St. Mary's Cathedral Choir, the St. Mary's Singers, and the Cathedral Girl Choristers, all accompanied by senior organist, Peter Kneeshaw.

The evening's program includes:

- the charming *Christmas Lullaby* by John Rutter;
- the familiar reworking of the beloved Lourdes hymn to a Christmas text,



Source: www.stmaryssingers.net

The Mother of Jesus,

- the *Joys Seven* by Stephen Cleobury (Kings College, Cambridge), the text of which explores the various Gospel incidents in the relationship between Jesus and His mother; and
- several well-loved Christmas carols.

An invitation is extended to everyone to attend what will be one of the outstanding events on the Cathedral's calendar.

Catholic Mission: Wine Aid



Israel (left), an orphan living in a refugee camp with 70,000 other people on the Sudanese border.

CATHOLIC Mission, the official mission aid agency of the Church, has adopted a unique means of raising funds for their vital mission and humanitarian works both at home and abroad.

Wine Aid is already proving an extremely popular and successful fundraiser for Catholic Mission, particularly in the corporate world, with proceeds of the sales of some of Australia's top wines assisting the agency's work. \$12 from every case of wine supports Catholic Mission's vital programs in 160 developing countries, and Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander communities in remote areas of Australia. The Catholic Mission quarterly newsletter

is included in each case, helping to promote the work of the Church.

According to National Director of Catholic Mission, Fr Terry Bell, the program funds outreach programs "to the worlds poorest of the poor, in down to earth practical ways such as food and shelter — basic meals and supervised care at schools, clinics and refugee camps; Education — books, pens and pencils for schools; Health — syringes, crutches, AIDS education; Hygiene — training communities to reduce the fouling of water supplies and preventing food contamination; Literacy — basic skills to read warning signs, poison warning signs on the side of fertiliser drums or write simple messages".

Catholic Mission in Sydney is inviting other agencies to consider the Wine Aid packages for business or personal gifts to add to this year's festive cheer.

Individual boxes: **MISSION 16 PACK** for \$159.84 — contains 2 bottles each of 8 award winning Australian Wines; **OR the PARTNERS DOZEN** for \$134.96 — contains 1 bottle each of 12 different varieties and flavours. \$12 per box is donated to Catholic Mission, delivery is free.

For further information, contact Wine Aid, 1800-800-837.

Evangelisation Team for Archdiocese

CATHOLIC Youth Services has just announced that it will be launching the pilot 'CYS NET Team' in 2003. The project is a collaboration between CYS and NET (National Evangelisation Team), which will see a youth ministry team working in schools and

parishes across the Archdiocese in a bid to strengthen links between the two.

The team of five will offer young people in schools and parishes support through reflection days, retreats, youth rallies and youth ministry training.

Christmas Mass Times — Online

Cathedral and parish Mass times for the Christmas period have been posted on the Archdiocese website, www.sydney.catholic.org.au



La Vierge aux Anges (The Virgin with Angels) 1881

Welcome

WELCOME to the final edition of Sydney Snapshot for 2002.

The end of the year is fast approaching, but the Church's liturgical year has just begun with Advent as the lead up to the great feast of Christmas. Don't miss this year's Carols at St Mary's Cathedral, featuring music for this special time of year. All Christmas Mass times have now been posted on the Archdiocese's website for your convenience.

Other events this month include Centacare's Race Day Fundraiser, The Society Ball, and news from Catholic Youth Services and Catholic Mission's Wine Aid program offers an ideal Christmas gift idea.

Finally, we end this year's Snapshot with an insightful comment from one of the great Catholic writers of last century, GK Chesterton:

"The great majority of people will go on observing forms that cannot be explained; they will keep Christmas Day with Christmas gifts and Christmas benedictions; they will continue to do it; and some day suddenly wake up and discover why."

May the peace of Christ bless you and your families this Christmas and New Year.

Sydney Snapshot is taking a rest over January, but will resume again in February.

Archbishop Pell Party

CATHOLIC Youth Services will be hosting a party to welcome back Archbishop Pell, on behalf of the young Catholics of Sydney.

The event is being held at the request of many of the young people who travelled with Archbishop Pell to the World Youth Day pilgrimage last July.

"We wanted to have a party to give young people the opportunity to welcome Archbishop Pell back to the office," said Linda Cox from CYS.

"The youth of Sydney have support-

ed the Archbishop throughout the attacks on his character this year and we want to celebrate his victory with him, as well as honour him and show that we care. It's also a chance for young people to meet the Archbishop; an opportunity they may not otherwise get."

The event will take place on Friday, 6 December from 7.30pm to 11pm at St Dominic's Parish Hall, Homebush West.

For further information, contact Linda at CYS on 9763-1416.

"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2: 10-11

Reminder

A reminder that *Polding House* will be closed from 3pm Tuesday 24th December until 8am Monday, 6th January. Please note that key-holders will still have access to the building during this time.

Charity Race Day

CENTACARE will be holding its Charity Race Day at Royal Randwick later this month, to raise funds to support long-term foster care.

Proceeds from the day will assist Centacare Melanie's Program, which provides long term foster care for children 0-12 years who have moderate to severe physical and/or intellectual disabilities.

Details:

The Centacare Charity Race Day
Royal Randwick

Saturday, 21 December 2002

Tickets \$90 pp. Includes entry, member's enclosure and luncheon

For further information please contact Chris McGee at Centacare, 9283-3099 or 0417467219 by 13 December.

The Society Ball

The Great Hall, University of Sydney

STAFF from all agencies are welcome to attend the 3rd annual Society Ball at the University of Sydney on Friday 20 December.

The event is co-hosted by the Sydney University Society of St Peter and the Catholic Chaplaincy.

Details

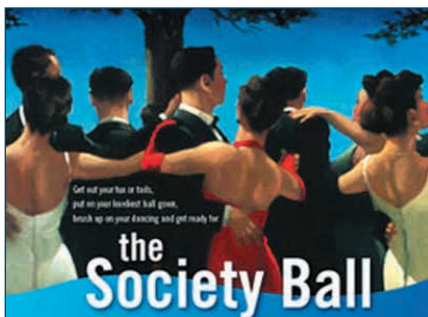
The Society Ball

The Great Hall, Sydney University

Friday 20th December, 2002, 8pm

Tickets \$55 adults

Please send cheques/money orders to Society of St Peter, 7 Tennyson Street,



Campsie NSW 219. Enquires/credit card bookings: Louise 0425 232 375 or missaltham@email.com

Women's Initiatives

MORE than 40 women from around the Archdiocese attended a luncheon at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney, last month, as part of a series of Archdiocesan initiatives to facilitate and recognise the work of women working in the Archdiocese. The luncheon included a reflection on Pope John Paul II's high esteem for femininity and the valuable role of women in society.

Agencies represented at the luncheon included: Caritas, Catholic Women's League, Sydney University Catholic Chaplaincy, Catholic Communications, Catholic Youth Services, St Mary's Cathedral, Natural Family Planning, Harvest Pilgrimages, St Vincent de Paul, Office for Ecumenism, Social Justice Commission, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Immigration Office, and various parishes across Sydney.

The afternoon was most enjoyable, and generated positive feedback from many participants who commented on the value of such encounters. For those agencies or parishes who were unable to send staff along, it is anticipated that further events will be held next year.

NFP



Lisa Moore

NATURAL Family Planning's work has been given a youthful boost, with Lisa Moore taking up the role of educator at the combined Mater and St Vincent's Hospital this month.

Lisa joins NFP with experience as a psychotherapist and massage therapist.

"I am really looking forward to working in this position," said Lisa.

"I think NFP is a very good method for all women to be aware of and have the option to practice. So far, I've found everyone at NFP so welcoming and supportive. I feel very lucky to have been offered this position."

Lisa will be taking over from Helen Fletcher who, together with Margaret Hickey from the Springwood centre, retired in November. A farewell Mass was celebrated by Fr John Usher, followed by a luncheon in honour of both ladies and their husbands, Bill Fletcher and Terry Hickey, who were involved with NFP as volunteers.

Both couples have been associated with the agency for over twenty years, offering enthusiasm and generosity in all their work, and all at NFP are very sad to see them go.



St Nicholas

Feast Days

St Francis Xavier, Patron of Foreign Missions	Dec 3
St Nicholas, Patron of Pawnbrokers	Dec 6
Our Lady of Guadalupe	Dec 12
Ss Abraham, Isaac and Jacob	Dec 20
Christmas Day	Dec 25
St Stephen, First Martyr	Dec 26
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	Dec 28

If your agency has any upcoming events or stories of interest that could be published in 'Sydney Snapshots', please send details to Helen Ransom at cpmedia@sydney.catholic.org.au, phone (02) 9518-9101, or fax (02) 9518-7705. *Please note that the editorial deadline is the last week of each month

Source: www.catholic-forum.com