

# SYDNEY SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the agencies in the Archdiocese of Sydney

A service of Catholic Communications, Sydney

## The Passion of the Christ



The movie version of the last twelve hours in the life of Jesus Christ directed by Mel Gibson began showing in cinemas across Sydney on Ash Wednesday.

Cardinal Pell has described the film as "a contemporary masterpiece, artistically and technically. It is not absurd to compare it with the paintings of the Italian master Caravaggio, because of its beauty and drama. It is more genuinely spiritual, even more violent but less erotic than Caravaggio's canvases."

In conjunction with the release of the film, the Office for Evangelisation and Renewal (see profile in this issue) has organised groups of young Catholics to be present at a number of cinemas where the film will be showing over the next few weeks, beginning on Ash

Wednesday at the George Street cinema complex. The groups which include the CYS Missionary Team and members of Emmanuel Community, the Chinese Community, Couples for Christ and Kerygma, will gather in prayer and engage in street evangelisation outside the cinemas, focussing especially on moviegoers as they emerge from the screening of the Passion. A special event website has been setup on the Archdiocese of Sydney website to highlight the screening of the movie ([www.sydney.catholic.org.au/events/passion](http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/events/passion)) and moviegoers will be offered a leaflet highlighting the website, with an invitation to return to their parish church for Mass and the sacrament of Confession.

For more information contact Helen Philippou on 9752 9686.



## Launch of Pastoral Workers Seminars

A new initiative of the Catholic Adult Education Centre being launched in March this year is a series of professional development seminars for pastoral workers. This might include priests, parish secretaries, pastoral associates, spiritual directors, chaplains, counsellors – anyone involved in face to face ministry in a Church context.

The first seminar is entitled Caring for the Carer and is being given by Kathryn Allison, a registered psychologist working with families affected by drug and alcohol abuse in Melbourne. The seminar will be held at the Catholic Adult Education Centre in

Lidcombe on Saturday, 13 March from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Kathryn will help participants to identify the stresses acting upon them, see the warning signs, and develop effective strategies for dealing with their own stress so as to be more effective in their ministry and to avoid symptoms of carer 'burn out' affecting their work.

A brochure for the conference in Adobe Acrobat format can be downloaded from the Centre's website: [www.caec.com.au/events/cfc.pdf](http://www.caec.com.au/events/cfc.pdf).

Those interested can also call the Centre on 9643 3660 for further information or to have a brochure mailed out to them.

liturgy office

## New Music Consultant

ON 23rd February 2004 Michael Jear joined the Liturgy Office to take up a new position as Music Consultant for the Archdiocese. Michael will assist the parishes to enhance liturgical celebrations through the ministry of Music.



Michael Jear has a background in teaching and liturgy, and holds Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Music Education, a Graduate Diploma in Religious Education and an ATCL from Trinity College, London. He is currently undertaking research towards a Doctorate from the School of Church Music at the University of Newcastle, NSW. Michael's teaching background includes Music and Senior Studies of Religion, as well as Coordinator positions involving Liturgy, the Creative Arts and Religious Education. In addition he has also held the position of Director of Liturgical Music at the Parish of Mary Immaculate, Waverley, and St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Wollongong. Michael was also Director of Music of the Australian Youth Choir and directed the choir on tours to the United States (1992) and Europe (1994).

## Welcome to March Snapshot

WELCOME to *Sydney Snapshot* as we embrace this 'joyful season' of Lent. This month we profile Sr Giovanni Farquer, the new director of the Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, as well as the Office for Evangelisation and Renewal and the new Music Consultant at the Liturgy Commission. We highlight the release of *The Passion of the Christ*, new seminars for Pastoral Workers, the return of CYS – Salt&Light as well as a CWL luncheon for East Timor. Let us take the opportunity that Lent offers to walk together along the path of purification as we prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Deadline for material for the next edition is 12 noon, Monday 29 March  
Please email [richard@sydney.catholic.org.au](mailto:richard@sydney.catholic.org.au) or call 9390 5301.

profile

## Sister Giovanni Farquer rsj

Executive Director, Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations



*I believe that when we look at ourselves, not in the mirror but in relation to another religion, we understand each other so much better. This is what is so fascinating about dialogue. There is so much to be done.*

Sister Giovanni

SISTER Giovanni Farquer RSJ is a graduate of Melbourne University. Her post-graduate studies include a Masters in Middle Eastern History and Doctoral research in multicultural theories of education at Melbourne, New England (NSW) and the Sorbonne (Paris). She has studied Biblical History at St George's College in Jerusalem and Islamic studies at the Pontifical Institute in Rome.

As an educator, at both primary and secondary levels since the 1970's, her interest in the increasing numbers of Muslims in Australian society has grown as has her interest and concern regarding multicultural theories, attitudes, trends and policies that are developing within the broader educational and social context.

The educational philosophy of Mary MacKillop as conceived in the last century and sustained to the present day, its universal application with appropriate adaptation and the relative harmony of its principles with some of the language of current multicultural theories of Education, has been a major focus of her thought, research and analysis over many years.

Sister Giovanni was awarded a Fellowship with UNESCO in 1981 for her

achievements in Educational Leadership, and joined the staff of the IIEP (International Institute for Educational Planning) Paris as an *Expert Visiteur*.

Sister Giovanni served as Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, from 1996-2002. In February 2004, she took up her appointment as Executive Director, Sydney Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.

She is looking forward to this new and challenging role where she will work to forward the goals of the Commission: *through prayer and meaningful dialogue, to foster unity, encourage and support growth in understanding and build harmonious relations between peoples of different faith traditions.*

At a meeting in Rome this week (24/2/04), a joint commission of Catholic and Muslim scholars focused on the danger of avoiding the partisan, political exploitation of religious faith. It was pointed out that we must distinguish between the basic principles of religions and the practices of their members who are people with flaws. Yes there is so much to be done.

oer

## Office for Evangelisation and Renewal

BISHOP Julian Porteous has recently established the Office for Evangelisation and Renewal. Located at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, the Office aims to support parishes and other groups in their endeavour to renew the spirit of faith, and strengthen them in their desire to spread the Gospel message. The "Open the Doors to Christ" Parish Mission is an initiative within the Archdiocese and the main focus of OER. The periodic conducting of a parish mission has always been considered an important aspect to the maintaining of the spiritual well-being of the parish community.

"Open the Doors to Christ," inspired by the words of the Holy Father at the beginning of his pontificate, is a form of parish mission which draws on the experience of ecclesial movements who have embraced the new evangelisation. This form of mission is valuable in communicating with people in an effective way the call to open their hearts and lives to Christ.

Coordinating the Office for Evangelisation and Renewal is Helen Philippou. She has recently spent one



year in Rome studying at the Emmanuel School of Mission. She has been involved in parish missions in Italy, France, Austria, Ireland and Australia.

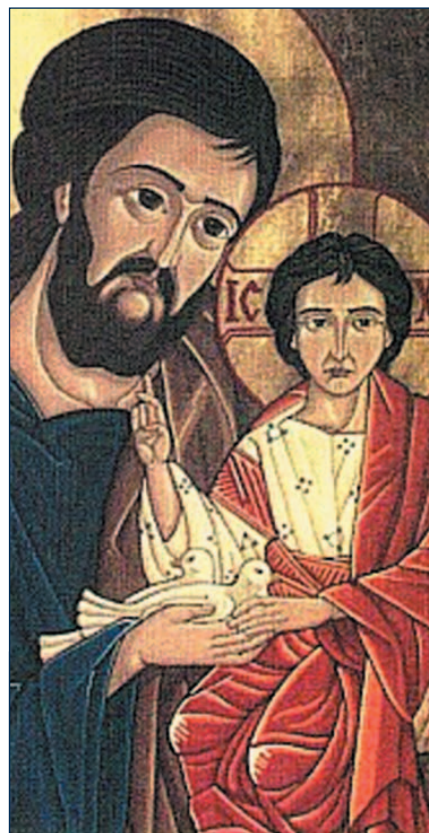
Contact the OER on 9752 9686 or email: [coordinator@oer.org.au](mailto:coordinator@oer.org.au)

cwl

## Catholic Women's League Luncheon

CWL Sydney invites you to a luncheon hosted by The Honourable Dr Meredith Burgmann, President of the Legislative Council, supporting Health and Education Initiatives in East Timor, on Monday 22 March 2004 at 12 noon. The remote villages of Lau-Vou, Erito, Rainaba and Lisalara are the areas to which funds will be directed by the Mary MacKillop Institute of East Timorese Studies. The luncheon will feature guest speaker Susie Maroney, and guest artist Antonio de Padua Martins Soares. The venue is the Parliament House Dining Room, Macquarie St, Sydney. Cost is \$60.

RSVP: 8 March to Christine or Helen on 9390 5153. Payment required at time of booking to reserve your seat.



## March Events

*The Season of Lent dominates the liturgical calendar during March.*

- 7 Ss Perpetua & Felicity – martyrs
- 17 St Patrick, bishop – SOLEMNITY
- 19 St Joseph, husband of Mary – SOLEMNITY
- 25 The Annunciation of the Lord – SOLEMNITY

## polding centre

## New Lenten Mass times

Additional Masses at the Chapel of Our Lady (Level 6) will be celebrated during Lent. There will now be morning Masses on Monday – Wednesday (8.30am) and lunchtime Masses on Tuesday – Friday (12.30pm).

- **Monday – 8.30am:**  
Fr John Rivett
- **Tuesday – 8.30am:**  
Fr John Rivett
- **Tuesday – 12.30pm:**  
Fr Jaroslav Simek OPraem
- **Wednesday – 8.30am:**  
Fr John Rivett
- **Wednesday – 12.30pm:**  
Fr Anton Bulla SVD
- **Thursday – 12.30pm:**  
Mons Brian Rayner
- **Friday – 12.30pm:**  
Mons Brian Rayner

Priests are subject to change depending on their commitments.

## Intranet

THE Polding Centre Intranet which was launched recently, now includes a printable version of the Internal Directory, available in Adobe Reader (PDF) format. The Intranet is accessible at: [www.sydarch.org.au/polding](http://www.sydarch.org.au/polding)

Please check your entry and notify Catholic Communications of any changes on [updates@sydarch.org.au](mailto:updates@sydarch.org.au)

## Level 11 opening soon

THE building works on Level 11 are proceeding faster than planned. The aim is that Catholic Communications, Centacare – Natural Family Planning, Life Office, Vocations Office, and Council of Catholic School Parents will be moving into new office space on the floor late in March. Check the Intranet for details, closer to the date. Harvest Pilgrimages will also have office space on Level 11.

## cys

## Salt&amp;Light 2004

CYS presents another series of Youth Rallies for 2004, describing them as the “same awesome event, with new sights and sounds.” The first monthly *Salt&Light Rally* will take place on Friday 19 March at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Kingsgrove.

The meetings will feature a new feel, with a new line-up of musicians and a bunch of great speakers, and the new CYS Missionary Team.

The evenings commence at 7.30pm until 10.30pm at the Parish Hall, Shaw Street Kingsgrove. Cost is by gold coin donation.

**For more info contact Vincent at CYS on 9665 5344.**

## cathcomm

## Great new business card deal

CATHOLIC Communications has organised a great deal with a new business card supplier. Apart from offering low prices, any interested Agency can place their business card blank on a restricted site, order new cards and easily create and proof the cards. For further information, please contact Chris on 4455 1179 or [cdmedia@scoastnet.com.au](mailto:cdmedia@scoastnet.com.au)

## A Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You gather your people during  
this holy season of Lent,  
and you call us to repent.

As we turn back to you once again,  
open our hearts so that we might  
be transformed in Your image.  
Remove any barriers that keep us from  
you, so that we might live fully  
the life we received at baptism  
and carry our cross each day.

By your grace,  
we turn to you in our need,  
we thank you for our blessings,  
and we share your  
love with the world.

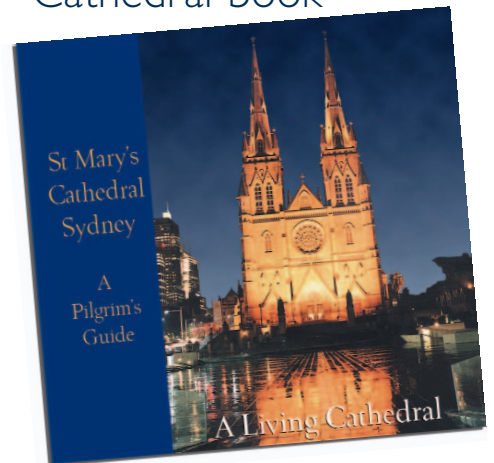
A Prayer to  
St Patrick

O Most Holy Trinity,  
St Patrick accepted with humility  
everything that happened to him.

We ask that you give us  
a share in his courage,  
in his ability to work tirelessly,  
in his endurance of trouble,  
and above all give us his enthusiasm

O spread your love to all  
those we meet.

## smc

A fascinating,  
newly published  
Cathedral book

*ST Mary's Cathedral Sydney – A Pilgrim's Guide* is an attractive 40-page full colour book designed by Catholic Communications; it is easy-to-read and beautifully bound and depicts the Cathedral's story and its history dating back to the early days of the colony.

An engaging section called the pilgrim's tour, helps guide the visitor in exploring the many interesting and fascinating features of the Cathedral. Special items of interest are beautifully described with superb photographs.

Other sections include History of the Church and the Cathedral, The Crypt, Historical Stained Glass windows and Treasures of the Cathedral.

History buffs would particularly be interested in the silhouette maps at the back of the book portraying the many historical buildings in the Cathedral campus in the last 200 years.

The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral have generously assisted in producing this elegant book. The book is on sale at the Cathedral Store.

A Prayer to  
St Joseph

Good St. Joseph, God trusted you  
to be head of the Holy Family  
and you were faithful to  
your responsibility.

Help us to live close to our Lord  
and to be good workers  
whether we're at home or  
away from home.

Teach us to do everyday jobs  
with love for everyone  
in the family of Christ.

Protect us in our time of need  
and draw us closer together.