

# SYDNEY SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the agencies in the Archdiocese of Sydney

April 2004

A service of Catholic Communications, Sydney

profile

## Life Office - Dr Brigid Vout

*Dr Brigid Vout, the director of the new Life Office, shares about her new role in the Archdiocese.*

A NEW LIFE OFFICE for the Archdiocese, and a very new life for me! Two months ago I was working as a doctor on a palliative care ward in Melbourne. Hard work, but at least it was familiar! Now I've moved to Sydney to take up a very different job, establishing and working in the Life Office.

The Life Office has been established to strengthen the pro-life work of the Archdiocese by extending the research, policy and educational activities the Church undertakes in life and related issues. These will mainly include abortion and euthanasia, as well as issues such as reproductive technology, embryo experimentation and genetics.

Even though I have been working as a doctor for the past 7 years, my interest in bioethics has largely arisen over the past 3 years while I have been studying bioethics at the John Paul II Institute in Melbourne. My study there has profoundly changed the way in which I view the ethics of life and healthcare and given me the tools to approach these issues in a new way.

Amongst other things, I now approach issues like abortion and euthanasia with hope. We have a wonderful Gospel of Life to proclaim, celebrate and serve. In *Evangelium Vitae* (2) John Paul II writes that: "The Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel." The challenge for all of us is to find new ways of commu-



*Dr Brigid Vout, Director of the Life Office*

nicating this gospel to our society, as well as supporting each other to live this gospel.

When I was in medical school we only received 3 lectures on medical ethics! Maybe things are a bit better now, but my experience of being 'thrown in the deep end' and having to make all sorts of difficult ethical decisions with little in the way of preparation and support has left me with a commitment to educate and support health professionals. I also hope that my background in medicine will help me to bring a practical and compassionate approach to this position. But really, the Life Office will try to help all Catholics and the wider community to promote and serve the incomparable value of human life – every human life.

Finally, one very important piece of information about myself. I'm not from Victoria. I am in fact Tasmanian, and very proud of the fact. You could say that I was just 'passing through' Melbourne on the way to Sydney.

service at the Cathedral and includes a concert of sacred music. One of the highlights during April will be the Living the Dream gathering of families at Hunter Hill. Many people from the Archdiocese have had a significant involvement in the planning and will be involved as speakers and presenters of the many talks and workshops featured over the weekend.

There will also be opportunities for consultation between young people in the

ecumenism

## Interfaith Prayer Service

THE ARCHDIOCESAN COMMISSION for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations, directed by Sr Giovanni Farquer rsj, has helped to organise an Interfaith Prayer Service with a visiting Muslim Imam.

Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney, will welcome Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf to St Mary's Cathedral for an Interfaith Prayer Service on Thursday 1 April 2004 at 12 noon.

Cardinal Pell and Imam Feisal will then offer prayers for peace.

Cardinal Pell says "One of the ambitions of Pope John Paul II is to encourage dialogue between mainstream and moderate Muslims, particularly with Catholics, but also with all Christians and all people of good will. For this reason Imam Feisal is welcome at St Mary's Cathedral.

"He has an interesting set of views and we look forward to hearing more from him. The stakes are very high. In our own small way we are talking about war or peace. Our Catholic and Christian faith compels us to work for peace."

Imam Feisal is visiting Sydney at the invitation of Premier Bob Carr who will also be in attendance at the Interfaith Prayer Service. The Interfaith Prayer Service will commence at 12 noon.

Archdiocese and Cardinal Pell, as well as a seminar at Adult Education Centre on the role of bishops. Level 11 in Polding Centre has now opened, and we provide a list of the agencies that have moved or will soon move to their new offices.

**Deadline for material for the next edition is 12 noon Tuesday 27 April. Please call or email Richard Healey (02) 9390 5301 richard@sydney.catholic.org.au**

## Welcome to Sydney Snapshot

THE JOYFUL season of Lent is rapidly giving way to the more immediate and sober joy of Holy Week and the sacred beauty of the Easter Triduum. In the light of the new life that Easter represents, it is appropriate that we profile the new Archdiocesan Life Office, with director Dr Brigid Vout. The month begins with an interfaith prayer

university chaplaincy

## International Youth Forum



STEVE LAWRENCE, the Convenor of the University of Sydney Chaplaincy, is currently taking part in the Eight International Youth Forum in Rome, on the theme of Young People and the University.

The Forum is at the Centro Mondo Migliore (Center for a Better World) in Rocca di Papa near Rome until Sunday 4 April. The Forum is organised by the Youth Section of the Pontifical Council for the Laity and each bishops' conference was asked to send two young delegates, as were other ecclesial movements, associations and Catholic groups involved in the university world.

The theme this year is "Youth and University: Witnessing to Christ in the University World." Four days of work sessions, with guest speakers from every continent, will precede the participation of the young people in the 19th World Youth Day celebrations in St. Peter's Square with Pope John Paul on Palm Sunday. The theme of this world day is "We Wish to See Jesus."

On Thursday 1 April, in their first encounter with the Pope, the 300 Forum participants will join other young people from the diocese of Rome as they meet with the Holy Father in St Peter's Square.

Previous International Youth Forums were held in Buenos Aires (1987), Santiago di Compostela (1989), Czestochowa (1991), Denver (1993), Manila (1995), Paris (1997) and Rome (2000).

catholic youth services

## YouthFest

IN CONJUNCTION with the Living the Dream Gathering, Sydney's Catholic Youth Services are coordinating YouthFest, a program for youth and young adults aged 14 to 25. The three-day program will include dynamic speakers such as Christopher West and Bishop Joe Grech, as well as exciting ministry sessions, great music, discussion groups, talent quests and sports activities.

For more information about LTD, call 9349 1834 or visit [familygathering.com.au](http://familygathering.com.au)

archdiocese

## Living the Dream

**LIVING THE DREAM** - National Catholic Family Gathering - will be held at St Joseph's College, Hunters Hill, from Friday 16 April - Sunday 18 April. Several of the keynote speakers are from Sydney Archdiocese, including His Eminence George Cardinal Pell, speaking on "Is the Family still the Basic Unit of Society?" and Bishop Anthony Fisher OP on "The Family: Graph of Humanity's Future", and a workshop on "Marriage: What difference does being a Sacrament make?"

Other prominent Sydney keynote speakers include Byron & Francine Pirola, leaders in family-based evangelisation, who will be speaking on "Passion & Pain: The Power of Family to Change the World" and a workshop on "Passionate Marriage: Living the Dream shouldn't be this hard!" Other speakers from the Archdiocese that will address the conference (in order of appearance) include Dr Michael Casey, the secretary to Cardinal Pell, who will lead a workshop on "Family in the Modern World" and Peter Holmes, Manager of Courses of Study at Catholic Adult Education Centre, who will speak on "Lord of the (Wedding) Rings."

Selina Hasham, from Harvest Pilgrimages and the World Youth Day Office, will lead a panel on the "Single Life - the Forgotten Vocation"; Les & Annette Milross, grandparents from St John Bosco Parish, Engadine on "Grandparenting"; Ron & Mavis Pirola, Members of the Pontifical Council for the Family, on "Loneliness in Marriage - a Normal Part of Human Experience"; Fr Gerard Moore SM, from the Catholic Institute of Sydney on "Families at Worship"; Stephen Lawrence, Convenor of the Sydney University Catholic Chaplaincy on "Being a Man in the world"; and Matthew Solomon, the CEO of ACCESS Programs on "Issues from today's workplaces that impact on families."

## Pentecost consultation with Cardinal Pell

**CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICES** is organising a consultation with Cardinal Pell for young people aged between 16 and 30 who live in the Archdiocese of Sydney on Wednesday 7 April. It will be a great night for young people to connect with other youth and meet Cardinal Pell, as well as share together this year's theme for the Pentecost pastoral letter: *Faith Without Works is Dead*.

For more info call Linda at CYS 9665 5344 or email [cyshouse@bigpond.com](mailto:cyshouse@bigpond.com)

cathedral

## An early evening concert Sacred chamber music for Holy Week

A CONCERT will be held in the beautiful Crypt of St Mary's Cathedral on Monday 5 April at 7.00pm. This concert will offer a selection of musical treasures from the late renaissance and baroque period and will include well-known works by Pergolesi and Bach. A special feature of the concert will be the performance of the "Third Lesson on the Tenebrae" by François Couperin. This exquisite French baroque masterwork is a recitation of the third section of the lamentations of Jeremiah - as set down for the Office of Matins on Maundy Thursday. It is scored for two *soprani*, *viola da gamba* and chamber organ.

Some of the performers include: Tanith Bryce (soprano) who has won many competitions in Australia; Jermaine Chau (soprano) a young singer who has recently sung solo at a concert in the Baslica Degli Angeli in Rome in front of the Australian Ambassador; and Kurt Ison, one of Sydney's leading Organists.

Admission is by donation at the door.

Call the Cathedral for more info: 9220 0400



polding centre

## Level 11 now open

AMIDST all the boxes and the unpacking that continues, Catholic Communications, Centacare - Natural Family Planning and Marriage and Relationship Education, Life Office and Vocations Office have now opened for mission on Level 11 of Polding Centre. Catholic Communications moved from Level 16, Natural Family Planning from Level 13, Marriage and Relationship Education from Centacare's Glebe office, the Life Office moved from temporary space on Level 8 and Vocations moved from the Seminary of the Good Shepherd in Homebush.

The Council of Catholic School Parents will be taking up residence on Level 11 during Holy Week. Harvest Pilgrimages will also be moving into their commercial lease on Level 11 next week.

## New telephone extensions

FIND OUT all the latest telephone changes through the Polding Centre Intranet – [www.sydarch.org.au/polding](http://www.sydarch.org.au/polding)

Please remember to continue to contact Catholic Communications with any changes (new staff, new titles, staff on leave, etc.) - email [updates@sydarch.org.au](mailto:updates@sydarch.org.au) or call 9390 5300.

Centacare NFP – 156

Centacare MRE – 155

Dr Brigid Vout (Life Office) – 290

Maryanne Hemsley (Vocations) – 280

Julie Norris (Chancery Secretary) – 314

Erin Tennant (Catholic Weekly Journalist) – 408

Christina Tilston (Cath Weekly Receptionist) - 402

*A new Internal Directory will be printed and distributed to agencies after Easter.*



## Easter at St Mary's Cathedral

Palm Sunday – 4 April  
7.00am, 9.00am,  
10.15am Blessings of Palms & Procession;  
6.00pm  
Holy Thursday – 8 April  
10.30am – *Chrism Mass*  
6.30pm – *Mass of the Lord's Supper*  
Good Friday – 9 April  
10.00am – *Stations of the Cross*  
3.00pm – *Celebration of the Lord's Passion*  
Easter Saturday – 10 April  
8.00pm – *Easter Vigil*  
Easter Sunday – 11 April  
7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 6.00pm  
For Easter services in other parishes across Sydney, visit the Archdiocese website: [sydney.catholic.org.au/parishes](http://sydney.catholic.org.au/parishes)

### april calendar

4 – Palm / Passion Sunday  
8 – Holy Thursday – *Chrism Mass & Mass of the Lord's Supper*  
9 – Good Friday  
11 – Easter Sunday  
18 – Second Sunday of Easter – *Divine Mercy Sunday*  
21 – St Anselm, bishop & doctor of the Church  
25 – Third Sunday of Easter (*Anzac Day*)  
26 – St Mark, Evangelist (*pictured left*)  
28 – St Peter Chanel, priest & martyr  
29 – St Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor of the Church

caec

## Seminar on the role of the bishops

CARDINAL PELL will be the keynote speaker at a seminar on the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Gregis*, to be held on Tuesday, 27 April, at 7.30pm in the Catholic Centre, Lidcombe. The document deals with the role of the bishops and is subtitled "The bishop, servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the hope of the world."

The seminar has been organised by the Catholic Adult Education Centre, as one of a series on Vatican documents. Cardinal Pell also spoke at the first of these seminars, on the Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Oceania*, in March 2002. Other seminars in the series have been on the Rosary, the New Age, the Eucharist and the Encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*.

Other speakers in the seminar will be Fr John Flader, Director of the Centre, who will give a summary of the contents of the document, and Dr Cathy Lennon, who will speak on the "The Bishops and the Laity". Cardinal Pell attended the Synod of Bishops which gave rise to the document and he will give his personal reflections on the Synod and the document.

A donation of \$5 is asked for the seminar. Supper will follow. The Centre is located at 3 Keating St, Lidcombe. Telephone 9643 3660 for more information.

