

# SYDNEY SNAPSHOT

Newsletter of the agencies in the Archdiocese of Sydney

A service of Catholic Communications, Sydney

life office

## Respect Life Sunday

**Dignity**  
...NOW AND AT THE HOUR OF DEATH

Now that palliative care has become so good at controlling pain and other symptoms, other fears about dying seem to have come to the surface.

Today we seem to be more fearful and worried about losing our dignity' or about having to depend on others. We are more likely to hear people say things like: 'don't let me linger on and become a burden to you,' or 'what matters is that I die when and how I choose, with dignity'.

Australia's own 'Doctor Death', Philip Nitschke and a team of advisers have even formulated a recipe for a home-made pill that they say can provide a 'peaceful and reliable' death' for people with these concerns. But would taking a pill to intentionally end my life, even if it is a life of suffering and dependency, allow me to die with dignity? Or would my death mean something else?

**Choose life, not death...**

*Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him... (Deut 30:19-20)*

Dignity is a term which is used to describe the intrinsic and inestimable worth of the human person. It reminds us that our value as a person does not depend upon our talents, our beauty, our accomplishments, or our wealth. Our value is found in our very being. We are of great value simply because we are human.<sup>1</sup>

Created by God to share in his glory, the human person has a worth which exceeds that of any other creature. The human person is a *manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory.* [EV34]

This means that in spite of what we feel or think about the 'quality' of our lives, we can never lose our dignity. However we can act in ways which deny the truth of our dignity. We can act in ways which say 'I am not of great worth'; 'my life is not of great value.'

**RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY**

lifeoffice.org.au

In the 1995 encyclical letter, *The Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul II proposed that a *Day for Life* be celebrated by the Church to promote the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. He particularly encouraged liturgical celebrations which 'express wonder and gratitude for the gift of life and to welcome, savour and share the Gospel of Life'.

'Pro-life', or **Respect Life Sunday**, is celebrated throughout the Archdiocese of Sydney on the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time. This year, Respect Life Sunday will fall on 3 October.

To promote and facilitate this day,

the Life Office has published a 4-page A4 colour brochure for distribution to parishes. The brochure has also been supplied to Catholic schools within the Archdiocese for distribution to senior secondary school students when they return from holidays.

Entitled, *Dignity ... now and at the hour of our death*, the brochure encourages reflection upon the true meaning of human dignity and the call to respect and serve the value of every human life – including our own lives! It challenges the growing perception within contemporary society that euthanasia and assisted suicide are necessary for people to 'die with dignity'.

## Welcome to October Sydney Snapshot

Highlights of events happening in the Archdiocese during October include the launch of Respect Life Sunday by the Life Office; the Silver Jubilee of Masses at UTS; and the CWL 'Pink Breakfast'. Both the Catholic Adult Education Centre and the CCD have another swag of courses, while CYS is looking for young people to join its mission team for 2005.

### date claimers

- 12 Oct** Catholic Women's League  
- Pink Ribbon Breakfast for Breast Cancer Research
- 12 Oct** CAEC  
Marriage Enrichment Evening
- 26 Oct** CAEC - Seminar on Ecumenism and the Church
- 27 Oct** UTS - Catholic Mass

### snippets

#### ■ CYS Team 2005

Want to join the CYS Youth Missionary Team for 2005? Are you aged between 18-30, passionate about your faith and enjoy hanging out with young people then this is for you. Contact Vincent, Nathan or Lyndon at Catholic Youth Services on 9665 5344 for more information.

#### ■ Polding Centre: Justice Office

Sr Aileen Crowe, the Justice and Peace Promoter for the Archdiocese, has now moved into new offices on Level 8 of the Polding Centre. You can contact Aileen on 9390 5319 or email [japp@sydney.catholic.org.au](mailto:japp@sydney.catholic.org.au).

Deadline for material for the November edition is 12 noon, Thursday 28 October.  
Please email [media@sydney.catholic.org.au](mailto:media@sydney.catholic.org.au) or call 9390 5300.

## Evening Seminar on Ecumenism & the Church

Cardinal Idris Cassidy, former head of the Church's peak body on Ecumenism, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, will be the keynote speaker at an evening seminar to celebrate the 40th anniversary of three key documents of the Second Vatican Council: *Unitatis redintegratio*, on ecumenism, *Lumen gentium*, on the Church, and *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*, on the Eastern Catholic Churches. Cardinal Cassidy will speak on "Ecumenism: Vatican II and Beyond" and Fr Peter Joseph, Chancellor of the Maronite Diocese of Australia and an occasional lecturer at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, will speak on "The Church: East and West". The seminar will be held at CAEC Lidcombe on **Tuesday 26 October** commencing at 7.30 pm. There is no charge for the seminar but donations are welcome. Supper will follow.

## Term 4 courses

Term 4 courses at the CAEC commence **Monday 11 October**. Units offered this term are: Music, Mass Media and Evangelisation, given by Marita Franklin and Peter Holmes; Christian Prayer, given by Anthony English; Vatican II for Today, given by Fr Anthony Robbie; Catholic Social Teaching, given by Eamonn Keane and The New Testament, given by Peter Holmes. For more information on these courses and suggested readings please check our website [www.caec.com.au](http://www.caec.com.au) or phone 9643 3660.

## Marriage Enrichment Evenings

The fourth Evening of Marriage Enrichment in the CAEC series "As I have loved you", aimed at helping Catholics to live their vocation to marriage more fully, will be held at CAEC Lidcombe on **Tuesday 12 October** at 7.30 pm. The talk will be given by Peter Holmes, Manager of Courses of Study at CAEC, on "Hopes and Goals in Marriage". This event is free.

## "Pink Breakfast"

The Catholic Women's League will be holding a "Pink Breakfast" on Tuesday 12 October, from 9.30am in the Dame Mary Barlow Room, Level 8, Polding Centre, in support of Breast Cancer Research. Come along, and enjoy our pink breakfast. Remember to wear something pink. The cost is \$7.00. There will be Raffle Tickets for sale and lots of prizes, including a Lucky Door Prize and there will be some lovely homemade goods for sale.

## Christmas Cards

Proceeds from the sale of these cards (50c each) will assist the charitable works of the Catholic Women's League. Available from Polding Centre Level 8. The cards are on quite heavy textured card and are of good quality.



## Events



### October

- 1 St Thérèse of Lisieux, virgin & doctor of the Church
- 2 Feast of the Guardian Angels
- 4 St Francis of Assisi, deacon
- 6 St Bruno, priest
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary
- 9 St John Leonardi, priest & St Denis and Companions
- 11 Blessed John XXIII, pope
- 14 St Callistus I, pope and martyr
- 15 St Teresa of Avila, virgin & doctor of the Church
- 16 St Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin
- 17 St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr
- 18 St Luke, evangelist — Feast
- 23 St John of Capistrano
- 24 St Anthony Claret
- 28 Ss Simon and Jude, apostles — Feast

# Catholic Communications creates new ACBC Website



A new website for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference designed and custom built by Catholic Communications, will be launched on Friday 1 October – the Feast of St Thérèse of Lisieux, patron of Mission. The website, the fruit of many months of work,

features a completely redesigned look with a new content management system powering the backend of the site.

The new site now features a page for each of 32 dioceses, 64 bishops, 20 committees and 21 organisations associated with the Conference, as well as a new

interactive map, a searchable Catholic Church GST Religious group database, and access to hundreds of statements and media releases dating back more than 30 years.

The address of the ACBC website remains [www.acbc.catholic.org.au](http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au)

## uts - mass

### Celebrating 25 Years

Catholic Mass has been celebrated for 25 years at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) this month.

The Mass was begun by staff of the Sydney Institute of Technology as it was then known. Many priests over the years have been invited to preside at the Mass. When a chaplain, Fr Peter Maher, was appointed nine years ago the Mass became a weekly event each Wednesday at 1pm. It was held in classrooms till the Multi-faith rooms opened in 1995. Now that the new purpose-built Multi-faith Centre at UTS has opened, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Mass will be celebrated there on October 27 by Bishop Geoff Robinson. More information about this event and the chaplaincy at UTS can be found on the website: [www.utscatholic.org](http://www.utscatholic.org)

## ccd

One of the major events on the CCD calendar for October is fast approaching, and that is the Catechist Gathering which will be held on Monday 11 October at the St Mary's Cathedral College school hall between 11am – 1pm. The theme for this gathering is "Renewing Evangelisation in the New Millennium." Keynote speakers for the forum will include:

- Bishop Julian Porteous, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Renewal
- Mr Lyndon Cox, Director of Catholic Youth Services
- Mrs Nevine Piperides and Mrs Anne Byrne from the Catholic Commission for Employment Relations
- Mr Sam Lynch Manger of the Catholic Adult Education Centre
- Mr Anthony Cleary, Director of CCD

This forum will provide wonderful insights and reflections on the challenges of evangelisation in the new millennium. Representatives from a number of church agencies will be present on the day, including Caritas Australia, to provide an overview of their approach to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to the wider community.

The CCD newsletter for Term 4 has just been released. The 16-page newsletter is packed with information. To receive a copy, call the CCD office on 9390 5122.