CA\textsc{thol}\textsc{ic} Life
Diocese of Lismore

Tweed Coast to Camden Haven

www.lismorediocese.org

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Ordained to Serve
St. Vincent’s Hospital
LISMORE, Northern NSW, AUSTRALIA

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SUCCESS!

St. Vincent’s commitment to ‘Caring for People’, together with its Mission, Vision and Values has seen the hospital repeatedly recognised for excellence in patient satisfaction. The hospital has continually enjoyed a rating in the top 2% in an Australia wide patient satisfaction survey conducted by Press Ganey Associates, Inc., the world’s largest provider of healthcare satisfaction benchmarking services.
The New Evangelisation

My dear Catholic people,

“Love and marriage, love and marriage,
Go together like a horse and carriage . . .
You can’t have one without the other.”

Laid back in the dentist’s chair the sound of the old Frank Sinatra song played quietly in the surgery, taking my thoughts away from the immediate procedure to the world of Australian social and religious values of forty years ago.

There came to mind all those young people in their early twenties coming to see the priests about vowing their love into marriage, in the days when few would have dared to live together first and would take pains to hide the fact if they did. Then the 1960’s cultural revolution broke upon our western societies. Its effects continue. Today, those who wait until marriage are more the exception, and for the rest, if having one without the other is seen as a problem, it’s the Church’s problem not theirs.

For all the Church’s great effort to maintain the natural and Christian ideals of marriage and family, both are in trouble on every side. The consequences are appalling, the suffering caused is great. Some hits swiftly, but much is yet to impact particularly in a huge future increase in lonely old age.

In my journeys and visits around our communities, I have taken part in many conversations with both clergy and laity when people have asked me how I see the present state of our mission in the Church and what vision and hopes I have for the future. To what objectives is God pointing us to direct our energies?

In presenting any programme we cannot overlook the modern Church’s own perspective which she has presented ever since the Second Vatican Council itself pointed the way forward. That approach has been spelled out, consolidated and especially finely shaped by the teaching of Pope John Paul II. It’s there for everyone to see in his constantly repeated call forward to “The New Evangelisation”, which leads on to his vision of ‘a new springtime’ as the Church advances into the third Christian millennium.

Evangelisation has been the Church’s business from the first moment Christ our Lord commanded His apostles and followers to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them . . . and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” It’s hardly new, it’s constant. What is new, as it has been in every age, is ‘today’. It’s the sort of cultural and social environment of today that makes our task a ‘new’ evangelisation.

“In countries with ancient Christian roots, and occasionally in the younger Churches as well, entire groups of the baptised have lost a living sense of the faith or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church and live a life far removed from Christ and His Gospel. In this case, what is needed is a ‘new evangelisation’”. So wrote Pope John Paul in 1990.

While evangelisation is the very soul of the Church’s activity in every age, what makes it ‘new’ for us today is the encounter with modern western secular culture with its own challenging characteristics, ranging from apathy to antipathy and even hostility to the Church.

While evangelisation is the very soul of the Church’s activity in every age, what makes it ‘new’ for us today is the encounter with modern western secular culture with its own challenging characteristics, ranging from apathy to antipathy and even hostility to the Church.

On the wider picture of the Diocese, the encouragement of priestly vocations within our midst is a top priority for everyone. The availability of Sunday Mass and the celebration of the Sacraments for the benefit of the greatest number of the Catholic faithful of the Diocese is a pastoral objective above all others.
The New Evangelisation continued....

The sacramental, pastoral and spiritual leadership of a Priest in each parish is an indispensable necessity to which the Diocese is committed. Until such time as local vocations are sufficient, priests born elsewhere, and educated elsewhere, will continue to be welcomed and valued in the Diocese.

In the time ahead, any changes to the configuration and boundaries of existing parishes should proceed organically from consultation and discussion at local levels, and proposed to the Bishop through the Council of Priests, taking into account the number and age of priests and the availability of lay collaborators according to the Church’s understanding.

Questions to do with the dignity of human life and the protection of the vulnerable are at the cutting edge of the Church’s intersection with today’s secular culture. Following the initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops last November to increase financial and human assistance for women facing the dilemma of abortion, the Diocese, through a lay apostolate in this area, will especially fulfil a Gospel imperative.

The Council of Priests and the Diocesan Pastoral Council are the two primary bodies within the structure of the Diocese which collaborate with the Bishop on initiatives of evangelism and pastoral strategy. The evangelisation and catechesis of young people and their engagement in the sacramental and community life of the parish and Diocese must be pursued with urgency, especially through peer-to-peer ministries. A new momentum of faith and appreciation of the Church’s gifts is building up among young people and must be recognised. Through these forums also we should be holding in review such areas as our apostolates among Catholics of indigenous culture, and recent migrants and refugees.

Forty years of change and so many values seem to have gone the way of the horse and carriage! The times may appear troubling and the prevailing culture threatening, but we have been through all that time and again in twenty centuries, and produced ranks of saints and martyrs in each struggle. The New Evangelisation today is indeed a wide perspective for our engagement, each within our baptismal calling in the Church and in our very own place. When St Paul proclaimed Jesus Christ as LORD, he reminded us all down the ages that the power for the task is not ours — it streams from the Risen Christ. Gloriously risen from the dead and triumphantly ascended to the heights of heaven, He ever lives to make intercession for us who carry on His earthly mission.

I wish you all a share in this glory and power abundant in the celebration of Easter in your families and parish communities.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

✠ Geoffrey Jarrett,
Bishop of Lismore

Australian Bishops Launch Year of the Eucharist Program

Australia’s bishops have issued a program for the celebration of the Year of the Eucharist, focusing on the importance of celebrating Sunday Mass. The program, prepared by the National Liturgical Commission, is set in the context of the Sundays of Easter and is linked with a proposal for a period of Eucharistic devotion from Trinity Sunday to Corpus Christi.

The program has been designed using the dynamics of small group discussion which could be adapted to a large parish gathering or individuals. It is hoped that youth groups, parish groups, families and individuals will use the program. In the introduction to the program, Chairman of the Bishops’ Committee for Liturgy, Bishop Kevin Manning, recalled the invitation of Pope John Paul II for Catholics to dedicate the current year to the Eucharist.

“The Australian Bishops have responded to the Holy Father’s invitation and now offer the program, ‘Sunday: Sacrament of Easter’, to the Australian Church as a means of enlivening our celebration of the Eucharist and to encourage devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament,” Bishop Manning said in the introduction.

“The program focuses on the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist as this is the celebration most familiar to us all. “To help us in this program, we are turning to the Holy Father’s Apostolic Letter Dies Domini: a guide to keeping Sunday holy as a source for reflecting upon our celebration of Sunday.”

Beside this study of the Pope’s wisdom in the context of the Gospels of the Sundays of Easter, we would also like to invite you to spend some time in adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

“We propose a parish Mission for the week leading up to the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ as an opportunity for you and your parish community to focus your adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.” Bishop Manning said it was hoped that the program would enrich the faith of all who participate in it.

The program is available on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website at www.acbc.catholic.org.au.

Cover: The Ordination of Father Michael Anis, SM. The first former Woodlawn student from Papua New Guinea
The story is told of the mystic who asked his devotees: “Where does God live?” Many answers were forthcoming including: “God is everywhere.” ‘No,’ said the mystic. ‘God lives where we let him in.’

Our faith is about where we let God into our lives. The emphasis of our faith is not on knowledge but on a life of good deeds that open the soul to God. How evident that has been in our diocese since the Tsunami disaster. In the atmosphere of devastating tragedy, many prayed, shared their material wealth and goods, volunteered to go and assist in so many ways… all the time opening up the sadness of tragedy to mirror the comforting hand of God. Their good deeds were done in the name of Christ who says every day to us: “In as much as you have done it to these, you have done it to me.”

At the time of going to print with this edition of “Catholic Life”, the people of our diocese have donated $215,540.00 to the Caritas Tsunami Appeal. This is in addition to donations made direct to Caritas, goods collected in our parishes and air freighted to the disaster areas. Others joined up with assistance groups to go and use their skills to assist, rebuild and heal. Out of such a disaster there has been such a celebration of generosity and the spirit of gospel values that speak of God’s presence among us.

We as Church need to be people who are prepared to “push the boundaries” that have been imposed on so many areas of life by heartless legalism, selfishness and political correctness. We need to go back to the Good News of the Gospels and contemplate again the true tenets of the Kingdom that encourage generosity and give hope. All it takes is a spark of motivation and the effort of good example for the miracle to happen.
Nicolas Maurice Following his Faith in Rome

Coming to Rome has been a gift that I have come to appreciate more and more. I remember with fondness being received as a candidate for priesthood at St Carthage’s Cathedral.

I remember my determination and excitement approaching the sanctuary after my name was called and kneeling before Bishop Jarrett to commit myself to formation for priesthood. After what seemed only a short while later, after I had put my bags down in my new room, I remember feeling a long way from home. I was finally here in Rome and I would not be returning home for two years.

I can say that it has been a tremendous change and I am still adjusting to a new culture. Of course, the first difference is the language. The lectures at the Gregorian University are in Italian, but thankfully (after Italian lessons) I am able to follow most of what they say. With mostly narrow, cobbled streets and plenty of traffic, Rome is a city for walking. I normally walk for half an hour to university each day and that involves winding through narrow streets with motor scooters zooming by. I am also living at the North American College, which has involved learning about yet another culture. There are just over 140 American seminarians at the college. So I have already enjoyed a Thanksgiving Day celebration and have even played in an annual American football match (the Spaghetti Bowl). Most of the breakfast cereals have plenty of sugar added (Americans have a sweet tooth) and Weet-Bix and Vegemite are a rare delicacy. The seminarians and staff at the college have welcomed us with open arms. I have truly experienced generosity and hospitality here.

My formation for priesthood here has already been tremendously rich. Living in Rome, and absorbing the heritage of our Church concentrated in this city offers so much deepening my appreciation of our Catholic faith. Although living such a long way from what I know and cherish can be difficult, I look forward to the many graces and blessings God has for me, which are not simply for me but for our Diocese and our fantastic country.

Your questions answered about the Caritas Australia Asia Earthquake Relief Appeal

1) How much has been raised by your tsunami appeal?
   To date, we have received $16 million worth of donations. This amount will probably increase as additional parish donations are remitted. In addition, funds to the value of $750,000 from AusAid have been received by Caritas Australia for our response to tsunami affected Indonesia.

2) How much of the total amount raised goes toward tsunami projects?
   All funds raised will go to emergency and long-term rehabilitation and development projects for communities affected by the tsunami.

3) How is the money to be spent?
   ...on Emergency relief and long-term reconstruction. More than $4 million has been used on immediate emergency relief, providing urgently needed items such as food, water and temporary shelter.
   Because we are one of a federation of 200 Caritas (Catholic Relief) agencies our efforts are coordinated under the banner of Caritas Internationalis. However, our funds are distributed directly to the partners and at our discretion once we have evaluated proposals presented to us by our partners in the relevant country.

4) What is the timetable for spending the donated funds?
   We expect this to take up to ten years. As assessments currently being conducted are completed, new projects will be designed and implemented.

5) What happens to the interest earned on unspent funds?
   Our policy in relation to unspent funds is as follows: “Interest that has been earned on monies raised for emergencies or special appeals will be allocated, after the deduction of administration fees, to the cause for which the funds were raised.”

6) Please outline where funds are held and process for deciding how it is to be spent?
   Caritas Australia’s governing body ensures that the funds are held in low-risk investment instruments, hence our funds are held as bank bills.

continued on page 22
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New Look For Students at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish School – SOUTH LISMORE

2005 has seen the introduction of a new uniform at our parish school. The uniform was developed by an enthusiastic parent committee.

This committee worked closely with the principal and staff members to produce a uniform that was smart, practical and would meet the needs of students in the twenty-first century.

As you can see the end result reflects all of these criteria. The students wear the new uniform with a real sense of pride.

“I think that the new school uniform is great. I like the colour and the feel.

“They are very comfortable. The new school logo was designed by the students and has a picture of the Cross, the Southern Cross and the Wilson River.” Rex

“The uniforms are comfortable. I like the pattern. They look sporty. The uniform looks good together. I think the committee made a good decision.” Chelsea.

Thanks to the generosity of our parent body and our parish community this year has seen all learning areas in the school air-conditioned. This has resulted in a learning environment that is supportive of quality education. Both teachers and students benefited from these improved conditions in recent weeks.

**The benefits of an air-conditioned classrooms:**

“Whenever you come back in from the hot sun, you feel so relieved as if you were dead, then you come to life. The students are more focused on work, less grumpy and just plain better off.” Jeremy.

“Air-conditioning is fantastic! On hot days coming into a 40° classroom is not fun! Children enjoy coming into class now and are working harder.” Jess.

Kindergarten students have settled happily into school. We extend a warm welcome to all new families to our school and to our parish community. We look forward to your involvement and contribution to our school and community life.

Welcome to New Staff – St Joseph’s High School – PORT MACQUARIE

New staff Alexa Roberts, Jodie Rich, Marianne O’Donnell, Alice Weber, Donna Hamlin, Tom Watson – are settling into their new roles on the teaching staff at the Regional Campus of St Joseph’s High School in Port Macquarie.

Alexa Roberts is an ex-student who will be teaching Science. She is a graduate of Sydney University in Exercise and Sport Science and will graduate this year from the University of New England with a double degree in Science and teaching.

Jodie Rich is an RE and PDHPE teacher who has been teaching part-time since moving to Port Macquarie from Sydney in 2003. Before going on maternity leave Jodie was an REC at St. Andrew’s College in Sydney.

Marianne O’Donnell is a teacher-librarian from La Salle Academy in Lithgow. Marianne will be replacing Judy Paddison who is taking leave in 2005.

Alice Weber is a Mathematics and RE teacher who has been teaching at St Mary Star of the Sea College in Wollongong.

Donna Hamlin is an ex-student who has worked for St. Joseph’s Family Services before starting work as a teacher’s assistant in the High School. This year Donna will assist in the Food Technology area and with Special Education.

Tom Watson completed his HSC at MacKillop in 2004 achieving a UAI 97.05. He has deferred from University and accepted a Traineeship in ICT, based at the Regional Campus during his Gap Year.
The first e-learning initiative for schools in the Diocese of Lismore has been the decision to join CASTnet. CASTnet (Church Agencies & Schools Technology network) combines four organisations:

1. CASTnet Schools – Diocese of Wollongong, Broken Bay, Wagga Wagga and Lismore.
2. LithiumCorp – An Australian company that provides network audit, design, implementation, support, monitoring and management products and services.
3. myinternet – An Australian education focused internet software and services company.
4. AAPT – The current Internet Service Provider.

CASTnet Schools across dioceses and within the entire network. Teachers and students in over 400 Catholic Primary and Secondary schools across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW will be able to share quality resources created by their colleagues in any of the connected dioceses.

CASTnet is a fully managed learning environment enabling teachers to enhance learning and teaching in a new era. CASTnet also provides educators with a powerful administration toolset allowing schools to take full control of their own learning environment. CASTnet empowers both teachers and students and facilitates communication, publication, sharing and collaboration – all key elements of any successful learning and teaching environment.

A core component of CASTnet is the myinternet e-learning portal. The ‘mydesktop’, ‘my classes’, ‘mymail’, ‘myportfolio’ and SINA product suite, provides teachers and students with a powerful set of ICT tools. These tools enhance learning and teaching while utilising the capacity to access on-line educational content in a safe manner and interact with other CASTnet Schools across dioceses and the world.

Overall, for students this means:-

- Anytime, anywhere access to the school intranet and applications;
- Personalised user experience enhancing interest and ownership;
- Collaborative online programs aimed at building learning communities;
- The availability of support resources and extension activities to foster independent learning;
- Accessing the resources that best suit individual learning styles and abilities by choosing from the wide range of resources available;
- Assistance with the delivery of targeted learning content;
- More parental involvement in learning programs by having access to ‘mydesktop’ from home.

In addition, CASTnet will provide access for staff to a wide variety of professional development resources via a shared professional development online portal. All users of CASTnet will be able to access resources developed by all other users. This Professional Development facility will incorporate a range of technically advanced services including video streaming and broadcasting. All teachers will be able to search, assemble sequence and deliver enriched online learning activities.

This is an exiting time for our Diocese as we truly become a Connected Learning Community.

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**mydesktop:**
- mydesktop is personally customisable, web-based software that allows teachers and students to share school related content. It includes a set of tools and Properties for collaborating, communicating, organising, document storage and information management.
- mydesktop is available anytime, anywhere and delivers equitable access facilitating home to school activities and school communications.
- Features of mydesktop include communication tools such as Notice Boards and Calendars; collaboration tools such as Discussion Rooms and Forums; organisational tools such as Event Calendars; content repository for data storage and access.

**mymail:**
- mymail is an email system specifically designed for the education community by myinternet.
- mymail is designed to meet the needs of a wide audience within the education community. It’s simple enough for younger users to use without intensive training, and sophisticated enough to satisfy the communication requirements of staff.
- mymail is a web-based email system which means that users can access their email at school or at home - anywhere, anytime.

**myportfolio:**
- myportfolio is an electronic portfolio application built especially for schools.

**SINA:**
- SINA Network provides a complete Internet management software service for schools. It is a web based management tool that allows each school to define and monitor their user’s Internet access and activities. SINA Network manages all access to the Internet.
Annual Diocesan Induction Day

On Thursday 20th February, 2005 our new Principals Bernadette Birchall, St Joseph’s School, Maclean, Jake Madden, St Augustine’s School, Coffs Harbour and Gary Reen, St Bridget’s School, Kyogle were invited to participate in our Annual Diocesan Induction Day.

The focus of the day was taking time with each other, exploring areas of faith leadership, education leadership and general management details. Our Director, Dianne Marshall, extended a welcome and stated some key and basic responsibilities of those entrusted with leadership in a Catholic school. Bernadette, Jake and Gary were reminded of their need for service towards all members of the school community – especially the students. Knowing and valuing self as someone created by God through care: being there for each other at all times and, the reality of caring for our working place. All leaders need a personal belief vision. However, working it through takes time so, just pray and do that which you believe is best for those you lead.

John Graham addressed the component of faith leadership through information, dialogue and engaging discussion. Cath Briant then moved into the area of leadership as relational and educational. The group were reminded that leadership is potentially about influencing others. Such is possible by highlighting the reality of its foundation – our personal integrity – the integration of who we are, our personal visions, values and strategies. All these, as we know, are the foundation of interpersonal trust. Once trust and respect are operational the Kingdom of God is alive.

During the afternoon many relevant details of leadership as in the context of effective and sound management, health, safety and industrial issues were integrated into leadership practices. As leaders in a Catholic school we are all meant to make a difference in our society. May God, through His grace, radiate the light of God’s Spirit within us, then those we minister to will “Give praise and thanks to God” and opportunities to build a society that respects others, self and cares for our place of work will be our light. Leadership becomes a daily reality for others through our willingness to walk the road to Emmaus daily and to recognise Jesus in each other!

We pray for all leaders in our schools, especially our ‘new’ principals Jake, Bernadette and Gary, that onlookers will be captured by the fact that our vision is to create a better world for all by “acting justly, loving others and walking humbly with God” (adapted Micah Ch6).

A Decade of Service to Catholic Schools – the Seasons for Growth Program

This year marks a decade of support for Diocesan children and families through the Seasons for Growth program. The program continues to support those who are or have experienced change in their life and remains very relevant in the face of challenges to our beliefs and value-systems brought about by a rapidly changing society.

Working to enhance individual resilience through shared connectedness, the Program has achieved overwhelming success – a success dependent upon the generosity of many people.

The dedication of the Seasons for Growth Support Team, the Companions, Site-Coordinators and supportive staff members who have all contributed so generously out of a love for the children of their school underpins the continued good work of the Program.

The continued moral and financial support of Priests and Principals is also a key to this success.

The Support Team extends its thanks to all schools who responded to a short survey last year which indicated that over two hundred and fifty students were able to be supported by their Parish school community.

Over the past decade, over 3,500 students have progressed through the Program and the benefits for children, families – as well as the school itself – are immeasurable both in the short and long term. The vast majority of our Diocesan schools have had contact with the Program and the success of the Program is a credit to our Parish school communities.

This year your Parish School community might like to continue to make a special effort to recognise, in an appropriate manner, the work of those who ensure the Program continues to flourish and meet the needs of the children of our Diocesan schools.

Religious Education & Faith Services Team
First Steps
By Fr. Paul Gooley, Vocations Director

Sister Kathleen Bryant RSC in her handbook Vocations Anonymous sets out some first steps for when you begin to think about priesthood or religious life because it is difficult to know where to begin. So, here are some suggestions she makes for checking out your vocation:

1. Pray
Give God some quality time. Put yourself in God’s presence and listen to God.

2. Get a notebook
Start writing down what you experience. What ‘nudges’ has God given you? When did you first notice this ‘call’? What started you thinking about a vocation?

3. Remember
Recall your personal faith history. When did you first experience God?

4. Talk to someone you can trust:
Talk to one person. In the very early stages don’t tell your family or friends. They may start treating you differently.

5. Start looking around:
Start looking around at the priests and religious people you have known. Have a look through a Catholic newspaper or go online for information on vocations.

6. Get involved:
Get involved in some form of service or parish ministry.

7. Enlist the support of prayerful people:
Ask people to pray for you. You don’t have to tell them a specific intention, simply suggest that you are trying to make a decision. Consider asking your family, your close friends or a prayer group.

8. Pay attention:
Notice and pay attention to what is life-giving for you. What are you passionate about?

Further Enquiries
Always remember that if you want to make further enquires about a vocation to the priesthood then you are most welcome to contact either Bishop Jarrett or myself.

Most Rev’d Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett
Bishop’s Office,
P.O. Box 1, Lismore NSW 2480

Fr. Paul Gooley
Catholic Presbytery,
P.O. Box 63, Wauchope NSW 2446 Ph: (02) 6585 1464

Coming up
Sunday 17th April - World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Year 7, 2006 Open Night

For Parents and Students Interested in Year 7, 2006

Monday 9th May, 2005 from 6.30pm
St. Carthage’s Cathedral, Lismore followed by Tours of the College

Making a Difference for Your Child

For further information on a quality Secondary Education for your child contact the College Registrar:
Mrs Jenny Dwyer,
1 Dawson Street, Lismore NSW 2480
Telephone: (02) 6627 6622 Facsimile: (02) 6622 1914
Email: jdwyer@trinitylismore.com
Website: www.trinitylismore.com
Martine Cox was second in 1 unit SOR with a mark of 49/50. Morgan Griffin had images of her major work for textile and design – a stunning dress – selected to showcase and advertise the Whitehouse Institute exhibition. Morgan’s dress featured on the advertisements for the exhibition. Paul Zvirzdinas’ wood technology entry of a handmade guitar was selected for inclusion in InTech 2005.

One of most successful pastoral initiatives is our Sunday Liturgy and Hospitality. Each year group is rostered to assist with the Liturgy of the word and Music and then to entertain parishioners at morning tea afterwards. These Masses are eagerly anticipated by the parish community as the occasion allows them to enjoy the vitality of the students’ participation and their hospitality skills. Parents and parishioners are often still talking on lawns hours after Mass has concluded!

Another special pastoral initiative is our Kinder-Year 12 Mass held in early September each year. The HSC students are paired with kindergarten students for the Mass and then the kindies entertain the “biggies” at recess. The sight of Year 12 boys assisting the kindy mate with their reading or in the Offertory Procession brings a tear to the eye. During the reflection hymn the kindies distribute a small memento of the occasion to the seniors who always display and wear their gift with pride.

2005 marks the 40th anniversary of commencement of education at St. Paul’s College. Celebrations will take place throughout the year with a big weekend planned for the last weekend in June. Special emphasis is being placed on the efforts of those who worked hard to establish the College. All former staff, ex-students and anyone interested in the College's progress are invited to attend the celebrations. Sunday, 26th June will feature a Mass and then associated activities at the College. Further information can be obtained from the College, phone 02 6562 7200.

Mr Simon Stroud, from Caritas Australia, visited our School to talk about concern for others. Simon spoke about his work overseas and how the money we will raise during the year will be put to great use in very practical ways that will make a difference in the lives of people less fortunate than ourselves.

Ash Wednesday, being so early in the year, gave the children at St Joseph’s an opportunity to begin to establish firm links with their buddy classmates as they sat together during Mass. The Buddy System links older children with younger children to provide friendship and support and to continue to promote the loving and caring community for which “joey’s” is well known.

This term parishioners and school community members are asked to pray for the First Reconciliation class of 2005. The children, who have begun their preparation, will receive this Sacrament on Saint Patrick’s Day at 11am.
Aurora TV is an independent, non-profit channel broadcast free of charge by Foxtel and Austar as part of their community obligation. New subscribers and those who have migrated to the providers’ digital service have access to Aurora on Channel 183. The digital service gives the operators the opportunity to carry many more channels than the original analogue service, which began ten years ago.

Aurora provides a voice on Australian TV for faith-based groups, not-for-profit social service companies and non-Government organisations. Other groups taking part include the Salvation Army, Anglican Media, Mission Australia, UNICEF, Red Cross, UNHCR, Australian Asian Youth Centre, Plan International, the Australian Film Radio and Television School and Swinburne Film School. The “face” of CCTVA is Fr Richard Leonard, Jesuit priest and film critic, who has been appointed director of CCTVA.

“For many years now the Church has had little direct presence on Australian television and so the Bishop’s Committee for the Media seized the opportunity to have access to an increasingly important television outlet where we can put to air programs from which we think the Catholic and wider community will benefit,” Fr Leonard said.

While Foxtel and Austar broadcast Aurora free of charge, CCTVA must pay for the acquisition and production of programs, and air time. “Unlike running an entire channel, the costs and the associated risks in this venture are smaller for the Church,” Fr Leonard said. “The amount of time we are on the air will only be limited by the money we can raise for sponsorship, programming and buying on-air time.”

Initially, CCTVA will broadcast Mass three times a week on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:00 am, as well as putting to air Australian documentary films that focus on the liturgical season, a feast day, or a national observance.

“We want CCTVA to be of service to Catholics throughout Australia, as well as getting our message out to the people who, up to this point, don’t come near the Church,” Fr Leonard said.

Foxtel and Austar Digital presently reach 750,000 homes, but with the phasing in of an inclusive digital service in the next few years, that number will climb to 2.25 million homes, with a projected reach of nearly 7 million Australians. Foxtel is available in state capital cities and regional WA, while Austar is available in all other locations. “That’s the sort of marketplace where the Church should have a voice,” he said.

A Ten-second prayer for the Year of the Eucharist

Blessed, praised and adored be Jesus Christ on His throne of glory, and in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar!
The Opening Mass began with the official welcoming of new staff and students, where they were warmly invited into the school community.

During the Offertory Procession prayers and reflections from the entire student body for ‘Hands for Hope’, the Tsunami Aid Appeal, were presented upon the altar.

Before the dismissal Year 12 students were presented with their Journey Candles. These candles will be kept by the students through this year of study to remind them that during their endeavours, Christ’s light and that of the Holy Spirit are constantly there to illuminate their path.

This Opening Mass also celebrated our first community gathering in our beautiful new ‘Holy Family Chapel’. Fr Michael Brady blessed the altar, crucifix, lectern and chairs which were especially designed and constructed for the school by David Walsh, whose son, Simon, is in Year 9 at St Joseph’s College.

It truly is a stunning and peaceful place of prayer, and St Joseph’s College encourages all to come, see and pray in our ‘Holy Family Chapel’.

Anna Travers-Jones
Year 12 Altar Server
After this Michael began his studies for the priesthood. He was professed as a Marist after his novitiate in Tutu, Fiji. His seminary studies were at Bomana, Port Moresby, where he was taught by Fr. Dennis Carroll, the present administrator of St. Carthage’s Cathedral.

His ordination at Nondugl, not far from Mt. Hagan, by Archbishop Meier S.V.D. was a wonderful occasion. Over 2000 people attended, including some who had walked for three days, over the mountains carrying their pigs for the feast which the whole community celebrated the day before. Some of the visitors came from Bouganville where Michael had previously done his pastoral year.

Fr. Michael was appointed to the Marist Mission in New Caledonia. On his way there he was able to visit his ‘alma mater’ Woodlawn and was able to celebrate the College’s Beginning of the Year Mass with Fr. Dennis Carroll and Fr. Paul Pidcock. He also took part in Ash Wednesday liturgies in the College chapel at Woodlawn, and was welcomed at Assembly.

We wish Fr. Michael every blessing and success in his priestly life and congratulate him on his Ordination.

Father Paul Pidcock SM.,
Chaplain, St. John’s College Woodlawn.

Fr. Michael won an Ausaid Scholarship to Woodlawn in 1992 – at that time there were 36 students from Papua New Guinea attending Woodlawn, many of them on Ausaid Scholarships – Michael obtained his Higher School Certificate in 1994.
On the 8th December 2004, I attended the Priestly Ordination of Father Michael Anis S.M. a former student of St. John’s College Woodlawn, in Papua New Guinea.


Fr. Michael Anis with his parents

Sepik dancers leading the procession to the place of Ordination
Much of the ease with which the children settled into their classes can be attributed to the highly successful orientation program that the children attended at the end of last year. The orientation involves the children participating in a variety of activities over the three days. The program is designed to expose and familiarise the children to their classroom and playground environment, their teacher, teacher’s aide and classmates for their first year of school. This helps to minimize anxieties for the children and their parents associated with separation on the first day of school.

The children are attending school four days per week for the first month of Kindergarten. Every Wednesday during February the Kindergarten children enjoy a rest day and come back full of enthusiasm for learning on Thursday morning. The children look forward to many aspects of school life such as daily fitness, where they spend the first 20 minutes of every morning doing gross motor activities. Special events are planned to complement the literacy program such as the teddy bear’s picnic, making lemonade and pancakes and the Easter Hat Parade.

The highlight of the early weeks of school for the Kindergarten and Year 6 children is the introduction of the Buddy program. This program involves the Kindergarten children being partnered with a Year 6 student to act as a role model and familiar face in the playground. Other activities are planned such as art and craft, sporting activities and reading.

The many educational and pastoral activities offered by St Mary’s ensure the children enjoy a smooth transition to school and develop a life long love of learning.

Jacki Moore, Paul Dwyer and Katherine Lamas
It all commenced at the start of second term when they met every Wednesday afternoon after school for skills training. Then at the start of third term they were presented with the Regional challenge. They had six weeks to solve the problem and in August presented their solution at the Regional Tournament of Minds Final hosted by John Paul College. The team was judged the winner. They subsequently travelled to Sydney for the State Final in September. Again they were judged the winner and became the State Champions. This meant an invitation to the Australian Final which was held in Perth on 23rd October 2004.

Their challenge was called “Proper Speak”- and they had to prepare their solution in a 3 hour lock up. The teams had to demonstrate the use of both politically correct and incorrect language and explore the effects and consequences of each using characters from the worlds of commerce, politics, the media and sport.

During the course of their lock up, they also had to solve a spontaneous problem. They performed their long-term solution to a panel of judges that afternoon.

At 6pm that evening, in the presence of 52 teams from all States, Territories and Singapore and some parents and friends, it was announced that the John Paul College team was the National Champion in Language/Literature. They had also reached their destination.

These students competed with some of the most prestigious schools in the country and overseas, including Walford Anglican School for Girls, South Australia and the Australian International School in Singapore. They were also a very young team with no Year 10 students. Much of the training was provided by Year 11 students, Jessica Chiswell, Rohan Johnstone and Jaraya Woods.

To get the team to Perth required a huge fund raising effort from a small committee of parents and friends. The committee raised in excess of $6000 in four weeks. Only one other secondary NSW team, Loreto College in Sydney (1996) has won the National Final in the Competition’s 14 year history.

The motto for the 2004 Australian Final in Perth was “The Journey Not the Destination” and what a journey these students have had.

Bill Van Ryswyk
The Catholic Education Office, Lismore has reached a new milestone in the provision of quality education with the approval of a registered and accredited annexed campus of John Paul College, Coffs Harbour.

It will deliver distance education courses using computer and internet technologies. To be known as The Diocese of Lismore Distance Education School, it will provide e-learning students from Catholic and Independent secondary schools throughout NSW access to subject choices such as Ancient History, Economics, Engineering Studies and Software Design and Development in their senior years of schooling. This is the first non government registered ‘e-school’ operating in NSW.

Andrew Burgess the Learning Technologies Advisor for the Diocese of Lismore Catholic Education Office developed and manages the program, offering students access to an online teacher, a school mentor and online learning materials to complete their Higher School Certificate in these subjects.

Students are drawn from a broad geographical area across the state. Broken Bay, Armidale, Wilcannia-Forbes, Maitland-Newcastle Diocese and every secondary school in the Lismore Diocese has students enrolled. They enrol in individual subjects to broaden their opportunities for subject selection that may otherwise be unavailable to them or if they have a clash of subject choices within their school timetable.

Cathy Harnack at John Paul College, Coffs Harbour, Greg Donaldson at the MacKillop Campus of St Joseph’s High School in Port Macquarie and Chris Core at Mt St Patrick College, Murwillumbah, deliver Ancient History, Software Design and Development and Economics to students.

In 2005, John Rochford from St Peter’s Catholic College at Tuggerah and Phillip Oke from St Francis Xavier College at Hamilton are being supported by the Diocese of Broken Bay and Maitland-Newcastle to deliver Engineering Studies and a second Software Design and Development class.

Online flexible delivery distance education, online learning or e-learning is essentially a form of teaching and learning that uses computer based internet technologies where students, regardless of location, have access to staff, resources and services. The technology providing a gateway for instruction, communication and the provision of educational resources to enhance the learning experience.

These courses are experiencing tremendous growth in both the school and higher education sectors as a result of increased use of personal computers, exponential growth in internet access, lower technology costs and the development of digital content. Our current enrolment is 110 students. The excellent results of students are testimony to the success of the program and the ongoing dedication and support to students from the online teachers.

Andrew Burgess – Catholic Education Office, Lismore