



John the Baptist Parish

Bonnyrigg Heights

(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury and Cecil Hills)

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER WEEK 2

'Prayer of the Church' prayed at John the Baptist 10 minutes before weekday Masses
Morning and Evening Prayer

Monday - No Mass

Tuesday - 9:10am

St Damasus 1, pope

Wednesday 7:00pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday - 9:10am

St Lucy, virgin, martyr

Friday - 9:10am

St John of the Cross, priest, doctor

Saturday - 9:10am

SUNDAY 15/16 DECEMBER

(Third Sunday of Advent)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday Masses : 8:00am & 10:00am

1st Sunday of Month:

5:30pm Youth Mass

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.15 - 5.00pm

Advent



2012

What's coming up in the Parish.....

- Advent Catechesis after Wednesday evening Mass on 5th, 12th and 19th December.
- Advent at John the Baptist see inside for more details.
- Special Memorial Mass for those who have lost loved ones Wednesday 19th December.
- Church Working Bee Saturday 15th December 8am—1pm.

Reflection Questions.....

- The call to "prepare the way of the Lord" means I must.....
- My daily living opens up for others the way to the Lord when I.....
- Repentance means to me.....

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C) 8th & 9th December, 2012

Dear Parishioners,

This week our Patron John the Baptist echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." The coming of the Lord is something to be longed for and prepared for with joy and anticipation. Mercy and integrity in the light of the glory of God is what is anticipated. John preached a message of repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, which helped people to turn their lives around, and put God in the rightful place in their lives and his message is just as true today. Advent is about putting God in the centre of our lives and preparing to meet Christ with joy this Christmas. Next Sunday will be Gaudete Sunday – special day of joyful preparation for Christmas –there will be prizes for the most colourfully dressed next Sunday at Mass. Check out the colour of the priest's vestments!

We have a group of Fijian students, teachers and parents staying with us at John the Baptist this week. They have been visiting schools and the sights of Sydney and have been made to feel very welcome – please introduce yourselves to them and make them feel welcome. Fr Epeli has been hosting them, and is a former teacher from their school which was founded in the 1880's. Our seminarian Luke Le from Good Shepherd Seminary at Homebush has been making himself at home and visiting all the classes in the primary school this week and participating in the life of the parish.

Please make sure you sign up to help in any way you can over the Christmas season – there are so many roles to fill and we have so many visitors who we need to make welcome. I am sure you can do something. If in doubt, speak to one of the parishioners or to one of the priests. Next Saturday will be the Working Bee in the Church and Church grounds. There is much to accomplish in this time, please consider coming and helping if only for a short time. Please sign in when you arrive and bring all you need to work with.

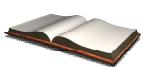
Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,
Fr Michael L McLean, PP

A WORD FROM LUKE LE - Second Year Student at the Good Shepherd Seminary

I was born in Greenacre and grew up with my family who were immigrants from Vietnam. I grew up in a very religious and musical family where life in Christ and an appreciation for music was strongly encouraged. I enjoy Asian food, music and skateboarding. It will be a pleasure to spend time with you all.

JOHN THE BAPTIST 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK - LIMITED EDITION

A book chronicling the first 25 year history of our Parish has been published. The book includes many colour pictures and stories during the period from 1985 until the end of 2010. The book will be on sale after each Mass this weekend and next and will make great Christmas present. The cost is \$30 to cover the printing and binding costs. Even Fr. Epeli makes an appearance in a couple of the photos from when he was a Seminarian and visited our Parish, can you spot him in the book?



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

The St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers need to be **returned by Sunday 9th December** to the Meeting Room outside the Church. Thank you in anticipation for your usual generous support.

Mount Street,
BONNYRIGG HEIGHTS 2177

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Michael McLean
Email: pp@johnthebaptist.org.au

Assistant: Rev Fr Epeli Qimaqima
Email: curate@johnthebaptist.org.au

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator: Tomasz Juszczak

Contact: The Parish Office on 9823 2572 Email: tomaszj@johnthebaptist.org.au

Parish Pastoral Centre:
45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights

Presbytery: 9823 2572
Fax: 9822 9954
Email: info@johnthebaptist.org.au
website: www.johnthebaptist.org.au

* Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:



* **Sick:** Hazel BROOKES, Apollo, Ceasat, Evangeline, Helen, Olive, Divina, Agustin, Hiroshi, Amber, Valentin, Siliako LOLESTIO, Natalie DUNN, Anne RILEY, Presley PETILLA, Kui LAI, Bob Antoni MILCZARSKI, Leah FERNANDEZ, Robyn EBERL, Angela ROMEO, David SHAW, Frank CAPARROTTA, Colleen BROOK, Marianna FOTI, Salvatore Giuseppe FOTI, Rocco AGOSTINO, Geoff MASTERTON, Rina FAVOTTO, Grace KENNY, Michela GIORGIO, Jack KELLY, Michelle CARUANA, Leonora MENDOZA, Evelyn MAGRI

* **Recently Deceased:** Remedios CARATING, Ashley CHATTO, Kristina STEVANJA, Adele AYOUB, Theressa TURO, Saad NOHRA, Raffaela FROIO

* **Anniversary:** Vita PREVITERA, Sarina FIORI

* **Other:** Silvestre TCHEN, Beryl BOWE, All the deceased relatives of CAMILLERI & VELLA families, Very Special Intention

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2012/2013

Your Planned Giving Envelopes for 2012/2013 financial year are available for collection after all Masses this weekend. We thank you for your support.

If you would like to join the envelope system please place your name on the clipboard and envelopes will be prepared for you or you can contact the parish secretary on 9823 2572. You can also contribute through Credit Card with periodic deductions. These can be organised by filling in a yellow Standing Authority form. These forms can be picked up from the Church or Parish Pastoral Centre, at any time, and should be returned to the Presbytery. If you have changed your address this year could you please advise the parish secretary so that we can adjust our parish records. Thank you

To existing Planned Giving Members please ensure you write the amount you have given on the front of your envelope to ensure that it is recorded correctly.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

We need more Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers for 2013.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Angela (9606 8403 or 0410 964 196).

To all our Children's Liturgy Leaders and Helpers of 2012.

The community of John the Baptist would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank you for the commitment and care you have given the children of our Parish. Thankyou for sharing your faith with our children and helping them in their journey of faith, to know and love God more.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you and your family. God bless you.

Please let Angela or your co-ordinator know (this week if possible) whether you would like to continue being a Children's Liturgy Leader in 2013.

After your final Children's Liturgy for the year, please leave your folder and photocopies for 2012 in the Children's Liturgy cupboard.

Thank you
Angela Galdas

FREEMAN SPORTS CLUB Trials and Registrations for 2013

Club Registrations U5-U11 Boys and Girls Freeman player 2012 and new players who have not played before—Proof of age required Saturday 1st December 9am-2pm John the Baptist Parish Hall

Trials U12 and U13 Boys, U12 to U16 Girls
Mondays 14th January, 2013 and 21st January, 2013 6:30-8pm

Trials U14 and U15 Boys
Tuesdays 15th January, 2013 and 22nd January, 2013 6:30-8pm

Trials U16/17/18/21 Boys
Wednesdays 16th January and 23rd January, 2013 6:30-8pm

Trials AAL/AAM/PL/035
Tuesday 29th January, 2013 and Thursday 31st January, 2013 7-8:30pm



Where: Stockdale Reserve, Stockdale Crescent, Abbotsbury

All players to be there 1/2 hour before. Boots and shin pads must be worn.

Registration for all players and soccer kidz
(Proof of age and ID required for new players)
Saturdays 2nd February, 2013 and 9th February, 2013 9am-2pm
John the Baptist Parish Hall

Enquiries: Frank 0438 445 981 or Roy 0408 414 540

CAR PARKING

Could we please ask all Parishioners to respect the safety and courtesy of others and only park in the designated parking bays of the car parks. Please do not park in any of the restricted access ways or driveways. This will ensure that traffic can flow in and out of the church grounds as efficiently and safely as possible.



YOUTH CORNER



YOUTH FAMILY MASS

Attention all High School aged and older students and their families!

The next Youth Group Family Mass will be held at 5.30pm on Sunday 3rd February, 2013. All are welcome to attend!

For more information see the WYD/Youth Group bulletin board or call Mary Fraser on 0403 647 399 or Tomasz on 9823 2572

YOUTH GROUPS

We are proud to confirm that JB Parish have two permanent youth groups up and running!

Antioch

Antioch is a parish-based ministry run by youth where teens and young adults are able to express their Catholic faith in various ways. The Antioch youth group is continuing to flourish within the Parish and youth between the ages of 16-24 are more than welcome to join! Antioch runs every Sunday from 6:30pm-8:30pm. For more information about Antioch, please contact Tomasz on 9823 2572 or tomaszj@johnthebaptist.org.au

Galilee Youth Group

The Galilee youth group has ceased for this year. The Group will resume next year. Keep watching this space for details.

Youth Ministry Team!

The Parish is looking to start a Youth Ministry Team lead by Tomasz in order to assist in the growth and expansion of youth ministry in the Parish! Sound like something you may be interested in? Great! We are currently looking for both adult and youth representatives to be part of a core team as well as volunteers who are willing to help occasionally. The core team will involve attending occasional meetings (most likely once a month) where important decisions on youth ministry will be made. It will also involve assisting in the co-ordination of different ministries and initiatives regarding youth in the Parish.

If that doesn't sound like something you could do, that's fine! We invite anyone else to become a volunteer/support person. This would involve OCCASIONALLY helping out with initiatives through bringing food, attending outings, assisting with youth groups and a few other things here and there. If anyone is at all interested or would like to find out any more information, please contact Tomasz on 98232572 or tomaszj@johnthebaptist.org.au

World Youth Day

JB Parish is looking to organise a WYD pilgrimage to Rio! The pilgrimage packages have come out and they look absolutely fantastic! If any youth in the Parish are interested at all, please contact Tomasz on 9823 2572 or tomaszj@johnthebaptist.org.au. For more information on packages, please check the bulletin board or visit www.wydtours.com

Immaculata Mission school

Immaculata mission school is a retreat that will run from January 1-14, 2013. It is a two-week formation course to discover the beauty of the Catholic faith through amazing teachings, grow in prayer and missionary spirit through spiritual formation, live the joy of community life, grow as a true disciple, nurture your gifts and talents for the service of the Church, share and be challenged through small groups ... and lots more! It is for youth aged 16-35 and if you require any further information, please grab a pamphlet from the outside table or visit www.immaculatacommunity.org for more information and to register.

ADVENT AT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Novena of Masses for Christmas

Dawn at 5:30am

(followed by a light Breakfast for those headed to work)

Monday 17th December

Tuesday 18th December

Wednesday 19th December

Thursday 20th December

Friday 21st December

Saturday 22nd December

Monday 24th December



Advent Mass and Catechesis

Wednesday 7:00pm Mass 8:00pm Catechesis

December 5th, 12th and 19th (Including Memorial Mass remember loved ones)

Day Retreat - with Sr. Rosa, Spiritual Director

Wednesday 19th December - 9:00am - 4:00pm

Theme: "Emmanuel - God With Us"

Cost : Donation Please bring your own lunch

To book and for further details please contact Sr. Rosa on 0419 779 262

Eucharistic Adoration - Holy Hour

Thursday 6th December 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Little Blue Books: Daily Reflections, Scripture and Meditation for Advent/Christmas Tide are available to take home.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Reconciliation: Wednesday 19th December 6:00 - 7:00pm
(10 priests available)

Christmas Eve: 5:30pm Children's Mass
8:00pm
Midnight



Christmas Day: 7:00am
9:00am
11:00am

SINGERS FOR CHILDREN'S MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

"Any person wishing to sing at the children's mass on Christmas Eve are invited to come to rehearsals every Monday evening till Christmas commencing this Monday the 3rd of December. Rehearsals will be held here at the church from 6-8pm. There is no previous choir experience required. The only per-requisite, is that you attend every rehearsal, pencil in hand. We look forward to meeting anyone interested!"



SPECIAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Wednesday 19th December at 7:00pm

For those who have lost loved ones. Please bring a photo and a candle and a plate of food to share for supper afterwards. The Advent Catechesis will follow at 8:00pm.

ADVENT CATECHESIS

Fr. Epeli will be holding an Advent Catechesis after Wednesday Evening Masses on 5th, 12th and 19th December. Supper will follow Mass and the Catechesis will commence at 8:00pm.

The topic of the Catechesis will be on "The Year of Faith".

Youth Ministry Team

The Parish is looking to start a Youth Ministry Team lead by Tomasz in order to assist in the growth and expansion of youth ministry in the Parish! Sound like something you may be interested in? Great! We are currently looking for both adult and youth representatives to be part of a core team as well as volunteers who are willing to help occasionally. Please see "Youth Corner" for more details.

"Church Working Bee Saturday 15th December 8.00am -1pm"

We need MANY volunteers to help us with the cleaning of the Church and grounds in preparation of the celebration of Christmas Masses. We have lots to do and we need many hands to get it all done! We would especially appreciate any mowers, gardeners and anyone who can help us clean and polish inside the Church to come along and help on the day. Please bring any equipment or cleaning supplies you are able to. A sign up sheet will be available outside church and also on the morning of the working bee. BBQ Lunch will be provided- volunteers also needed to cook!!!

Please call Grant or Tina Dunn with any enquiries- 9823 4704



PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptisms are usually held on Sundays however, it is necessary to make a booking through the Parish office on 9823 2572 as occasional parish events require the need for changes to baptism dates and times.

Baptism preparation meetings are held on the first Sunday afternoon of each month commencing at 4:00pm in the Parish Hall. For further information please contact the presbytery on 9823 2572.

Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation/Confession took place on 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th November, 2012.

First Holy Communion took place on 2/3, 9/10, 16/17 and 23/24 June, 2012.

Confirmation took place on 15th and 16th September, 2012.

Baptism Preparation:



All parents wishing to have a child baptised in January, February or after are asked to attend a preparation session on Sunday 6th January, 2013 at 4:00pm in the parish hall.

Congratulations to the families of Emily HOWLAND and Ellen LEONELLO who will be Baptised here this weekend.

BIBLE STUDY: Every Thursday 10:00am - 11:00am in the **Church Meeting Room** (after the 9:10am Mass and Rosary). For further information please contact Meding on 9823 7121 or 0410 177 673.



RCIA Program: Would you like to become a Catholic or learn about the Catholic Faith. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office 9823 2572.

We will meet every Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Parish Pastoral Centre, 45 Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights.

Bereavement Support Group:

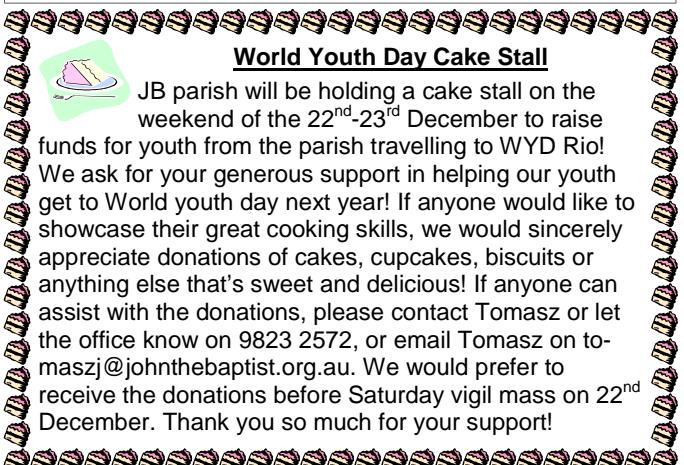
Our parish has a group to assist people who have lost someone dear to them whether it has been recently or a while ago to help them cope with their loss. We will meet fortnightly and our **next meeting is Tuesday 11th December at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre**. This group will be fairly informal but we will have resources to guide us through.

If you need any information please do not hesitate to contact Josie on 9607 3973. You are able to join this group at anytime.



CHURCH LINEN HELPERS NEEDED:

We need volunteers to help with the cleaning of the Church Linen. It only takes about half an hour every 6-8 weeks. If you are interested in joining the linen roster for the Church please contact Tina Orchard on 0408 448 700 or Email: tina.paulorchard@bigpond.com Thank You



World Youth Day Cake Stall

JB parish will be holding a cake stall on the weekend of the 22nd-23rd December to raise funds for youth from the parish travelling to WYD Rio! We ask for your generous support in helping our youth get to World youth day next year! If anyone would like to showcase their great cooking skills, we would sincerely appreciate donations of cakes, cupcakes, biscuits or anything else that's sweet and delicious! If anyone can assist with the donations, please contact Tomasz or let the office know on 9823 2572, or email Tomasz on tomaszj@johnthebaptist.org.au. We would prefer to receive the donations before Saturday vigil mass on 22nd December. Thank you so much for your support!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MONEY COUNTERS - Counters are needed for the Second Sunday of each month and one counter for the first Sunday and third Sunday of each month for approximately 2 hours after Mass.



BULLETIN EXTENSION NOTICES

8th & 9th December, 2012

JOHN THE BAPTIST HISTORIC PIPE ORGAN



CD's are available for purchase featuring music played on our Historic Pipe Organ and four other Parish Organs. A booklet on the Historic Organ is also available.

Sponsorship of a Pipe is still available. These are a great gift idea for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptisms etc.

You can find Sponsorship forms, CD's and the Booklet on a stand beside the Historic Organ.

If you require any further information please contact the Parish Office on 9823 2572 or Rita Fenech on 0410 484 420.

SOLO PARENT MINISTRY

The next social gathering for the Mount Pritchard Solo Parent group is on Friday 14th December at MOUNTIES Club, 101 Meadows Road, Mount Pritchard for dinner and/or Christmas Drinks. Please meet in the main foyer of the club at 7.00pm. All enquiries please ring Madeleine 0410 642 383.

WYD RIO 2013 SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE Raffle



In July 2013 our pilgrims will be attending World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

To support our Pilgrims and their mission work place purchase a \$2 ticket in our WYD Raffle and you could win \$10,000 in travel or shopping vouchers.

Tickets and booklets of tickets to sell are available online at www.cwf.org.au or by calling 1800 752 959.

Raffle closes on 28th March, 2013 and will be drawn on 5th April,

Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville

Weekend Retreat: Friday pm 14th - Sunday Lunch 16th December
"Born For You" - We prepare for Christmas by reflecting on the birth of Jesus for us and also our birth of Jesus. -
Sr. Nory Ordiz, CM and Fr Gabriel Maliakkal, OCD -
Ph: 8795 3400

TRADITION 2013

The University of Notre Dame Australia and the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney will co-host an international conference: *Tradition 2013*, to be held in Sydney on the Broadway campus of the University. The conference brings together prominent national and international scholars to explore the concept of tradition with a particular focus on the philosophical and theological senses of "Tradition".

For more information see the Church noticeboard or email: tradition2013@nd.edu.au or visit the Tradition Conference 2013 website tradition2013.nd.edu.au or Ph: (02) 8204 4390

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED for pregnancy help Centre in Fairfield at our Lady of the Rosary Parish supported by the Archdiocese of Sydney. We require working or retired doctors, nurses, counsellors, mothers, grandmothers, handymen, cleaners, teachers, multi-tasking people etc. Age 18 plus. For more information call Anna 0410 789 641. Please leave a message if unanswered.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - CATHOLIC STUDENTS ART EXHIBITION.

Over 90 inspired artwork pieces showcasing the creative talent of young Catholic students in Years 5 and 6 will be presented in an exhibition - The Christmas Story. One artwork will win the Cardinal's trophy. Open to the public from **03 December** in the Crypt of St Mary's. **Monday to Thursdays - 10am to 4pm.**



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE AND READINGS.

The Cathedral's spectacular and renowned Christmas Carols Service and Readings with the St Mary's Choir. The evening will consist of a rich selection of traditional carols and liturgical Christmas music. **Friday, 21 December 7.30pm.**

THE LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS is on again at St Mary's Cathedral. This spectacular light show on the facade of the Cathedral will tell the story of unity, world peace and harmony. The Lights of Christmas will be **launched on Thursday, 13 December from 7.30pm** and will run every night from 8.30pm to midnight through until Christmas night. Bring the family to Cathedral square and watch the spectacular show of light, sound and the true meaning of Christmas.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Wednesday, 12 December,

at All Saints Parish, cnr George St & Elizabeth St in Liverpool

7:00pm Holy Rosary

7:30pm Holy Mass celebrated by

The Most Rev Julian Porteous



Veneration of the Sacred Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Mexico City & flower offering will follow after Mass.

Please help us with your Prayers, too. Thanking you with prayers for blessings from Our Lord and Our Lady.

ROSARY CRUSADE SYDNEY AUSTRALIA 2012

Sunday 9th December

11:30am till 5:30pm

Australia's Second Crusade

C.S.I Recreational Club 81, South Street, Schofields, NSW, 2762



- ◊Pray the Rosary
- ◊Procession
- ◊Religious Stalls
- ◊Celebrate Mass
- ◊Confession
- ◊Canteen

Rosary will be prayed in 5 languages followed by Mass, the procession will then follow.

The Holy Father sends his blessings on the day for this special event.

If you would like to support this special event or would like to hold a stall on the day, please call our toll free number Ph: 1300 663 502 or email your interest to info@telepace.org.a or simply visit www.telepace.org.au for more information.

PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE. Join us for a prayer Vigil with St Francis Xavier. The relic of St Francis Xavier will be in the Archdiocese of Sydney from 30th November, visiting local parishes, and will arrive at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 2nd December, for the 6pm Mass, followed by a 24 hour Vigil. The Pilgrimage of Grace will conclude with the Feast Day Mass of St Francis Xavier at 7:00pm, Monday 3rd December. Please visit www.pilgrimageofgrace.org.au

THE SISTERS OF LIFE RETREAT DAY FOR WOMEN. All women are invited. The theme of the retreat - "Behold I Make All Things New" on **Thursday, 13 December 2012**, 9:15am-4:00pm. A retreat day for all women seeking to deepen their prayer life and be inspired in their faith. Includes Mass, Adoration and talks by the Sisters of Life and Fr Greg Morgan. Complimentary morning and afternoon tea provided, lunch by donation. Venue: University of Notre Dame, 104 Broadway, Broadway. Registration essential. To register or for more information: 8204 4135 or sydney.chaplaincy@nd.edu.au.

STUDY WITH MARYVALE INSTITUTE IN SYDNEY. Would you like to be accredited by the highly-regarded Maryvale Institute, UK, without leaving the country? Maryvale in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Sydney will be offering the **Maryvale Certificate Course in RCIA Catechesis** for full completion in Sydney beginning December 2012. Please call **Catherine** at the **Catechumenate Office** for further details **9390 5951** or email rcia@sydneycatholic.org.

World Youth Day 2013 – Are You Coming? Come and join with the Archdiocese as we travel to Rio de Janeiro to meet with the Holy Father and celebrate what it means to be a young Catholic! Check out www.wydtours.com.au to discover the seven amazing pilgrimages that are on offer and register now! The pilgrimage of a lifetime awaits you!

Caritas Global Gifts 2012. Become part of the Global Village this Christmas. You can help change lives by giving a Caritas Global Gift. It's a wonderful way to make giving meaningful and help vulnerable communities at the same time. In return for your donation toward your chosen gift, you receive a beautifully presented card to give to your loved one which explains how you have made a contribution on their behalf. **All gifts are available from 01 November 2012.**

Fertility Educators Needed. Natural Fertility Services is looking for suitable applicants in the Parramatta and greater Sydney area to train as Fertility Educators. Thorough, in-depth training over a 12-month period is provided to successful applicants. Some prior experience of Natural Family Planning is desirable but not essential. Sessional work is available to those who complete the training and become accredited educators. For more information and application forms call **The Manager NFS (02) 9390 5156**.

YOUTH SUMMER SCHOOLS OF EVANGELISATION. What are you doing this summer? A week long summer retreat for young people wanting to grow in faith and share the Christian challenge with others. Theme: "Have faith in God" 1 John 1:7. Includes lectures and seminars, prayer, music, fun and friendship. **06-13 January 2013.** Two locations in NSW – Bathurst and Paterson. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community for over 25 years. For ages 16-35. For more information see www.summerschool.org.au

CATHOLIC MISSION – GIVE A GIFT WRAPPED IN LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS. With Christmas fast approaching, Catholic Mission launched its exciting new online gift catalogue—**Life-Giving Gifts**—with a selection of gifts that will benefit those who need it most. The online gift catalogue is organised into three sections which represent the three different funds that Catholic Mission provides financial support to: Children, Communities and Church Leaders. Each of the gifts have been chosen specifically because Catholic Mission supports these projects in over 160 countries around the world. Those who choose to give a life-giving gift this Christmas will have the opportunity to send an e-card to their loved ones or to receive a printed card, with the card portraying a photo of the gifts that have been selected. To view the gift catalogue and to purchase a life-giving gift, please visit www.catholicmission.org.au/gifts.

SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTHERN SUDAN - CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2012. A Catholic non-profit organisation that educates and trains teachers, nurses, midwives, local farmers and community leaders in the Soudan. Financial support is needed to help fund the next phase of projects run by Solidarity. For more information and details on how to make donation deposits see church noticeboard.

THE MUSTARD SEED BOOKSHOP HAS EXTENDED TRADING HOURS in the lead up to Christmas. Thursday 06 Dec to 9pm, Thursday 13 Dec to 9pm, Saturday 15 Dec 9am-5pm & Thursday 20 Dec to 9pm. Come in for an excellent range of quality Catholic books, DVDs and CDs. Find the perfect Christmas gift. Address: The Catholic Centre, 3 Keating St Lidcombe. For more information 02 9646 9000, bookshop@caec.com.au or visit www.mustardseed.org.au.

NEW TESTAMENT GREEK/ECCLESIASTICAL LATIN: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST. The Catholic Adult Education Centre is currently undertaking a survey of individuals interested in learning Koine Greek and/or Ecclesiastical Latin. Such courses would enable students to learn the language of the New Testament and/or the official language of the Church. Should you or anybody you know wish to register interest in undertaking either or both of the above languages, would you please contact **Mr Matthew Leslie**, Assistant to the Manager of Studies on **(02) 96469010** or via email: study@caec.com.au by no later than **21 December 2012**.

PALMS AUSTRALIA – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Palms Australia is an organisation that has been sending volunteers to developing countries for 50+years. Palms global volunteers are vehicles for development and social change through mentoring and exchange of skills. Palms partner communities in PNG, Tanzania, Samoa, Timor-Leste and Kiribati are in urgent need of skilled volunteers. Visit www.palms.org.au to learn more about positions available and contact 02-9518 9551 for further information.

PREPARING FOR THE VOCATION OF MARRIAGE? Of Life and Love Marriage Preparation Weekend at the Catholic Adult Education Centre. Book your place for February 02 & 05 or March 16 & 17. \$230 per couple. For more information, speak to your parish priest today, call 9646 9010 or go to www.caec.com.au - *A wedding is a day, but a marriage is a lifetime*



All it takes is just one hour a week to have an impact on the life of someone who is lonely because of their mental illness.

Mental illness is more common than you think. Almost 1 in 2 Australian adults will experience a mental illness at some point in their life. The symptoms of mental illness can make people become isolated. Adding to that, the stigma of mental illness can often make connecting to the community very difficult.

You can help by volunteering for the Compeer program, a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society. By spending an hour a week enjoying a simple social activity with your new friend, such as chatting over a cup of coffee or taking a walk in the park, you can really make a difference.

Volunteers are matched with a friend of the same gender, similar age and who lives in their local area. You don't need to have prior experience with mental illness – full training and ongoing support is provided by Compeer staff.

For further information, please phone Vanessa or Natalie on 9622 2411 or email copeer.westernsydney@vinnies.org.au. Men and women over the age of 30 are encouraged to apply.

Compeer: Friendship makes a difference.