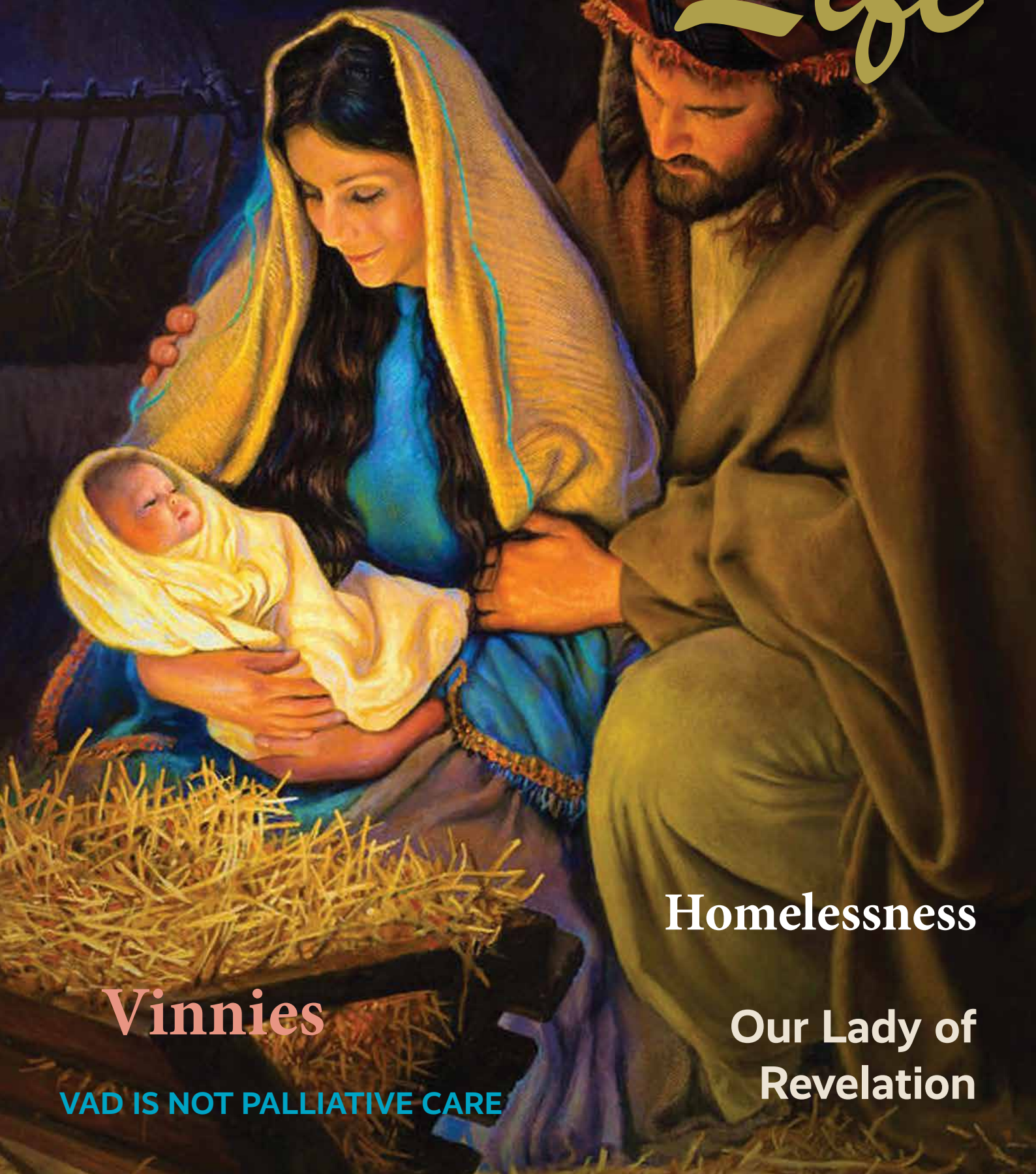


Summer 2021

Abundant

**“I have come so that you may have life
and have it more abundantly” *John 10:10***

Life



Vinnies

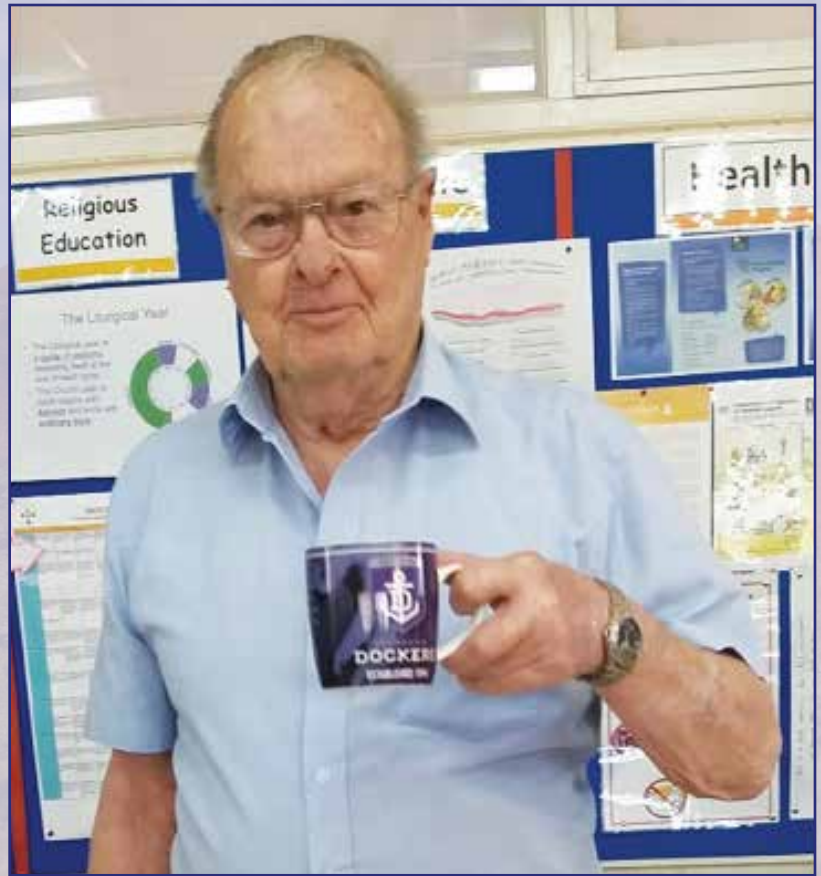
VAD IS NOT PALLIATIVE CARE

Homelessness

**Our Lady of
Revelation**

Contents

Prayer: Consecration of the Family	3
Poem: Retreat	3
Poem: The Feast of Friends	3
Editorial	4
Full Horror of Life on the Streets	4
VAD is Not Palliative Care	5
Vale: Redmond Casey	6
Scripture Meditation	8
Mary, The Virgin of Revelation	9
The Gift of God	10
Getting "Miracles" in Perspective	12
Vinnies Christmas Appeal	14
Latest Statistics on Homelessness	15
Vinnies Homelessness Services	16
Book Review: <i>Light On The Hill</i>	17
Australia's Birth Rate	17
Book Review: <i>Watch and Pray</i>	18
Book Review: <i>Gift of the Rosary</i>	18
Make A Difference	19



23rd September 1933 - 12th October 2021

Abundant Life

*A magazine for
Life, Faith, and Family*

ISSUE

Summer 2021

PUBLISHED BY

Life In Abundance Inc.

ADDRESS

33 Williamstown Road,
Doubleview WA 6018

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 4039
Woodlands WA 6018

TELEPHONE

08 9446 3266

EMAIL

brianpeachey@westnet.com.au

EDITOR

Brian Peachey

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Archbishop Emeritus B. J. Hickey

Abundant Life

Our Objectives

Will actively counter legislation permitting or encouraging the destruction of human life.

Will vigorously defend marriage between a man and a woman.

Will publish reasons why the family is the basic unit of society.

Will support all moves to stop the importation and internet reception of pornography.

Will support moves to remove prostitution which degrades women.

Will propose Christian principles and ethics in politics and commerce.

Will publish educational material on sexual morality for the young.

Will engage in political debate to support good governance and social justice.

VALE

Redmond Casey

Redmond Casey was a Marist Brother for 69 years, travelling throughout Australia to teach and share his loyal Catholic faith.

His heart was drawn to a little country town in Central Australia in 1997, where he spent the following 25 years among the Eastern Arrrnte people doing missionary work at Santa Teresa Church.

Red was also a keen footballer, coaching countless juniors wherever he went.

After suffering with cancer of the mouth, Red found it very difficult to talk, and eventually passed away in Brisbane.

Several Thanksgiving Masses were held to celebrate the life of Red and the highly successful work he undertook, especially at Santa Teresa.

A more detailed account about the life of Redmond Casey can be found on page 6.

By Brian Peachey

Prayer for the Consecration of the Family

Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, I come to you to consecrate myself and my entire family to Your Two Hearts. I desire to renew the vows of my baptism and place each member of my family through an act of faith, Hope and love into loving union with the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. I dedicate myself and each member of My family to the Guardian Angels God has given each one of us. O Holy Guardian Angels, enlighten, guide And protect each one so as to lead us safely home to heaven.

At Fatima, dear Mother of God, you appeared with St. Joseph and the Child Jesus blessing the world. O Holy Family, Bestow blessings upon me and my entire family so that we may live the Christ-life. I desire that each member of my family adore always the Most Blessed Trinity and love our God in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Grant peace to each member of my family. Keep each one in the grace of Jesus Christ. Never permit any of my family To stray from the true faith. For any member who has strayed, I beseech you to bind up the wounds, lift up the fallen, and keep each of our loved ones in grace. Bid them come back to their Father's true home. Amen.

RETREAT

Come unto yourself a while,
Be deaf to outer cares;
Ask not who wins, who falls, who rages,
Or what each doubtful sign presages,
Or what face treachery wears.

Soon you must return to tasks
That sicken and appal:
The calumnies will never cease,
Look only to the sign of peace,
The Cross upon the wall.

This is that sole instrument
That measures every chart;
This square and level overrules
The subtle calculus of fools
By a celestial Art.

It is not said we shall succeed,
Save as His Cross prevails:
The good we choose and mean to do
Prosper if He wills it to,
And if not, then it fails.

Nor is failure our disgrace:
By ways we cannot know
He keeps the merit in his hand,
And suddenly, as no-one planned,
Behold the kingdom grow!

James McAuley

The Feast of Friends

The feast of friends, the candle-fruited tree,
I have not failed to honour. And I say
It would be better for such men as we,
And we be nearer Bethlehem, if we lay
Shot dead on scarlet snows for liberty,
Dead in the daylight upon Christmas Day.

G. K. Chesterton

Editorial

In this edition of *Abundant Life*, we once again focus on the value of human life. From being homeless on the streets, to understanding the difference between palliative care and voluntary assisted dying. The Government plays an important role in what happens in our society and the laws it creates to protect human life. We must hold the Government accountable to ensure Christian values are upheld and the dignity of human life is maintained.

Much work has been done over the years by St Vincent de Paul to help the homeless survive and recover. With increasing numbers living on the streets, it is vital that the Government and the people of our community assist those who are in need.

We also look at Our Lady of Revelation, and what stemmed from the idea of assassinating Pope Pius XII to being converted and teaching others about Our Lady.

In these times of affluence for many, we must remember that the divide in our society is growing further apart, and not everyone is living with equal access to resources. It is the intention of the Catholic Church to value every human life, and we must do all we can to help.



Pregnant?

We care...

For free and confidential help and support phone

PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE

9328 2929

www.pregnancyassistance.org.au

Full horror of life on the street

100 deaths but no probe

By Annabel Hennessy
The West Australian

The McGowan Government has rejected calls for a parliamentary inquiry into the deaths of homeless people, despite data revealing at least 100 of them have died since the start of 2020.

Liberal MP Steve Martin, the shadow minister for housing, and Greens MP Brad Pettitt have joined forces to call for a probe despite being from opposite sides of politics.

The pair recently approached Labor MP Sue Ellery, Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, to ask for the Government's support for the probe but said they were told the McGowan Government did not support the call.

"We come together in asking the WA State Government to support a parliamentary inquiry into the street deaths to determine how the systemic issues in the housing and justice departments can be addressed to better support people experiencing homelessness. This inquiry will save lives," Mr Pettitt and Mr Martin wrote in a joint letter to Ms Ellery.

Data from the University of WA's Home2Health team found at least 100 people who had experienced homelessness had died in Perth since the start of 2020.

However, researchers believe their figures underestimate the problem because they only count deaths where they have been able to obtain health records.

Many of the fatalities are known as "deaths of despair" such as suicides and accidental overdoses.

The deaths also included people who had died from health issues which may have been exacerbated due to homelessness.

A rough sleeper was found dead on Wellington Street in the CBD on Thursday. Police are still investigating but say they don't believe his death was suspicious.

Earlier this year *The West Australian* revealed the death of 38-year-old Noongar woman Alana Garlett, who died while sleeping rough in the Perth CBD.

Mr Martin said it was disappointing the Government had refused to investigate the issue when it had said it did not have data on how many deaths had occurred.

"This isn't a political stunt," he said.

"We genuinely want to find out the extent of the problem."

"Homeless West Australians want answers."

Mr Pettitt also said the issue should not be seen as partisan.

Community Services Minister Simone McGurk said the Government had been unable to verify the UWA research figures and was not aware of "any credible service providers in the homelessness sector that think a parliamentary inquiry is the best way to help those who need it".

"We are focused on delivering unprecedented commitments in this area as quickly as possible," she said.

"The McGowan Government understands that the health of homeless people is impacted by their circumstances and that many people who are experiencing homelessness, even for a short period of time, have complex issues that require more intensive support."

For more, see page 14.

VAD is not Palliative Care

The Consequences of Voluntary Assisted Dying

By Dr John Hayes FRACP
Consultant Physician

Perth Archbishop Costelloe released a forceful anti-VAD Pastoral Letter prior to the enactment of the VAD legislation on July 1, 2021. However, there was no mention that people will be able to end their lives with VAD in Catholic hospitals and aged care institutions.

Whilst doctors and nurses have Conscientious Objection Rights, this does not extend to institutions such as hospitals and aged care homes. Hospital and aged care staff however will play no role in facilitating VAD to patients or residents.

The CEO of Eastern Palliative Care in Melbourne appeared on 'ABC Breakfast', pointing out that under the WHO definition, assisted suicide (VAD) is NOT palliative care. People requesting VAD are "referred elsewhere".

Writing in Medical Forum magazine, Perth palliative care specialist, Dr Derek Eng, again pointed out that assisted suicide is not palliative care. He further stated that, "We are concerned for the vulnerable who can now access VAD more easily than palliative care. Currently only about 25% of dying patients will have access to specialist palliative care."

In Dr Eng's view, the new VAD laws "have caused confusion" and "everyone is unsure about what palliative care is. To be clear, the specialty of palliative care does not engage in activities to deliberately hasten the process of dying."

The introduction of assisted suicide in Canada has had a profound negative impact on palliative care in that country. As a result, palliative care doctors are leaving the profession or emigrating, whilst new recruits are drying up. Many clinicians described the large emotional toll created by exposure to assisted dying. No doubt the same will happen in Australia. After all, assisted suicide is a frank violation of the Hippocratic Oath and has been condemned by the World Medical Association.

It is interesting that Dr Philip Nitschke, who pioneered euthanasia in Australia, is never mentioned in recent VAD political debates. After all, he has been struck off the Medical Register and declared "a danger to society" (NT Medical Board).

"To be clear, the specialty of palliative care does not engage in activities to deliberately hasten the process of dying."

VALE

Redmond Casey

By Kieran Ryan

Marist Brother Redmond Casey, formerly Brother Pius, passed to eternal glory on October 12, 2021 in Brisbane, following a short illness with cancer of the mouth. Redmond was a quiet man at the best of times and in his final weeks speaking became a difficult task.

Brother Red, as he was affectionately known, had spent the last 30 years or so at Santa Teresa Mission, about 85 kilometres southeast of Alice Springs, where he worked with indigenous families and also drove the mission bus. He was much loved and respected by the families that he too loved and served with dedication.

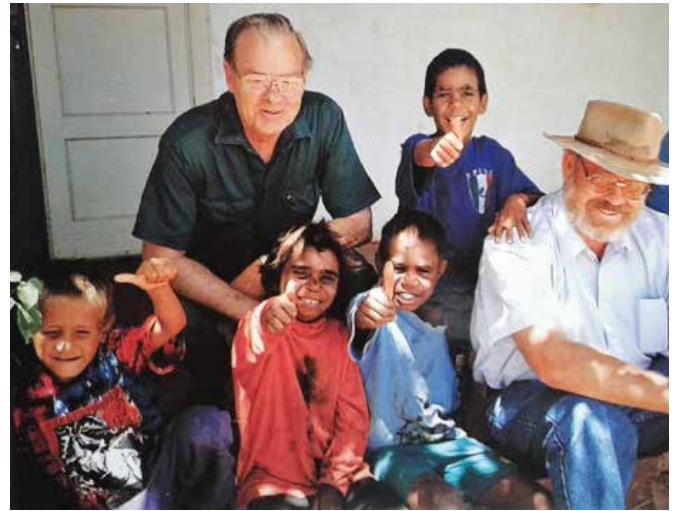
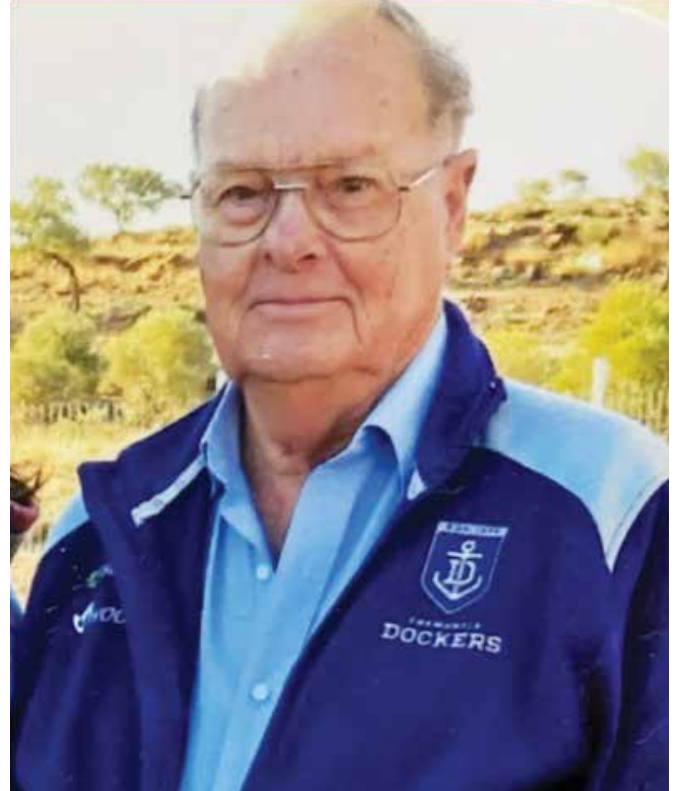
When visiting Alice Springs in April 2016, I called him from Uluru having not spoken for about 50 years. At that time he was a young teacher at Marist Brothers College in Subiaco and was my first football coach. He was a deadly shot with the blackboard duster in the classroom.

He immediately remembered me and quickly named my father, uncle and cousin. An extraordinary memory after such a long period of time.

I drove with my wife along the dusty gravel track to St Teresa's the following day and could quickly see this place was where his heart really lay.

Santa Teresa was established in 1953, following years of missionary work from a base in Alice Springs by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, on a land area of 1,100 square kilometres. The majority of Aboriginals at the mission belong to Eastern Arrernte people who are accustomed to the harsh and unforgiving climate of Central Australia.

It is a proud all-Catholic community that is strongly loyal to the work of the mission. The mission population is about 550 people who live in a self-determined dry community.



Being tall, strong and athletic, the Arrernte people are good at most sports but excel most in Australian Rules Football. When we visited in 2016 most of the mission population was away for a weekend football carnival, I think at Hermansburg.

In the 1970s the Marist Brothers had discussed the possibility of becoming involved in an apostolate involving Aboriginal people and the Provincial, Brother Cletus Read, visited Alice Springs with Brother Leo McVeigh to explore the possibility.

Following some religious education with Aboriginal youth in Alice Springs, Brother Cletus moved to Alice Springs in January 1978 and set up the Marist apostolate in Santa Teresa a short time later. Cletus was soon running teacher training classes for aspiring Aboriginal teachers.

Brother Cletus also taught at Marist Brothers Subiaco and is buried at the small cemetery at Santa Teresa. Brother Red took us to the cemetery to visit the grave. I could see that Red seemed at home, at peace, at this barren outback burial site. Clearly, in retrospect, he wanted this to be his final resting place and so it will be.



Santa Teresa is a success story of human sacrifice and endeavour by a large number of priests, brothers, nuns and lay people.

The love of Christ by the local population is displayed in the church with numerous murals painted by local people. These massive works of art which cover the walls show Christ in outback Australian scenes, sitting at a creek bed with gum trees, cockatoos and kangaroos. Truly the people's Christ.

Redmond Casey was a part of this highly successful venture and it is fitting that he will rest there among the people he loved and served.



COMMUNITY & MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS

1953	July–December	Bondi Beach	Primary
1954	January	Griffith	Primary
1955	January	Alberton	Primary
1956	July–December	Mt Gambier	Primary
1957	February–July	Broken Hill	Primary
1957	July–December	Drummoyne	Scholasticate
1958	January	Alberton	Primary
1959–1963		Subiaco	Primary
1964–1965		Leeton	Primary
1966	September 1966	North Fitzroy	Primary
1966	September 1971	Mt Gambier	Primary
1972		Bunbury	Primary
1973–1974		Parkes	Primary
1975	February–June	Fribourg	Second Novitiate
1975	September–1979	Griffith	Primary
1980–1982		Northam	Primary
1983–1985		Churchlands	Full time study
1985		Churchlands	Junior School Staff
1986		Templestowe	General Duties
1986	September–1991	Kilmore	Lower Secondary
1992–1996		Somerton Park	Boarding Duties
1997–2021		Santa Teresa	Community Support

Scripture Meditation

A reflection for Christmas

By Emeritus Archbishop of Perth
Barry J Hickey

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . .”

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” John I:14.

We contemplate the Fact of the Incarnation, beyond our understanding but true.

We read the story in Luke, chapter 2.

We respond with humility and love.

It was prophesied by Isaiah – “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.”

“The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a Son whom she will call Emmanuel, God is with us.”

“Daughter of Zion exult. Shout aloud Daughter of Jerusalem.

Your King is coming, the Holy One, the Saviour of the world.” Isaiah, passim.

St Luke tells the story of Bethlehem: “While they were there the time came for Mary to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.” Luke 2:6.

Is Jesus, for you the light in darkness?

In what way does the presence of Jesus make a difference to your life?

Pray for that light to penetrate the darkness of the world around us today.

Let us pray.

God our Father, we rejoice at the birth of our Saviour. May we share his life completely. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary, The Virgin of Revelation

Bruno Cornacchiola and the Plan to Kill the Pope, Tre Fontane

On the outskirts of Rome is one of the 20th century's more interesting apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The apparitions concerned a man named Bruno Cornacchiola, who planned to change history by killing the Pope. He was not a pleasant man to live with – he physically abused his wife and had a deep hatred for the Catholic Church.

His hostility to the Church was further inflamed as he came under the influence of a protestant German pastor who held the belief that the Catholic Church was responsible for most of the evils in the world. Bruno volunteered to fight in the Spanish civil war and while in Spain he went so far as to buy a dagger that he planned to use to kill the Pope and carved the words “death to the Pope” on the handle.

He insisted that his wife leave the Catholic church and join his protestant church. She gave in to this demand, only on the condition that he go to confession and do a nine-day First Friday Novena. It should be noted that his wife had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart. Bruno did the Novena but it had no immediate effect. His drunkenness and abuse continued and his hatred of the Catholic church grew even greater. He joined the Communist party and began to plan his assassination of the Pope.

About the Apparition to Bruno that changed everything:

Finally on April 12, 1947 (the Saturday after Easter), at the age of 33, his life took a dramatic turn. On that fateful day he was preparing for an anti-Catholic and anti-Marian speech that he was due to give the following day. The main purpose of his speech was to attack the Church's teaching on the Immaculate Conception. So he began searching the Bible hoping to find evidence against the teaching.



The following is a recount of a pilgrim who had the opportunity to meet with Bruno in 1995 (photo above shows Bruno along with Monsignor Edward Kelty, at that time a resident of Rome) and Bruno described his experiences. Here is the letter we received from that person:

“According to what Bruno told us, he had taken his 3 children to Tre Fontane (site of the martyrdom of Saint Paul) where he was going to buy chocolate at the famous Trappist monastery. While waiting for the shop to open he sat down to plan his talk as his children played nearby. He was interrupted by the children when they asked him to help look for a ball that they had lost.

While helping them look for it, he suddenly realized that his youngest son was missing. He then found the boy nearby in a small cave kneeling and smiling at something that Bruno could not see. His other two children joined him



and all three of the children began talking about a “beautiful lady” whom only they could see. Bruno tried, but was unable to lift the children off the ground, and finally exclaimed “God help us”.

At that time, he felt two hands wipe his face and then finally saw a beautiful woman. She announced that she was the “Virgin of Revelation” and told Bruno that he had been persecuting her and it was now time for him to stop. She told him that the nine First Friday Masses that his wife had convinced him to attend had saved him.

She also announced that her body could not, and did not, decay upon death, hence she was assumed bodily in to heaven.

It is noteworthy that Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1950.

The Gift of God

By Catherine Raspanti
SACRI Association
Our Lady of Revelation Shrine, Bullsbrook



Our Lady of Revelation came to Tre Fontane to show humanity the truth of salvation, which she calls the ‘Three White Points of Love: The Eucharist, The Immaculate Virgin and the Pope.’ This message of salvation is the promise to be made new through the Living Eucharist, who is Christ Himself waiting to be known and loved, and to share in His divinity with us, so that as St Paul we can exclaim: “It is not I but Christ that lives in me!”

This story of hope and love happened in a place of hopelessness, a place which was used for sin by prostitutes (where they even performed their own abortions) and the chosen seer, Bruno Cornacchiola, a hopeless case, an active militant communist, a wife beater, a hater of the Church who carried a heartbreaking childhood and grew up not knowing how to love. He was the chosen man whom Our Lady entrusted to carry her mission of her SACRI (Arent Soldiers of Christ Immortal King), a catechetical association that she herself founded with Bruno to draw people back to the faith: “I will convert unbelievers and sinners with this soil of sin.”

Tre Fontane (Three Fountains), the place where St Paul was beheaded, is symbolic to the messages of Our Lady of Revelation that with God nothing is impossible: the soil of sin was renewed and made holy to perform miracles - and St Paul’s conversion, a persecutor of the Church who God used to teach the mystical human relationship with the divine. Bruno converted instantly after the first apparition and devoted his life to the Truth through the messages and apparitions, prophecies and dreams he received up to his death in 2001.

Our Lady came to show her ever-merciful love, one that mirrors God’s for humanity, and the unimaginable height of power bestowed on her from the Triune God worthy of her title as ‘Mediatrice of all divine graces’ and ‘collaborator of redemption.’ She catechised Bruno in 1947: “My body could not die and did not die. Could not decay and did not decay . . . I was taken to the throne of Divine Mercy - for the world, collaborating with Jesus my Son for proper redemption . . .

I was taken to the throne of Divine Mercy by my Son, with the angels, in order to be Mediatrix of divine graces, among obstinate sinners.”

In 1950, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the world. “The Church must return back to the pure source of the Gospel.” The Gospel in its pure form is a clarion call to all. “Come to me all of you who are weary and heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.” Mt. 11:28. Pope Francis underscores this clarion call to all by saying: “The Eucharist is not a reward for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.” This is a great example of how the Church is returning to the pure source of the Gospel.

“Never tire to be close to the heart of the Eucharistic Jesus.”

St John Paul II called Our Lady of Revelation the “Lady for the new millennium” and Bruno prophesied that the Shrine of Our Lady of Revelation will be “an island of faith where people will come to learn about the truth and be renewed”. The Eucharist, The Immaculate Virgin and the Pope will ensure we never stray from the true Church of Christ: “Outside the Father’s house where there is His Holiness the Pope, the way, the truth and the life, there is darkness and confusion. Write these words in every place where you believe you should, but first write them in your heart: with Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary, my flesh was crucified for eternal life.”

This Great Gift of God in its entirety brings the whole of Heaven to earth in the Living Eucharist we consume” the Triune God and His Mother, who cannot be separated from the Divine Trinity as “She is daughter of the Father, Mother of the Son and Spouse of the Holy Trinity” Our Lady of Revelation. The Divine awaits to be united to us, like a groom awaiting in the altar for his bride: Holy Communion is a Holy marriage whereby Jesus takes everything bad in us and gives us everything good in Himself. The New Covenant is marriage with God. The New Covenant transforms us in grace.



OUR LADY OF REVELATION SHRINE IN BULLSBROOK

A call to obedience by Vince Lombardo brought this great Shrine of Our Lady of Revelation to Perth, which contains the soil from Tre Fontane. The Shrine in Bullsbrook was established through the generosity, labour, time and effort of Western Australian volunteers and supporters over the years. With faithfulness we look forward to developing the facilities, such as an Adoration Chapel, to keep serving the local pilgrims and those who come from all over the world seeking miracles, healing, comfort and peace. Our Good Mother has an answer to her children: "I will guide you" she said to Bruno, and leaves us with the message of the Gospel, which She proclaims most earnestly: "Jesus is there and awaits all, always there waiting to save you. Jesus wants everyone to understand that He wills that they be saved . . . Children, go to Him, live with Him and be with Him. Go."



From Left: One of the founders of Our Lady of Revelation Shrine in Bullsbrook, Vince Lombardo, Archbishop Bathasby and Archbishop Hickey in St Peter's Square, Rome.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING AT OUR LADY OF REVELATION SHRINE, BULLSBROOK

The solemnity of Christ the King was celebrated on Sunday 21 November 2pm to 4pm, at Our Lady of Revelation Shrine, 36 Chittering Road, Bullsbrook. A celebration of this beautiful feast in the valley included Eucharistic procession with Rosary followed by Benediction and Holy Mass with Emeritus Archbishop Barry Hickey the main celebrant. It was a 'family day' with stalls and lunch fellowship later.

DONATIONS

Subscribe on our website and stay connected on our Facebook page to: donate, become a "Friend of the Shrine" and be involved in upcoming events. You can donate to the Mission of the Shrine. We thank you for your devotion, donations and prayers. God bless us and the Blessed Virgin protect us.

ARCHBISHOP'S STATEMENT

In view of recent press publicity given to a Catholic church being built at Bullsbrook near a shrine to Our Lady, Archbishop Foley on Wednesday released the following statement:

Permission has been given for a branch of an association called SACRI to be formed in the Perth archdiocese.

The association has been given permission to build a church in Our Lady's honour on land donated for this purpose.

Some provision was made for the possible use of the church by the local Catholic community.

The SACRI association was founded in Italy following reported apparitions to an Italian layman Bruno Cornacchiola, which commenced some thirty years ago.

The location of the reported apparition is Tre Fontane on the outskirts of Rome. Many happenings of an extraordinary nature as well as further apparitions have been reported.

The Roman authorities have given no formal approval to the apparitions or to the devotion to Our Lady which has been fostered under the title of Our Lady of Revelation.

There is however regular contact maintained between the group at Tre Fontane and the Roman authorities.

As Catholics, though we know miracles and apparitions are possible, we should seek to foster our devotion to Our Lady with solid piety, recognising her important place in God's plan of salvation.

Catholic Record, Perth

SACRI'S AIM

Living in the Church - to live doctrinally sound lives. To pray, meditate, strengthen love and devotion to the Three White Points: The Eucharist, The Immaculate One and the Pope, to further broaden our religious knowledge in order to live a true Christian life within the Church in society and the family.

Getting this whole “miracles” thing in perspective

I believe this whole matter of miracles has become a big distraction, particularly in the educated, affluent, socially sophisticated Western world, to what the core objective of our faith ought to be really all about.

By Brian Coyne

I had an experience years ago that might help those who are having difficulty understanding where I am coming from in understanding our communication difficulties to younger people today. Here in Perth there is a Marian Shrine at Bullsbrook where some of these miraculous-type events are reputed to have taken place.

I first visited this Shrine back in the 1980s when I lived in Melbourne and I had returned for a holiday to Perth with my family in January. My 88-year-old Dad passionately believes in the healing powers of the waters from Bullsbrook and every few months or so I still drive him up there with a great carton of empty milk containers and plastic cool drink bottles and he religiously fills them up and we bring them back to Perth. Every day he religiously drinks half a glass of this water and before Mum died he religiously used to get her to drink half a glass of the same water each day. (Mum died still not being a believer but out of her tremendous loyalty to and respect for Dad used to say the Rosary with him probably two or three times a week and she'd drink this water for him.) He also gives half the bottles of the stuff we collect away to his mates and geriatric girlfriends at the Hostel where he lives. I even have to confess I actually have a couple of bottles here and can tell you it is some of the nicest tasting water to be found in Perth. I think that “stuff” (do you know what that word means here?) is important for someone like my father. My kids though think this is behaviour from the far reaches of another planet and I certainly do not have the level of faith

that my father does that this water is going to cure me of any illnesses or keep illness or sin at bay. Can you understand that at the same time I can respect his belief even though I happen to believe it is quasi-superstitious or possibly, in this case, actually superstitious?

In one sense the foregoing is a digression from the story I set out to tell but it will serve to perhaps get us to the end point more quickly. When I returned to Perth all those years ago the whole Bullsbrook phenomenon was still quite new. One weekday my Dad and an Uncle of mine persuaded me to drive them up to Bullsbrook. It was probably the first time I went up there on this water-gathering mission or pilgrimage.

Obviously they were enthusiastic to tell me all about the wonderful things that had been happening at Bullsbrook. And indeed I was eager to learn. The whole thing is really impressive: an enormous Church has been built there and a separate new shrine in the last few years. There is now this great line of taps and on some weekends hundreds of people front up there for the pilgrimages run by the SACRI Association and they have to queue up to fill their water bottles. If you go up there on any day of the week there is this steady stream of people pulling into the carpark and filling up water bottles from the taps connected to an underground spring. The whole endeavour has the blessing of the Archbishop and the Bishop and they encourage this devotion and lead pilgrimages up there on a number of occasions through the year or say the

Sunday Mass at the Shrine.

When I went up there first though with my father and uncle the Church was still being built and the really “miraculous” events were still being talked about everyday in Catholic circles in Perth. After we'd visited the Chapel and walked around a bit they took me down to the area beside a small stream or creek under some gum trees where the whole phenomenon was reputed to have started.

It was possibly 12.30 or 1.00pm in the afternoon. Standing down in this quite pleasant little picnic area I can remember my uncle rabbiting on explaining all about what was supposed to have happened. He was saying how when the people said the Rosary down in the Grotto and looked up at the sun through the gum leaves the sun started to dance. I sort of casually looked up at the sun through the gum leaves while he was saying this and, if you'll excuse a line from the Vicar of Dibley, bugger me, the sun started to dance around in the sky for me too. I literally mean it. This was something pretty phenomenal. The sun literally was dancing in the sky and the whole effect was mesmerising.

Naturally I was absolutely intrigued by what I had experienced because, if you haven't already detected, like St Thomas Aquinas I am sceptical that God actually breaks the laws of Physics. (Physics is my formal discipline of learning.) For the first time in my life I was seeming to experience a phenomenon that did defy the laws of Physics and the sun was moving in an irregular pattern in the sky. (Can you remember the day

this happened and the headlines that it received in the papers in the Eastern States? Only joking -- of course it didn't make the papers in the Eastern States or in Perth on that day.)

An animated impression of what I was seeing as I walked across the carpark. The sun has scorched the back of my retinas. I was torn between what I was actually experiencing and my continuing scepticism for what my uncle was rabbiting on about. Some ten or fifteen minutes later we had left the grotto-type area and we were walking back across this newly surfaced car park to our car in the far corner from where we were. This car park was then brand new it had probably only been finished a week or two before with a fine coating of blue metal which, in the hot summer sun, appeared almost blazingly white. It was as though we were walking on an enormous sheet of white paper. The glare was intense. After a minute or so of this I began to notice two funny brown splotches that were flickering across the surface of the car park as we walked. They just seemed to flick about in a really random way. Very hard to describe. I asked my Dad and Uncle if they could see them and they didn't have the foggiest of what I was talking about. They also hadn't experienced the sun dancing. Meanwhile my uncle who, God bless him, is like this at the best of times, was still rabbiting on like a non-stop dictaphone about all this miraculous stuff. And just at about this point he said something like: "... and after they'd been down in the grotto saying the Rosary and watching the sun dance in the sky they'd look up at the spire on the Church and it would be glowing in gold, and their Rosary Beads would change colour too."

The Cross on top of the Church that was reputed to glow. At the moment he said the word spire I naturally glanced up towards the spire and, bugger me again, as I looked up at the Cross on the Spire of the Church IT WAS GLOWING IN A SORT OF GOLDEN LUSTRE.

It was at this point that the penny dropped in my mind as to what had happened to me. When I was down in the grotto and looked up at the sun the reason why the sun appeared to dance in the sky is that my eye's went into an auto-reflex protection mode to prevent the retinas being damaged. You should never look directly at the sun, even through the

gum leaves as I was doing. It only takes a fraction of a second and the lens of your eye focuses the sun rays on your retina and starts to literally cook them. - just like a kid making a piece of paper smoke with a magnifying glass. To protect themselves the eyes go into a sort of automatic fribulation to spread the damage that is happening in the retina. Your eyes literally dance in your head to protect themselves and to all intents and purposes you literally feel as though the sun is appearing to dance in the sky. It does not take any sophisticated medical science or physics to work out what is going on.

An animated impression of what happened as my eyes focused on the cross. Walking back across the carpark the two brown splotches I saw flickering across the surface of the car park was an optical illusion caused by the areas that had been burned in each of my retinas. When I looked up at the cross on the spire as my uncle said it of course the cross appeared to glow gold. My retinas had been burned a golden-brown by the sun in their most sensitive part and everything I look at directly appeared to take on a golden hue. With your peripheral vision the cross appears to have its normal colour but as you really focus on it and the central part of your retina comes into play the cross literally seems to change colour and glow gold. Similarly if you look down at your rosary beads.

Unlike the Australian Skeptics Society, I do not believe my experience proves that miracles are a fake and that all similar phenomenon can be explained away by a bit of elementary physics or medical science. There are many things I do not know the answers to and would not be game to write an entertaining little story about like I have this one. I won't go into those other debates here. Instead just come back and focus on the story I have just told.

Here I was with my Dad and my Uncle. My Dad left school at the age of 13. He only ever obtained a primary education. Even today he has this enormously rich faith. His brother, my uncle, standing there with him was always called the "brains" in the family because before the war he had actually got to Junior Standard in his education (the equivalent of Year 10 today). Think of the poor Italian immigrant who first discovered this phenomenon of the sun dancing in the

sky at Bullsbrook. He probably hadn't even had the education that my Dad had had. But I had studied Physics at University level. Although I had been initially hoodwinked by what was happening it did not take long for my brain to work out what had actually been happening from a logical and scientific perspective. For a person without access to the knowledge I had of course phenomenon like these appear to be "miraculous". You look up at the sun while saying the Rosary and it starts dancing in the sky what other conclusion could you be expected to come to than that God or Our Lady has turned on a special little show for you?

What I am arguing in all of this is that the Church sometimes runs around giving a whole lot of credence and reverence to phenomenon that to older members of the population, or those who do not think in a scientific paradigm, seem miraculous. We tend to speak of these things in reverential tones -- I know my Dad does this. Literally he believes it is the work of Our Lady manifesting itself in a very tangible and direct way when he comes across these things. There is as it were a "real presence" in what he is talking about. I don't experience the same thing in the way he does and my kids even less so. My kids think more like me. To them all this reverence that has grown up around the phenomenon going on at Bullsbrook is actually bizarre and superstitious. Within their, and my frame of reference, I have no more reason to believe there is a special intervention of God or the BVM going on at Bullsbrook than is going on at St Mary's Cathedral, in my own parish Church or when I say my prayers at home.

Do you understand what I am trying to get across when I say we have to be able to explain what is going on at Bullsbrook so that, at one and the same time, it is comprehensible to my Dad and it is comprehensible to my children? We have to use one style and form of language when discussing it with the likes of my Dad and the thousands of people like him who hold Bullsbrook as a very Holy or at least special place. We have to respect their reverence and their frame of reference but, without being paternalistic or condescending, the Church also has to educate them, that the sun dancing in the sky and the glowing Rosary beads are not necessarily proof of God's existence or his works.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Needed more than ever

By David Settelmaier

While many West Australians will celebrate the festive season with family and friends, there are countless families facing the prospect of a bleak Christmas as they struggle to pay their bills, provide food and gifts for their children, or worse, find somewhere safe to call home.

That's why Vinnies WA is asking the community for support with its annual Christmas Appeal.

Throughout 2021, Vinnies WA has recorded a significant increase in the number of families seeking help through its Emergency Assistance and Support program.

The rise in demand suggests that the winding back of the Federal and State Government support measures are having a significant impact on families trying to stay afloat.

"Western Australians are renowned for giving back to the community. When we give back we are able to better the lives of our fellow Western Australians around us," said Andrew York, Executive Manager, Community Engagement Services at Vinnies.

"That's why this year, we are once again asking the community to support the annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal."

"Our job is not done until we can feed all our children, house our families, and ensure people live with dignity and respect."

Vinnies is Western Australia's leading provider of emergency assistance and support. It also provides free financial counselling, services for adults and young people experiencing homelessness, as well as mental health and housing services.

Improving lives - providing a 'hand up' - is the very heart and soul of Vinnies. Thanks to incredibly dedicated and talented members, volunteers and staff, Vinnies makes a very real difference to the lives of over 55,000 Western Australians a year.

Only with the support of the WA community can Vinnies ensure families across Western Australia will wake on Christmas morning with the renewed sense of hope and dignity that everyone deserves.

To donate and help make a positive difference in these people's lives, visit www.vinnieswa.org.au or call 13 18 12.



The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines homelessness '... when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement is in a dwelling that is inadequate, has not tenure or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable, or does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.

The latest statistics on homelessness

The release of the 2016 Census of Population and Housing found there has been a 20 per cent increase in the number of people sleeping rough since 2011. This number is expected to have risen in 2021.

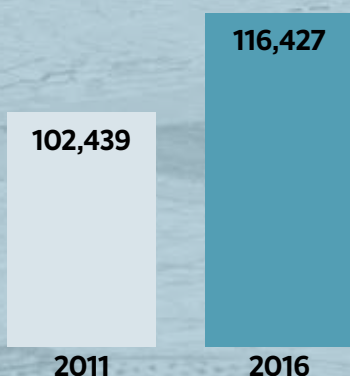
While the number of people experiencing homelessness has grown, funding to create affordable housing and support people has remained inadequate.

The St Vincent de Paul Society has been lobbying the federal and state and territory governments to double the amount of money made available to build more social housing. Without a home, having or finding a job, maintaining a family, and getting an education are nearly impossible.

“Charities like St Vincent de Paul will always continue to support those experiencing homelessness, but the government must also pull its weight in contributing to a fairer society in which no one gets left out,” said Dr Falzone, CEO of Vinnies National Council.



Number of homeless people in Australia



58% male

7% are rough sleepers

21% aged 25-34

1 in 3 people seeking support are single parents

20% identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

13% seeking help are aged 10-17 years

44% are living in severely crowded dwellings

60% seeking help are female

18% living in supported accommodation for the homeless

Vinnies Homelessness Services

Vinnies is committed to supporting the most vulnerable members of the community through their specialised homelessness services.

Vinnies Homelessness Services offer a person-centred approach, ensuring all clients are treated with respect, without judgement and are supported to achieve their life goals. Marginalised and at-risk youth and adults are provided with a safe and positive place to access support services in their time of need.

With the Low Threshold and Change approach and Trauma Informed Care, the services successfully reduce barriers faced by people with challenges or high needs, providing them with a level of support which they may not usually be able to access.

Vinnies Tom Fisher House

Vinnies Tom Fisher House offers an intensive intervention service for those experiencing long-term homelessness. The service supports people with high needs or those facing complex challenges, and provides up to 7 nights free accommodation for adults with reduced barriers to entry.

Vinnies Tom Fisher House works to build relationships with people by offering practical assistance, compassion, and support, while identifying longer term needs and issues. Each client's needs are assessed to understand the relationship between homelessness, trauma, mental health, substance abuse and social disadvantage - ultimately working towards finding a pathway from homelessness to housing.

Many have not experienced what it is like to feel safe, significant or respected. They have not had the opportunity to build positive relationships - trust has been diminished in all areas of their lives, including in systems of support. With this in mind, staff can provide a level of support which clients may not usually be able to access, all in a safe, non-judgement environment.

Almost half (47.9%) of the clients who stayed at Vinnies Tom Fisher House in the past financial year were diagnosed with a mental health condition. Of these clients serviced, 39% were new clients, 61% were returning clients and 33% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Vinnies Tom Fisher House was committed to remaining open during COVID-19 lockdowns to provide intensive intervention support for people experiencing long-term homelessness, at such a critical time. During this stressful time, staff offered clients emotional and psychological support, and provided important information on mask-wearing and restrictions.

Vinnies homelessness services continue to build stronger relationships with industry and community partners. Many successful partnerships were fostered through referral pathways with other specialised services within the system of care. Additionally, Vinnies participated in a number of working groups such as the Improvement Team - Zero Project, Integrated Action Group and Homelessness Working Group, Outreach Collaboration and Street to Home.

Passages Youth Engagement Hubs

Passages Youth Engagement Hubs were established more than 20 years ago due to the growing youth homelessness and the need for a unique specialist engagement service.

Passages Youth Engagement Hubs are a joint venture between Vinnies WA and the Rotary Club of Perth and Mandurah. The two Hub locations offer a safe, friendly and non-judgemental space to access support and referrals for marginalised and at-risk young people aged 12 to 25.

Passages does not require referrals or exclude individuals on the basis of behaviours of concern, drug use or criminal activity. The service provides basic needs such as food, showers, laundry facilities and access to the internet as well as specialised support services. Within the Hubs, Passages staff are able to build relationships with young people and begin informal conversations about their support needs.

In the past financial year, 1,477 new and existing clients visited the Hubs, with 5,477 total visits by clients to the two facilities. Over 700 referrals were provided for additional support services and more than 27,000 support services were utilised such as legal, medical, alcohol and drug support, Centrelink and financial support.

Crafternoons is a successful monthly therapeutic art program run at Passages which provides young people with a space where they can create, relax and just 'be' young people. Workshops have included candle making, polymer clay creations, painting, journal decorating and tie dye t-shirts. Young people who have participated in the program have provided feedback that it has had a positive impact on their mental health and have identified art as an effective coping strategy.



Book Review

Has The Light On The Hill Gone Out?

The Demise of the Australian Labor Party

By Brian Peachey

Published by Brian Peachey, Woodlands, WA

Paperback: 132 pages

Price: AUD\$30

Available from 48 Carrick Street, Woodlands, WA 6018

Why Labor Remains On The Margins

You cannot understand the present if you do not know the past.

Brian Peachey has been a participant in all the major social and political issues in Australia since the 1950s, and is therefore able to provide deep insights into the challenges that Australia face today.

His focus has always been on Labor politics, having been an active member of the Labor Party before the tumultuous Split in the mid-1950s, and subsequently a leader of the DLP in Western Australia.

The title of this book refers to the famous speech by Labor Prime Minister Ben Chifley, in 1949, in which the former train driver set out Labor's vision for the future.

Chifley said: "We have a great objective - the light on the hill - which we aim to reach by working for the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand. If it were not for that, the Labour movement would not be worth fighting for."

Among Brian's earlier works, *The Burkes of Western Australia*, dealt with the political life of his friend and colleague, Tom Burke, Labor member for Perth from 1942 to 1955, and his son, Brian Burke, who became WA Premier and presided over what became known as "WA Inc", a scandal that engulfed West Australian politics in the 1980s.

This was a period of financial excess and political chicanery in which were implicated both the Labor Party and the leading Perth businessmen of the time.

The central theme of Brian's present book is that contemporary Labor has never recovered from the crisis in the 1950s when people of principle who had led the fight to protect Labor from subversion by the Communist Party were suddenly driven out of the party, leaving it in the hands of secular humanists and left-wing ideologues.

He shows how this blighted the Whitlam Labor government in the 1970s, and the Hawke-Keating governments of the 1980s and '90s. It crippled the Rudd and Gillard governments that came to government in 2007 and, after years of division, lost office in 2013.

Any person interested in the possible future direction of contemporary Australia will learn much from Brian's overview of this tumultuous period in Australian history.

Reviewed by Peter Westmore



Has the light on the Hill gone out

The demise of the Australian Labor Party

By Brian Peachey

Australia's birth rate lowest on record

The birth rate was much higher in the 1950s, and indeed much higher continually throughout the past in Australia – 2018 sees the lowest fertility rate ever recorded. And yet, at the same time, there are more births in the country than ever before! Why is this? Well, it's simply due to population growth – our population increases through a combination of migration and natural increase (with the majority due to migration). So, despite a lower rate, there are now more people around to have children, so there is a higher number of babies being born in total.

In 2018, 315,747 births were registered in Australia, about 6,000 more (or a 2% increase) from 2017. So although the birth rate is falling, we are at the moment getting a record number of births every year. This contrasts to the 1970s when we didn't have such strong population growth, and the birth rate was falling by a large amount each year – 1979 had 50,000 fewer births than 1971.

What does a low birth rate mean to Australian Society?

A birth rate that is below replacement will damage industry and society. It accounts for the need of not having young replacement when old employees retire.

Book Reviews

Watch and Pray

Prayers for Eucharistic Adoration

By Emeritus Archbishop of Perth
Barry J Hickey

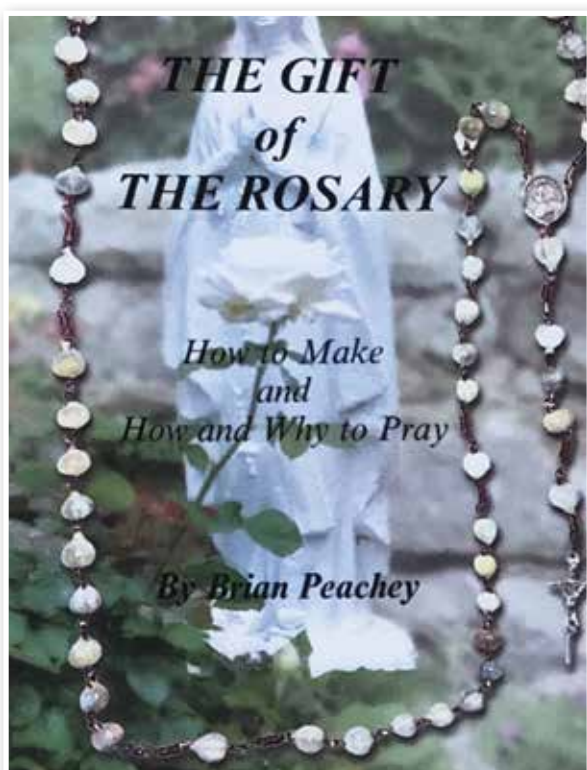
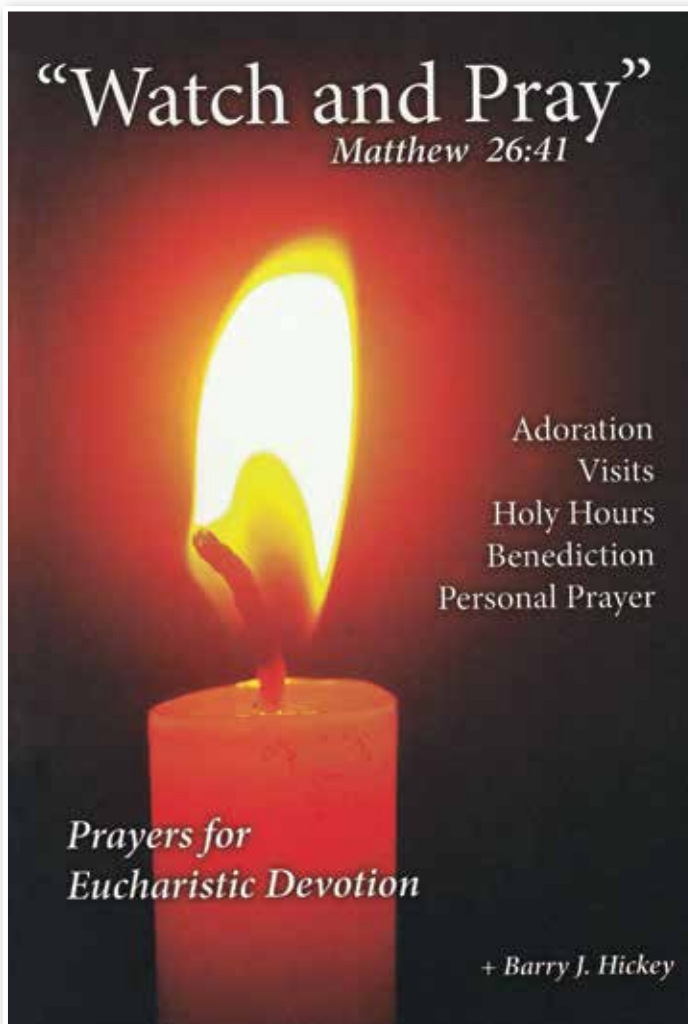
Reviewed by Brian Peachey

Archbishop Hickey has produced a 54 paged gem for those who pray in adoration before the Eucharist and also for those who struggle to pray and want to come closer to God and his Blessed Mother.

Archbishop Hickey has designed this book to assist those who are fortunate to be in a parish where there is Eucharistic Adoration. It especially encourages prayer to Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist and provides several useful meditations.

It is also a book for personal prayer and a means to generate family prayer. As he said in his 2008 book, *Living Biblically*, "The renewed interest in sacred scriptures has come at a very opportune time when many young people are searching to find Jesus. What better way than turning to the Word of God where we see what Jesus did and hear him speak. He has much to say to us today." Archbishop Hickey encourages Praying the Psalms, which forms part of the Jewish Prayer Book. He writes: "They were generally sung. Over the centuries they expressed in poetic form the people's experience of God."

The cost of the book is \$5. A special price has been developed for purchases of 10 or more. For more information or to purchase a copy of the book, contact the Pastoral Centre on 08 9422 7900 or email watchandpray@outlook.com.au



The Gift of the Rosary

How to Make and How and Why to Pray

By Brian Peachey

Brian Peachey has produced an insightful and useful book that is useful for people of all ages.

It provides a brief history of the Rosary, its intrinsic value, power and efficacy tells us how and why we should pray the Rosary.

But what is probably the most unique aspect of this book is the instructions on how to make your own rosary beads. With a few simple tools and seeds that you can source from almost anywhere, these step by step instructions allow you to make your own individual Rosary beads that you can keep or offer as a gift to someone. Making a gift of the Rosary to a friend or stranger has its own special reward, both to the giver and to those who receive it.

Reciting the rosary is important, as Sister Lucy dos Santos said, "...the prayer of the Rosary - after the Sacred Liturgy of the Eucharist - is what most unites us with God by the richness of the prayers that compose it."

The Gift of the Rosary is available by contacting Brian Peachey through the contact details listed on page 2 of this magazine.

Help us make a difference!

Life In Abundance Inc. was established by a group of Catholic laity concerned about the pervasive secular materialism and powerful hedonistic attractions which have seduced many vulnerable families and the young. We are witnessing the collapse of families with damage to thousands of children.

A growing concern for Catholic families is the fact that 95% of all young Catholics who graduate from schools do not attend Sunday Mass or participate in the Sacraments.

Life In Abundance Inc. was established in 2014 with the hope of providing families and schools information on Catholic teaching as it pertains to modern societal issues, with an emphasis on issues of morality.

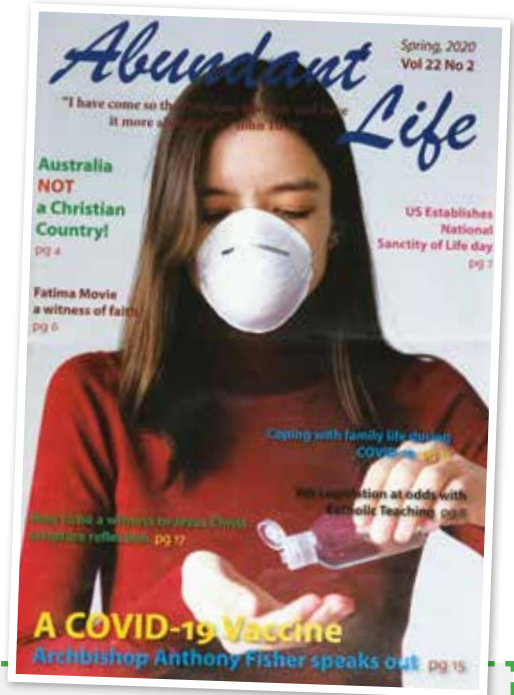
Support this important cause

The establishing of Life In Abundance Inc. has been achieved through the generosity of a small number of people.

The writing, layout and production of every edition of *Abundant Life* has been done by unpaid volunteers. Big costs that have to be met are printing, stationery and postage. If we are to succeed, we must raise funds of \$100,000 or more to establish a permanent office, equip it and employ a Secretary/Manager to receive income, service sponsors and maintain records.

Sponsoring *Abundant Life* will enable us to reach many more people and will help to build a community founded on Christian values by forming people's hearts and minds. We appeal to the generosity of our readers. If you can assist with sponsorship, by credit card, cheque or bank transfer please use the form below.

Donations are tax deductible and all donations of \$50 and above will receive a copy of each edition of *Abundant Life* for one year to distribute to friends, family, neighbours and work colleagues.



Abundant Life

A magazine of Faith, Life and Family

Published by Life In Abundance Inc. needs your financial support.

Donations are tax deductible.

All donations of \$50 and above to Life In Abundance Inc. will make you a subscriber to the magazine *Abundant Life*.

Please accept my donation for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

My cheque is enclosed

Please debit my credit card

Mastercard

Visa

Card Number

Expiry Date _____ / _____

Signature _____

Thank you for your gift. Please post this to: Life In Abundance Inc.
PO Box 4039 Woodlands WA 6018



PLEASE HELP US!

We need your financial assistance to expand *Abundant Life*, make it a monthly magazine and increase its circulation.

[We aim to get *Abundant Life* to more Catholic families.](#)

This requires the establishing of an office equipped with necessary plant and software and the employment of a paid manager, who would do essential research and office administration.

See page 19 for how you can help.

WRITE TO US:

Write to us at *Abundant Life*, PO Box 4039, Woodlands WA 6018.

Alternatively, contact us on email: brianpeachey@westnet.com.au

Abundant Life

A Magazine of Faith, Life and Family

Print Post Approved: PP 100020671

If undelivered, return to:
Abundant Life
PO Box 4039
WOODLANDS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6018

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have changed your address please write the correct details below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Please return this slip, including your old address (printed on the right) to:
Abundant Life
PO Box 4039
WOODLANDS WA 6018