Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Friends of the Magdalene Community,

Last Wednesday a number of students and staff attended the funeral of Daniel Trench who died tragically the previous Wednesday. It is a difficult time for Danny’s family and indeed the whole community, as we try to make sense of what appears senseless. As a community we do not have answers, however, we can trust that our God will guide Danny’s family and each of us through the sadness and suffering associated with this very difficult time. We can rest in the knowledge that Danny is now safe and close to his God. As a community we need to rally together to support the Trench Family and each other. The students have joined together to support each other and Danny’s family and the care fund will also be used to provide support where we are able. I continue to ask everyone to keep Danny and his family in your prayers. I also thank the members of our community who continue to offer their support.

This week our Year 12 students and their teachers were involved in the annual Year 12 retreat. The retreat provides a unique opportunity for students to reflect on their life journey, their relationship with their God and their relationship with others. For many of our students this is a time for them to be reflective and introspective, which is a rare occurrence for many teenagers today. It is our hope that the participants will have greater confidence in themselves and a better understanding of their faith journey. I thank Mr O’Neill, Mr Pannell, Mr Whicker, Ms Miller, Mr Wright, Mr Zakris, Mrs McAllister, Mrs Abernethy, Mr Dowdell, Mrs Hort, Mrs Violi, Mr Sligar, Miss Partridge, Mrs Passlow, Mr Hatton and Mr Lipscombe for their involvement and willingness to be so supportive of our students.

Last week Lauren Turner of Year 11 competed in the Lions Youth of the Year. Lauren was successful and won the local competition. Congratulations to Lauren who now moves to the final on March 2.

This Friday a number of students will be involved in the Catholic Schools Debating Association Public Speaking Competition held at Mary McKillop Wakeley. I wish the students the best of luck and congratulate them on their willingness to use their talents and support school activities. I also thank their coaches Mrs Barreto and Mrs Jones and adjudicator Mr Johnson.

As stated in the last two newsletters the school is eager to begin absentee notifications to parents via a mobile phone text. At this stage the text will be sent to the child’s mother only. If parents require an alternate text they are asked to advise the school office in writing. If parents have changed their contact details they should advise the school immediately so contact can be made at all times, and especially in emergencies.

Last week the Bishops of Australia released the Sowing in Tears the NSW Bishops Lenten Letter 2013. Each family has received a copy of this letter. A copy is also included with this newsletter.

As we continue into the journey through Lent I remind everyone that there is an opportunity to reach out to others through Caritas. There are numerous opportunities at school and the funds certainly go to a very worthwhile cause.

Strong minds, gentle hearts
Lenten Prayer

Lord It is customary to give something up during the season of Lent.
What would you have me do without? I who have so much.
The list is endless and I could give up all those things for the span of 40 days quite easily and almost painlessly.
But what difference would it make other than making me feel 'holier' that my friend who makes no such sacrifice?
What would you have me do without? I who have so much
I fear before I ask, that the answer might be 'yes' and the giving up would be all too real. It would be difficult, painful, sacrificial, a real cross to carry for 40 days, and more?
Lord help me to bear that cross.
Amen

God Bless

Mr John Lo Cascio
Principal

CSDA Public Speaking

Best wishes to our team of eight Public Speakers who will be attending Round One of the CSDA Public Speaking competition on Friday evening this week.

All of our speakers eagerly took up the challenge to select a topic that they are passionate about. With this in mind, a huge array of issues have been researched and masterfully imbedded into their speeches.

Again, best wishes to the following students:

Charlotte Bendtsen Year 7
Harry Bendsten Year 8
Chelsea Tonkin Year 8
Sophie Cornett Year 9
Hannah Clancy Year 10
Brooke Hoskin Year 10
Ben Brown Year 10
Lachlan Burke Year 11

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the parents, guardians and friends who will be taking the time to escort the students to the venue, as well as Mr Lorne Johnston, who will be adjudicating on the evening, and to the English faculty who have all worked together to ensure that the students have had the opportunity to practise in their classes.

Antonia Barreto and Dallene Jones
Year 7 Camp

As part of their introduction to Magdalene, on the eleventh of February, the new year 7 students went on their first camp together. It was an opportunity for us to make new friends while having fun with some of the activities and challenges provided for us at Teen Ranch, Cobbity. Horse riding, the big swing, bush skills, high ropes course, canoeing, crate climbing and much more featured on our three day camp. It was a great experience for us all to learn more about the people we will be spending the next six years with. Thank you to all of the teachers, Teen Ranch staff and students who made it possible for us to have an awesome Year 7 camp!

By Teagan McConchie
Literacy Learning Spotlight

Congratulations to our many parents who have already established a supportive reading environment at home. Your success and hard work will definitely benefit the learning your child has in all areas of his or her life experience. This week we thought some hints about how to keep the reading going at home might be useful. So here are some ideas to develop your child’s reading:

A sustained period of reading time (more than 30 minutes) each day will strengthen strategies needed for making meaning of what they have read.

Talking about ways of reading unfamiliar words; for example using synonyms, a dictionary, or asking an adult for help, will encourage your child to work out the word rather than ignore it and limit their understanding of their world.

Create a word wall at home. Did you know that improving your child’s vocabulary by 40% will increase accessibility to more difficult reading material? All subjects have glossary terms, so this might be a great place to start looking for words.

To borrow the words from Theodor Seuss:

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” (Dr. Seuss, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!)

A good site for books for teens is: http://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/teen

Visitors to Magdalene

We had a visit on 14 February from Natalie (nee Graham) Atkinson and her husband, Maurice. Natalie was in the first group at Magdalene but moved to New Zealand in 2003. She and Maurice are teachers who are working in Thailand teaching Burmese refugees.

In the photo are Maurice, Natalie Atkinson and Mr Kevin Wright.

Learning Resource Centre

New Furniture – Learning Resource Centre: This week the Learning Resource Centre took possession of ten new lounges as part of refurbishment work that is being undertaken this term. The lounge areas have created a bright and modern learning space where students can comfortably read and work. Additional shelving for a new senior reference section has been ordered and will be delivered soon.

All this work has been made possible by the generosity of the Campbelltown Catholic Club whose ongoing support of our school and Catholic education in our Diocese is very much appreciated.

Mr Danny Avalos
Learning Technologies Coordinator
SPORTS NEWS 19/2/2013.

MISA SPORT
This week Magdalene students played Round 2 of the Term 1 MISA season against Mount Carmel with some very good games.
Next week our Softball teams play St Benedict’s.

This weeks results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cricket – Boys Senior</td>
<td>23-95 Loss</td>
<td>A very strong opposition team who played really well. We need to be more patient before we try to play the ‘big’ shot. Mr Vannan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket – Girls Open</td>
<td>104-44 Win</td>
<td>Jessica and Emily got us off to a good start and we totalled 104. Our bowling was tight, Jessica, Isabel and Celene in particular. Jacqui took 2/0. Great catches by Taylor and Emily. Player of the day: Emily. Mr Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball – Boys 8/9</td>
<td>17-12 Loss</td>
<td>Although we were short three of our players the boys worked extremely well. Thanks again to Jake for coaching the team. Miss McCallum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball – Girls 8/9</td>
<td>19-9 Win</td>
<td>A close game to start but the girls clicked into the second half. A fantastic win. Mr Dowdell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oztag – Boys Senior</td>
<td>11-2 Loss</td>
<td>A well organized and strong Mount Carmel team had the intimidation factor against the Magdalene boys working from the start. Tries to Jarrad Harvey and Mark Debrincat were the only highlights on an ordinary afternoon of Oztag. Mr Lipscombe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oztag – Girls Senior</td>
<td>4-2 Win</td>
<td>The girls played extremely well and fair. It was a great agile game. Miss Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball – Boys 7-9</td>
<td>2-1 Win</td>
<td>Great performance by the boys to win 26-24 in the 3rd set to win. They showed composure and good judgement in a tight game. Great serving Tom, great digging Steven, great scrambling Aiden, superb blocking Zach, improved digging Gianni, good setting Cooper and good spiking Mitchell. Mrs Micallef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball – Boys 7-9</td>
<td>8-6 Win</td>
<td>Excellent job by the boys today. The boys learnt a great deal from last week and really deserved the win. Mr Donaldson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball – Girls 7-9</td>
<td>Draw</td>
<td>A great effort girls. Outstanding catching by Sarah. Well done. Mr Zakris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 9 SCHOOL SPORT
This week Year 9 School Sport continued with students playing opposing Homerooms in Soccer, Touch Football, Netball, Volleyball and Basketball. Homeroom teams score 3 points for a win, 2 points for a draw and 1 point for a loss.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOUSE</td>
<td>WIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruchhauser</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunne</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hogan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedgwick</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Diocesan Sport Wet Weather Information

Information about the cancellation/postponement of the event due to rain can be found via the CEO website (http://www.dow.catholic.edu.au/). Go into ‘sport’ and you will see “twitter” updates on the sports page indicating any changes.

Students who are selected into Diocesan teams or are attending Diocesan trials should check this information before leaving for the event.

NSW Dept. of Education and Communities – Information for Parents

School Jargon Busters:

Help Children to avoid back problems:

St Patricks Emerald Gala Ball

St Patrick’s College is hosting their inaugural Emerald Gala Ball

Date: Saturday 9th March 2013
Venue: The Cube, Campbelltown Catholic Club
Time: 7.00pm.

We are raising funds for the Scholarship Fund which will make St Patrick’s College accessible to those families who seek enrolment but may have limited resources.

We would like to encourage past staff and students to organise a table and join the fun of the night. There will be dancing and entertainment and it promises to be a most enjoyable evening whilst supporting a worthy cause.

Tickets can be purchased through the website www.saintpatricks.nsw.edu.au or contacting the College on 46292999.
### June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Jarrett</td>
<td>Frances Lapa</td>
<td>Kelly</td>
<td>Sharon Jones</td>
<td>1 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Phillips</td>
<td>Carol Miskell</td>
<td>Saysanavongpheth</td>
<td>Toni Johnson</td>
<td>Megan Gibson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue McCann</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rachel Williams</td>
<td>Thai Tyquin</td>
<td>Rachel Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### School Notice Board

**Term 1 Week 5A**

**Monday**

- Year 9 Reflection Day

**Tuesday**

- Year 7, 2014 Open afternoon and Information Evening
- Catholic Schools Week

**Wednesday**

- Year 7 Reflection Day

**Thursday**

- Year 12 Half-Yearly Exams

**Friday**

- Good Friday

**Term 1 Week 6B**

**Monday**

- Year 7 Vaccinations
- Year 9 Boys Vaccinations

**Tuesday**

- Easter Monday

**Wednesday**

- Last Day of Term 1

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**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:**

A weekend for married couples. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset: Your Marriage!

This is a unique opportunity to recharge your relationship batteries, refocus on each other and fall in love all over again!

Weekend date: 15 – 17 March at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW

Bookings: Ardel & Bill Sharpe tel. 02 4283 3435 or wsharpe@bigpond.net.au

Information: website [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

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**Second Hand Uniform Shop**

To arrange an appointments please call Kelly O’Keeffe on 0410 553812.

**Donations**

Donations of current sports uniforms are required as we are in very short supply and coat hangers.

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**Magdalene Catholic High School**

**Year 7, 2014 Open Afternoon and Enrolment Information Evening**

The Magdalene Catholic High School community invites prospective new parents and students to find out more about the school on Monday 11 March 2013

- 3pm - 7pm Open Afternoon
- 7pm Enrolment Information Evening

Prospective students and parents should attend, to enable them to view the school facilities and meet with staff.

Parents and students presently attending Magdalene are also invited to view the school.

Enrolment packages will be available on this evening.

For further information please call the school office 4647 7055.

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**Canteen**

**Term 1 Week 5A**

25 February - 1 March

**Monday**

- 4
- Nicole Ferraro
- Emma Grech
- Betty Roberts

**Tuesday**

- 5
- Frank Gomes
- Sarah Penney

**Wednesday**

- 6
- Louise Fallshaw
- Bridget Fuller

**Thursday**

- 7
- Belinda Colusso
- Raquel Cosio
- Lisa Howell

**Friday**

- 8
- Sue Ellen Fitzpatrick
- Linda Meguire
SOWING IN TEARS

Lenten Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of New South Wales
to the Clergy, Religious and Laity in response to the
Royal Commission on Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

“Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap” – Psalm 125:5

LENT 2013
Brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Body of Christ is wounded

Lent words are ‘re’ words: re-pent, re-turn, re-cover, re-pair, re-new. All are called to repentance, not just the great sinners, because all are affected when any member is sinful or suffering. The Body of Christ is wounded.

Yet for all the bruised purple, Lent is a season of hope. It ends not with death but with rising from the dead. As the Holy Father reminds us this Lent, our faith means we can look beyond present ills with joyful hope to the fullness of Christ’s victory, won by His perfect obedience (Pope Benedict XVI, Message for Lent 2015, n. 4).

Against the backdrop of this Lenten paradox – of tears and joy, Cross and Resurrection – the Church in Australia has been rocked by child sexual abuse. As one prominent lay commentator observed: “Like every community, the Catholic Church is a Church of sinners. Its spiritual rhythms repeat the ancient biblical cycle of failure, repentance, penance, forgiveness and reconciliation. Yet even in a Church that knows a lot about sin, some acts of wickedness still retain their capacity to shock. The sexual abuse of minors by priests – men traditionally called ‘Father’ – is one such kind of wickedness. So is the failure of bishops – shepherds, in the ancient image – to guard the flock against predators, especially predators from within the household of faith.” (George Weigel, The Courage to be Catholic, pp1-2)

As the Catholic Bishops of New South Wales, we would like to reflect with you upon the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that these failures in our Church and in other institutions have occasioned. The terms of reference for the Royal Commission recognise that “children deserve a safe and happy childhood” and that institutions like the Church can help that to happen. But sadly children have sometimes been violated by those who should care for them and leaders have sometimes failed to respond appropriately.

We must not put our heads in the sand about any of this, or try to minimise or explain it away. The fact is that our Dioceses have all known cases of child abuse. Even if many of these are ‘historic’ cases, and even if we have improved the way we respond, the damage has been done and there is a public perception that the Church has not addressed these issues adequately. This has in turn damaged the credibility and mission of the Church.
Challenges raised by the Royal Commission

The Royal Commission is to be welcomed as an opportunity for victims to obtain a just hearing for processes within institutions to be scrutinised, and for the whole community to understand abuse better and find ways forward. The Church in Australia has established a Truth, Justice and Healing Council to ensure we cooperate fully with the Royal Commission. There are three things we should keep in mind as the Royal Commission progresses...

First, these terrible sins and crimes, and their mishandling by Church authorities, have done great damage to the victims and their families. Here we Bishops repeat and make our own the apology Pope Benedict XVI made during World Youth Day in Sydney. Calling for renewal of the whole Church in Australia he paused to acknowledge “the shame which we have all felt as a result of the sexual abuse of minors by some clergy and religious in this country”. He said he was “deeply sorry for the pain and suffering the victims have endured... These misdeeds, which constitute so grave a betrayal of trust, deserve unequivocal condemnation.” He urged us to work together to combat this evil and to ensure that victims receive compassion and care, perpetrators are brought to justice and all young people enjoy a safe environment (Homily of Pope Benedict XVI, St Mary’s Cathedral Sydney, 19 July 2008).

As leaders and as a community of faith we must listen to people’s hurt and respond with humility and compassion. We must continue to proclaim the preciousness of every child and young person and to insist that all abuse is contrary to the laws of God, the Church and the state. We must repent where there has been institutional failure and resolve to do better in the future.

Secondly, child abuse is not the whole story of the Church – far from it. The Catholic Church has long played an important role in our society. Holy priests and religious have worked tirelessly for the glory of God and the good of their people. Vast numbers of people are supported by the Church’s activities in parish life, education, welfare, healthcare, ministry to young people and migrants, aged care, service to the poor and marginalised. There is great faith and compassion amongst our pastors and people. We should not lose sight of this amidst the current consciousness of failures.

Thirdly, the current crisis is an opportunity for purification of the Church – a Lenten return for each one of us personally and all of us collectively. This Lent, and the years of the Royal Commission ahead, should be a time of reviewing past performance and examining the whys and wherefores of prayer and penance, and of improving our act on many levels.
Some practical things we can all do

Our Dioceses will cooperate fully with the Royal Commission, police and other relevant authorities. With the help of the Commission report we will try to get to the bottom of the causes both of abuse and of failures to respond to it appropriately. We know we must re-examine our attitude to children and vulnerable people and how we can keep them safe; the ways we attract, discern and form vocations; how we appraise, develop, supervise and support those in ministry; ways to identify and best respond to any hint of misconduct; how we bring justice and healing to victims; ways to work best with civil authorities. Further concrete measures will emerge in the months ahead.

As well as these structural measures we need to consider spiritual ones. Lent is a season for doing something to realign our hearts and minds on God’s. Tears of shame and sorrow must be the beginnings of spiritual renewal. As we pray on Ash Wednesday: “We entreat you, O Lord, that through works of penance and charity we may turn away from harmful pleasures and, cleansed from our sins, may become worthy to celebrate devoutly the Passion of your Son.” And so this Lent and going forward we call for prayer for the following intentions:

- the success of the Royal Commission
- justice and healing of victims
- wisdom and compassion for leaders and carers
- repentance by perpetrators
- grace for those tempted to lose faith or hope
- safety for all young people
- consolation for all affected.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference calls on all the faithful to join them in observing the Fridays of Lent in 2013 as special days of penance in the wake of the abuse crisis, by such means as prayerful reading of the Holy Scripture, a holy hour of prayer and petition before the Blessed Sacrament, and by traditional acts such as fasting and abstaining from meat. As your Bishops in New South Wales we undertake to lead you in these efforts and to continue to make a holy hour ourselves beyond Lent. We invite clergy and religious to join us in giving this lead and redoubling their prayers for this intention.
After Lent is over we ask the people of our Dioceses to continue to join their
pastors in this spiritual response to our spiritual and moral failures, through regular
participation in Mass, Holy Communion and Confession, and by praying daily
for spiritual and moral renewal in the Church. The Hail Holy Queen might be an
appropriate daily prayer as both abuse victims and the Church pass through this 'vale
of tears'. There will be periodic prayers of the faithful in Mass for these intentions.

Wounds in the Body of Christ, even ones for which we are not personally responsible,
will only be healed by our cooperation with God's grace in acts such as these.

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy!
Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve,
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile show unto us
the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus;
O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:
that we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Supporting each other at this time

Lent began with us hearing the Prophet Joel declare: "Before the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, lament. Let them say: Spare
your people, Lord! Do not make your heritage a thing of shame." (Joel
2:17) Faithful priests, religious and lay leaders risk being ashamed and
demoralised at this time and so need encouragement. As Bishops we
undertake to make this a priority.

The Royal Commission will enable some people to raise at last issues
from their past. We encourage all victims of abuse to contact the
police. Assistance is also available from each Diocese. We recommit
ourselves to justice and compassion for victims and their families. We
know our clergy and people want the same.

We ask priests and religious to assist those lay people who
are dispirited by appropriate preaching and pastoral care.
Notwithstanding our failures, God will not allow the Church to fail
in her pastoral and evangelical mission. To the best of our ability, we
must encourage and support each other in seeking and doing God's
will in hard times.
Love: The ultimate response to this crisis

Our Sunday Gospel recalls Jesus' forty days of trials in the desert (Lk 4:1-13). In Lent the Church unites herself to His struggle by forty days of fasting, prayer and charity, hoping thereby to join Him in His victory over sin, death and the devil. By our own sacrifices we join in Christ's compassion — His passion — with victims in their suffering (cf. Pope Benedict XVI, <i>In Petri Selicem: On Christian Hope</i>, 49). By so doing we can be in solidarity, however inadequately, with "the little ones" who have been damaged and with Christ who died for their healing and ours.

Though the Church in Australia may weep through the course of the Royal Commission, it is our prayer that she will emerge humbler and holier. After pruning comes new growth, after the Cross comes the Resurrection. As the Psalmist put it: "They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves." (Psalm 125:6)

This is our Paschal hope.

God's love is the ultimate way forward in this crisis: "When we make room for the love of God, then we become like Him, sharing in His charity ... The Christian life consists in continuously scaling the mountain to meet God and then coming back down, bearing the love and strength drawn from Him, so as to serve our brothers and sisters with God's own love." (Pope Benedict XVI, <i>Message for Lent 2013</i>, 2 & 3). We thank priests, religious and all of you for your fidelity and perseverance in these hard times. And we pray for you the Good Friday prayer: "May pardon come, comfort be given, holy faith increase, and everlasting redemption be made secure, through Christ our Lord."

Yours sincerely in the Good Shepherd

*Catholic Bishops of New South Wales.*
+ George Cardinal Pell  
Archbishop of Sydney

+ Most Rev. Michael McKenna  
Bishop of Bunburry

+ Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP  
Bishop of Parramatta

+ Most Rev. Julian Porteous  
Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney

+ Most Rev. David Walker  
Bishop of Broken Bay

+ Most Rev. Gerard Hanna  
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

+ Most Rev. Terence Brady  
Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney

+ Rev. Mgr. John Woods  
Administrator of Canberra & Goulburn

+ Most Rev. Peter Ingham  
Bishop of Wollongong

+ Most Rev. Peter Comensoli  
Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney

+ Most Rev. Geoffrey Jarrett  
Bishop of Darwin

+ Most Rev. Ad Abkaram  
Mavutte Bishop of Australia

+ Most Rev. Michael Kennedy  
Bishop of Armidale  
Apostolic Administrator of Wilcannia-Forbes

+ Most Rev. William Wright  
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle

+ Most Rev. Max Davis  
Military Ordinary of Australia
"Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap" – Psalm 125:5