

## Sure hope

A Post Office is not where I would expect to hear my favourite music, but unmistakably there was one of my favourite songs, and being sung with feeling and finesse. I even started to hum, and I noticed other people around me doing the same. The mood in the Post Office lifted and I started to feel good. I turned around to the person behind me to share some of my good feeling and found myself facing a very attractive young woman with a baby in her arms, holding on to a pusher with another child snuggled up comfortably inside, and a bigger child hanging onto the pusher. I was amazed to discover that this young woman with three children under five was the source of my favourite melody. And the name of the song? 'Hold on tight to your dream'.

At the time I was struggling to hold on to my dreams, summoning all my faith and hope to believe that God is with me in my difficult circumstances. Hearing my song being sung so sweetly by this young woman as she gazed lovingly at her baby in arms seemed to tell me to wake up to myself, and lifted my spirits out of their doldrums. This young mother was holding onto her dream and yet the peaceful homely scene no doubt disguised much struggle and pain. But here was the mother unknowingly inspiring me and other strangers in the Post Office.

I went home with a lighter step and found myself opening my eyes a lot wider to the good around me without focusing on the darker side of my life, which up till then had been in danger of swamping me.

(Mary)



echoes  
from  
the  
past

## Our God-given hope

Though we are discouraged by the almost unbridled wickedness of our times and by discord which damages social life and impedes generous efforts at reform, consolation is offered to anybody who knows how to receive it. There lives in our world a People of God, still full of humble and honest faith, ready to transform the obstacles and difficulties of life into steps leading to new heights, and happy to have found in the love taught by Christ the power and joy of a new road: renewal and reconciliation.

**Pope Paul VI (1897-1978)**



church below the rooftops

## Inexhaustible comfort

I was talking to a man in the hospital the other day after he had emerged from an operation in which he donated one of his kidneys to his wife. He explained it to me as a natural expression of his marriage vows, to love his wife for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health! (Laurie)

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It was twenty years since my dear friend, and her sister and brothers, had suffered the loss of their mother. In order to mark the occasion, they decided to gather the family, now including spouses and children, to share a meal. The menu would consist of the dishes they remembered their mother preparing, in some cases served from the same bowls and platters. Of course, as they enjoyed the meal, the stories and reminiscences followed. What a wonderful way to celebrate the life and memory of a much-loved mother! (Tracey)

**Today is  
Remembrance Day.  
Pray for all who have  
died in war, for the  
bereaved and for  
peacemakers.**

Blue Mountains Centre  
for Religious Enquiry:

**Dr John Falzon,  
CEO, St Vincent de Paul Society,  
National Council of Australia**  
will give the following talk on  
**"The Australian Conscience:  
doing faith-based criticism in  
the public policy arena."**

There will be plenty of  
opportunity for open discussion.  
Refreshments will be provided.  
**Sunday, 18 November, 3pm at  
Our Lady of the Nativity  
School Hall, GWH, Lawson.**  
(Parking available in church grounds).

**For enquiries contact Helena on  
4759 1461 / 0447 476 859.**

**Catalyst Forum – Bishop Geoffrey  
Robinson**, with Michael Whelan sm,  
Francois Kunc & Marea Donovan LLB in  
a conversation moderated by Geraldine  
Doogue AO, will discuss his new book  
*'Confronting Power and Sex in the  
Catholic Church: Reclaiming the Spirit  
of Jesus'* 18 Nov, 3pm–5pm, Mosman  
Community Centre, corner Myahgah Rd  
and Short St – all welcome - entry \$20.  
Further enquiries, call Catalyst Message  
Bank (02) 9990 7003

**YCS Co-ordinator:** Parramatta Young Christian Students is looking for a dynamic Co-ordinator who is a self-starter with respect for the lives and ideas of students with an understanding of the connection between faith and justice. Full-time/job share options. Contact Sarah tel (02) 9682 6719, sarah.lentem@ycw.org.au Applications close: 23 Nov 2007.

## Register your interest in World Youth Day 2008 NOW!

The Diocese has named Saturday 17th November to Sunday 25th November as Registration Week for 'World Youth Day'! 'Expression of Interest' forms are available for parishioners in the age group for World Youth Day i.e. currently 15-34 years. The forms require detachment, the longer part (parishioner's details) is to be returned to the Diocesan Office and the shorter part (details of WYD websites, etc) is to be retained by the parishioner.

## PRAYER DAY – AUGUSTINIAN CENTRE FOR SPIRITUALITY, GREYSTANES

You are invited to a Prayer Day at  
the Augustinian Centre for Spirituality  
(2 Hewitt Avenue, Greystanes) on  
Tuesday, 13 November, 9.45am – 3pm.  
The theme of the day will be  
***Insights into Prayer:  
An Augustinian Point of View***  
presented by Fr Paul Maloney OSA.  
For bookings please phone 9896-6794.

## WORKING BEE SATURDAY, 24 NOV

The lawn and gardens are in need of a tidy-up  
and Lindsay would like to organise a couple of  
working bees before Christmas – the first on  
the 24 Nov. Assistance will be appreciated.  
Please put the date in your diary!

## The annual Mass and Reunion for Old Boys of St Vincent's Boys' Home, Westmead

will be held on Sunday,  
25th November. All are invited to  
the Sacred Heart Church,  
Ralph Street, Westmead. Mass at  
11am followed by lunch.  
Enquiries: Leo Woods 9604 4078.  
Guest of Honour: **Brother Coman**  
who is celebrating 60 years as a  
Marist Brother.