

M E M O R A N D U M

To:	Parish Priests and Administrators		
From:	Jude Hennessy	Ref:	JH/hb:2021/33
Date:	24 August 2021	For weekend:	28 – 29 August 2021
Subject:	Weekly communications update		

Dear Father/Parish Secretaries,

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS 2021

29 August	Social Justice Sunday
1 September	World Day of Prayer for Creation
12 September	Safeguarding Sunday
26 September	World Refugees and Migration Day

Updated COVID-19 Guideline changes for Churches

Please note and continue to implement the current Covid-19 Lockdown Directives. You would have received a Covid Letter from Bishop Brian – [Covid Restriction Update | 20 August 2021](#), which has been emailed to all parishes.

As you may know, the NSW Government has extended the lockdown for Greater Sydney until the end of September. Our parishes in the Shellharbour Local Government area will become part of Regional NSW and at this stage will be under lockdown rules until 28 August 2021 along with the rest of Regional NSW.

It is now even more important that we remain vigilant to developments that are sent out by the NSW Premier and her advisors in relation to their impact on our parishes, schools, and agencies.

Please contact the Chief Operations Manager, Mr Greg Parrish on 0439 494 429 if you have any questions related to the COVID-19 Directives

Social Justice Sunday – this weekend 29 August

The [2021-2022 Social Justice Statement](#) theme is *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor* <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/>, affirming that “we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour” towards how we engage with creation.

In the Statement, the Bishops also invite the whole Catholic community to join them in taking up Pope Francis’ invitation to engage in the *Laudato Si’ Action Platform*, a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability, guided by seven Laudato Si’ Goals. Amongst the seven sectors targeted by

Pope Francis are Parishes and Schools. You are encouraged, especially if you are sending electronic parish bulletins to include this link or attachment above in your correspondence to the faithful.

On the Journey podcast this week, which goes out across 29 Radio stations and to thousands of subscribers, Max Norden interview Dr Sandie Cornish from the ACBC's Social Justice Council on this Year's Social Justice statement, "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor" go to www.jcr.org.au to listen.

Link to Laudato Si' Action Platform website - <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

The Season of Creation presents as a perfect way to complement and enliven the Social Justice Statement and engage Parishes and Schools with the Laudato Si' Action Platform across our diocese.

I refer you to the following resources:

- [A letter from the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#) that invites the Global Church to participate in this shared celebration.
- The Vatican's letter refers to the launch of the Laudato Si' Action Platform during this year's Season of Creation.
- [2021 Celebration Guide for the Season of Creation - A Home for All? Renewing the Oikos of God.](#)
- [A Catholic Season of Creation Year B](#) - Liturgical Resource for Sundays (Prayers, Homily Notes and Actions)

The **Season of Creation** begins **September 1**, on the designated **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**. It concludes on **October 4, the Feast of St. Francis**.

More information is available at the Season of Creation website. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>
Each year, tens of thousands of Christians around the world unite to celebrate the Season of Creation.

May this year's celebrations recharge our sense of hope and deepen our spiritual roots, helping us feel connected and motivated to live out our faith in caring for creation which in these challenging times of COVID-19 is needed now more than ever.

Sacraments of Initiation- Survey for Parents of State School Children

On behalf of Bishop Brian and Sr Monica, thank you to all of the clergy/parishes who have contributed to the feedback that is being used for the development of a Sacraments of Initiation policy for the Diocese.

The next step in this process, as detailed in recent correspondence from Sr Monica Barlow, is to survey parents. Many parents with children in Catholic Schools are being provided the opportunity, after receiving an invitation to do so from Bishop Brian via CEDoW and schools.

We are seeking the assistance of parishes, perhaps via the Catechist Coordinator and or Parish Secretary, to reach out to some of the State school parents who can provide feedback about their experience of sacramental programs. This could be simply achieved by sending an email invitation to some of those state school parents from your local contact lists from recent years of those who participated in sacramental programs. Could you please attach the letter from Bishop Mascord noting we would especially like their perspective as parents of Catholic children who attend state schools accessing the Survey by simply clicking here: <https://dow.sh/SacramentsSurvey>

[Click to download Bishop's Sacramental Letter Survey](#)

I have also included a brief bulletin notice inviting state school parents to contribute to the survey to assist with gaining as many parents as possible involvement in the survey.

Parishes Pastoral and Spiritual Support

In reference to Bishop Brian's Covid Letter dated 20 August 2021, mention was made that at a recent Parish Secretaries Meeting, there were amazing number of initiatives shared as to ways parishes were supporting communities. So that we as a Diocese might have a better understanding of the many activities being done by parishes, Bishop Brian has asked me to be in touch with you over the next couple of weeks to quickly survey what might be occurring at your local level, as a way of enabling parishes to share ideas/initiatives for pastoral and spiritual support at this time.

Bishop Brian emphasised and stated, without qualification, this survey is **not** an audit or a report. It is simply an exercise in the Diocese ascertaining and sharing amongst Clergy, the breadth of supportive activities that are taking place, so that the Diocese can provide a 'suggestion list' to parishes and develop and implement supportive structures and practices that will be of help to you now, and not some months down the track. Please find attached a simple form where you are invited to list any initiatives you have implemented, and would encourage others to consider, in providing pastoral spiritual support during this time of COVID-19 disruption.

[Click to download Form for Parishes Pastoral and Spiritual Support Initiatives Survey](#)

This is not supposed to be a lengthy, onerous task, but rather one that takes a few minutes and may have multiple or just one or two ideas of note. It may be completed by clergy or if preferred, delegated to the parish secretary etc. Many thanks for your consideration of participating in this quick survey. If these can be returned by Friday September 10 as an attachment to helen.bennett@dow.org.au, I will then look to collate them and share via these notices to all parishes, soon after.

Caritas Australia

[Your support is needed to help families](#) caught up in the following crises:

As the situations in Afghanistan and Lebanon deteriorate, In Afghanistan people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter, and protection. In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine, and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Haiti has bit hit and devastated by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake. Over 1,400 people have died, and thousands more left injured. Homes, churches, and schools have been damaged in the quake, and reports indicate that more than 30,000 families have been left homeless. The country also continues to grapple with COVID-19, poverty, and ongoing political instability and violence. There is immediate and urgent need for food, water, shelter, hygiene kits and first aid on the ground.

To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia's Emergency Response Appeal at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/> or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.

Please promote this via your Bulletin notices.

Service NSW launches Check-In Cards

The QR code sign-in system used across NSW is of huge help to contact tracers when they need to find out where a person with COVID-19 has been and who they might have had contact with.

But not everyone has a smartphone or is comfortable using the technology - without scanning the QR code, these community members instead have to manually sign in, providing their name and contact details at the door whenever they wish to enter a business.

There is now a quicker and easier way, with Service NSW launching personalised check-in cards to replace scanning in with QR codes for those without smartphones.

For more info: https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/7388311/cards-to-help-those-without-smartphones-check-in/?cs=298&fbclid=IwAR000f8ojv5qkwspNAYktiYaep_bk3kL-M4SHBzMwwQj9xX_QrjBVbJFOSE

The cards contain a unique QR code that holds a person's registered contact details. When they attend a venue, a staff member can scan the card to register their attendance and details, rather than having them fill out a form.

The cards are available from [Service NSW online](#), or by calling 13 77 88.

National Church Life Survey (NCLS) 2021 and Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong

The NCLS is the most comprehensive audit of churches and leaders undertaken worldwide, across over 20 denominations in Australia since 1991. The survey reports have enabled many clergy to respond to the needs of their local community more effectively.

You should have received some correspondence from Bishop Mascord (email dated 12 August 2021) detailing how he would like parishes in the Diocese to engage with the survey in October – November 2021, providing some options for levels of involvement. In coming days, if not already, you will receive some information from the NCLS Team. The Catholic Church's participation is being coordinated by Mr Martin Tuelan (Mob: 0408 867 046 / E: mteulan@ncls.org.au) who is eager to assist with supporting Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong with their involvement.

Fifth Plenary Council of Australia Agenda

Here is access to some important information regarding the Agenda for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia – it is the next and a very important – step in the journey towards the Plenary Council assemblies, the first of which will open on 3 October. The media release, [which is also online here](#), as well as the two-page agenda ([and is online here](#)) as is a web-ready version of an image that captures the six themes for the Council, under which 16 questions fall (as you'll see in the agenda).

The Chosen - A TV Series about Jesus – Ideal faith formation in COVID lockdown

The Chosen is a new 'free to view', evangelising television program that hopes to encourage new converts to belief in Jesus and reinvigorate and encourage the faithful. It is the first ever multi-season TV show about the life of Christ, deliberately not using mainstream studios or networks, so that the content can be made without secular interference and strike a balance

between being both creative and theologically faithful for mainstream Christian denominations.

The producers have deliberately sought the guidance of three biblical consultants including Catholic priest Father David Guffey, C.S.C, national director of Family Theatre Productions in the USA. Other consultants include an Evangelical Minister/Professor and a messianic Jewish Rabbi.

If you would like to view the material yourself before promoting it in your Parish, go to <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen> .You can also download the free app for use on your phone / device via this link *The Chosen app* [download](#)

I would like to encourage you to advertise it in your Parish. Numerous parishes right around the world are encourage not only personal viewing but are also using it as the basis of Bible study, small group discussion and prayer. I have included a suggested bulletin notice this week in the pages that follow, for you to consider using so as to encourage your parishioners to watch and be encouraged by, 'The Chosen'.

The Year of St Joseph:

Pope Francis on December 8, 2020, published an Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)*, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

A number of resources have been developed to encourage and support the celebration of the Year of St Joseph by the ACBC. The Diocese has sent you a poster and prayer cards to help promote events in our Diocese.

You are encouraged to visit the ACBC year of St Joseph page at <https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph> Monthly reflections on:

- various aspects of St Joseph's life and character;
- Prayers for various settings;
- Images and social media graphics.

This month's reflection written by Lara Kirk is available at https://catholic.org.au/images/Year_of_St_Joseph_Reflection_August_2021.pdf

Current Resources include:

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter – Patris Corde – With a Father's heart

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

St Joseph Prayer Card: (in addition to cards sent to you by the OOB)

https://www.catholic.org.au/images/Year_of_St_Joseph_Prayer_Card.pdf

Faith Resources for use at Home

There are some new adult online faith formation opportunities available on the Diocesan website – go to the new Section on DoW Website – please promote this using the parish bulletin notices. Visit: <https://www.dow.org.au/nourishing-our-faith/>

These resources include Liturgical Prayers, Faith Circles for Small Group, Course on Prayer and the Catholic Faith and much more. We can assist in helping people of all ages to access these resources and even assist with some Zoom teleconferencing support.

Free Access to FORMED – Promo materials are coming soon.

I will shortly be sending you some posters and brochures to have available in your parish to assist you in encouraging the faithful to access Formed to assist parents to be the first educators in their home and also to enrich their own faith.

FORMED – is a great resource paid for by the Office of the Bishop, with Catholics across the Diocese of Wollongong being given the opportunity to access this ‘Catholic Netflix’ with great formation, resources, and movies / talks. Hundreds already have access, but hundreds more could be accessing it and be formed in faith. See Bulletin message to assist your parishioners to gain the remaining free access codes to this resource.

Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese

Conscious that with many messages to choose from to put in your bulletins every week, I am continuing to include a short message near the top of the message suggestions that captures an opportunity for the faithful to stay connected with what is happening around the Diocese.

Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. A simple way to stay informed and connected is to invite the faithful to subscribe at <https://dow.sh/stayingconnected> to receive regular stay connected updates or visit <https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin> to see a full list of notices sent to parishes weekly.

Yours sincerely



Jude Hennessy

Director of the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation

BULLETIN NOTICES

From:	Mr Jude Hennessy	Ref:	JH/hb:2021/33
Phone:	4222 2403	Email:	helen.bennett@dow.org.au
Date:	24 August 2021	For weekend:	28 – 29 August 2021

RSVP details are essential for adequate catering, seating, handouts etc. We ask that details are kept in notices where included.

Status	Bulletin notice	Attachment(s)
NEW	<p>Bishop's Sacramental Program Parental Survey</p> <p>A discussion paper to assist in the development of a Sacraments of Initiation policy for the Diocese is being developed and Bishop Mascord is seeking feedback from parents and, via parishes, is reaching out especially to parents with children in state schools who have presented their sons daughters for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If that is you, we would love to hear from you!</p> <p>You can access the Survey by simply clicking here: https://dow.sh/SacramentsSurvey and we would be most grateful for your feedback.</p>	
Continuing	<p>Social Justice Statement</p> <p>We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 29 August. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. To read more go here https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2021/06/24/social-justice-statement-2021-22/ and to listen to an interview with Dr Sandie Cornish from the ACBC's Social Justice Council on this Year's Social Justice statement, go to our Diocesan podcast at www.jcr.org.au</p>	Click to download Social Justice Statement 2021-2022

Status	Bulletin notice	Attachment(s)
NEW	<p>Caritas Australia – Your Support is Needed</p> <p>Your support can provide aid and relief to humanitarian crises, like the one currently unfolding in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Haiti, where hundreds of thousands of people are now facing displacement, drought, COVID-19 and poverty.</p> <p>To provide support, you can donate to Caritas Australia’s Emergency Response Appeal at https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free.</p>	<p>DONATE NOW</p> <p>Click to download More information</p>
Continuing	<p>An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving</p> <p>Given that some parishioners are unable to attend Mass in our church, many who support our parish planned giving envelope program have asked how they can continue to financially support the parish. So, we respectfully encourage all parishioners to join our electronic parish planned giving program to help us ensure that we limit the financial pressure this current situation will impose on our parish.</p> <p>Please visit https://www.dow.org.au/plannedgiving/ to learn of the two simple ways you can give to our parish electronically. Importantly, we are mindful that some of our parishioners will sadly be experiencing a change in their financial circumstances. Please contact the Parish Office (<i>insert phone number/email</i>) if you need to decrease/discontinue your planned giving contribution, but mainly to let us know how we can support you.</p>	
Continuing	<p>Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese</p> <p>Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. A simple way of staying informed and connected is to subscribe at https://dow.sh/stayingconnected to receive regular stay connected updates or visit https://dow.sh/weeklybulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes weekly</p>	
Continuing	<p>Online Holy Hour for Young Adults</p> <p>CYMW & NET are hosting online Adoration every Thursday from 4-5pm. Join our Holy Hour through Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/cymdow/ or watch via Instagram @net.wollongong – everyone is welcome!</p>	

Status	Bulletin notice	Attachment(s)
Continuing	<p>Online Young Adult Bible Study!</p> <p>Are you missing your community? CYMW are hosting an online Bible Study for all young adults aged 17-35 throughout the Wollongong Diocese.</p> <p>Bring your bible and your favourite snack as we journey through scripture together... over zoom!</p> <p>Every Tuesday night. 7PM-8PM.</p> <p>Check out @cymdow on Instagram or Facebook for more information or email youth@dow.org.au</p>	
Continuing	<p>Diocese of Wollongong Mass Online</p> <p>For all of the online Mass options- please visit the DoW website https://dow.sh/onlinemass</p>	Online Masses
NEW	<p>The Journey, 29 August 2021 – Your Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast</p> <p>Greta to have Fr Mark De Battista breaking open the Gospel this week, a new segment from Fr Mike Delaney from Tasmania and a wonderful interview with Dr Sandie Cornish from the ACBC's Social Justice Council on this Year's Social Justice statement, "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor". The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.</p>	jcr.org.au
Continuing	<p>ACBC Men's Gathering in our Diocese</p> <p>In 2020, over 1500 men gathered around the country in hub spots for the ACBC National Catholic Men's Gathering. Be inspired, encouraged and renewed in faith with other blokes from around the Diocese. It's free. For more info and to register go to www.catholicmensgathering.com.au .</p> <p>We will be running four (4) regional hubs around the Diocese on dates to be determined post COVID19 restrictions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Xavier Centre Wollongong: Contact Peter Crowe 0407913696 pcrowe360@gmail.com eferry@westnet.com.au 2. Bowral Parish Hall: Contact: Max Norden: 0414 733 823 max.norden@dow.org.au 3. Nowra Parish Hall: Key Contact: Nigel Porter 0430 365 383 (or Gary Egan 0438 077 876 garyegan@westnet.com.au 4. Rosemeadow Parish Hall: Key Contact: Eddie Ferry 0417 049 418 eferry@westnet.com.au – with Ryan Soares, Andy Adina and Ian Boorman 	

Status	Bulletin notice	Attachment(s)
Continuing	<p>Marriage Enrichment Weekend</p> <p>We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on September 10 - 12, 2021 for a Virtual Marriage Encounter Weekend via Zoom. Open to married couples, priests & religious.</p> <p>Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au</p>	
Continuing	<p>The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus – watch during lockdown!</p> <p>The Chosen is a new ‘free to view’, television program that creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and is receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via <i>The Chosen app</i> (download)</p>	
MODIFIED	<p>Plenary Council 2021</p> <p>With just 39 days to Assembly One of the Plenary Council, you can keep up to date by accessing the Plenary Post on the Plenary Council website https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the first Assembly will be delivered online. Keep the up-to-date PLENARY COUNCIL JOURNEY 2020-2022.</p>	
Continuing	<p>The Year of St Joseph</p> <p>Pope Francis on 8 December 2020 published an Apostolic Letter <i>Patris corde (With a Father’s Heart)</i>, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. You are encouraged to visit the ACBC year of St Joseph page at https://www.catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph</p>	

Status	Bulletin notice	Attachment(s)
Continuing	<p>Year Amoris Laetitia Family, 19 March 2021 – 26 June 2022</p> <p>Pope Francis is encouraging the Church to enrich your understanding of the vocation marriage and the core role of family in the mission of the Church at http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/amoris-laetitia.html</p> <p>On July 25th the first celebration of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be held near the liturgical memory of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus.</p>	
NEW	<p>A Vocation view</p> <p>You are called to be a person of integrity. Live in a way that shows that God is your centre. (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23) If you want to talk about your discernment, please contact the Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au</p>	
Continuing	<p>Wollongong Diocesan Resource Centre</p> <p>The Diocesan Resource Centre is in transition to its new premises. Resources are still available to borrow during this transitional period. For more information or request for resources, please contact Anne Russell on 0427 072 363. Resources can be collected and returned at the Catholic Education Office, 86-88 Market Street, Wollongong.</p> <p>For Catechist in the Macarthur and Southern Highlands –</p> <p>Contact Cindy on 4640 8550 or cindy.oliver@dow.org.au for more information.</p>	
Continuing	<p>Formed (Free for DoW parishioners)</p> <p>Join hundreds of other families around the Diocese of Wollongong in nurturing your faith at home, in your own time and at your own pace? FORMED.org is a large Faith Formation Resource library website containing thousands of faith formation documentaries, courses, movies, audio and books covering all aspects of our Catholic faith. Materials for both adults and children. Sign-up for Free using our Diocesan Subscription by contacting darren.mcdowell@dow.org.au or helen.bennett@dow.org.au</p>	

Status	Bulletin notice	Attachment(s)
Continuing	<p>Faith Circles—free small group resource:</p> <p>During this period of Pandemic isolation, you are encouraged to spend time in prayer and spiritual reading and faith Circles is one way that you can do this. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use and could easily be done in your household or even by skype / phone with others at this time, with its questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.faithcircles.dow.org.au or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.</p>	
Continuing	<p>CatholicCare - Have you thought about becoming a foster carer?</p> <p>We need foster carers who provide love, care and support to help these children thrive and reach their full potential. Carers receive comprehensive support from the Fostering Futures team to ensure they have a full range of resources and networks to nurture their forever home. Our team have over 30 years' experience helping carers give vulnerable children a loving home and a brighter future.</p> <p>You can find out more by calling 0418 783 956, email fosteringfutures@catholiccare.dow.org.au or go to http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au more information.</p>	
Continuing	<p>We're always here, if you ever need...</p> <p>These are challenging times for everyone and CatholicCare are here to support you and your family to navigate the uncertainty. We offer confidential online and phone counselling to support you with the frustration of managing family emotions, relationship pressures and employment changes. To find out more about CatholicCare's counselling service call us on 4254 9395 or email intakeservice@catholiccare.dow.org.au</p>	
Continuing	<p>CAtHFAMILY</p> <p>CAtHFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kids. Don't miss CathKids https://cathfamily.org/activities/</p>	