



The Garden of Eden

Martiros Sarvan, 1904. Watercolour on paper.
Saryan Museum, Yerevan, Armenia.

Martiros Saryan (1880–1972) was an Armenian painter trained in Russia at the Moscow School of the Arts from 1897 to 1904. During his training, he was influenced by the work of the French painters Paul Gauguin and Henri Matisse. *Fairy Tale, Garden of Eden* conveys the influences of French symbolism and fauvism and is particularly indebted to Gauguin's paintings of French Polynesia from the 1890s. Saryan employs an expressive use of line and colour to create an idyllic and primitive vision of the garden of Eden in this watercolour and pencil drawing. A gaggle of geese, a pair of deer, and amorphous whirls of vibrant colour draw the eye inward toward the central element of the composition, a tree, which might represent either the tree of knowledge or the tree of life.

We, the people of Boonah Catholic parish,
acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our parish is located
and where we conduct our mission and ministry.

We pay our respects to ancestors and elders, past and present.

As a local community of faith within the Church of Brisbane,
we are committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'
unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas
and their rich contribution to society.

Warm greetings to the members of the Boonah Catholic community and beyond on the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is good to be back!

1. REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNDAY WORD.



The [first reflection](#) for this Sunday is from Catholic Women Preach project and the homilist is Sarah Attwood Otto.

Sarah Otto earned her Master of Divinity from Boston College School of Theology and Ministry. She graduated with a Religious Studies degree from Santa Clara University in 2007 and served a year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Portland, OR. She is a retreat director and spiritual director at Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to retreat ministry, Sarah worked in college campus ministry at Providence College and directed the Newman Catholic Center in Chico, CA. She and her husband (and fellow minister),

Andy, have two children who deepen their experience of the mystery of God in a myriad of ways.

Part of her homily includes:

Who are the people we dismiss? Perhaps a family member, former friend, or colleague who we perceive as a threat to our ambition? Do we dismiss ideas from people who are younger or older than us, or those with less education? Do we dismiss others who look different, act differently, or speak a different language than us? Do we dismiss those who don't share our Catholic faith, or perhaps those who do but possess different political views?

Jesus welcomed and embraced the little children and challenged all those who thought they were better, smarter, holier, and more important and said, this is how you should be... Open your heart...allow the innocence and trust and joy that Adam had in the garden before pride,

deceit, and the desire for power over others blinded all of us to the simple beauty of God's creation. A beauty only fully realized when it is shared.

See one another with delight. See one another. Too often we don't.

[Click to view.](#)

The [second reflection](#) for this Sunday is from Kate Oxsen, PhD, who lectures in Old Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago.



Today's passage from Genesis 2 (vv. 18-24) is a small excerpt from a story that is likely familiar to us all. This passage is often chosen to be the first reading for a wedding Mass. It has also become a part of secular popular culture. We see characters reference it in movies and television shows, and many songs have made use of the story and its imagery. Even people who know nothing about the Bible are often familiar with it. That is how firmly it has been embedded into our culture. This oversaturation can leave us feeling like we know the story inside and out. Then, when we actually encounter it, we might not truly read it. We either think we know it well enough or we are simply bored by the story.

This text beautifully illustrates how deeply connected we are to each other, to God, and to all creation. The first thing we see is that the first human is created from the ground (2:7) and then brought to life when God breathes his spirit into the creature. We will call this first creature Adam, which shares its root the Hebrew word for "ground" – the same ground from which God created the human. After that, God begins to create other creatures from that same ground and animates with the same divine life-breath (2:19). So, we immediately see that we are not only connected to these creatures, but we are indeed related to them. As St. Francis proclaimed, God's creations are our brothers and sisters.

God sees, though, that Adam still needs a different kind of relationship and connection. So, God creates another human partner for Adam by taking from part of his own body (2:22). The woman is described as Adam's helper, just as God is described in other biblical texts (Dt 33:7, Hos 13:4, Ps 54:6; 85:5; 118:7). There is no subservience or subordination indicated here, as it has often been misinterpreted. Instead, this text describes the deep connection that God intended all humans to have with each other. The humans are both a part of the earth, as Adam was made from it and the woman was made from Adam. But they are even more so a part of each other because they share the same body and the same life-breath that God breathed into Adam (2:7). They are able to support and care for each other in a way that animals cannot. Marriage is one special way humans can honour the connections God has established between humans, as Genesis 2 emphasizes (2:24).

Christ spent his time on Earth bringing God's good news to the poor, helping and healing the sick, and teaching us how to love our neighbour. Various saints have sought ways to honour these connections, too, from working with the poor to providing education and healthcare to the marginalized, or by spending their lives performing small acts of kindness and care for everyone they met. Pope Francis especially encourages us to care for creation, an oft-neglected but very important way to honour the connections that God established between humans and creation. All of these ways of living nurture our connections to God because it is through loving and caring for one another that we grow closer to God.

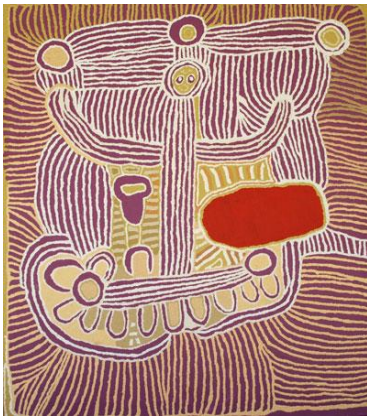
2. *Boonah Parish happenings . . .*

from commands to invitations,
from laws to ideals,
from threats to persuasion,
from coercion to conscience,
from monologue to conversation,
from ruling to serving,
from withdrawn to integrated,
from vertical and top-down to horizontal,
from exclusion to inclusion,
from hostility to friendship,
from static to changing,
from passive acceptance to active engagement,
from prescriptive to principled,
from defined to open-ended,
from behaviour-modification to conversion of heart,
from the dictates of law to the dictates of conscience,
from external conformity to the joyful pursuit of holiness.

When these elements are taken in the aggregate, they indicate a model of spirituality. This, they say, is what good Catholics should look like and this is how they should behave. That means the elements indicate what the Church should look like and how it should behave. This is a significant model-shift. This is a teaching of the Second Vatican Council.

- Fr. John O'Malley SJ, 2006

Our **SUNDAY EUCHARIST** schedule is:



Desert Eucharist
Linda Syddick Napaltjarri (b. 1937)

<i>Saturday</i>	
5.00pm	Boonah church
<i>Sunday</i>	
7.30am	1st and 3rd Sunday: Harrisville church
	2nd and 4th Sunday: Peak Crossing church
9.30am	Boonah church

Our **WEEKDAY EUCHARIST** schedule for this week, the 27th week of Ordinary Time, is:

Monday	4 th October	5.30pm, Boonah church
	PUBLIC HOLIDAY	
Tuesday	5 th October	8.00am Boonah church
Wednesday	6 th October	6.00pm, Peak Crossing church <i>followed by dinner at The Peak Pub</i>
Thursday	7 th October	8.00am, Boonah church



We pray with and for those who are sick in our parish and beyond: all across the globe infected with COVID-19; former pastor of Boonah parish Fr. Ellis Clifford, Chris Healy, Paul White, Arthur Devin, Liliana Toohill, Libby Shields, Marko Babic, Dermot Peters, Max Gardiner, Bernice Lippiatt, Pat Toohill, Trish Merlehan, Bernadette Pinchin, Simon Greatrex, Neil O'Connor, Cate Mitten, Bernice Brault, Paula Ebrington, Fletcher Casey, Jill Archer, Matthew Bowden, Louisa, David Mitchell and sick members of parish families and those beyond our parish boundaries.

- For the celebration of **1st Rite for Reconciliation** and **all sacraments for children and adults** please see me after Sunday Mass to make a convenient time to meet or email the parish boonah@bne.catholic.net.au

- *Do you want to join the Catholic faith community?*

Are you interested in speaking to someone about a process?

The first step is a cuppa and a conversation. From there we will discern and decide appropriate preparation and support for you. Please see me on the weekend or email the parish boonah@bne.catholic.net.au

- **EVERY SUNDAY** when we gather for the Sunday eucharist, there are baskets (of some or another) at the entrances of our churches.

I was hungry and you fed me
Matthew 25

We are invited to bring a gift of **non-perishable food or goods** for people seeking help from our local St. Vincent de Paul.

There is a great response each Sunday from the assembly at Harrisville. *Thanks!*

There is also an emerging and positive response from the two assemblies who gather at Boonah. *Thanks!*

The local conference very much appreciates our weekly support.



- **THANK YOU** to all who support the weekly Sunday collection. Your gifts enable the parish to meet its expenses and to function like an everyday household. If you would like to give weekly or monthly in a planned way, please see me.

▪ The 60th anniversary of the blessing of All Saints' Church: A project to mark this significant anniversary in the year of the 2021 Plenary Council will be undertaken: reinstalling the original waist-high sandstone base of the baptismal font with a new bowl. It will be installed in its original place – the gathering area/narthex; installing a leadlight glass in place of the yellow/gold glass from floor to ceiling in the same area. The possibility of flowing water in the font will also be explored.

Parishioners will be invited to make financial gifts to fund our 60th anniversary project.



The picture (left) shows the portable font created many decades ago.

It is currently placed where the original sandstone font was installed in 1961.

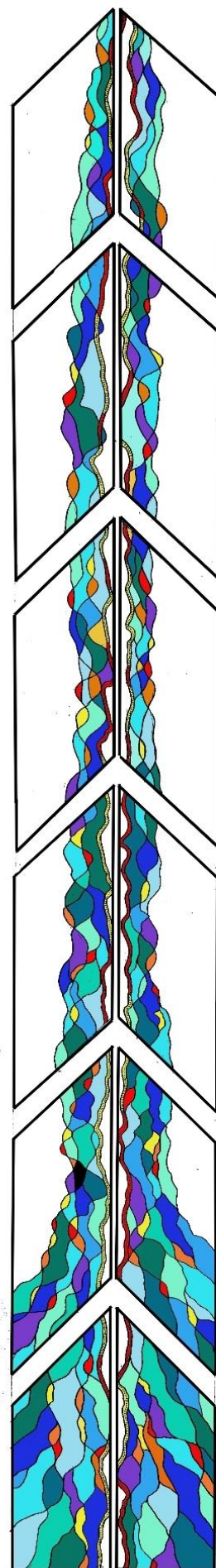
Behind the font is the existing panes of glass.

These are to be replaced by a contemporary leadlight installation featuring the flowing waters of baptism and the Spirit gifted in baptism to all who are reborn in Christ from the font (right).

The parish has commissioned highly respected Australian glass artist, Lee Howes, from Newcastle. Lee has completed several church projects in her career.
<https://www.leehowesglass.com.au/>

As well, a clear glass bowl is being made to sit on the original sandstone base which will be returned to its original position in the narthex. The bowl is large enough for the immersion of an infant during baptism.

The Mass is celebrated Sunday 10.30am on 31st October with Archbishop Mark presiding.
Mark your diary now! We will aim for 100% ticketed seating on the day!



3. The first assembly of the Plenary Council begins today, 3rd October.

There was an excellent interview on the ABC Radio National's "Religion and Ethics Report" this week.

Presenter Andrew West interviewed our Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

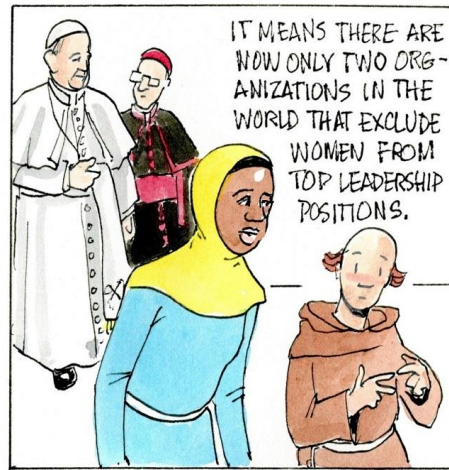
[For the full interview click here.](#)



Archbishop Mark Coleridge on the historic Catholic plenary

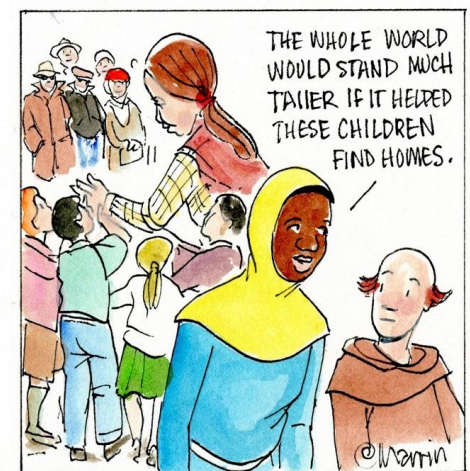
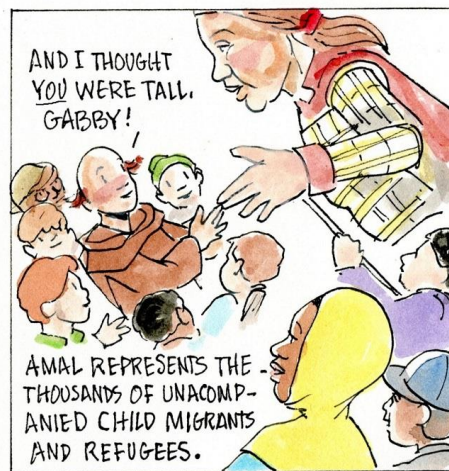
On The Religion and Ethics Report with Andrew West

4. Whilst I was on holidays during August, *Francis*, the comic strip returned to the NCR. I am happy to reproduce some of the bi-weekly strips from recent weeks.



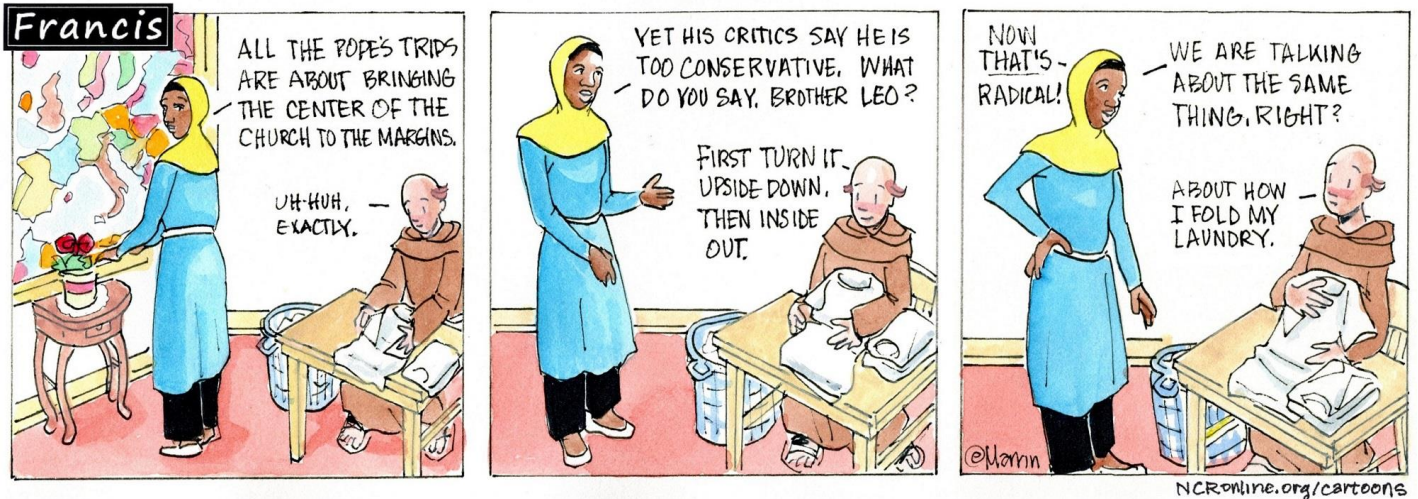
NCRonline.org/cartoons

30th September 2021



NCRonline.org/cartoons

28th September 2021



23rd September 2021



21st September 2021

5. On Thursday last week, our own Archdiocesan *Catholic Justice and Peace Commission* (CJPC) launched a concerted effort to convince the Australian Federal Government to stop burdening the Government and people of Papua New Guinea with its concerns and bring back the 120+ refugees who are still there after more than 8 years.

They joined Fr. Tom Kesey, Spiritan, and the parishioners of Dorrington Parish, Brisbane, for Mass at St Michael's Church where we briefly explained the *Give PNG a Break* campaign.

It was the Feast of the Archangel's and St. Michael is the patron saint of Papua New Guinea.

All parishes were sent links to a short video explaining the campaign, the open letter to the Australian Parliament from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, their media statement and first information sheet on their web site.

The short video is can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/CmxERazuCbQ> Also the document which gives information is included below.

We thank Peter Arndt, Executive Officer of the CJPC, for bringing this to our attention.

Give PNG a Break:

Bring the Refugees Back



In 2013, the Australian Government announced it would establish offshore processing centres in PNG and Nauru for anyone who came to Australia by boat and claimed protection as a refugee.

After more than 8 years, there are still over 120 refugees and people seeking asylum waiting for resettlement.

Some may want to settle in PNG. Some are likely to be resettled in the USA or Canada. Between 50 and 100 have no realistic prospect of being resettled or returned home.

The care of these men and their future is Australia's responsibility, not Papua New Guinea's!

The PNG Government has many pressing issues to deal with including improving the country's standard of health and education.

The Church in PNG has devoted much of its time providing support to the refugees sent there by Australia, but they have other local concerns to which they would like to give more attention including:

1. About 10,000 West Papuans who crossed over to PNG at different times in the past few decades
2. About 15 people from different countries who crossed over to PNG and are now under the primary care of the international Organisation for Migration (IOM)
3. A handful of people who entered PNG illegally, who are now detained, and seeking the Church's humanitarian assistance with the knowledge and in coordination with PNG authorities
4. People displaced due to tribal fights
5. Women displaced who are victims of Sorcery Accusation Related Violence (SARV)
6. Communities displaced by natural calamities
7. Communities displaced by man-made calamities.

PM Scott Morrison often speaks of the special relationship Australia has with our Pacific neighbours including Papua New Guinea. It's high time we stopped taking advantage of their generous help and brought the refugees still in PNG back to Australia immediately.

Please Pray for PNG and the Refugees

September 29 is the Feast of the Archangels. The Archangel Michael is the patron saint of Papua New Guinea. Mary, Help of Christians, is the patron saint of Australia.

Please seek the intercession of St. Michael and of Mary, Help of Christians, for an end to the burdens faced both by the PNG Government and people and by the refugees themselves. Throughout the month of October, we ask particularly for you, individually and in your parishes, schools, offices and groups, for the Australian Government to end this situation by bringing the refugees back to Australia so they can be supported here and so their resettlement can be managed.

An intercessory prayer you could use at Mass or at other times is:

We pray for the people of Papua New Guinea and for the refugees who are still there after 8 long years. May the refugees be brought back to Australia immediately so that the Australian Government can assume direct responsibility for their support and resettlement. May the Government, Church and people of Papua New Guinea be able to, once again, give their full attention to their own priorities and needs.

St. Michael the Archangel, pray for Papua New Guinea and the refugees.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for Australia and the refugees.

Please Act to Support PNG and the Refugees

Read the open letter from the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG and Solomon Islands and the response from Bishop Vincent Long ofm conv, Chair of the ACBC Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service.

Use these and the information provided on this sheet to send an e-mail or letter to the Australian Minister for Immigration, Mr Alex Hawke MP. Please tell him that Papua New Guinea and the 120+ refugees there have waited long enough. Please tell him that Australia should be a good neighbour to our Pacific friends by taking the refugees in PNG back to Australia.

Mr. Hawke's contact details are:

Alex.Hawke.MP@aph.gov.au

the Hon. Alex Hawke MP
Minister for Immigration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Further Action During October

More information sheets like this will be issued during October with more suggestions for action.

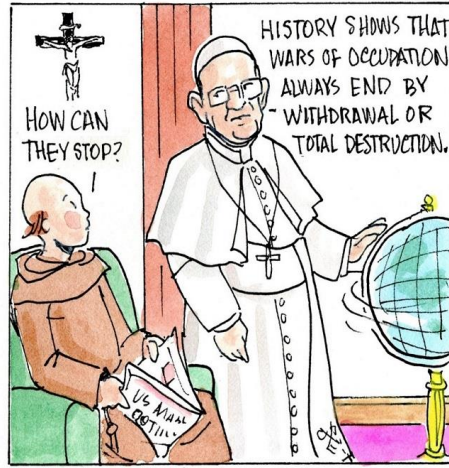
Let's keep building the pressure on the Australian Government to Give PNG a break and to bring the refugees back!

If you have any questions or need more information or want to let us know what you have been doing to support PNG and the refugees, please e-mail cjpc@bne.catholic.net.au or ring the Commission's Executive Officer on +61 7 3324 3441 or +61 409 265 476.

This is an initiative of the Catholic Justice & Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

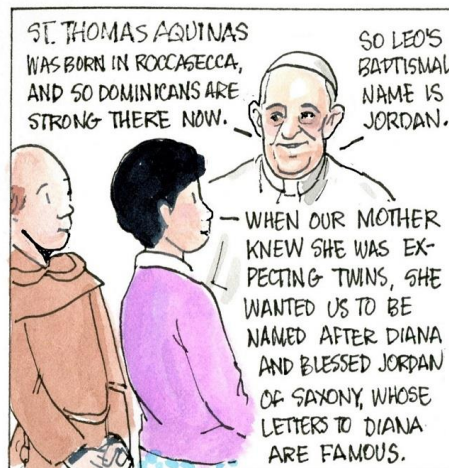
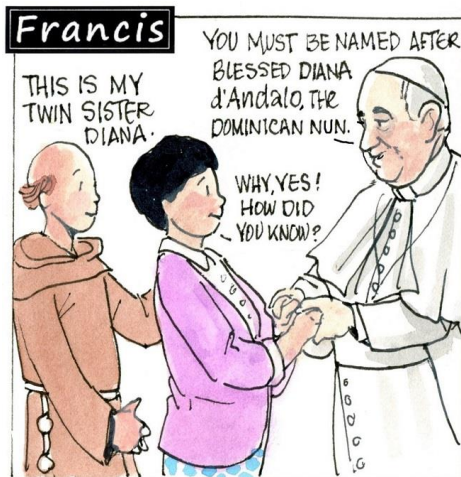


6. And some more . . . does this amount to binge-watching Francis, the comic strip . . . ?



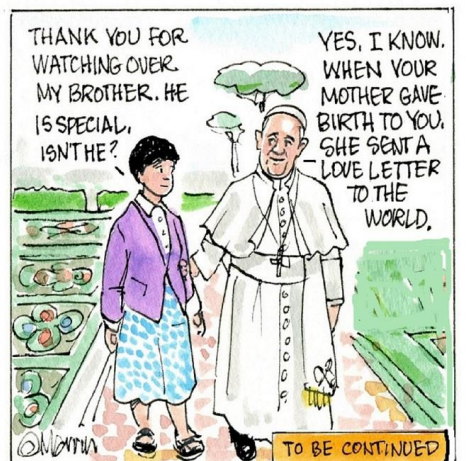
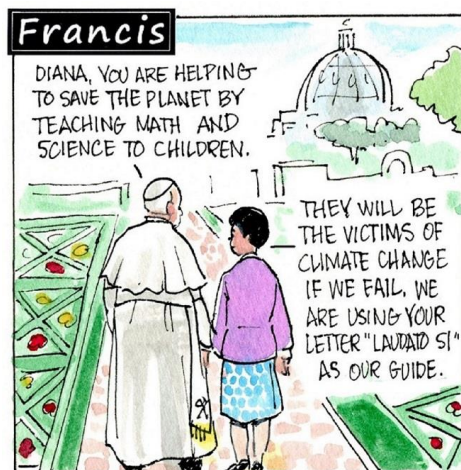
NCRonline.org/cartoons

16th September 2021



NCRonline.org/cartoons

19th August 2021



NCRonline.org/cartoons

24th August 2021





ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE

STOPline

STOPline receives information about abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by Archdiocesan workers (including priests, religious, employees and volunteers).

Information can be provided anonymously.

Phone: 1300 304 550
Email: AOB@stopline.com.au
Online Report: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com



If you think it's wrong report it.

It is good to be back and able to produce our parish e-bulletin. Thanks for all the kind messages and emails when it stopped arriving to email addresses in early August. Let me explain what happened.

I was on annual leave from start of August for the whole month. I hadn't had four consecutive weeks of holidays in over a decade. But while in that full week of lockdown in the first week of August - I didn't get away as planned and so did outstanding parish administrative tasks that week - our landline and internet was found to have been disconnected by Telstra. *Why?* The parish hadn't signed up to the NBN and so the ADSL service was disconnected. So I spent a few hours each day with Telstra to get it reinstated - *Yes . . . we are a Catholic church in a small rural town . . . people have our phone number and need to access it 24/7.* By Friday a helpful Telstra rep. in Perth, WA, reinstated our services. But upon returning to the parish at the start of September, I found it had again been disconnected. *Yes . . . I muttered somewhat!* The good news is that during September the NBN was first installed and then the Telstra service was added a week later. However, we had lost our original phone number in the new installation. So . . . I was back on the blower every day to Telstra last week and I think our phone number 5463 1057 has now been reinstated. I am grateful to a female representative named Ankitha in Hyderabad, India, who persisted! A true experience in parish life!

John
 pastor,
 Boonah Catholic community.