

ACBC General Statements 2000

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Jubilee 2000

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21 December 2000

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The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has agreed, in principle, to support the National Council for the Centenary of Federation's event entitled the 'Ring of the Bells' on 1 January 2001 at 3:55pm (AEDST).

The National Council has programmed this event specifically to herald the start of Federation celebrations in Australia and symbolically unify the nation.

The Council is asking all Churches with bell towers, schools and people with hand bells to join in a 5-minute synchronous ringing of bells.

For more information about the event please contact Callum McEachern, Project Manager Events and Celebrations on 02) 62708241 or email: callum.mceachern@dcita.gov.au. You can also visit the Centenary of Federation's Official Website at: <http://www.centenary.gov.au>.

For more information please contact your local diocesan office or Jackie Brady on 0418) 214 752

CALENDAR DATES FOR 2001

Apostleship of the Sea (last Sunday in July)	29 July 2001
Ash Wednesday	28 February 2001
Bible Sunday (4th Sunday in July)	23 July 2000
Easter Sunday	15 April 2001
Good Friday	13 April 2001
Mission Sunday (2nd last Sunday in October)	21 October 2001
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday (1st Sunday in July)	1 July 2001
National Catholic Vocations Week	5-12 August 2001
Refugee & Migrant Sunday (last Sunday in August)	26 August 2001
National Church Life Survey	20 May 2001
Social Justice Sunday (last Sunday in September)	30 September 2001
World AIDS Day (UN)	1 December 2000
World Communications Day	20 May 2000
World Day of Peace	1 January 2001
World Day for the Sick	11 February 2001
World Migration Day (last Sunday in August)	26 August 2001
World Mission Day (3rd Sunday in October)	21 October 2001
World Youth Day (Diocesan Level) (Palm Sunday)	16 April 2000

Dates for Plenary Meetings of the ACBC

1-10 May 2001
26-30 November 2001

Central Commission

13-14 March 2001
1 May 2001
10-11 July 2001
4-5 September 2001
26 November 2001

(Compiled by the National Catholic Media Office on 29.11.00)

Others:

Australian Catholic Commission for the Continuing Education of Clergy Commission Meeting Dates

13-15 January 2001
13-15 August 2001

National Meeting of Diocesan Directors

15-19 January 2001

Catholic Health Australia National Conference

25-28 June 2001
in Brisbane

National Catholic Education Commission Commission Meeting Dates

15 February 2001
19 April 2001
12 July 2001
27/28 September 2001
15 November 2001

NCEC National Conference

"Growing in Wisdom and Grace" – 23-27 September 2001

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Commission Ordinary Meeting Date

13 February 2001
13 March 2001
10 April 2001
12 June 2001
10 July 2001
14 August 2001
9 October 2001
13 November 2001

Annual General Meeting

4 September 2001

National Meeting of Diocesan Directors

15-19 January 2001

National Liturgical Commission Commission Meeting Dates

12-13 March 2001
6-7 September 2001

5 December 2000

Signing of NCLS agreement

On Tuesday night, Archbishop Adrian Doyle signed the National Church Life Survey "Memorandum of Understanding" paving the way for the Catholic Church to participate in the National Survey beginning 20 May next year.

Also in attendance were Bishops Michael Putney and Peter Ingham representing the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. The General Secretary of Conference, Father Brian V. Finnigan was also there to witness the historic signing.

The National Church Life Survey office has recently established a web-site to keep people informed of developments leading up to the survey itself. The web address is: <http://www.ncls.org.au>

For further information please contact Peter Khoury on 02) 9895 8026 or 0414 669 176

*Photo: Signing of Historic Agreement: l to r:
Ms Tina Rendell, Executive Director, Board of Mission, Uniting Church
Archbishop Adrian Doyle, Chairman, Board of Management, ACBC
Rev. Howard Dillon, Executive Director, Anglicare (NSW) Anglican Church*



24 November 2000

"Looking for Alibrandi" is Catholic Film Office's Film of the Year

Kate Wood's film, "Looking for Alibrandi" is this year's winner of the Australian Catholic Film Office's Film of the Year award which rewards the promotion of best human values in an Australian feature film.

The criteria for this award is adapted from the award guidelines of the International Catholic Film Organisation (OCIC). These include points of reference such as, is the film of high artistic quality? Does it dramatise positive human values? Can the Film's values be seen in the light of the Gospel? Does the film challenge its audience to respond to its social and justice dimensions and can it be used with groups to understand issues through story and symbols? Does the film reflect its culture?

"Given the criteria, "Looking for Alibrandi" was this year's stand-out film," said Jury Chair and Director of the Australian Catholic Film Office, Fr Richard Leonard, SJ.

"This film is about identity and blame, confronting past lies and uncovering family secrets. Everyone has to face up to who they are, where they have come from and what they want. With humour and intelligence, "Looking for Alibrandi" raises issues that many Australian young people have to confront: marriage breakdown; living between cultures; youth suicide and, grief," said Father Leonard. "The jury was impressed with how the film deals with these issues with empathy and insight."

"Looking for Alibrandi" was adapted for the screen by Marlina Marchetta, who wrote the best selling novel of the same name. The main character, Josie Alibrandi, lives between two worlds. She is a third generation working class Italian/Australian on a scholarship to Sydney's exclusive St Martha's Convent. Unlike her classmates, however, Josie does not know her father. Rather than go through with an abortion as they agreed when Josie was conceived, her mother Christina bore her child. Without knowing he has a daughter Michael moves to Adelaide. Seventeen years later he returns to town.

The Australian Catholic Film Office's film of the year has already taken \$8million at the box office in 2000 which makes it one of the top twenty most successful Australian films ever made.

The Australian Catholic Film Office is an organisation established by the Bishops' Committee for the Media.

For comment and media interviews please contact Fr Richard Leonard on 03) 9349 1272

GST handbooks for the Catholic Sector

Theoretical Implications PDF **Practical Guidelines PDF**

The GST Handbook: Voluntary Sector is in .pdf format. You will require Adobe Acrobat to read the file. If you do not currently have this reader on your computer you can download the software by clicking on the Adobe Acrobat icon provided on this page.

Should you prefer, you can obtain copies of the GST Handbook: Voluntary Sector as a printed booklet from your Diocesan Office, ACLRI or the ACBC Secretariat Office. The contact list for diocesan offices is available on this web-site. You can contact the ACLRI through their web-site at <http://www.aclri.catholic.org.au>. The ACBC Secretariat can be contacted through this homepage.

Other links which you may find useful are:

[GST Start-Up Assistance Office](#)

[The Australian Taxation Office \(ATO\) – Tax Reform Office](#)

[Australian Competition and Consumer Commission \(ACCC\)](#)
GST Community Sector Assist Helpline - 13 30 88

[GST Information Service provided by the Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission](#) DEAD

12 September 2000

The Olympic Games: A Message of Welcome from Australia's Catholic Bishops

Since the announcement that Sydney was to host the XXVII Olympiad, excitement has been developing.

The Catholic Bishops of Australia wish to welcome all the athletes and visitors from overseas and acknowledge all Australians who will be involved. As Australians we have an intense pride in our country and in the host city of Sydney. Along with the majority of Australians, the Catholic Community is keenly interested in sport.

On behalf of all Catholics, we extend a warm welcome and pray that it be a time of joy and blessing for all visitors.

When the Olympic Games were held in Melbourne in 1956, Dr Mannix, the Archbishop, said: "May the smile of Christ be on the Olympic Games; may the world's athletes gathered in the bond of their common humanity find in our city the peace that lies in the shadow of God".

In this Jubilee year, the Olympic year that merges the millennia, we echo these sentiments.

Pope John Paul II, when speaking to participants in sport, during May this year, in Rome's Olympic Stadium reminded us "Sport too, a vehicle of human and moral stimuli and values, can assist towards making the world more fraternal and united in solidarity". He expressed the hope that people from different nations and cultures may come to know one another better, and grow in mutual respect and esteem.

We borrow the Pope's words as our greeting: "May solidarity and peace be above all, the winners in this heartwarming competition. From the Olympic Stadium, may your message of hope be transmitted: Sport too can contribute to building peace".

Statement issued by President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Francis Carroll, on behalf of the Bishops of Australia.

To arrange an interview please contact Mrs Jackie Brady on
02) 6201 9859 or 0418) 214 752

8 August 2000

Catholic Film office announces winner of best short film promoting Human Values

The Australian Catholic Film Office joins with the International Catholic Film Organisation in announcing *Intransit* by Mike Daley as this year's winner in the category of Best Short Film Promoting Human Values at the Melbourne International Film Festival.

Intransit is the story of a 16 year old man who needs to break free of the father within and without in his bid to emerge into adulthood.

Jury chair, and Director of the Australian Catholic Film Office, Father Richard Leonard said, "In seven minutes *Intransit* conveys in a vivid and powerful way how a young adolescent man in Australia has to confront his history and fears in his quest to emerge into masculine maturity."

"Mike Daley is a student at the Australian Television Film and Radio School in Sydney," said Fr Leonard. "He demonstrates in this short film a keen and exciting visual sensibility and a sophisticated appreciation of the human values necessary for the best story telling."

The jury highly commended Cate Shortland's *Joy*. Ironically named, this film explores the desolate world of a young adolescent woman seeking security, love and belonging.

"The jury was struck by how both these films portray some of the issues in the lives of young Australians," said Fr Leonard. "We need to be aware more than ever of the hope and warning contained in these films. We ignore their message at our peril."

The jury consisted of Richard Leonard, Jan Epstein and Stephen Luby.

The International Catholic Cinema Organisation (OCIC) presents the Church, often working on Ecumenical Juries, at 21 International Film Festivals including Cannes, Berlin, Venice, San Sebastian, Locarno, Montreal, St Petersburg, Moscow, Mar Del Plata (Argentina), Havana and Melbourne.

For further comment please contact: Richard Leonard on 03) 9349 1272

31 July 2000

Search begins for members of Women's Commission

A first step in the formation of the Commission for Australian Catholic Women has been taken with an invitation to individual Bishops to nominate possible Commissioners.

The Bishops decided in May to set up the Commission. They asked their Report Implementation Committee for Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus, consisting of six Bishops and five women, to prepare the way for the Commission, which is expected to be established after next December's Plenary Meeting of the Bishops' Conference.

The Implementation Committee, chaired by Bishop Michael Putney, is seeking nominations from Bishops for the Commission, which will have a Chair and eight other members. When the Committee completes its recommendations for membership, they are expected to embrace a wide mix of characteristics, backgrounds and skills. The Commission is intended to be an expert rather than a representative body.

"We are attempting to make the membership as inclusive as possible", Bishop Putney said this week. "We hope that the Commission will be an effective focal point for ongoing dialogue with women. It will assist in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Bishops' Conference in the wake of the research project on Women's Participation in the Church in Australia. We see the establishment of the Commission as one significant step for women as well as for the Church as a whole."

The full text of the Bishops' Response to Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus, including details about the Commission, will be published in September as this year's annual Social Justice Statement. It will appear as a supplement in the widely distributed free publication Australian Catholics and will also be available separately.

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council is organizing a national launch of the document at the Canberra campus of the Australian Catholic University on Wednesday 13 September. The President of the Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Francis Carroll, will launch the Statement, with a response by Ms Catherine Harris, Deputy Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, who is a member of the Implementation Committee.

Contact: Bishop Michael Putney, (tel.: 07- 3224 3222) (fax.: 07- 3229 5526)

20 June 2000

Australian winner of Vatican Prose/Poetry Competition off to Rome with Mum and Dad

Miss Jessica Healy, from Santa Maria College in Northcote, winner of second place in the Pre-Adolescent Section of the Vatican's *World-wide Competition of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000* has been awarded a trip to Rome for herself and her parents from October 9-15, coinciding with the World Meeting of Families.

The trip is being offered by the Central Committee for the Grand Jubilee with that office paying for the travel and lodging expenses.

Joining Miss Healy in Rome will be the other winners in the world-wide contest. They are:

Children's section:

1. Pedro Javier Cervantes Rubio (Spain)
2. Karel Beldad (Peru)
3. Kristine Calado (USA)

Pre-adolescent section:

1. J. Yap (Indonesia)
2. **Jessica Healy (Australia)**
3. Pierre Dinba (Cameroon)

Adolescent section:

1. Antonio Salzano (Italy)
2. Eva Capkovicova (Slovakia)
3. Stephanie Cherenfant (Haiti)

The Grand Committee for the Great Jubilee also mentions that the winners will receive special prizes whilst visiting the Vatican as well as the opportunity of being congratulated by the Holy Father.

A copy of Miss Healy's poem "[Breathe](#)" can be accessed on our web-site.

To arrange an interview please contact Santa Maria College on (03) 9489 7644

15 June 2000

Counsellor of the Australian Apostolic Nuncio elevated to Archbishop and appointed Apostolic Nuncio in Ghana and Togo

President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Francis Carroll, congratulates Archbishop-elect George Kocherry, on behalf of his brother bishops, on his elevation to the dignity of Archbishop and his appointment as Apostolic Nuncio in Ghana and Togo.

The Holy Father made the announcement on Saturday, 10 June.

Archbishop-elect George Kocherry, 55, was ordained for the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, India, in 1974 and has a doctorate in Canon Law. He entered the Holy See's diplomatic service in 1978 and has since been posted to South Korea, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Caribbean Islands, Thailand, Switzerland and Australia.

"There are many people who will miss Monsignor George after his eight years of valued service here in Australia," said Archbishop Francis Carroll. "However, he will be returning to India at the end of the month to prepare for his Episcopal Ordination. I understand that he is the first cleric from his Archdiocese to receive this honour so I believe there will be much jubilation and celebration waiting for him when he arrives home."

"After his Episcopal Ordination, Monsignor George will be moving on to another phase in his diplomatic career – we wish him all the very best for the future and pray the Grace of God will remain ever present in his life," said Archbishop Carroll.

Archbishop-elect George Kocherry will be replaced by Monsignor M. Padilla who at present, is counsellor at the Apostolic Nunciature in Tokyo. He will arrive in Canberra on 19 July 2000.

To arrange an interview with Archbishop Carroll please contact him on 02) 6248 6411

18 May 2000

Catholic Bishops' to establish a Commission for Australian Catholic Women

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has agreed to establish a Commission for Australian Catholic Women, one of several responses to the Report into the Participation of Women in the Catholic Church, *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*, which the Bishops received last year.

The Commission will be established to assist in the implementation of the practical steps the Bishops have decided to undertake to improve the participation of women in the Catholic Church and, to play a part in facilitating an ongoing dialogue about their participation.

"The Bishops recognise that there were differences among women in the way that they responded to the questions from the original research," said Bishop Michael Putney, Spokesman for ACBC. "We sincerely trust and hope that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit our recommendations and decisions for future actions will bring women and men to a fuller communion with the Catholic Church."

The full text of the Bishops' Response to *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*, including details of the Commission for Australian Catholic Women, will be published as the Social Justice Statement for this year. It is expected to be published in early September.

Bishop Michael Putney is available for interviews on 02) 9315 2200 or tomorrow on 07) 3224 3222

14 April 2000

Bishops' Conference Delegates for World Youth Day in Rome Announced

Mr Mark O'Neill from the Diocese of Broken Bay and Miss Alice Priest from the Diocese of Port Pirie will be attending the World Youth Day celebrations in Rome as the official delegates of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

The Bishops' Committee for Laity coordinated the nomination and selection process on behalf of the Bishops' Conference.

Mr O'Neill and Miss Priest are both active members of the youth apostolate within their respective dioceses. Mr O'Neill is employed as the Youth Minister at the Waitara Parish and is extremely committed to the cause of involving young people in the life of the Church. He has recently accepted a position as a member of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission in order to facilitate youth involvement in ecumenical activities.



Miss Priest is working full-time on a voluntary basis this year to assist other members in the diocese with the coordination of celebrations for the Great Jubilee. Her background is as a teacher in the secondary Catholic Education System, specialising in English and Religious Education. Miss Priest has been commissioned by Catholic Mission Australia, in Sydney, to produce a series of primary and secondary classroom materials.

"It has been an extremely uplifting experience selecting two young people to represent the Bishops' Conference for the World Youth Day celebrations in Rome," said the Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Laity, Bishop Barry Collins. "We, as Church, should be extremely proud of the outstanding character of young people in our Catholic Community today."

It is believed that as many as 1,000 young people from Australia will be attending the World Youth Day celebrations in Rome from 10-15 August this year.

For interviews, please contact Mr O'Neill on 0412) 177 432 and Miss Priest on 08) 8633 4485

14 April 2000

Young Australian a Winner's Circle member in the Vatican's International Prose/Poetry Competition

Miss Jessica Healy, from Santa Maria College in Northcote, Victoria has won second place in the Pre-Adolescent Section of the Vatican's World-wide Competition of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

Miss Healy's entry, a poem entitled "Breathe", was the national entry submitted by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference in the Pre-Adolescent category.

"I called Jessica this morning at 9am to tell her she had won," said Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for the Great Jubilee, Bishop Michael Putney. "I told her that I was incredibly proud of her and that her achievement in attaining second best in all the world, in all the different languages in her category was outstanding."

"Well, I was then greeted with screams and cries of delight from Jessica," said Bishop Putney. "I also told Jessica that I had passed on the news to her Archbishop, George Pell, who was equally as proud."

Principal of Santa Maria College, Ms Margaret Leahy is "absolutely delighted" that Jessica has won this award.

"Jessica is an outstanding individual – she has a quiet personality but an extremely strong one," said Ms Leahy. "Jessica overcame cancer as a younger child and it now seems that she can do almost anything. She is extremely skilled in the classroom as well as being an outstanding singer and is also extremely attentive and responsive to the needs of other students."

Ms Leahy also expressed a high level of pride that Santa Maria College had been publicly recognised on an international stage.

[Click here to view a copy of Miss Healy's poem.](#)

To arrange an interview please contact Jackie Brady on 02) 6201 9859 or 0418) 214 752

3 April 2000

Official ACBC Delegates to World Meeting of Families Announced

Wollongong couple, Glenn and Trish Mowbray, will be attending the World Meeting of Families as the official delegates of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Mr and Mrs Mowbray live in the parish of Albion Park-Oak Flats in the Diocese of Wollongong. They have four children, three boys and one girl.

The Mowbrays consider it a 'great honour' to have been chosen to represent the Catholic families of Australia in Rome.

The World Meeting of Families will be held from 14-15 October 2000.

Glen and Trish Mowbray are available for interviews on 02 4256 1264 or 0412 56 1255

14 March 2000

Young Australian Catholic Selected to Make the "Pilgrimage to the Heart"

The young person who will accompany the Head of the Catholic Church in Australia to Uluru on the "[Pilgrimage to the Heart](#)" will be Mr Justin Rofe from the Diocese of Sandhurst.

Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, Archbishop John Bathersby, made the announcement following a ballot held on 8 March 2000.

Mr Justin Rofe is in his early 20's and is currently the Youth Coordinator for the Diocese of Sandhurst. He has been working in that diocese for the past twelve months.

"[Pilgrimage to the Heart](#)" is an ecumenical initiative marking the [Great Jubilee](#) with the Heads of major Australian Christian Religions making a pilgrimage from Canberra to Uluru, accompanied by a young representative from their respective churches.

The pilgrimage will begin in Canberra on 4 June this year.

Mr Justin Rofe is available for interviews on 03 5821 2633 or 0427 141273



[Introduction](#)

[About the Pilgrimage](#)

[National Church Heads](#)

[Message from Sir William Deane](#)

[How to Sponsor](#)

[Pilgrimage Map](#)

[Pilgrimage Update](#)

An invitation to support the Pilgrimage by sponsoring your Head of Church and a young member of your Church, who together with representatives of other Christian churches, will journey by bus from Canberra to Ularu between June 4th and 11th, 2000.

Calling all Australians to share in a just reconciliation between all people

7 March 2000

Statement of Repentance to mark the 2000th Anniversary of the Birth of Jesus Christ

Introduction

Since the Church is made up of human beings, it is always vulnerable to sin and error. While the Jubilee Year is one of gratitude, rejoicing and hope, it is also an occasion to examine our conscience and ask forgiveness for past failings.

Those in the Church with the greatest authority bear the greatest responsibility but all members of the Church have reason to repent and ask forgiveness.

In uniting ourselves with Pope John Paul's statement of repentance on behalf of the Universal Church, we, the Catholic Bishops of Australia speak in particular for the Local Church.

In General

We have failed to live and reflect the Gospel as we should. We have often failed to make ourselves known as Christ's disciples by our love for one another, and we have given scandal to believer and unbeliever alike.

In Particular

As Church we have been too inward looking, too exclusively concerned for ourselves and our membership and too little committed to the mission Christ gave us to reach out to the whole world.

While we must never refrain from teaching the truth of Jesus Christ, no matter how challenging it may be, we have often been wanting in compassion and sensitivity.

In the past, bitter sectarian divisions harmed the cause of religion in this country. We often displayed arrogance and lack of charity towards other Christian traditions and other faiths.

Our efforts to assist indigenous Australians have often been misguided and have led to unintended but harmful long term consequences.

When confronted with sexual abuse, and abuse of authority generally, we did not always respond appropriately, and many people suffered serious harm.

In communicating the Church's teaching on marriage and sexuality, we have too often lacked compassion and understanding.

The Church has not been sufficiently alert to the needs of particular groups, such as women, youth and migrants.

Repentance

For our faults and failings, for the hurt and scandal that they have caused both to groups and individuals, we profess sincere and profound regret in this Year of Jubilee and ask for forgiveness.

We hope to enter the new millennium with a greater sense of humble service. With hope and trust in God, we shall endeavour to be more authentic witnesses to the presence of Jesus Christ in the world.

For this intention we invite the prayers of all members of the Church, and of all people of good will.

Released by Cardinal Edward Clancy on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

7 March 2000

Spokesperson: Bishop Michael Putney, Chairman, Bishops' Committee for the Great Jubilee

To arrange an interview please call Mrs Jan McGrath on 07 3224 3325 or 0419 027 769

The Liturgy and the Statement of Repentance

The Liturgy and the Statement of Repentance

1. Lent is a time of repentance and conversion of heart. The Statement of Repentance therefore will be an appropriate focus for parishes at this time in the Jubilee time. However, because of the importance of the Sunday liturgy in Lent, and because so many parishes celebrate catechumenal rites at this time, it is not envisaged that there be a special rite of repentance at Sunday Mass in Lent
2. There are a number of obvious ways in which the Statement of Repentance can figure during Lent 2000.
 - The penitential rite often receives special attention during Lent. Perhaps people could be invited to kneel, a few appropriate sentences could be read out from the Statement, followed by a period of silence and then the common recitation of the I Confess....Remember that if the third form of penitential rite is used, it does not take the form "for the times we have....Lord, have mercy". Rather it acclaims God's mercy and is addressed to Christ: "Lord Jesus, you heal....Lord, have mercy."
 - Each Sunday two or three of the petitions in the General Intercessions could take a particular issue from the Statement
 - Preaching on the Lenten readings offer numerous opportunities to use examples of the Statement: The stories of Noah, Abraham, the Transfiguration, the Exodus, the cleansing of the temple, the bronze serpent, the grain of wheat, all these turn on the theme of making a new start for a new age.
 - One or two issues from the Statement could be highlighted in each weekly parish bulletin through judicious quotation. Likewise, awareness can be raised for people coming into the church by setting up a display on a particular issue in the foyer or on the parish notice board.
3. Most parishes celebrate penitential services during Lent, especially on Fridays. The examination of conscience and prayers of sorrow could be based on the Statement of Repentance. Obviously this would apply also to celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance itself.
4. Other Lenten prayers and devotions can use the Statement of Repentance: intercession in parish prayer groups or study/discussion groups or social justice groups, intentions at novena or benediction, and so forth. It could be used for prayerful discernment on the part of a pastoral council to help determine priorities and projects for the Jubilee year.

THE LITURGY AND THE STATEMENT OF REPENTANCE

Some Examples

General Intercessions

Each week a couple of petitions drawn from the Statement of Repentance could be included in the General Intercessions along with petitions for other community and world needs.

1. For the Christian people of Australia, as they repent have past failures and affirm that, by God's grace, things can be different.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
2. For the Australian Church that laments its past and present failure, in the hope of a world made new.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
3. For a healing of the pain inflicted by sexual abuse in the Church, that mutual respect and trust be restored among us.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.

4. For our brothers and sisters baptized into other Christian Churches who have suffered on account of Catholic prejudice.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
5. For ourselves, that we respect the deep religious faith of other Christians and rejoice in ever-deepening ecumenical relationships.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
6. For those whose marriage to another Christian in a Catholic Church was marred by Pastoral Insensitivity.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
7. For indigenous Australians and especially their Stolen Children, that their bond with local communities and the land be restored.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
8. For all Australians, that we protect the culture of our indigenous sisters and brothers and respect their prior occupation of the land we call home.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
9. For a new appreciation and recognition of the role and place of women in the life of the Church, its leadership and decision-making.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
10. For migrants and refugees in Australia that they, their language, culture and history be welcomed as an enrichment of Church and country.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
11. For those who have been hurt by Church processes, especially those who have suffered in resigning from priestly ministry or religious life.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
12. For reconciliation when the pain of marriage breakdown has been compounded by lack of support and isolation from the Church.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
13. For the defence of the dignity of the unborn and their right to life, and for the healing of those who have had recourse to abortion.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
14. For a new partnership in the Church with young people, building together a better world according to the vision of Jesus Christ.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
15. For a strengthening of solidarity with people who live in isolated areas and who feel alienated from Australian life.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.
16. For all of us, that we reach out with healing and hope to those who are marginalized or in difficult

situations in the Church
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.

17. For the Church, that it repent of its sinfulness, its counter-witness to Gospel values, and the scandal it may at times have caused.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.

18. For the year of Great Jubilee, that it be a "year of the Lord's Favour" for everyone in this great South Land of the Holy Spirit, Australia.
(Pause for prayer) Lord hear us.

16 February

Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus - Five Women named on Implementation Committee

Five women consultants will join six Bishops on a committee overseeing the implementation of recommendations on women's participation in the Church in Australia.

The appointees are:

Mrs Liz Hanney of Warragul, Victoria, Pastoral Coordinator for the Sale Diocese

Mrs Catherine Harris of Birchgrove NSW, former Director of the Affirmative Action Agency

Mrs Elsie Heiss, NSW, member of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Sydney

Mrs Teresa Lynch of Whyalla, South Australia, coordinator of Pastoral Associates in the Port Pirie Diocese

Sister Sonia Wagner, SGS, of Glebe, NSW, Superior of the Good Samaritan Sisters.

Bishop Michael Putney, who chairs the Implementation Committee, announced the appointments this week.

The Bishops on the Committee with Bishop Michael Putney (Auxiliary Bishop, Brisbane) are: Bishops W. Brennan (Wagga Wagga), B. Collins (Wilcannia-Forbes), D. Cremin (Auxiliary Bishop, Sydney), W. Morris (Toowoomba), and D. Walker (Broken Bay). The six Bishops include two representatives from each of the following Bishops' Committees: Justice, Development and Peace; Doctrine and Morals; and, Laity.

Dr Marie Macdonald, who chaired the Ad Hoc Committee that prepared the recommendations flowing from the report **Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus**, will act as an Executive Officer to the Implementation Committee, which was set up last November by the Bishops' Conference. The Committee's Secretary is Dr Michael Costigan, Executive Secretary to the Bishops' Committee for Justice Development and Peace (BCJDP).

Its immediate task is to study the recommendations presented to the Bishops' Conference by Dr Marie Macdonald's Committee and to report to the Plenary Meeting of Conference in May. The full Implementation Committee will hold its first meeting in Sydney on 6 March.

Contacts: Bishop Michael Putney Ph: 07) 3224 3222 or Dr Michael Costigan Ph: 02) 9956 5800

19 January 2000

Three Young Australians in the running for Vatican's International Prose/Poetry Competition

The work of three national finalists will feature in the Vatican's Worldwide Prose/Poetry Competition for Young People due to close on 31 January 2000.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has completed judging for the competition at the national level and is extremely grateful for the assistance provided by the National Catholic Education Commission in promoting and judging the Competition towards the end of last year.

The winners in their respective categories are:

Yr 10-12: "Adolescents" **Miss Emma Leaver**, Yr 11
Genazzano FCJ College, Kew, VIC

Yr 7-9: "Pre-Adolescents" **Miss Jessica Healy**, Yr 9
Santa Maria College, Northcote, VIC

Pre-Yr 6: "Children" **Anna Katrina Dominguez**, Yr 6
Holy Spirit Primary School, North Ryde, NSW

The competition winners received a certificate and Jubilee souvenirs to the value of \$50.00.

Another six entries, all from the "Children's" category, received Highly Commended Awards. The authors are: Four students from Genazzano FCJ College in Kew, Victoria including, Sarah J Anido, Catherine Simpson, Simone Robertson and Monica Youssif; Rory Irwin from St Therese's Primary School in Centenary Park in Qld; and, Sean Pollock from Holy Spirit Primary School in North Ryde, NSW. All winners in this category received a certificate and a Jubilee mouse mat.

An international jury will pick three world champions and a winner from each continent. An overall winner will be chosen and awarded a week-long stay in Rome for themselves along with two members of his/her family.

19 January 2000

Jubilee Writing Competition Winners

Division: Yr 10-12: Adolescents

Winner: Emma Leaver

Genazzano FCJ College, Kew, Victoria

So, the New Year is almost upon us. The much-publicised new millennium promises an era in human history unlike any other. I, like many, am looking forward to, as cliché as it sounds, a world of freedom. A world where every individual is accepted, and celebrated, as the unique being God created them to be.

But will it happen? That is the question every individual should be asking themselves. Or more rightly – how can I make it happen? For world peace to become a reality we must re-classify the "Christian Values" of peace, love, justice and hope as "Human Values". I mean, really, isn't this what every individual must exhibit, whatever their religion (indeed even if they do not have one), to achieve world unity?

In Australia we are slowly progressing forward. We have the somewhat romanticised word of "mateship". I connect this to the general concern of Australians for one another, especially those less fortunate. However, even though we have it we do not act on it enough. It is because of the society that we live. It is a world of technology and wealth. A world where we easily forget the problems around us. We turn our heads to the beggar on the street, the disabled in our community and those unjustly done by in our neighbourhood. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that we all must become saints (in the truest sense of the word) because God has created us, faults and all, to walk this earth, and it is up to us to correct them. We live in such an era, which doesn't mean we have to be of that era. I mean, what does it say about our society when you can go to www.millionaire.com to spend your money on alcohol dipped cigars when you are not feeling particularly philanthropic? Hmm. I agree with Pope John Paul II, in that we must give "the sincere gift of self, a gift only made possible only through [your] encounter with God" (1), for when we discover God is with us we realise that we must try and help others in the way God wishes us to.

I used to be a brownie when I was little and we had to do a good deed every day. What if every person in Australia adopted this idea? Sure there are some who do perform this and maybe we should ask them to do one more.

One good deed that must be performed in Australia is the act of reconciliation with our indigenous people. We must recognise the wrong we have done, and are doing, to the Aboriginal people. Two hundred years ago the "white fellas" came over and took their land from right underneath them, as in many other countries, and while we cannot change history, we can certainly apologise for it and correct the repercussions.

But we are not all bad. Australia is known for its generally liberal immigration and refugee policies. (Were the convicts refugees as well as prisoners? They were certainly outcasts in their society, looking for a new home and way of living). The Puckapunyal base in Victoria has been home to Kosovo refugees and presently, East Timorese. An Australian of the Year was a "boat person" who found sanctuary in Australia. Thus, we have multicultural Australia, a society that we are so lucky to live in. Australia, in my view, is like a miniature of the world; the rich, the poor, people with Aboriginal, European, Asian, African, Islander and American backgrounds all coming together under the proud banner of being an Australian. And maybe if we come to be a free, just and equal society, the rest of the world may follow suit.

On the worldwide scale, I believe that Jubilee 2000 is extremely important. As the "lucky" countries continue to surge forward in the future, there are countries that are still waiting to be able to catch up to the present. It is incredible that a third of a country's wealth is put towards the repaying of debt instead of going to childcare, education and health. It is even more incredible to think this amount is about as much as countries such as corporate America make in a single day.

I think that along with all the good of this new age in the world's history we too easily forget the individual. The child who starves to death as we tuck into our three-course dinner, the woman who screams in agony as she gives birth alone and the man who is discriminated against and can't get work because of the colour of his skin. These are the reasons why every person in the world must adopt the "Human Values" of peace, love, justice and hope. And maybe then those who think God has abandoned them might realise that He is there after all, living in their hearts and the hearts of others.

I wish, as Pope John Paul II does, "May this year of grace touch the hearts of those who holed in their hands the fate of the world's peoples!"(2) For we, the youth of today, are going to be those who will decide the future of those around us. May we make the right decisions, because the new millennium is ours to make of it what we will.

This is my prayer, and I pray it on behalf of all Australians, for all the millennium to bring what we hope it will, and that we have enough strength to make it happen. Amen.

1. Tertio Millennio Adveniente – Pope John Paul II, page 4: 9
2. Incarnationis Mysterium, Bull of Indiction of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 – Pope John Paul II, page 8 :12.

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Division: Yr 7-9: Pre-Adolescents
Winner: Jessica Healy
Santa Maria College, Northcote, Victoria

BREATHE...

Take a deep breath
Can you feel that special something,
Speeding through you,
Making every fibre of your body glow?

Something precious and wild and free
Is loose in the air!

A fragrance – fresh eucalyptus after the rain...
A voice – the Kookaburra laughs with wild abandon, with new joy...
A prayer – an innocent and hopeful child raises his eyes to the sky and...

Sings a Jubilee morning.
Shapes a Jubilee day.
Proclaims a Great Year of Jubilee...

All, breathe in the Jubilee Spirit...

Now, dream a vision for the future...

*Drooping branches stir fitfully: the wind
Is in a quiet mood...
Even God grew tired, sought rest and let
The details be what evolution brings –
The peppercorn, the wind, the world;
And get whoever loves peace, bid them join me near this quiet river resting(i)...*

Rest, all people, and so find yourself,
And so find your vision...

Signs of hope from the past
Point us towards the future,

The 'new' grows out of the 'old'(ii)
Let us be guided by the dance,
Let us be guided by the story,
Let us be guided by the dreaming...

and the 'old' finds a fuller expression in the 'new'.
Let us be open to learning new steps,
Let us be open to hearing new words,
Let us be open to dreaming new dreams.

But...

Think of the blue chip,
The depression,
And the Y2K...

May we learn from the gun and the sword,
May we learn from the trench and the bunker,
May we learn from the bomb. And the death.
And we remember that power is not a toy,
And that war is not a game...

May we seek the signs...
*Scientific, technological, and...medical progress
In the service of human life(iv),*

May we truly discover...
*a greater awareness of our
responsibility for the environment(v),*

May we realise their great worth...
*efforts to restore peace and justice
wherever they have been violated(vi),*

And may we follow the path
To which they lead us...
*and a desire for reconciliation and solidarity
among different peoples...(vii)*

The signs are the starting points,
A beginning to the individual
And collective journey
To increased faith and hope...
To an encounter with Christ...

Christ lays his hands on my soul,
And says, "Peace, child."
And I breathe deep. In...
And I breathe out.
I exhale, and the burden of sin is lifted...

Now see what remnants of darkness lurk in hidden corners
And banish all that makes you flinch away
Atone for crimes to which you won't admit
And wake to find a new and glorious day
Yes, Break the bonds of slavery –
Not only is the victim in chains
But the slave-driver too...
Chains of hatred, racism, fear, power, selfishness...

And he says to me, "sins forgiven child."
And I pray to him and atone.
And his love flows through my veins.
I am complete.
And forgiveness plants a seed
That flowers in my heart,
Like a rose expanding and opening
To absorb the sun's warm light.

Indeed, *the joy of every Jubilee is above all
A joy based upon the forgiveness of sins.* (viii)

A renewal of joy in my soul –
What glorious happiness is this!
Truly, I know now that *Jesus is the genuine newness
Which surpasses all human expectations...* (ix)

What's this?
All my family, brothers and sisters in Christ,
And my brothers and sisters in humanity,
All are gathered before me. I have come home!
All speak – all understand.
Timorese, Zimbabwean, Australian, Chinese.
Truly love has a great power!
We form a circle around a great fire, tongues leaping, jumping...

Now DANCE!
Dance to the song of Jubilation,
Together, keep the beat.
One beating heart...
As one, we dance a prayer for the new millennium...

*For the term 'Jubilee' speaks of joy;
Not just an inner joy
But a jubilation
Which is manifested outwardly,
For the coming of God is also
An outward and tangible event.* (x)

You have found Christ,
Where you had not time to look before.
In yourself, in others
And in the beauty of creation.

Breathe, and know that
You have been purified,
You have been cleansed,
You are one with the Jubilee Spirit...

- i. Sonnet – By the River, Paul Healy
- ii. Tertio Millennio Adveniente: III, 18
- iii. Tertio Millennio Adveniente: III, 18
- iv. Tertio Millennio Adveniente: III, 46
- v. Tertio Millennio Adveniente: III, 46
- vi. Tertio Millennio Adveniente: III, 46
- vii. Tertio Millennio Adveniente: III, 46
- viii. Tertio Millennio Adveniente: III, 32
- ix. Bull of Indiction of the Great Jubilee, Incarnationis Mysterium: 1
- X. Tertio Millennio Adveniente: II, 16.

Division: Pre-school – Yr 6: Children
Winner: Anna Katrina Dominguez, Yr 6
 Holy Spirit Primary School, North Ryde, NSW

"The Great Jubilee is a big feast and an invitation to be happy."

So the great Jubilee is a big feasts and an invitation to be happy. But why? The people of the world will celebrate because of the New Millennium. The people of Sydney will celebrate because of the Olympics. But Catholic people all over the world will celebrate because it is the Great Jubilee. This feast and invitation to be happy is for everyone, and time for everyone to celebrate. So no matter how old you are, what your religion is or how you live your life, the Great Jubilee is a time to celebrate.

The Jubilee was taken from the Hebrew name yobel, that means ram or ram's horn, which was the closest instrument to the trumpet, which was sounded to start the new year.

In the Bible, the Year of the Jubilee is every fifty years. This is because the number seven, which symbolises holiness and completeness, times itself, is forty-nine. One more is fifty, and so this year is very holy. It was a time that

- All land was to be reverted to its original owners,
- All debts were to be overruled,
- And any slaves that were Israelites were to be set free.

The reason this was done, according to Christianity, was because all land and all people belonged to God, so the land was to go back to whom it was originally purchased by, the slaves were to be set free.

In the community, though, the reasons for these things happening were different. The issue of land being reverted came about so the wealth was shared, and not only a select few owned everything. The reasons the slaves were set free was so people could be equal.

These three things hardly ever happened, even though the people would love them to happen.

The Great Jubilee has come about because 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born into the world, through Mary our Mother.

"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary." (Luke 1:26-27)

Gabriel was sent down to earth to talk to Mary to tell her God had favoured her, and wanted her to be the mother of His son, whom she was to name Jesus. Mary was quite startled at first, and wanted to know how this could happen, because she was a virgin. When she was told she would become pregnant through the Holy Spirit, she agreed and the Holy Spirit came over her and she became pregnant.

The salvation of the world depended on this visit, because if Mary did not agree to be the mother of Jesus, the pathway to Heaven would not be open, as Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

After Mary became pregnant, she and her fiancé Joseph married and travelled to Bethlehem because a census was called. There, Jesus was born in a stable. This was the start of the Holy Family (Mary, Joseph and Jesus) who is the most important family for Christians in the history of time.

Jesus is a part of the Holy Trinity, which is such an important part of our Religion, and Jubilee 2000. In the letter Tertio Millennio Adveniente (The Coming of the Third Millennium), the Pope told us that the three years leading up to the Great Jubilee were to be:

- 1997 – The Year of Jesus Christ, a year of Faith, where Mary our Mother was to be a model of Faith, and Christian people were to look back on our Baptism and seek to renew our appreciation of it. We were also to look over and try to improve our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 1998 – The Year of the Holy Spirit, a year of Hope, where we were to look back on our Confirmation, and look at it as a proclamation of our Faith.

- 1999 – The Year of God the Father, a year of Love where we are to emphasize God’s absolute love for all people, regardless of race, culture or Religion. This year, we are also to make new our acknowledgement of the sacrament of Penance.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, he who is, who was and who is to come: the Master of the Universe." (Revelation 1:8)

Jesus’ mission was to spread the Good News to everyone, teach us to love each other and love God and help the poor, the sick and the needy. So because that is what the Jubilee is, a time for healing, helping and loving, it can be said that every day is a Jubilee.

To me, the Great Jubilee is a time to celebrate the two thousandth anniversary of the Birth of Jesus, and a time for the people of this world to come together as one, regardless of their age, gender or social status. Religion is also another difference we should overlook, and to help us overlook this difference, Jewish, Moslem and Christian leaders will meet in Jerusalem for a greeting of peace. The Great Jubilee is also a time for people to repent. But as we are told, it is also a time to feast, and be happy.

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SPECIAL COMMENDATIONS

JUBILEE

Jubilee, Jubilee
 God is our destiny,
 God the Father,
 God the Son,
 God the Spirit,
 Three in one

Freedom,
 fallow
 & forgiveness too,
 faith we ask for these to do,
 for inner peace is freedom anew,
 so we can forgive others as God would has us do,

Lets lay our land fallow for it to renew,
 as we rest on the Sabbath day the soil should rest too,
 and future generations will for these love you,

Jubilee, jubilee,
 God is our destiny,
 God the Father,
 God the Son,
 God the Spirit,
 Three in one,

Justice,
 Journey
 and jubilation

all lead to our emancipation
Let justice from every person's heart be emanating
and all shall be participating.
On our journey into heaven
may all our acts be good and rejuvenating

Gratitude and thankfulness
we send to the light in the darkness
The Trinity, our God
this sensation throughout the ages we uphold

Jubilee, jubilee,
God is our destiny,
God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Spirit,
Three in one,

They are Trinity

As the sun rises over the sea
Three comes a new time of spirituality for thee!

Jubilee

By: Rory Irwin

**St Therese's Primary School, Centenary Park, QLD
Pre-Adolescent Section entrant (Yr 6)**

A Jubilee With Jesus in the Y2K

"Celebrate!" With Jesus we have 'new hope'.

I am writing about the Jubilee. The coming Jubilee is going to be very big for it will be the new millennium! In case you didn't know what a Jubilee was, it is a time to be more like Jesus and by that, most importantly you must forgive and love each other. It is also a time to forget about any debts that any one owed you, and free a few prisoners. Also remember, start fresh.

Jesus died for us on the cross, so we are forgiven from our sins, are able to forgive others and live in a peaceful world with love. Let us not forget about the world before, that had no peace, and is not familiar with God, let us start fresh. In our new life we must love, forgive and have peace with one another. Our example is Jesus. Let us pray to God and ask him to help us to do what is right in our lives. We should believe and have faith in God and live in fear of him, for he is the creator of heaven and earth, and is so powerful there is nothing he cannot do.

The Jubilee encourages us to live more with God and do what he said, by this we must forgive others and forget about any debts that anyone needs to pay us. We should start new in our life and follow Jesus in his way of living and all that he does. If we shall start new, and listen to what all God told us through his son Jesus, we shall feel peace in our hearts and minds. Not only ourselves but also, if every-one follows Jesus in his footsteps, we shall have peace and we shall all live in a peaceful world. We must free some prisoners for God has forgiven them and loves the a lot.

I think that this is an excellent idea, and these actions will be the solver of all the problems we have in this world today. I feel that we should do this because God would want us to do this, and if we do, we are not only obeying God's commandments, but also working together in peace.

I will feel very happy if all this would happen because I will have a much happier life and not only me, but also every-one shall be living in peace.

What we can be doing today, is, being nice to our friends and family by forgiving them, giving money to the poor, donating things to the organisations or foundations in the world, helping every-one and our environment. We should take all the opportunities in life and do our best with them. Let us be wise, and make wise decisions in our life because it is a gift from God.

We should not only be doing this for the enjoyment of peace and doing the right thing, we must do all these things to be prepared for the coming of the Lord so that we may have eternal life.

By: Monica Youssif
Genazzano FCJ College, Kew
Pre-adolescent Section Entrant (Yr 5)

Should we give up on Jesus?

Jesus was born 2000 years ago. That is a very long time ago. It's about ten times longer than non-Aboriginal settlement in Australia. So why is Jesus important to us? Why should we think about him at all?

One reason would be that Jesus taught us how to behave properly in the eyes of God, died for us so that our sins could be forgiven. Certainly it is important to do the right thing. Most of us know what the right thing to do is, at least most of the time. So why do we need to remember Jesus? After all, we don't do the right thing we would break the law and be sent to jail.

The laws in a country like Australia are there to protect us. They were written by people who learn what is right in the same way that most of us do – by studying what Jesus taught through the Bible. One way of describing a country like Australia would be to call it a Christian country, because most people in countries like Australia know and follow the teachings of Christ. So if we already understand what he taught us, why should we bother to remember him?

I think the reason is that knowing his teachings is not enough. We have to keep remembering how he taught us, what he did for us, and what he still does for us. I mentioned earlier that he died for us so that we could be forgiven. But what I did not say is that he also rose from the dead to prove he was the Son of God. That means that he is still alive, and with us all the time. So, it would be pretty silly to only think about the Jesus of 2000 years ago. After all, he is also the Jesus of today. He is still with us, and still showing us what to do.

There are many ways that Jesus helps us to be better. One example that I can think of right now is how Australia is helping the East Timorese. I am not exactly sure what happened, but I do know that a lot of people were being killed in East Timor because they wanted to form their own country and break away from Indonesia. Australia, and many other countries, saw that what was happening to them was wrong. It went against everything that Jesus taught us, and caused a lot of people to suffer. That is the reason that Australia sent an army of soldiers to stop the East Timorese from being killed. We might have done that even if Jesus was still with us, but I do not know for sure.

Jubilee 2000 is so important because it will be 2000 years ago since Jesus was born, died for us, and was resurrected. It also means that Jesus has been with us and helping us for all of those 2000 years. He has not given up on us in all that time.

I do not think it would be smart if we gave up on him.

By: Sarah J Anido
Genazzano FCJ College, KEW
Pre-Adolescent Section (Yr 5)

The Journey to Jubilee 2000

Jubilee is a celebration of an anniversary. Jubilee is a time of having a rest and a time of rejoicing. Jesus is telling us to spend more time with our family and friends. We show that we love each other by the way we act, respect people and treat others. Jesus is telling us to celebrate that we are alive, part of this world and we can make a difference, Jesus is warning us to be careful what we do, to our future. Jesus asks us to invite people from different places, to come together to celebrate.

But, don't forget the land, our environment. Jesus is also telling us to keep our environment clean, put rubbish in the bin, recycle, save trees, etc. so next time you see rubbish lying on the ground, pick it up and put it in the bin because we want our future to be a better place.

Pope John Paul II has written a letter about forgiveness to tell people that the poor don't owe us any more money. He has also shown us how to celebrate Jubilee 2000 in different sorts of ways. Like: getting together with your family, etc. So, his message is, this Jubilee gather with your family and your friends so you can celebrate the coming of the third millennium.

Jesus is the one we follow, the one we look up to. Jesus is kind, caring, loveable and forgiving. So those are the things we want to be. Have you ever wondered what the world would be without friendship, love, joy and hope? It would not be a nice place to live in. This is a warning to take more time to think about the way you should act.

Jubilee is about Freedom, Restoration, Forgiveness and Justice. Freedom is to do what you think is best. Restoration is to look back and see if you could do a better job. Forgiveness is to forgive people for what they have done and Justice is to be fair and judge people equally.

Jesus provides hope and will never give up. His message is "There is always a way" and sometimes we need that message as well as hope to tell us to never give up.

In our world there are homeless people without a house to live in, without a bed to sleep in and without clothes to wear. This is where we can help by putting money into the collection at mass, give unwanted clothes to charities, put money in the mission box or just give some spare time. All these little things make a big difference.

God has sent his son, Jesus. He also sent us his Spirit and we are all Sons and Daughters of God. If one of us got lost, Jesus would go back and find us, and that is what we should do.

We respect and take care of people and the lands to show God's love and graciousness. For many hundreds of years Jubilee has been a religious event and a lasting celebration of God's favour. The poor were freed and slaves were released.

Celebrate the coming of Jubilee 2000 because that is our journey.

By: Catherine Simpson
Genazzano FCJ College, Kew
Pre-Adolescent Section (Yr 5)

2000 Years of the Memory of Jesus!

As people well know the greatest event in the history of the world occurred 2000 years ago when Jesus was born. We are now moving into another millennium and getting ready to celebrate as part of the Jubilee. Jesus is celebrated because he was born 2000 years ago and has had an impact on so many people. I am only ten years old and it is wondrous to think that Jesus lived 2000 years ago (that is an amazing 200 times my life). If you try and think about other people from 2000 years ago, it is hard to come up with many names. Even for the people you can think of, you do not really find as much information on them as you do on Jesus. People know a lot about Jesus because unlike the other famous people who built cities or were generals of armies, Jesus helped people with the word of God. Jesus' deeds were spread through the Gospel, and over 2000 years the message of Christian values has become an important part of millions of peoples' lives all around the world as well as to us in Australia. This is so much more important than any city that could be built or any army that a general could have. This achievement deserves to be celebrated.

I know that in my short life I have done things wrong and so I suppose over the last 2000 years, there have been many wrong doings and injustices all over the world. There have been many wars and some people have not had even the simple things needed to live like water and food. Even nowadays, I see poor people begging for food on the streets of Melbourne and the news on television has so many stories about wars and other terrible things. I pray that the third millennium will be much better than the previous two and that the world will truly be a much better place.

How can we improve the world for the next millennium? In his Jubilee message, the Pope has asked us "to take advantage of the special grace offered by the challenge of the Year 2000". I think that all people, particularly the young people who will be a big part of the next millennium, should try to follow his example in accepting the challenge. I know that it is sometimes difficult to do the right things, but we should think of the Year 2000 as a new opportunity to show our Christian values and help our families, friends and even people we do not know. The Gospel tells us the good news of Jesus and examples of how we can help others. Sometimes you might think that we are not strong and can't follow the Gospel but if we all believe and act together then we'll be strong like one whole team. By ourselves and also with others we can show our kindness and charity by always helping those who need it and by helping them to learn about Jesus.

As Christian people we think life is sacred and that Jesus was our saviour. It is important that everyone continues to believe this and that as the Pope would like, the younger generation, as the future of the Church, help to continue to help

Jesus to be known to everyone now and into the future. The Year 2000 is time for us to reflect on the special things that Jesus has given us in the past and what he will give to us in the future, and to help others to understand and believe in them also. It will truly be a time of Jubilee celebration!

By: Simone Robertson
Genazzano FCJ College, Kew
Pre-Adolescent Category Entrant (Yr 5)

The Jubilee

Jubilee comes every fifty years
It's a time to be happy, let go of your fears.
The people who are rich, and poor,
The difference between them will be no more.
So come celebrate Jubilee and be happy.

Seven is an important number in Christianity,
For in seven days God created humanity.
In a week there are seven days.
On the 7th we go to church and praise.
So come celebrate Jubilee and be happy.

If seven times seven is forty-nine,
Add one more year and it's Jubilee time!
So Jubilee must be extra fun,
It's almost 2000 years since God sent his son.
So come celebrate Jubilee and be happy.

Feasts are what God invites us to,
Feasts make us happy, our sins will be renewed.
We celebrate feasts in many ways,
Love, Faith, joy are with feasts always.
So come celebrate feasts and be happy.

Difference feasts come every year,
Christmas and Easter are the feasts we hear.
Advent and Lent are the feasts where we wait.
For Jesus' birth, and Jesus' fate.
So come celebrate Jubilee and be happy.

Jesus is the Jubilee,
The one that we waited for, the one that we need.
God chose Him as the chosen one,
But most of all, Jesus was God's son.
So come celebrate Jesus and be happy.

If there were no Jesus, there'd be no feasts,
No Christmas or Easter, and that's the least.
He is the saviour, the one that God gave us,
He died on the cross life God said He must.
So come celebrate Jesus and be happy.

Mary was the one, who gave birth to Jesus,
On a starry night now known as Christmas.
She helped him all the way through his life,
Through agony, pain and strife.
So some celebrate Mary and be happy.

Mary is now the Queen of Heaven,
She went up there by assumption.
Mary is a great model of faith,
She was kind, nice and perfectly great.
So come celebrate Mary and be happy.

So, with feasts, Jesus, and also Mary,
Next year's Jubilee must be extra merry.
It's the first Jubilee I've ever been to,
So I'm excited, how about you:?
So come celebrate The Great Jubilee and be HAPPY!

***By: Sean Pollock
Holy Spirit Primary School, North Ryde
Pre-Adolescent Category Entrant (Yr 6)***