

Touring the western front (edited for length)

During November, Mr. Bryson Coverdale, Lindisfarne's Head of Social Sciences accompanied twelve New South Wales students, selected for the Premiers ANZAC Memorial Scholarship.

They toured the World War I battlefields and places of Commemoration in France, Belgium and England.

Each of the 12 students and 2 teaching staff were selected for their love of history and involvement in the commemoration of the ANZAC tradition in their local school and community.

They were accompanied by two representatives from the NSW Returned and Services League and led by a representative of the NSW Department of

Veterans Affairs.

The tour was both an experience of historical fact and a commemoration of Australia's Defence Force Personnel, past and present.

In the Belgian town of Ypres, destroyed and then rebuilt after World War 1, our students laid a wreath and our RSL representative gave the Ode during the Commemorative Service at Menin Gate.

The significance of this tour was succinctly summed up during a civic reception with us at Ypres, Belgium.

The Deputy Mayor recounted that during a visit to Ypres in 1985, the Pope said that the vocation of Ypres-destroyed by war- was to be an ambassador for peace. Thirty years on, that mes-



'Do not forget Australia'. Villers-Brettonneux school, France

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Continued on page 4

Silent Retreat

One of the highlights of the year has to be the three day Silent Retreats.

Not just for myself, but for the students who take up the challenge of leaving behind their technological security blankets to enter the silence.

And the silence enters them.

They feel it the moment they get off the bus at the Santa Teresa Retreat Centre, on the southern edge of the picturesque Moreton Bay.

It greets them as they step out of the bus on the Friday afternoon.

The silence welcomes them.

This year we have had two Silent Retreats attended by predominately Year 9 students and more boys than girls.

When I mention spending three days away with Year 9 boys, people think I've spent too much time out in the sun.

Yet it is one of the most amazing experiences for Mrs Ayers and myself.

The students adapt quickly to the silence including eating meals together in silence, respecting the silence of others who share the retreat centre with us and taking responsibility for

their own daily routines.

They are up early for the sunrise, some for first light.

They walk the labyrinth as a group and then individually through out the day.

They visit the nearby Carmelite Church where they are welcomed by the sisters who include them in their private morning and evening prayer liturgies.

They read books, sit quietly and watch the day go by.

Some have read a book through for the first time in their life in one weekend.

Others discover that 24 hours is a very long time if there are no distractions to take you away from mindful living.

They participate in the Eucharist and compete with each other to assist me in its Celebration.

They are in bed by 8, tired from sitting still.

Each student gets a copy of 'The Pocket Thomas Merton'.

It is used to focus them during the daily group sessions.

It goes with them in their pockets everywhere they go.

On the table at dinner time, beside them when they are just sitting, and next to them when they sleep.

Sometime during the weekend they learn that the loudest noises aren't external, but internal.

When they do they discover, as Merton says, 'The only journey we take is the internal journey.'

They then begin the work of dealing with the sounds within which prevents them from having silence in their lives.

We discuss this and other learning's in personal interviews where I help them to further explore what is happening for them.

There is no pre scripted outcome for the students.

There is no effort to solve problems or fix issues.

Not by us anyway. We simply travel with them as they experience the learning for themselves.

And each one learns something different, uniquely theirs.

And so do we.

There are no teachers or students, just fellow travellers on the inner journey and we learn as much, if not more from them and their experiences, as they do from us.

And that's how it should be.

Fr Glenn Loughrey

JOURNEY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT:
THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES, A FAMILY STORYBOOK WITH
MASTERPIECES OF ART
AUTHOR: SUZANNE E. LIER
PUBLISHER: VERLAG BIBEL UND KUNST, RHÖNDORF
ISBN:9783981530810

What a treasure for the family, most especially a young family that would like to engage their children in the Christian faith journey.

This small coffee table style book has been lovingly and beautifully put together.

The author has told the story that is found in the first five books of the Old or First Testament using modern translations.

In using multiple sources including Jewish translations, the author brings a faithful rendition to the stories.

The book is written for both children and adults with a preface for both.

The layout is simple and yet engaging for children whilst engaging adults with more academ-

ic input taken from a wide selection of material.

Each of the stories and passages are illustrated with both classical and more modern works of art.

The artworks have been well printed and form an excellent and important interactive resource for children.

Not only telling the story in pictorial form but introducing them to some of the great religious artworks of the world.

At the end of each of the books of Moses the author has created a picture puzzle to engage and involve the children (and adults).

I would highly recommend this book both for use in Parish children's ministry as well as a familial setting.

Maruti

Zero Tolerance for Sexual Misconduct

Grafton Diocese

has established formal procedures to deal with sexual misconduct

Persons aggrieved by the sexual misconduct of a church worker - whether they are an ordained or lay person - should report it.

If you wish to speak to someone about sexual abuse by a church worker

please phone **1800 774 945** at any time

for recorded information of the names and telephone numbers of our contact persons

The North Coast Anglican

The bi-monthly newspaper of the Diocese of Grafton

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NSW Ecumenical Council

The NSW Ecumenical Council is seeking to employ a General Secretary.

The Council consists of 15 member Churches in NSW. Its mission is to enable the member churches to grow in the understanding and fulfilment of their common calling to unity and mission.

The position is f/t or p/t. If the General Secretary position is p/t, a p/t office administrator will also be appointed. The office is in the CBD of Sydney. Commencement date is by negotiation.

Download the position description and selection criteria at www.nswec.org.au. For information contact Wies Schuiringa, 0439024397. Applications close on 14 March, interviews on 28 March.

Applications to kmoroney@ncca.org.au tagline: application General Secretary.