



Keeping in Touch

A quarterly newsletter for Catholic homeschooling families

TERM 1 2004

IMPORTANT: CHANGES TO THE WAY KIT IS SENT OUT

This edition of *Keeping in Touch* is the last that will be mailed out to everyone. It is proposed that KIT will be printed and mailed out ONLY to those who specifically request it to be mailed. For everyone else, it will be available for reading or download from the new Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. website at www.cardinalnewman.com.au

We propose to maintain a list of email addresses of all recipients so that when a new edition of KIT is put on the website, a reminder email can be sent out to all interested parties. If you would like to be placed on this list, please send an email to Shaun Fanning at tarlohill@bigpond.com. (Shaun currently maintains the KIT address list). This information will not be used for any other purpose.

If you would rather receive *Keeping in Touch* in the traditional fashion, by mail, then please let Shaun know by email as above or by mail at 2142 Taralga Rd, Tarlo. 2580. These people are encouraged to send a donation to cover the costs of printing, postage and packing. Suggested donation is \$10 a year. These donations are sent to Newman Resources PO Box 597, Merrylands. 2160 or credit card details to fr@cardinalnewman.com.au

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

P2 camp ads, educational websites
P3-4 Lent this joyful season
P 5 Thoughts for H/schooling parents & children job-seeking
P6 how to take advantage of your studies
P6 Behind the Scenes (poem)
P7 Homeschooling the Seton way

P8 Power of Prayer
P9-10 The Full Circle
P 11-12 With the help of God,
we've made it
P 13 What am I giving up for Lent?
P 14 Crochet a thimble, A Less Usual
Lenten Penance
P 15-16 Children's pages

This issue prepared by Michele Vieira

**Contributions for next issue - send to
Mrs Gai Smith
smithm@ozemail.com.au
42 Matthew Pde, Blaxland. 2674**

FITZROY FALLS SEPTEMBER CAMP

After a very successful school week camp at Fitzroy Falls last September, we are running another this year. Please note the dates for this camp are **August 30th – September 3rd**.

The Dominican Sisters from Ganmain have kindly offered their support again.

For those unfamiliar with the camp the details are basically:

- Daily Rosary and Benediction ,opportunity for confessions
- A week’s schoolwork without you having to teach
- Religion given daily by the sisters
- Musical drama taught to the children with accompanying education in stagecraft, voice production, costuming, special effects etc...
- Daily practical Science and Technology sessions, daily sport, evening fun & games

- Opportunity for parents to “in-service” with other parents
- Opportunity to purchase educational and religious books without the postage
- A talk daily given to the parents to help us grow in our knowledge too

- Families accommodated in own rooms with ensuite, all meals catered for
- Wonderful facilities in the Conference Centre with games room, tennis courts, volley ball, mini-golf, swimming pool, etc...
- Surrounded by bush and plenty of grassed areas for football etc....

For bookings please send \$50 to Michele Vieira (cheques made out to Homeschooling Catholics please). For more information please email Michele at vieiras@vtown.com.au or ring (02)4829-0113 between 3 and 5 p.m. or 9 – 10 p.m. on schooldays or anytime on weekends.

EVANS HEAD CATHOLIC HOME SCHOOL CAMP

September 13th – 17th

Daily Mass, Benediction and Rosary

Celebrated by Fr Terence Mary Naughtin

Confirmation, First Communion Mass to be held on Wednesday the 15th

Celebrated by Bishop Geoffrey Jarrett.

Come and join us on the beach for a week of family fun and activities

The camp is fully catered and cabin style accommodation is provided.

Contact Erin 02 66433909 or Lynn 02 66495120

SOME GREAT EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT

For Religion worksheets:

<http://www.catecheticalresources.com/>

For music: www.sfskids.org

For art: Art for the Catholic Restoration: <http://users.net1plus.com/artcatholic/gallery.html>

Sister Wendy’s American Art: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/sisterwendy/works/index.html>

For Science:Chemistry:

<http://school.discovery.com/curriculumcenter/chemistry/>

LENT -- "THIS JOYFUL SEASON"

By Rev Fr James Tierney

PENANCE INCLUDES FASTING BUT IS SOMETHING MORE....

Father Adolphe Tanquerey, in his classic text book, *The Spiritual Life, A Treatise on Ascetical and Mystical Theology*, pp. 359-361, lists the various works of penance which make up for sin, and in this order:

1. Patience Patience receives adversity as a God-given penance, "the submissive, willing, and joyful acceptance of all the crosses Providence may see fit to send us." e.g. putting up patiently with people when they are difficult.

2. Duty The duties of one's state in life are a God-given penance. The most acceptable sacrifice we can offer to God is obedience: 'Obedience is better than sacrifice,' 1 Samuel 15:22, because the duties of our state are the manifest expression of God's will in our regard." e.g. doing my jobs.

3. Fasting and Almsgiving Other works of Penance recommended in Holy Writ are Fasting and Almsgiving. "To be acceptable, fasting must be accompanied by sentiments of sorrow for sin and mercy towards others." There are also personally chosen acts of mortification -- mortification means 'making death (to sin)' -- to discipline our own particular weaknesses. Thus fasting and mercy build on those above, (1) patience and (2) duty. Category 3 comes in third place and last, lest we ignore the penances God selects for us in (1) & (2), and fall into pride about our own self-impositions.

SELF-DENIAL AND PENANCE

Isn't self-denial the same as penance? Not exactly. They may involve the same outward effort but are directed to different purposes: penance is making up for past sins; self-denial is avoiding future sins.

OCCASIONS OF SIN

The old Act of Contrition reminds us to 'avoid occasions of sin': the particular

persons or circumstances which we foresee will tempt us severely.

PENANCE NOT THE SAME AS SACRIFICE

Penance and sacrifice are not the same, but rather are overlapping realities, and both are essential:-

Sacrifice is a bigger idea than penance: it is the ritual adoration of God. True, in our fallen world, sacrifice always asks for reconciliation with God and makes reparation for sin. The Sacrifice of the Mass -- the same Sacrifice as the Cross -- 'repairs' the sins of the world, reconciles mankind to God, opens the Gates of Heaven. Most of all, however, it gives perfect homage to God. A 'brainstorm' on sacrifice should put adoration as its supreme purpose.

Penance is a smaller idea than sacrifice: it is my making up for my sins, my essential contribution for forgiveness and healing, part of my inner 'sacrifice' as a sinner participating in the great Sacrifice of the Mass, the Cross, my sharing the cross with Our Lord.

Of course, we extend 'sacrifice' to any religious offering to God, and see our penances as a sort of sacrifice. Beware, however, of so often calling our acts of penance 'sacrifices' that we forget the basic meaning of sacrifice as a gift offered on an altar by a priest on behalf of worshippers for God's adoration and their reconciliation: Catholic Family Catechism 137. See also the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Adoration is the first act of the virtue of religion..." 2096; "It is right to offer sacrifice to God as a sign of adoration and gratitude, supplication and communion: 'Every action done so as to cling to God in communion of holiness, and thus achieve blessedness, is a true sacrifice';" 2099; see also 2114, 2628.

BAPTISMAL PROMISES

The Baptismal Promises are renewed at Easter. To each question we make our promise, "I DO":

Do you reject Satan?

And all his works?

And all his empty promises?

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

VATICAN II

Vatican II said this about Lent: "The two elements which are especially characteristic of Lent -- the recalling of **Baptism** or the preparation for it, and **penance** should be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. It is by means of them that the Church prepares the faithful for the celebration of Easter, while they hear God's word more frequently and devote more time to prayer..."

ASH WEDNESDAY and First Sunday in Lent

Ash Wednesday is about life and death. The ashes are a reminder of Adam and Eve and original sin; of 'death as a gateway to life'; of 'dying to ourselves' to prepare for eternal life; of suffering becoming offering. The Gospel of Ash Wednesday from the Sermon on the Mount is about sincerity in Almsgiving (i.e. having mercy on others in practical situations), on sincerity in Prayer (the passage omits the details of the Lord's Prayer), and on sincerity in Fasting. Likewise the first reading from Joel, "rend your heart and not your garments," insists that bodily acts of penance are a means to an end, not an end in themselves, and that our hearts must be in it, repenting.

The Gospel of the First Sunday in Lent is about our Lord's Forty Days of Fasting to strengthen Him for Satan's Temptations: on Ill-gotten Bread and the bodily appetites; on Vulgar Display and vanity; and on Worshipping Creatures and pride. These three temptations match up with 1 John 2:16, on avoiding the concupiscence ('lust', desire, covetousness) of the flesh, the concupiscence of the eyes, and the pride of life.

FINALLY, do not be surprised that the first Lenten Preface calls Lent "this joyful season"! And likewise the priest invites us -- Lift up your hearts!

COPYRIGHT The Rev. B.J.H. Tierney. Single copies of Handouts are FREE and may be copied for any non-profit teaching purpose. However, donations to defray costs are welcome and should be made to the publisher and distributor, the Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc. PO Box 697, Merrylands NSW 2160; phone 02 9637 9406; fax 02 9637 3351; email <fr@cardinalnewman.com.au> (please note new email address, and that the new website is <cardinalnewman.com.au>.

□

Psycho-analysis is the Confessional without the safeguards of the Confessional;
Communism is the Franciscan movement without the moderating influence of
the Church;

-G. K. Chesterton

SOME THOUGHTS FOR HOMESCHOOLING PARENTS AND JOB-SEEKERS by Michael Brearley

“So he got an electrical apprenticeship 15 minutes from home, with the largest cement manufacturing company in the southern hemisphere ... and he has never been to school???” Yep – he did!

This statement has been made to me on many occasions in the last week, and we are most grateful to Our Lord for Chris’ apprenticeship. I have been asked to jot down a few thoughts, not for self-gratification, but to assist other homeschoolers who are seeking to enter the job market. So here we go:

It is important to assemble an impressive portfolio when seeking jobs, and to be able to get this into the hands of prospective employers. The competition is tough and you need to be able to present yourself well. Ensure that you have good written references.

Telephone prospective employers and send your portfolio to as many prospective employers as you can (This can take several days hard work). Don’t become despondent with the knock-backs you will receive.

Prepare for your interview. Find out as much as you can about the prospective employer so that you can show your interest in the job. I have conducted many interviews in my job as an Engineer and there are standard questions that employers ask of young job seekers. I would be happy to run a mock interview if it would assist anyone. Listed below are a dozen questions commonly asked:

1. Tell me about yourself. What studies have you done and what qualifications do you have?
2. Why do you want to be a (*job being applied for*)
3. What does an (*job being applied for*) do?
4. What do you know about (*the company you are seeking to work for*)?
5. Are you prepared to undertake further studies related to the job?
6. Tell me about a situation where you have been asked to do many tasks at the one time.

How did you decide which job was the most important?

7. Tell me about a situation where you have been in conflict with another person. How did you resolve the conflict?

8. What do you regard as your strong points ?

9. What do you regard as your weak points?

10. What do you understand by the term Occupational Health and Safety?

11. If you were successful, when could you start?

12. Do you have any questions you would like to ask of us?

It was interesting that this employer was concerned that a homeschooled child could not cope with the workforce after living a so-called “sheltered” childhood. In answer to this, I will borrow the response of another homeschooling parent: One could take the analogy of a boxer. If you throw a young boxer straight into the ring without training, he will most likely come off second best. We as homeschoolers are blessed. We have been training our children for their first boxing match for many years. When they enter the ring for the first time, they have a much better chance of winning because they have been prepared for it

A Priest whom I respect and has observed many homeschooling families commented to me recently that one of the most difficult times for homeschoolers is the young adult years. The basic education is complete and adulthood is rapidly approaching. A young adult can enter a “trough” in their life, or they jump to their feet and approach adulthood with vigour and an enthusiastic direction for their future vocation. It is a period that requires a well-developed prayer and sacramental life within the family. It requires calm but strong leadership from us as parents, and plenty of support. It is by the grace of God that we can triumph through this period in our family’s life. One final comment, we must never stop praying that our children will respond generously to Our Lord’s call to the Priesthood or religious life.

HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR STUDIES

St John Bosco, in one of his nightly chats with “his boys” gave a talk on how they could take advantage of their studies. This is a summary of the talk.

To study well:

1. Have a genuine fear of God – fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
2. Do not lose even a second of time – use time well
3. Get used to not going on in any subject without knowing the previous material well
4. Eat in an orderly and timely fashion. Don’t live to eat, eat to live.
5. Keep company with studious people who will encourage worthwhile conversations
6. Partake of orderly recreation – use the entire recreation period because playing will bring new strength for studying better during class time
7. Attack and overcome all difficulties you encounter in your subject of study
8. Dedicate yourselves to studying the subjects of your course
9. Always have recourse to the protection of Mary Most Holy

BEHIND THE SCENES

– A TRIBUTE TO Marie McNulty, Carolyn Giblin and Fr Tierney

Behind the scenes they’ve done it all
Yet no bronze plaque hangs upon their wall
Term by term they’ve laboured hard
That none of our writings may be marred
For Keeping in Touch they’ve got in the mail
All the hard work done, every term without fail
These ladies and Father keep busy all day
Answering letters, and phone calls and handling the foray
Of all the people who come through the door
To buy rosary beads, books, statues and more
There’s so many items the bookshop now stock
They’ve built their business on the solid rock
Of the true Catholic faith and they try to share
This precious gift because they care.

So now we say a great big thank you
To Marie and Carolyn and Fr Tierney too
For printing and stapling and putting together
Under all kinds of conditions of mind and weather
For keeping the mailing list up to date
And working to get KIT to our front gate
Even if it means using your own free hours
Instead of planting vegies and flowers
They’ve done it all for love of you and me
So let’s give them a cheer on the count of three
We’ll shout and we’ll sing hip hip hooray
For Marie and Carolyn and Fr Jim today
All praise to God for making these three
And let us all say “Glory Be..”

Homeschooling the Seton Way in Australia.

by Pat Mills

As yet another school year begins we may well be wondering how we will cope and how much we will achieve on the home education front. With God's help, I am sure everyone will make some progress, if not in great academic progress, at least in character development and spiritual growth.

. Having used the Seton Home Study programme for twenty years, with six to go, I often consider how blessed we are to have had such a wonderful course to offer our children. The best available material for homeschooling in each subject area has been used. It is all very user friendly. In the twenty years, particularly the last few, many of the texts have been up graded with beautifully Catholic ones of similar standard. Each year's work builds on the previous one so that the students can make steady progress.

For those who choose the complete grade curriculum, all texts, workbooks, answer keys and daily lessons are provided. The children love the routine once it is established. As they progress from lower primary, much of the work can be done with minimum supervision, if life presents interruptions for Mum. The set curriculum is a great way to go, particularly for someone just starting out. Also if one grade a year is purchased, you have it for all the younger children. It is amazing the number of young mothers who are choosing to home school, and to use the Seton programme to start their home education.

These curriculums are available from Kindergarten to year 8, and range in price from about \$250 to \$630, depending on the dollar value against the U.S.A. dollar. If you choose, you can enroll your child with Seton for testing and grading. This is done direct with Seton after you have purchased the curriculum. You can also enroll in individual subjects. For years 9 to 12 you

have to enroll. Again it can be in individual subjects. However, most of the materials for years 9 & 10 are available for purchase without the lesson plans

All the texts used in the Seton curriculums can be purchased individually, so you can put together your own curriculum if you so wish. These can be viewed on the internet at www.setonhome.org The curriculums and texts are available from Pat Mills R.S.D. 2245, Katamatite 3649,, phone 03 57485594, email rosepark@inet.net.au

The students that have used the Seton programme have all managed to get into their chosen field on leaving home and are doing very well. There are as many ways to do this as there are students.

As more families see the Seton materials they wish they had known about them earlier. For those who have been using Seton materials, their new publications and revised texts are worth considering. Some of these are the beautiful Art Appreciation for grades 5 & 7., Religion for K to 7, Catholic Reading Thinking Skills 4, 5 & 6, Handwriting Kto5 now in copy book style, and revised Spelling for 3.

I have recently been sent a catalogue offering texts for courses in manual arts, graphics, engineering and furnishings at the years 8 to 12 Queensland standard. There are workbooks and answer keys. They look a very good standard, having been written by a retired high school teacher.

If considering ordering any books, please call. Stock not on hand takes two to three months to arrive, so it is wise to plan well in advance.

May God bless you all and guide you as you continue to home educate your children.

POWER OF PRAYER

Some years ago a nun told me a story that illustrates the power of prayer. She was in the habit of offering each hour of the day for some particular intention. One hour she would offer all her thoughts, words, and deeds for foreign missions; another hour for the conversion of Russia; another for the souls in Purgatory; and so on through the day. The hour from 8 – 9 p.m. she offered for young men in temptation and for vocations to the priesthood. She had been doing this for many years.

One summer, an eloquent missionary gave a retreat that she went to and startled her with a story that increased her fervour. He had been an American soldier in France in the Second World War. Up till then he had lived an innocent life. But one evening after a successful battle, the ringleader of an immoral group ridiculed him in the presence of other soldiers because he never joined in their “adventures”. He declined the ringleader’s invitation to accompany the gang who were going into the city that night. But when other members of the group turned on him with much pressure, he yielded and agreed to go with them. He met them at 8 o’clock near the company flagpole. Suddenly, as he faced the crowd, a feeling of shame and degradation overwhelmed him. He could not explain his actions, but before he knew what he

was doing, he was denouncing the gang in the most scathing terms for their cowardice in not striving to overcome the base passions.

After his fiery outburst, he strode back to the camp while the others, silent and enraged, followed him with their eyes. He.....found he was in no mood to talk or take part in games. So he wandered far out into the night. As he walked he talked aimlessly. He thanked the Blessed Virgin for the inspiration she had given him to be a brave Catholic soldier in the face of temptation. As he prayed, the thought came to him for the first time in his life, that God was gently but firmly calling him to the holy priesthood. He had not studied Latin at all, and there were other problems to be solved. But with the help of God he surmounted one difficulty after another, until finally the glorious day came when he stood before the altar, a priest of God.

What a thrill it was to that nun listening during the retreat to the story of that missionary and realizing the part that her prayers and good works had played during those nights between 8 and 9 when she offered the hour for young men in temptation and for priestly vocations. Truly more things are wrought by prayer than this world would believe.

REPRINTED FROM NACF NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2004 WITH PERMISSION

If the preservation of the young in faith and innocence can be assured, how glorious the future! Then, like a giant refreshed, the Church could throw itself into its mission of converting the pagan world, and make short work of it. As it is, the great bulk of its effort is absorbed by the painful treatment of internal sores. Furthermore, it is easier to preserve than later on to restore. The Legion will attend to both, for both are vital. But certainly it should not neglect the easier work of the two - that of preservation. Many children can be saved from disaster for the trouble it will later take to remake one debased adult.

http://www.legiomariae.org.hk/03_Reading/Handbook/E37.html#young (supplied by Anthony English)

AMDG

The Full Circle. By Stephen Vieira

“So you haven’t, like, gone to high school *at all?*!” The question, this time, came from an incredulous uni friend, but without the bad grammar, it could have been asked by any of the hundreds of people who have crossed my path in the last few years. The same surprise, sometimes amounting almost to amazement, has greeted me almost every time I explain my background. At times it can be a trial, reviewing the last half of my life again and again for countless new friends and acquaintances, but in the end it’s worth it for the chance to share with all of these just how blessed I have been over the last twelve years or so.

The last time I stepped into a school classroom as a student was at the end of year two. It was a nice, smallish Catholic Primary, with the usual mix of kids from all sorts of backgrounds, and the usual mix of middle aged, mainly female teachers. I got to spend a lot of time with these last, thanks to a considerable number of detentions and lectures given throughout the course of any given week. All in all, I was just a normal kid, a bit bored, with a definite talent for getting into trouble...

Then it happened. After my teachers had bade me a, no doubt, grateful farewell at the end of the year, I was home - to stay. I didn’t mind the idea of homeschooling from the beginning; I missed my friends, but otherwise it was downright enjoyable. I got a lot more free time to play, I never got bored in the classroom, unlike at school, and I didn’t have to wear my annoying school uniform. Hanging out with my little brothers and sisters (already fairly numerous) could be a bit of a drag, but on the whole, they were a lot of fun.

Nine years later, before completing an HSC, the eyebrow-raising story continued, as I began a Bachelor’s degree through Monash University. Offered through the Open Learning Agency, the uni had no entrance requirements, comparatively minimal fees, and the chance to study at my own pace. Studying by myself was surprisingly enjoyable - having

been homeschooled for years beforehand no doubt had something to do with that, I guess.

After finishing my degree, it was time to go to “real uni”. I applied, and was accepted by the Uni of NSW in their Graduate Diploma of Education course for 2003. In due time, I moved up to an Opus-Dei run college on campus at the uni. That in itself was an interesting experience; despite Monsignor Escriva’s prelature having a wide reputation for encouraging lives of order, life at their college was certainly wild enough, and often not exactly precisely organised... more importantly though, it was a lot of fun, and provided great study and prayer opportunities. I passed the first semester courses without any real trouble, although the days of the Distinction average I enjoyed in my first years were certainly gone, with the social distractions of college life.

Finally, after surviving another semester of uni, highlighted by a seven week practicum in a local high school, it was over, and I, the guy who had never been to high school, was officially qualified to teach at one. To make the situation even more novel, I was the youngest person of the two hundred and fifty students in my course to pass... before Christmas, I had been offered a permanent job through the Graduate Recruitment Program, a Department of Education initiative which selects a targeted 15% of applicants.

A few months later, I find myself in Penrith, teaching at a local high school. Three weeks into the job, it’s tough but rewarding - there have been times already when I’ve just wanted to walk out of the classroom or collapse into a heap. But the knowledge that I have been placed in an amazing situation where I can, with God’s help, impact on the lives on young people will always be motivation enough to stick to it.

Homeschooling’s not the easiest way to educate children. A total lack of Government funding, intensive work, sometimes in subject areas Mums and Dads

are at least a little rusty in, and the feeling of going against the cultural tide are only a few of the difficulties anyone starting down this path are sure to find. I don't pretend to think it's for every parent, nor the best way of educating every child. However, I hope this outline of my post-homeschooling journey thus far - along with those of many others who are out in the world now, doing much more prestigious and amazing things than I - is some sort of testament that there are an abundance of options for homeschooling students when their "school" studies are finished, and it's time to move on to the next stage in life.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank the best teacher I've ever had - my Mum - for all the unfailing hours and days and years of hard work she put into my education. I would never be the person I am now without her amazing commitment, love, and desire to help me learn. I hope she thinks it's worth it now. ☺ Also my Dad, for all his motivating talks when the going got tough - he helped me in ways no regular High School teacher ever could.

REASONS FOR HOPE WEEKEND

March 19 – 21, 2004

What is Reasons for Hope?

Reasons for Hope is a chance for young people aged 15-35 to learn more about the Catholic Faith in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The weekend is held in beautiful rural Bowral – a perfect place to draw closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ through prayer and friendship.

The weekend includes:

40 hours Eucharistic Adoration
Sports & entertainment
Private & communal prayer
Good company

Daily Mass and Rosary
Confessions
Interesting & expert speakers

Cost:

\$80 student \$90 non-student

Enquiries contact Lucy on (02) 8200-4623 or mobile 0425 214 623

The greatest event ever in all the world since creation itself is happening today in my parish church: the continuance of the Incarnation of Christ and His Sacrificial Death and Triumphal Resurrection. If humanly possible, I will be there!

(by Fr James Tierney)

WITH THE HELP OF ALMIGHTY GOD, WE'VE DONE IT!

The following table details examples of some students who have successfully completed their homeschooling studies and are now out in the big wide world and coping well, thanks be to God, their hard-working parents and to these young adults themselves for the fine people they've turned out to be. These are only a sample – there are many more out there. With very few exceptions, they had neither HSC or SC. Please pray for their continued success and for the many to follow.

Christian Name	What they are doing now	How they got there
Ben	Studying agriculture	Successfully completed six OLA units then admitted to UNE's degree course in Agriculture.
Brendan	Studying engineering	Homeschooled to year 10 using Seton, then did his HSC externally using OTEN. Then offered a cadetship with BHP while studying his degree in engineering
Brigid	Studying arts degree	Homeschooled to year 12 standard then started on OLA units and is half way through her degree. She intends to do a Dip Ed when she finishes and teach infants school.
Catherine	Enrolled Nurse	Homeschooled to year 10 then first aid certificate and Certificate IV in Aged Care, then accepted into Enrolled Nurse course. Completed 2003
Christopher	Apprentice electrician	Homeschooled all his school life. Used Seton for year 10. Involved in the local community through volunteer bush fire brigade work, playing music in orchestras and bands and part-time milk run work.
Daniel	Currently finishing his BA(Hons)	Homeschooled to year 12 standard. Entered UNE after providing an essay on why they should accept him together with results from SAT and a portfolio. Transferred to Sydney uni to complete his degree.
Emma	Studying Medicine at Newcastle uni	Homeschooled through high school, studied 8 units through OLA gaining an HD average and sitting the SAT exams before getting in to uni (She was accepted into all the unis she applied for despite being homeschooled)
Eva	Studying arts through Monash	Homeschooled, a short spell doing hospitality then commenced her degree through OLA. Hopes to finish in 2004 and then go on to teaching.
Genevieve	Studying Early Childhood at UWS	Homeschooled to year 12 standard, then completed a Unitrack year with UWS after which she was accepted into her new course.

Isaac	Aerospace engineer	Homeschooled to year 12 standard. Pursued interest in science and aerospace during these years. Offered a scholarship with NASA.
Jeremiah	Apprentice chef	Homeschooled to year 10 Jeremiah is now an apprentice chef
Joel	Religious order priest	Homeschooled to year 12 at home. Entered religious order.
Lucy	Trainee enrolled nurse	Homeschooled to year 12 then spent a number of years training and working in hospitality. She has now been accepted into the trainee enrolled nurse programme
Marianne	Full-time running an office P/T studying IT/accountancy	Homeschooled to year 12 standard, Marianne began doing OLA units and is now working towards her degree while working full-time
Peter	Horticulture	After being homeschooled to year 12 standard and then studying some units with OLA, Peter decided to study horticulture at TAFE and is doing really well with his course.
Rosa	Wool-classer, Jillaroo	Homeschooled primary to year ten, Rosa studied Wool-classing and Jillaroo courses through TAFE.
Ruben	Religious Brother	Homeschooled to year 11 then TPC, then began uni studies at Armidale Uni then entered the novitiate.
Seth	Running a community music college full-time while studying a music degree part-time	After finishing homeschooling, Seth was admitted to the international conservatorium by an audition – and has progressed from there.
Stephen	High school teacher	Homeschooled from year 2 – 12 then OLA for his degree (Awarded by Monash uni). Then left home to go to UNSW for his Post-Graduate Diploma of Education. Completed 2003. Now working as a teacher
Zenith	In the Navy	Homeschooled to year 11 then TPC for year 12 then straight to the navy.

N.B. Several abbreviations have been used in this chart. Here's the decoding:

OLA Open Learning Australia

SC School Certificate

OTEN the distance education wing of T

UNE University of New England

TAFE Technical and Further Education

UWS University of Western Sydney

HSC Higher School Certificate

TPC tertiary preparation certificate

N.B. Homeschooling to year 12 standard does not necessarily mean studying every year up to and including year 12. Many students start on tertiary study before they would have finished school, had they gone. Often, doing a unit or two through Open Learning can tell if your child is ready for tertiary study or not.

What am I giving up for Lent? SIN!

By Fr James Tierney

A YOUNGSTER cried out with bitter vehemence, Oh how I hate Lent! How many grown-ups feel exactly the same -- but do not say so.

What would we find if we had a brain-storming on Lent? Brain-storming? It's a psycho technique for getting a discussion group started. The leader asks each in turn to tell the others "the first idea that comes into his head" at the mention of Lent. A brainstorming on `Lent' will show what people think of it. Most will say `penance'. Penance (singular) in its fullness is penitence and repentance, of which `doing penances' plural is an essential part.

Not so many think of penance as giving up sin. If they did, the Lenten penances and effort would not be a meaningless burden, but a joyful, purposeful and hardworking effort, to conquer sin. We might reply to the youngster's protest thus: "Would you like Lent if it meant that other people treated you better?" From this we can move on to everyone treating everyone else better in Lent -- and therefore I shall have to start with myself... Oh! I was afraid it would come to that... So what sins will I stop this Lent? I must think! Mortal? Venial? Imperfections of character? I must make up for my past sins. Hmmp! Therefore I must do penance. Ouch! Penance for past sins increases my sorrow. Really? I must strive harder to avoid my usual sins. Gulp! And I must resist temptation... Oh no! And I must avoid the `occasions of sin'. Help! Therefore I must practise self-denial. Arrh! And counter the left-overs of Original Sin. Ow!

I will work on my Baptismal Promises for Easter, so I can be a new creature with the Risen Christ. I will `Spring Clean' my soul during Lent. I will go to Confession, `sacramentalized penance'.

Summary: What am I **giving up** for Lent? **SIN!**

What am I **doing** for Lent? **GOOD DEEDS!**

I will get up early to pray. I will go to bed in time to get up early. I will go to weekday Mass to do what Jesus does. At every Mass and every Holy Communion I will renew my Baptismal Covenant with the Blessed Trinity.

I want it, wish it, will it, and will work for it, namely growth in grace and virtues but which ones? I will strive to help others grow in grace and virtues. Gladly will I train like a sportsman for `The Big Game', on Good Friday and Easter. Gladly will I train like a soldier for `The Big Battle' this coming Good Friday and Easter.

My training will include my exercise of spiritual exercises; my diet for body and soul of food & drink, pleasures, reading etc; my whole Lenten program. My penance and self-denial will be carefully selected to combat my sins and to grow in the virtues I lack.

A youngster's Lent might be cheerful patience and obedience, with no whining; i.e. the discipline and courtesy of `answering properly when spoken to' and `obeying straight away'. N.B. Youngsters need guidance for fasting penances, carefully chosen to strengthen patience, obedience, answering properly... The under eighteen's effort includes all this, plus renewed determination to choose what is right and noble, in spite of feelings to the contrary, and backing this with giving up food between meals, etc etc.

An adult's effort includes all these, plus more. Besides the present minimalistic Church discipline, my self-imposed penances should improve me: if they make me crankier I need to stop them and get advice from a doctor of souls and choose something else.

What **good things will I forego** this Lent – (i) as penances to make up for my past sins?

(ii) as self-denial to strengthen my will against new sins?

Crotchet a Thurible **by Veronica Brandt**

Have you a toddler aspiring to be an altar-server one day? Here's a very safe thurible that can be swung around without damaging furniture or setting things on fire.

Materials: Yellow-Gold 8 ply knitting yarn. 4.0mm crotchet hook. Stuffing.

To make: Work 3 ch and join into a loop with a sl st. 3 ch, 15 tr into the loop. For this and all subsequent rounds close with a sl st.

3 ch then 2 tr into each tr.

3 ch then * 1 tr into next tr then 2 tr into next tr, repeat from * to end.

3 ch then 1 tr into each tr to end. Repeat last row twice.

1 dc into each tr to end. Repeat last row once.

3 ch, * 1 tr into each dc 3 times, miss next dc, repeat from * to end.

1 dc into each tr. Repeat last two rows twice.

Stuff the ball now while there's still a gap.

1 tr into every second dc to end.

1 dc into every second tr to end. This should leave only the smallest gap which can be closed with a sl st. Make a long chain to the desired length, then the same length again and join to the ball at the two rows of dc. Work a line of sc around the ball to a point about a third of the way around, then start

another long chain. At the top make a loop for a handle by joining to the first chain with a sl st. Keep chaining all the way back down to the ball and join the chain to the row of dc at a point making the chains equally spaced around the ball. You might finish with some decorative chain stitch around the ball to simulate the filigree work you see on some fancy thuribles. A little bell might be sewn on the bottom to make it sound a bit more like a real thurible.

A LESS USUAL LENTEN PENANCE **by Fr Tierney**

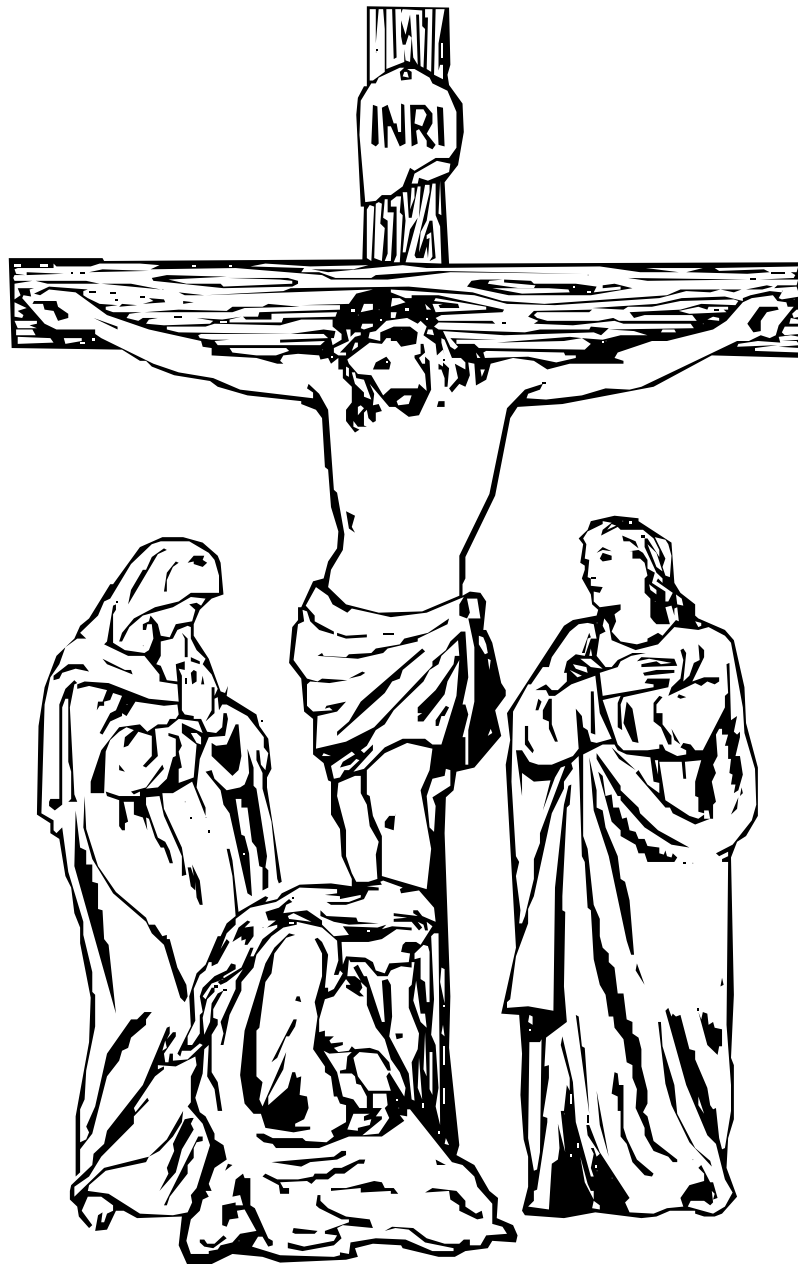
The Lenten Conquest of Sin depends on the Conquest of Self. Self-conquest is victory over (1) direct temptation to sin, and (2) our whims. Just think how often we let our emotions, feelings and mere whims decide our choosing: so much good left undone and so much evil great or small `tolerated' because of our spiritual flabbiness -- which Satan's demons so easily manipulate.

Resolve to rise early in Lent in order to pray and/or to go to weekday Mass. Resolve therefore to go to bed in time the night before, in order to rise in time for the vital Lenten effort. Basic training for young men both in the army and in the seminary (over seven years!) had you in bed at 10p.m. (no talking, lights out), and rising at 6a.m., with few `sleep-ins'. Christian soldiers, who, `day in, day out', take seriously the Lord Jesus and His Church's Lent, can, depending on their state in life, often rise (and `roost') earlier if they re-arrange their daily regimen to fit special Christian priorities for Lent. This will be both penance and self-denial.

KIDS' PAGES

Jesus dies for us.

Draw a picture of yourself under the cross of Jesus
with His faithful followers.



KIT KIDS : COMPETITIONS

Announcing three competitions to children in families who receive Keeping in Touch.

Competition 1: For children aged 3 – 7 colour in your favourite picture from the Life of Christ

Competition 2: for children aged 8 – 11 make up a crossword or word search on the theme of Lent or write a poem about Our Lord and all He did for our salvation.

Competition 3: for children aged 12 – 15 write an article (less than 1000 words) on a saint of your choice. Tell about his or her life and why you especially like them.

PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN TO ALL ENTRANTS WITH WONDERFUL PRIZES FOR THE BEST IN EACH CATEGORY.

Only one entry per person. Please have a cover sheet with the child's name and date of birth and address for each entry.

Please send all entries to
Mrs Michele Vieira
1585 Taralga Rd, Tarlo. 2580
by Easter Sunday

jokes

What happened when someone dropped a piano down a mine shaft?
A flat minor!

What did the carpet say to the floor?
I've got you covered.

What is grey and furry and travels behind the skirting boards at 100 Km/h?
A mouse on a motorbike

CHILDREN'S CONTRIBUTIONS

A cat sat on a mat
And on the cat
There was a hat
On the top there sat a bat.
By Monica Vieira (6)

On a sunny day I went to the zoo
"Cause it was such a fun thing to do
I saw the lion, tiger and bear
And the monkey climbing way up there
By John-Paul Vieira (9)

I'm a teacher and I'm only 11!

By Felicity Vieira

This is the second year of me teaching and I'm only eleven!!

I've been teaching Practical Science to my younger brothers and sisters. First I started off with Monica and Joseph last year. Some of the things I taught them about were: magnets, the senses, time, shadows, leaves, and growing plants from seeds.

This year I started teaching John-Paul and his friends Jim and Sam. So far I've taught them about soil and the things in it, and about static electricity. I'm really looking forward to teaching them other things this year.

Anybody can teach their younger brothers and sisters. Even if you've already learnt about the subject, you learn it more fully and it's more interesting when you teach it.

Maybe you'd like to teach something else, although Practical Science is a very fun subject. Why don't you look around and see what you can do?