The program provides these benefits to students engaged in Ready to Teach:

- Experience the faith filled life in a Catholic school and understand the importance of Catholic identity;
- Plan for and teach Religious Education on the same basis as the class teacher;
- Work in paid employment for three weeks;
- Have no university assessments associated with the program;
- Network with quality teachers in a safe and supportive environment;
- Be able to work on their own teaching style, learn from an expert and receive honest feedback on performance;
- Be expected to make themselves available for further employment in the Diocese of Lismore on graduation if a suitable position is offered.

In 2013, eleven graduate teachers were placed in schools up and down the diocese.

As you can see from the above list, there are benefits for both the students and our system.

In order to gauge the effect of the program on a number of the participants, I interviewed three of them for their reactions. Brendan Tickle was working with mentor Kerrily Jelfs at St Francis Xavier Primary School Ballina, Erin O’Neill with her mentor Lisa Conte at St Mary’s Primary School Casino and Liana Bordin with Kristine Mumford at St Carthage’s Primary School Lismore, when I spoke to them.

Both the mentors and the participating graduates were effusive in their praise of the Ready to Teach program stating that everyone, including the students, benefited.

Brendan, a graduate of St Carthage’s Primary School Lismore and Trinity Catholic College Lismore, had had limited practice teaching experience in Catholic schools and thought that the program was a great pathway from university into Catholic schools and said that he had gained some tremendous insights into the religious education curriculum. Having experienced the RCIA program in his senior secondary years, Brendan is anxious to model his faith to the students he teaches through attendance at Mass and witnessing to the values he holds. He was excited to be shown practical aspects of teaching religious education by Kerrily who is the Leader of Catechesis at St Francis Xavier Primary School.

Kerrily was pleased to be able to pass on her experiences as an experienced and faith filled teacher and particularly enjoyed the professional conversations she was able to have with Brendan in relation to his teaching practice in general and the behaviours that are expected of teachers in a Catholic school.

Brendan said that he was looking forward to 2014 so that he could begin to influence children in his teaching career in Catholic schools just as he remembers the teachers in his school life who acted as witnesses and role models to him.

Erin who was being mentored by Lisa at St Mary’s Primary School Casino, felt that the Ready to Teach program was very valuable and was helping her to develop confidence in her teaching. Erin said that she particularly wanted to teach in a Catholic school, because this is where she belonged, having been a student at St Brigid’s Primary School, Kyogle before completing her secondary education at St John’s College Woodlawn. Her admiration for many of her teachers had led her to want to pursue a career in Catholic schools. Erin commented on the fact that our Catholic faith seemed to be intertwined into everything that was done in class or even in the playground – not just in religious education lessons.

As Erin’s mentor, Lisa was delighted to be able to showcase to her what a privilege it was to be a teacher in a Catholic school and the need to be a witness to the children in her room. She said that she was also very much enjoying the experience as Erin enriched the room with new and fresh ideas.

Liana was also a graduate from St Brigid’s Primary School, Kyogle and St John’s College, Woodlawn. Her practicum experiences while at university had been in public schools and she was very keen to experience the ethos of a Catholic school as an aspiring young teacher. Liana said that it was important for her to model her faith by going to Mass and encouraging her students to involve themselves as altar servers or in children’s liturgy. She found it very beneficial team teaching with her mentor Kristine, learning new strategies and techniques and being exposed to new programs such as Making Jesus Real. Liana said that it has been a great experience to see what the real world is like in a classroom.

Kristine also found the experience beneficial, being able to pass on her experience and knowledge as a long standing Catholic teacher. She was delighted to be able to team teach with Liana and enjoyed learning new techniques and ways of doing things from her. Kristine thought that the program was very beneficial with the professional sharing and discussion of issues around teaching particularly important.

The Ready to Teach program is seen as a valuable support for those graduates fortunate enough to be selected to participate, giving them valuable insight into life in a parish school setting as well as an understanding of the commitment they are expected to make in order to continue Jesus’ mission in the world as “witnesses” not just teachers in our Catholic schools.
World View
Perseid meteor shower over the Republic of Belarus
Eastern Europe

Help Religious Sisters - the unsung heroines in the Church!

They smile, they heal, they teach, they comfort. Around the globe Catholic religious sisters quietly perform their dedicated and heroic service without remuneration and barely even noticed by the wider world. But in order to help others, they themselves also need to be helped, for although they are ministering angels to so many, they themselves still need their daily bread and a roof over their heads.

The average grant that the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) gives to support a religious sister is $300 - but whatever you can afford will be enormously appreciated. ACN forwards the donations directly to the religious superiors in charge of the religious communities and congregations. Each year ACN supports over 9,000 religious sisters in every corner of the globe. It is vital that the indispensable work of religious sisters in Christ’s Holy Catholic Church and throughout the missions worldwide continues. Religious sisters are the unsung heroines in the Church. ACN is therefore proud to help them in their efforts to make the world a better place.

Send to: Aid to the Church in Need PO Box 7246 Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
Tel: No: (02) 9679-1929 Email: info@aidtochurch.org Web: www.aidtochurch.org

I/We enclose $____________ to support the work of Religious Sisters for the poor & persecuted Church.

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to Aid to the Church in Need OR please debit my Visa or Mastercard:

Signature ........................................ Exp Date ...... /......

The Papal rosary designed by the Vatican rosary makers will be sent out to all those who give a donation of $15 or more and tick this box.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED... a Catholic charity dependent on the Holy See, providing pastoral relief to needy and oppressed Churches.
This year the students in Kindergarten have been working in an open classroom environment. They regularly participate in inquiry based research activities in the library and classroom.

In Term 3, the students in Kindergarten learned about The World Around Us. During this time the students shared in cooking, creating PowerPoint presentations, researching the seven continents and their animals, food and people and visiting The Macadamia Castle.

Open classrooms and inquiry learning have provided students with a range of unique opportunities, which will benefit them in their future schooling.

On October 25th, 2013 the 125th Alstonville Show was opened. The students from St Joseph’s Primary School Alstonville paid their traditional, annual visit to soak up the sights, sounds and smells of the show. They enjoyed the reptile demonstration, a local choir, the horses and livestock.

A quick scan of sideshow alley determined their agendas for a weekend return visit with their families. Then it was onto the main hall to see how they had fared in various competitions including flower arranging, fruit and vegetables, cakes and art. Squeals of delight could be heard as many found prize certificates or ribbons adorning their efforts. A terrific morning was had by all at one of the great country traditions. And another continuing link with our local community was forged.

The start of Term 4 at Xavier Catholic College was met with much excitement as students and staff returned to find the recently acquired statue of St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of the college, had at last arrived. The statue, imported from America, has been erected in the administration courtyard, surrounded by the college motto: Act Justly: Love God, Love Others, Love Yourself.

A large group of Year 9 students from the college recently participated in the Diocesan Gathering – Festa Christi, joining with other students from across the diocese.

The Year 12 drama class had their HSC group performance nominated for OnSTAGE. OnSTAGE is a presentation of exemplary HSC drama works from around the state presented each February by the Board of Studies. Further congratulations went to Chris Davis who was also nominated for his individual performance piece. Year 12 visual arts student, Scarlett Tripp had her body of work nominated for Art Express and Industrial Technology – multimedia student Chris Davis has had his project nominated for InTech 2014.

As Year 12 students celebrate the completion of the Higher School certificate examinations with their formal dinner, preparations for Year 7 orientation begin. Xavier Catholic College wishes its Class of 2013 much success and happiness for their future.

Merry Christmas

May the miracle of the birth of the Child Jesus fill your heart and homes with Peace and Joy.

Wishing you and your families a safe and blessed Christmas.

From Brother John, Staff and Students

Trinity Catholic College
1 Dawson Street
LISMORE NSW 2480
P: (02) 6627 6600
Fax: (02) 6622 1914
Email: admin@trinitylismore.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.trinitylismore.nsw.edu.au

OnSTAGE is a presentation of exemplary HSC drama works from around the state presented each February by the Board of Studies. Further congratulations went to Chris Davis who was also nominated for his individual performance piece. Year 12 visual arts student, Scarlett Tripp had her body of work nominated for Art Express and Industrial Technology – multimedia student Chris Davis has had his project nominated for InTech 2014.

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An exciting and adventurous renewal of Catholic identity and mission has been happening across the 46 parish schools within the Diocese of Lismore throughout 2013. This renewal called Proclaim Lismore has focused on parish school staff in 2013. In 2014 there will be Proclaim Lismore Parents and in 2015 Proclaim Lismore Students.

Among the exciting new initiatives to strengthen the faith lives of students has been the appointment of two Student Discipleship Formation Consultants within the School Evangelisation and Catechetical Services Team of the Catholic Schools Office. Staffs in parish schools have long been providing strong faith witness and many good discipleship programs for students, but they need ever increasing support. Student discipleship formation is simply the way parish schools make real the invitation of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, “Come follow me” in the lives of students.

These two consultant positions are dedicated to supporting schools implementing peer to peer ministry among students, supporting faith enriching events such as Festa Christi and Ignite, as well as christian leadership programs. The focus of these initiatives is on students from Kindergarten to Year 12. One particular program that has flourished in parish schools of the diocese over the past twelve months is Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia (CSYMA).

In August, 2013, 300 students from across the Diocese of Lismore assembled for the second annual diocesan CSYMA gathering – ‘Shine’. Held at John Paul College in Coffs Harbour, the gathering brought together students ranging from Years 9 – 11.

In two days with so many highlights, not the least of which included, the Emmanuel Worship Band, inspirational guest speaker Sam Clear and the National CSYMA Post School Team, it was the participation of students as small group leaders, workshop presenters, master of ceremonies, testimony presenters, drama performers, multimedia makers, readers, altar servers and the welcoming party that was the cause for most celebration.

The highlight for many was certainly the Thursday evening rally. Three hundred of our own students ‘moshing’ to Christian music right here in the diocese – it happened! And later the same 300 on their knees with arms outstretched, in complete silence, total reverence and unreserved adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It was uplifting to witness such an outpouring of student faith.

The success of this ‘Shine’ gathering has ensured it will be an annual event. With more parish secondary schools implementing the CSYMA program in 2014, it is expected that Shine 2014 will have up to 500 students join in this unique faith journey that strengthens student discipleship.

‘SHINE’ Gathering 2013

Students enjoying the ‘Shine’ Gathering

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday from
The McAuley Catholic College Community

McAuley Catholic College
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E-mail: mccgraf@lism.catholic.edu.au
Web: www.mccgrafton.nsw.edu.au
Taylor Jarrett, originally from Bowraville, now works as an Indigenous Teachers Aide at St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballina, pictured here with Year 5 student Lachlan Anderson.

Success for Aboriginal Students as they Graduate

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in the Diocese of Lismore is recognising the positive impact of children leaving the district and heading to boarding schools in metropolitan regions.

Under a program supported by the Australian Indigenous Education Fund, since 2003 forty Aboriginal students from the Diocese of Lismore mainly from Kempsey, Macksville and Bowraville in regional NSW have received scholarships to take up opportunities in boarding schools in capital cities.

Fr Paul Sullivan, team leader for the ACM, said that over 20 students have graduated from their boarding school and are exploring careers and higher education that otherwise wouldn’t have been an option for them.

“Thirty students from St Mary’s Primary School in Bowraville are currently attending or have attended boarding school since 2003. This is an amazing achievement for a small school in a community that faces many challenges. The vision and support of the school Principals, staff, parents and families have enabled this gift of education to be offered to their children,” said Fr Sullivan.

Taylor Jarrett grew up in Bowraville and went to St Mary’s Primary School. She was 14 when Taylor’s mother “made her go” to boarding school in Sydney. Taylor is now a recent graduate of Kincoppal Rose Bay and considers boarding school “an exciting and valuable experience”.

“I just loved boarding school and the new friends I made. The teachers made learning easy and I just enjoyed school,” said Taylor.

“I wasn’t given a choice however my mother knew it was a chance for better education. After my first year at school I loved it and always wanted to go back every term. I just loved the boarding school environment and the new friends I made,” said Taylor. Taylor is currently an indigenous teachers aide at St Francis Xavier Primary School in Ballina.

For Dominic Craig, as a young 14 year old from Macksville, the experience was very difficult at the start but with friends and family encouragement, Dominic graduated in Year 12 from St Ignatius College, Sydney, to earn a place at University of Melbourne. “It was terrible [at first]. I was homesick, felt out of place and isolated. Finding friends and diving into the deep end helped a lot,” said Dominic.

Carlie-Ann Smart, from Bowraville started St Vincent’s College at 12 years old and reiterates the feelings of leaving her close family for a large school, not knowing anyone. “In Year 7, I would never have believed anyone who said to me that it got better but I can seriously say that it did. There were still occasions each term where I would miss home and have a little cry but I made it. Looking back now I can honestly say that it was one of the best experiences I have had so far,” said Carlie-Ann.

Carlie-Ann, considered by one of her teachers as “one of the most homesick students she has ever met”, is now studying law at University of NSW.

“I think one of the things that were said to me [by my mother] that resonated with me is that although there will be hard times and times when you will be homesick that will be completely normal. So [my mother said] don’t be afraid to miss home, embrace it and remember that all of the amazing experiences you are about to have will by far outweigh any of the tough times,” said Carlie-Ann.

If parents would like to find out more details about boarding school they are welcome to contact Fr Sullivan at the Diocese of Lismore’s Aboriginal Catholic Ministry.

The Principal of St John’s College Mr Chris Comerford, wishes all of the Woodlawn community a happy and holy Christmas.

Academic ∙ Vocational ∙ Spiritual Cultural ∙ Sporting ∙ Social

Phone: 02 6626 2600
www.ljsjclism.catholic.edu.au
New Catholic Primary Opens in 2015

Final amendments from the architect and the appointment of the new Principal means the new Catholic primary school at Pottsville, is on track to open for the beginning of the 2015 school year.

St Anthony’s Parish business manager, Mr Paul Crouch, who is managing the project, said the Parish is very excited to be able to offer a new Catholic primary school to the communities of Pottsville, Burringbar, Cabarita and surrounding region.

“The Primary School will offer a contemporary school layout with best practices of teaching and learning,” said Mr Crouch.

Mr Crouch said the School will be innovative in its structure, with the aim of engaging each child, in a disciplined learning environment.

“Our vision for St Ambrose is based around contemporary learning in classrooms that are flexible and dynamic, with teachers who embrace modern learning methods.

“Our appointment of Mr Brian Laybutt as Principal is the beginning of this vision as he will work closely with staff and parents to bring out the best in each child,” said Mr Crouch.

Approved by the NSW Joint Regional Planning Panel in October 2012, St Ambrose Primary School is situated at the end of Elizabeth Street, adjacent to the Catholic Church. St Ambrose will have a purpose built new road, Charles Street, to ensure traffic flow for parents and the community.

“The building of St Ambrose Primary School will be a two stage development with the first stage having a capacity of 210 children from Kindergarten to Year 6,” said Mr Crouch.

Anyone interested in sending their children to St Ambrose Primary School can lodge their interest at St Anthony’s Parish office on 02 6674 1284.

The African Children's Choir

From the 16th to the 21st of August, St Joseph’s Primary School in Laurieton hosted the African Children’s Choir. The African Children's Choir has been operating for 30 years and aims to show the world that Africa was not just a place of extreme poverty but a place where there were children and people have dignity, ability and beauty. The choir helps vulnerable children and provides education, safe housing and a sustainable future. There have been over 40 choirs that have toured the world spreading this message and over 1000 vulnerable African children have been helped by the organisation.

This was the first time in the choir’s 30 year history that the African Children’s Choir have toured to Australia. The Choir consisted of eighteen children aged between 8 and 12 from Uganda and their chaperones. St Joseph’s were the only Australian primary school choir to host and perform in concert with these amazing children. It was a life changing event for all those who were lucky enough to be involved.

Over 1,000 tickets were sold for the two concerts and the workshop which involved the African Children’s Choir and the St Joey’s Choir. Joey’s Choir opened the show for both concerts and then the African Children's Choir wowed the audience with their lively shows. The two choirs then joined to perform the song Sing which was written by Gary Barlow and composed by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber for the Queen’s diamond jubilee.

The St Joseph’s Primary School community raised funds all year to buy a meaningful gift for the children. When asked what gift they would like, the Ugandan children asked for school shoes. The St Joey’s community raised enough to fit each of the children with their first pair of new shoes. The generosity of the community was amazing with donations of clothing and other basic necessities overwhelming the African children and their chaperones.

The school and local community are travelling with Kwaya to Uganda next year to provide gifts of basic essentials and educational material, as well as to help out with construction and renovation projects and share their love of music.
Caring and Sharing

The end of Term 3 saw a hive of activity and colour enter the playground, with the annual Mini Vinnies Sharing Day being held. The day coincided with the Feast of St Vincent de Paul and highlighted the less fortunate in our world, as well as promoting friendship, cooperation and consideration for each other in our school community. Beginning with a moving whole school liturgy celebrating and remembering the works of St Vincent de Paul, the students then split into mixed year level groups to participate in games and activities together. This is a day that is always looked forward to by all St Pat’s students, as they are able to get to know others in the school, along with enjoying some fun filled activities.

Socktober

Socktober was held on October 25th at St John’s Mullumbimby and was a great day. Everyone put in a huge effort to make their socks extra crazy. Special awards were presented for the most outrageous and colourful socks on the day. Even the staff got into the fun. We finished the day with a special assembly where we enjoyed a multimedia presentation of the students in their colourful attire. The school raised $242 for the homeless children in Mongolia. Socktober has become an annual event at St John’s over the years and helps students focus on those in need.

2013 PRaMwards.

We are proud to announce that three teachers Kassie Armytage, Sarah McMahon and Joe Keane progressed to the final stages of the PRaMwards for Positive Role Modelling in the teachers’ category.

The nominees were judged by a panel of independent people from the Department of Education, the Catholic Schools Office and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Sadie Hunt, Editor of Northern Rivers Family Magazine, initiated these worthwhile community awards. Sadie attended a School assembly to announce the winner in the teacher category was Joe Keane. Sadie presented Joe with the PRaMward for Positive Role Modelling and Kassie Armytage and Sarah McMahon with finalist certificates.


Joe Keane, Sarah McMahon and Kassie Armytage.
Creative Consumers

Year 9 students Eva Kettle, Grace Smith, Tahlia Jones and Eadie Sherrah have been awarded a High Commendation in the NSW Department of Fair Trading 2013 Moneystuff Challenge. NSW Minister for Fair Trading Anthony Roberts announced the winners at the annual Moneystuff Youth Forum held at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. More than 1000 students from 60 schools across NSW took part in the Challenge, competing for a prize pool of up to $16,000.

The Murwillumbah girls’ entry was a humorous video consisting of a hypothetical scenario of an online shopping scam. Mr Roberts said the entry was successful because of its simple yet informative content. “It grabs the audience’s attention and the message is tailored to young consumers who do a lot of their shopping and purchasing online.”

Japanese Immersion

The Japanese experience was taken from the smartboard and placed on the dining table during the inaugural Japanese Cultural Evening at Our Lady Help of Christians School in South Lismore. The night proved a great success with 65 students, parents and teachers immersing themselves in Japanese culture, experiencing traditional ceremony, dress and cuisine.

Mrs Tazuko McLaren from the Southern Cross University and student Kasumi Mukawa held a traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony in the school’s Japanese room last Friday night. Student Caitlin Richardson volunteered to participate in the ceremony, performing the traditional rituals involved in sampling the tea. Mrs McLaren orchestrated the ceremony with meticulous detail, providing an explanation of the equipment used and the history of tea drinking in Japan. Following the tea ceremony, Mrs McLaren described the uses of the traditional Japanese dress, the kimono. She then demonstrated the process involved in putting a kimono on.

The participants were treated to a meal to remember which included six different Japanese foods. Whilst sampling a range of traditional flavours from miso soup to green tea ice-cream, the children and parents enjoyed watching Mrs McLaren cook okonomiyaki on a hot plate in front of them.

“To provide our children with such a unique immersion experience is a wonderful way to enhance their enjoyment of learning,” said Principal and Japanese teacher, Mr Dan Gubby. “It develops within our children an appreciation of the traditions of Japanese culture and raises the profile of our school’s Japanese program.”
We recently hosted our annual Grandparents Day. This day is one of the biggest days on the school calendar. Each year it is extremely well supported as grandparents, parents and friends of the school visit and engage in an array of activities throughout the day. All classrooms are open for the day whereby visitors to the school can view first hand students work, classroom displays and have a hands on experience with various forms of technology. Students from the school put on a concert which involves various musical performances and public speaking. The day culminates with an opportunity to visit and observe the schools entries at the Murwillumbah Show.

Q: I am 21 years old, a baptised Catholic and have been brought up within a family dynamic whom love, nurture, practice and cherish the Catholic Faith. However, it is recently come to my attention that the option that one may take when infertile, IVF, is frowned upon and discouraged within the Church and Faith itself. I have known for a while that my sister and I were IVF infants. My mother, had a terrible accidents that result in her becoming infertile. My mother and father enlisted their names on an adoption list, however they were not successful with their application to adopt a child. My mother and father, eventually got told of the IVF option where my fathers’ sperm and my mothers’ egg may be fertilised by a doctor and then inserted so she may be able to give birth and carry my sister and I. Just today, a friend studying Theology explained to me that this is a sin of action and that my existence is not of natural circumstances. I am so lost and feel as though I am some sort of mistake and my life is not real. However, my mother and father have showered my sister and I from the very beginning with endless love, comfort, joy, happiness and support and have established a warm and most gentle and special home for us. How may this be of sinful actions, when my parents had such beautiful intentions? I do not understand. Please shed some light on this situation.

A: Do not let your heart be troubled. You are loved by God, his Church and I am sure your parents for the wonderful young people that both you and your sister are. Once you are conceived the manner of your conception is of no consequence. You are first class child of God. Your theology student advisor needs to do some more study – he is mistaken. If you are in contact with him I encourage you to get him to contact me.

As a baptised Catholic you are welcome, indeed encouraged to enter into the full sacramental life of the Church. It is true that the Church is not supportive of IVF. However, children conceived through IVF are not second class people.

Q: I am engaged and planning to marry sometime next year maybe in November. I have been told that November is the “month of the dead” and it would be bad luck or unwise to marry in this month. Is this right? What is the Catholic Church’s position on this?

A: The month of November begins with All Saints Day a day of the living not of the dead. Yes on the 2nd of November we remember All the Faithful Departed but this does not make the whole month of November the month of the dead. November is a great month in which to get married the weather is usually good and there is absolutely no suggestion of bad luck or being unwise. There are no dates or times of the year that are a source of bad luck.
On the 1st December 1913, the Australian Army Chaplains Department (AACHD) was formed to advise commanders and their staff on religious, spiritual, moral, ethical, cultural and welfare matters, to provide pastoral care to soldiers and their families, to provide advice to senior chaplains and to coordinate and lead chaplaincy activities within military units.

Chaplains were associated with the military from the days of first settlement. When news that the British were contemplating sending an expedition to Botany Bay, this fired the imagination of many people including John Newton, the ex-slave trader and author of the Hymn: “Amazing Grace”, who wanted to forward the cause of the Gospel at Botany Bay. Newton became very interested in the choice of the chaplain to sail with the First Fleet.

John Newton was associated with William Wilberforce (who had worked hard for the abolition of slavery) and the young, newly elected Prime Minister, William Pitt. Rev Richard Johnson was nominated by William Wilberforce to the young Prime Minister.

The First Fleet sailed for Botany Bay, under the command of Arthur Phillip, with Richard and Mary Johnson on board the Golden Grove. A vital concern of Johnson was the souls of the men and women in the fledgling colony. A monument in the Sydney CBD in Tank Street marks the spot where Johnson conducted the first church service in Port Jackson.

One of the first Europeans to be buried on the east coast of Australia was a French Franciscan Friar who was the Chaplain for the Explorer Laparouse. The inscription on his grave read “Here lies L. Receveur, French priest of Friars Minor, Scientist in the Voyage around the world under the leadership of Laparouse, died February 17th 1788”.

Within a year of the establishment of the AACHD World War I broke out in Europe between Germany, Austria, Hungary alliance and the Allies. Australia, due to alliances with Great Britain, was drawn into the conflict and young men went to Europe to defend the British Empire. Fr Joachim Hennessy enlisted as a Chaplain from the Lismore Diocese and served on the Western Front with the 12th Brigade in France, Belgium and England. He was discharged from the Army, unfit for active service.

At a Soldiers reunion one Armistice Day Fr Hennessy proposed a toast to “Fallen Comrades”. He urged that all returned servicemen should be present... because it meant everything to them. He recalled that those who had died left everything to sail 14,000 miles away. He hoped and prayed that another war would not happen.

When World War II broke out there were four priests from the Lismore Diocese to serve as Army Chaplains. These were Frs Claude Bradley (1943-46), George Cranney (1942-46), Jeremiah Dineen (1942-46) and Fred Fry (1943-45). They served in various theatres of the War, Chap Dineen was with the Artillery in Papua New Guinea, while Chap F. Fry was with the 25th Infantry Brigade in the Pacific Islands and was mentioned in dispatches for courageous service.

With the formation of the Military Vicariate under the Leadership of Bishop Alo Morgan in 1969, there was an agreement made amongst the Bishops and Religious leaders of Australia that for every 100 priests in a diocese or religious order one would be offered for service to the Vicariate. The Bishops of Armidale and Lismore agreed to offer a priest for service on a rotational basis. There were three priests offered from the Lismore Diocese: Frs. Darcy McCarthy (Army) 1970-75, Col Reinhard (Army) 1980-85 and John Casey (Navy).

Fathers McCarthy and Reinhard served at a time when the Army was a peace time Army. In the mid-1980’s the Australian Government started to be engaged in peace-keeping operations. In the late 1990’s Fr Matthew Donnelly served in the Army as a Chaplain with the Royal Australian Artillery 4th regiment and was appointed as Chaplain to the peace keepers in East Timor.

The Chaplain’s role of providing religious and spiritual support to the soldiers would mean that he would celebrate the Mass and the Sacraments not in great ornate cathedrals and churches, but in any place at any time. Mass was celebrated in the muddy trenches, on palm lined sandy beaches, in the jungle clearings or on the side of a mountain. The Altar for Mass would be anything that resembled a table, an empty oil drum, a bonnet of a jeep, a packing crate, whatever that was available to make a makeshift altar.

The motto on the Christian Chaplains hat badge is "in this sign conquer", the words of Constantine when he saw a vision of the cross in the sky when his empire was under attack by the Barbarians in the early 4th Century. After a decisive victory with the cross on his standards, Constantine decreed, with the Edict of Milan in 314AD, that Christianity was a legal religion in the Empire. The Jewish Chaplains hat badge is the Star of David.

The Catholic Military Ordinariate celebrated a Mass in the Chapel at the Royal Military College, Duntroon on Sunday, 1st December 2013 to mark the Centenary of the formation of the Army Chaplains Department.

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✓ Full services available at all of the 22 offices 5 days a week
✓ 17 years established – proven track record of performance
✓ Professional, trained staff sensitive to the needs of clients
✓ TURSA has delivered successfully many programs and services to assist job seekers since 1995 in this region, we live and work and are based here, this is our home
✓ TURSA also puts very significant financial and practical assistance towards achieving employment opportunities for our clients
✓ Confidentiality assured

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- Bellingen
- Brunswick Heads
- Byron Bay
- Casino
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- Maclean
- Mullumbimby
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- Nambucca Heads
- Nerang
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