



# Vianney Bulletin

*A Publication of Vianney College, Wagga Wagga*

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## Rector's Ramblings



The Opening Mass on Thursday 17th February, celebrated by Bishop Mark Edwards commenced the start of the Seminary year for 2022. This was introduced with a welcome and acknowledgment of the new seminary faculty, as myself, Fr Bradley Rafter and Fr John Baptist took the Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith as being formally commissioned for our role as formators.

Unfortunately, there are no first years this year but for those men who are here it is a blessing for them and for us to keep in mind to "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." (Luke 10:2). Two of our senior students, Michael Perry and Brother John Baptist have been sent out for this semester on long term placement which provides them with pastoral opportunities to experience life in parish communities.

As Holy week and Easter is approaching, we rejoice with four of our seminarians, who are being called upon as Candidates for the priesthood during the Holy Chrism Mass. More importantly we rejoice in Christ Our Saviour, who died and rose for us on the day of His Resurrection to receive the grace of hope that the blessings of the Easter season brings.

*Fr. Rick Micallef, Rector*

## Opening Mass 2022

The Opening Mass of the academic year of 2022 for Saint John Vianney College Seminary was held on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and was celebrated by Bishop Mark, our new Rector & Vice-Rector Fr. Rick Micallef and Fr. Bradley Rafter, as well as our newly appointed Spiritual Director Fr. John Baptist Pham Van Vuong. The Mass was attended by the seminarians of Vianney College, the Serra Club and various other parishioners who came to participate in the Opening Mass.



Fr Rick Micallef (left) Fr Bradley Rafter and Fr John Baptist (right) take the oath of fidelity at the Opening Mass.

After the homily, the three new formators of the seminary placed their hand on the Gospels and swore an oath of fidelity to the teaching of the Catholic Faith and made a profession of faith and renewed their promises to the bishop regarding their responsibilities at the seminary as its new formation staff. After the mass, Fr Rick gave a small speech thanking Bishop Mark for the trust and faith he had put in him to be the new rector at the seminary and that with God's help he would do his utmost best to fulfil his responsibility. The mass was then followed by a small dinner afterwards, at which the students, mass attendees and Bishop could talk and get to know the new formators.

Bishop Mark preached on the importance of the seminary as the foundation of both the priests and the diocese. Without the seminary, Bishop Mark said, the education of new priests and those seeking to discern their vocation would be much harder. Bishop Mark also reminded both the Rector and Vice-Rector of the importance of their positions both as mentors and formators of the young men at the seminary.



Fr Bradley Rafter (left), Fr John Baptist and Fr Rick Micallef (right) pictured with Bishop Mark after the Opening Mass.

# Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that “the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life.” In the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself. The Eucharist “is the culmination both of God’s action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit.” Finally, the Catechism says that the Eucharist is the “sum and summary” of our Faith.

*We must understand that in order 'to do', we must first learn 'to be', that is to say, in the sweet company of Jesus in adoration.*

-Pope John Paul II



Seminarians in Adoration during our recent all-night vigil for vocations

Eucharist from the Greek words *eucharistein* and *eulogein* meaning thanksgiving is truly what we are called to do. To exclaim thanks in joy and gratitude for such a precious gift from God.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a time of grace and blessings. One cannot fully imagine just how beautiful are the graces our dear Lord Jesus Christ is pouring out upon the soul that is in front of him. Adoration is a time where we can stop in our busy daily lives and spend time with the one who wishes us to be with him for eternity in heaven. Adoration is a little foretaste of the beatific vision, where we can experience the joy and peace that comes with spending

time with our divine friend.

There are times where we are feeling dry in our prayer or not experiencing spiritual consolation. However, we know through faith that the one who perseveres in prayer before our Lord is receiving many graces and merit, thus building up a beautiful dwelling place with Jesus Christ in heaven. Being on pastoral placement I have been able to pray in the adoration chapel here in the parish of Griffith.

*If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion.*

-St. Maximilian Kolbe

The Wagga Diocese is blessed to have two places of perpetual adoration, Griffith and Albury.

*Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us.*

-St. Alphonsus Liguori

Indeed, it was spending time with our Lord in the adoration chapel that helped me to discern whether God was calling me to be a priest. Through prayer with him, where, instead of the usual question of “What do I want?”, I was led by Christ to ask, “Jesus, what do you want?”. This helped me in my discernment and eventual acceptance

into the Seminary.

**- Michael Perry, Seminarian, Wagga Wagga Diocese**

**Recent Events:**

14/2/2022: Term 1 commenced  
 17/2/2022: Opening Mass  
 17/2/2022: Visit of Fr. Damian Styles  
 3/3/2022: Clergy Conference  
 18/3/2022: All-Night Adoration for vocations  
 2/4/2022: Wagga Seminarians migrate to Mount Buffalo

**Upcoming Events:**

12/4/2022: Candidates installed with the Chrism Mass  
 18/4/2022: Easter Break  
 25/4/2022: Term 2 begins  
 27/4/2022: Acolytes to be installed  
 3/5/2022: Installation of Lectors  
 6/6/2022: Exam Week  
 13-17/6/2022: Seminarian's Retreat  
 29/6/2022: Priestly ordination of Rev. Peterpaul Ikenna Chikezie (Armidale Diocese)

## Meet the Association of Saint Anthony

One of the religious communities which Vianney College is blessed to accommodate, and owes three of its number of seminarians to, is the Association of St Anthony. The Association of St Anthony of Padua was established on 25 May 2006, on the feast of Pentecost. The Patron Saint is Anthony of Padua whose feast is on 13 June.

The purpose of the order is 'commitment to serving others selflessly.' The spiritual life of the Association is summed up as 'Imitate the life of St Anthony of Padua, live humbly, serve others with love and trust in God!'

The charism of the community centres around preaching and healing. In terms of preaching, the community helps parishes in retreats, spiritual exercises, catechism, youth activities, development and promotion of the spiritual life. Regarding healing, the Community has built medical clinics combining medical examination and treatment for all in need regardless of religion. It also looks after disabled people.



Br. Joseph (left), Br. Michael, and Br. John Baptist (right), members of the Association of St Anthony.

The active ministry is expressed in four dimensions: human morality, community life, knowledge and service. These four dimensions are inseparable and blended. Thus, a St Anthony brother must be and have:

- **A virtuous person:** for it is through his life that the brother brings God to all men.
- **Community life:** this is the environment which fosters our spiritual life.
- **Knowledge:** the brother must have the spirit of progress, must learn to become a true preacher and serve the ideals of his mission.
- **Ability to serve:** St Anthony's service to others is to share what he has learned from the life of prayer, study and community life.

The Superior of the Community, Father Anthony Luyen, believes that there is an urgent need to create a team of skilled, holy, enthusiastic and talented workers who are dedicated to serving the missionary field of the Church. He thinks that the formation of the brothers who have the foundation of knowledge, ethics and humanity, not only for the development of the Congregation but also for the charismatic service of the Order, is the priority for the Community today.



## Lieutenant-Colonel Father Damian: A Man Serving Two Armies

As part of our new program of formation here at Vianney College, we now have a day set apart from our usual studies specifically for formation, which is dedicated to the practical component of priestly life. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February we were lucky to have Father Damian Styles from the Australian Military Ordinariate, a special military branch of the Catholic Church in Australia, come and share his story.

The students at the seminary were looking forward to hearing his perspective. Father Damian was a country boy who hailed from the town of Ararat, with interests in AFL and rugby league. He was a young lad who didn't always agree with the teachers at school (something some of us can relate to!). Anyway, he was a man with a strong faith and had an interest in the army. At the age of seventeen he enlisted. He was trained, but he felt he had another calling and that was to become a Catholic Priest.



Fr. Damian Styles pictured with the Rector, Vice-Rector and Seminarians.

As he progressed through his studies, he felt God was calling him to serve the in Australian army, as an army Chaplain. Subsequently, he was ordained into the Australian Military Ordinariate. A man serving two armies! This appointment from God has led to many adventures and there is one which stuck in my mind that Father Damian shared with us. Father was deployed in Afghanistan, and on this occasion, Father was saying Mass, when rocket fire began, striking the

front of the Church.

Now, what do you think he does next? Well, he keeps saying Mass of course! This example showed Father's great faith and trust in God. We can learn from him to stay focused on God amid our own difficulties. We learn to turn to Him in prayer, since we sometimes face situations in life, where it seems too much for us, but it is not so for God. Thus, if we learn to trust God more, through the example given to us by Father Damian, then we truly learn His power.

God bless you Father Damian and from everyone here at the seminary, we wish you well.

## A Treacherous Journey: The Wagga Seminarians' Trip to Mount Buffalo

Desperate for some bonding time, our Wagga seminarians had been for 2 years attempting to conquer an absolute beast of a structure located a few hours from Melbourne in the Australian Alps, Mount Buffalo. Previously, they had been prevented by all sorts of obstacles such as assignments, general busyness and an entire global pandemic.



However, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2022, it all came together. Clearance was obtained and sponsorship for supplied KFC and Dominos was found. They took off that Saturday morning, excited yet unaware of the adventures they were about to have.

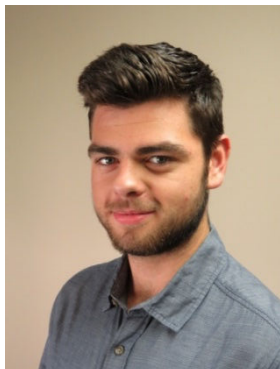
Equipped with unicorn rice bubble cereal bars, mountain blast Powerade and an entire survival kit in case they got lost, they drove all the way up the mountain through many winding roads, attempting to avoid the crowd of cyclists and Melbourne hipsters who had schlepped on over to the Buffalo that day for a special 100km marathon.

Once the stomach-churning drive was over, the trek up the mountain to a place called 'the Horn' began. It was 20 minutes of solid slogging. Upon reaching the summit, the seminarians, not getting out too much, learned what wind, cold and ice felt like all at once. Faces froze, jaws began to tighten and one seminarian, upon opening his jacket practically took flight as another had his unicorn cereal bar wrapper torn out of his hand and taken up above by the raging gale-force winds.

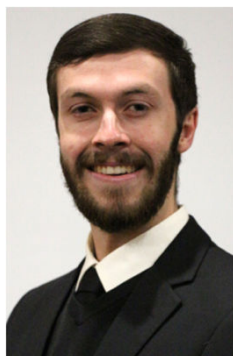


Before too long, it began to pour rain and the seminarians decided it was enough time spent outside for the day. They needed food and shelter. They enjoyed a scenic drive back to home-base through Albury and a stop-off for pizza.

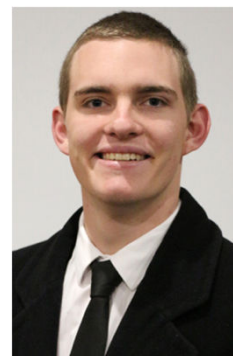
## We thank our contributors to this edition of the Vianney Bulletin



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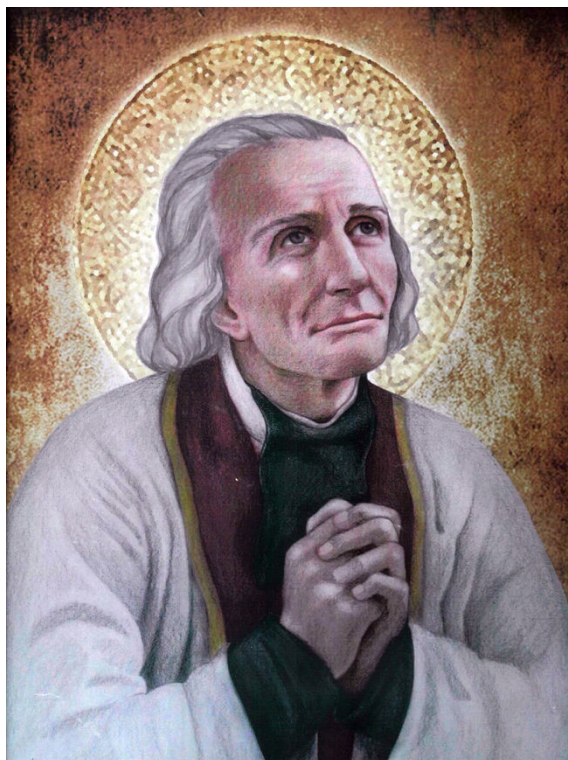


Denis Hickey  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

### Upcoming Priestly Ordination



**Rev. Dn. Peterpaul Ikenna Chikezie**  
Diocese of Armidale  
at  
Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral  
June 29, 2022



*St. John Marie Vianney,  
Pray for us!*

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