

National conference to focus on overseas priests and religious

A national conference that will seek to explore formation and support of overseas priests and religious coming to Australia will be held on 6 and 7 August this year at Rydges Southbank in Brisbane.

Organised by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC), the conference veers slightly from past general themes on pastoral care to migrants, refugees and people on the move. This year's topic will be Missionary Clergy and Religious in Australia: Challenges and Opportunities.

It is the first time for the Brisbane diocese to host such a conference as past national conferences have been held alternately in Sydney and Melbourne.

ACMRO director Fr Maurizio Petténa cs and staff members George Nulley-Valdés and Louis Barcelona flew in from Canberra to provide initial information to the Community Chaplains in Brisbane at their meeting on 7 February.

At the meeting, Fr Petténa and staff informed the Chaplains that this year's conference will explore and work on the chosen topic with a view of drafting a publication that will provide a comprehensive insight and offer recommendations to address issues and challenges involved in the 'welcome' of priests and religious arriving in Australia from other countries.

Fr Petténa emphasised the significance of such a conference particularly at this crucial moment as the multicultural Australian church takes shape.

It is hoped that conference outcomes will prove useful in a number of awareness, formation and training programs 5 August 2019 (Monday)
The 9th Annual
Bishop Joe Grech Memorial Colloquium
(Begins with 5:10pm Mass at Cathedral of St Stephen)
6 - 7 August 2019 (Tuesday-Wednesday)

Australian Cathoic Migrant and Refugee Office 6th National Conference
Missionary Clergy and Religious in Australia:
Challenges and Opportunities

Rydges Southbank, Brisbane

that will benefit both the incoming ministers and the receiving parish and community.

Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care (CMPC) and Evangelisation Brisbane (EB) director Clyde Cosentino invites all priests, religious and parish/community leadership/followership to take part in this important conference. Clyde says it will be an opportunity for everyone involved from ground up to provide input and creativity that will assist in developing a framework of formation and support to overseas priests and religious arriving for ministry in Australia.

Clyde wishes to make it clear that this conference will also be important to parishes and communities receiving international priests that are looking at better ways to provide welcome and support.



Snapshots: Diversity in the Archdiocese

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Chinese Community | A Lunar New Year sampling of Chinese hospitality

Lunar New Year is celebrated in a number of Asian countries and across the globe. This February, the staff of the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care (CMPC) experienced a wonderful evening with the Chinese Catholic Community in Brisbane as all welcomed the Year of the Pig.

Fr Albert Chan MSC, Chaplain of the Community since 1985, and the organising Committee made sure all guests feel welcomed at their Chinese New Year dinner at Parkland Restaurant in Sunnybank on 9 February.

There were many friendly and familiar faces — our regular contacts for the annual archdiocesan Multicultural Mass, our youth group contacts, archdiocesan employees, priests and nuns of Chinese heritage and their guests, Bishop Emeritus Brian Finnigan...

All guests enjoyed a sumptuous feast of Chinese cuisine as community talents presented a line-up of traditional and modern song & dance performances, games, and an ample supply of laughter.

To the Chaplaincy and organisers, Fr Albert Chan MSC, Helena Cheung and Bosco & Veronica Ng — thank you! (from Percy on behalf of CMPC). More photos can be found on the CCCB website www.cccbrisbane.org.au

Photos courtesy of Bosco Ng (CCCB)







Canossians shine in cross-cultural ministry

For the Canossian Daughters of Charity, cross cultural ministry is nothing new.

The Canossians are a multicultural group of women present in 33 countries'. The Archdiocese of Brisbane is currently blessed with around 25 Canossians who are engaged in various ministry.

At present, two Canossian sisters in Brisbane are working cross culturally with migrants and refugees through an understanding between the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care (CMPC) and the Canossian Daughters of Charity.

Sr Odete Moreira fdcc who ministers to the Timor Leste Community, began ministry with the St Bakhita Sudanese Catholic Community in mid-2018. Her work includes, among others, preparation and facilitation of retreats, children's liturgy, paraliturgy with communion service in the absence of priest, home & hospital visitations, Legion of Mary, rosary and various prayer gatherings,

bible sharing and preparation of Sunday Mass readings. (See Sr Odete's article on p7.)

Another Canossian,
Sr Rosa Vazzano fdcc ministers
through St Paul's Parish working
with emerging communities in
Woodridge and surrounding area
(eg. Africans - from Burundi,
Rwanda, Congo and South Sudan,
Myanmarese/Karenni, Sri Lankans
etc.) assisting in catechism,
sacramental preparation
and spiritual
accompaniment of families.
(See photos on right.)





Photos above show a recent gathering of the Karenni Catholic Community at St Paul's Parish in Woodridge where Sr Rosa (far right) joined in the welcome to visiting Bishop Stephen (centre) and Fr Andria (left) from Myanmar.

Snapshots: Diversity in the Archdiocese

Croatian Community | New chapel revitalises community spirit



Congratulations to the Croatian Catholic Chaplaincy for a recent milestone – the opening of a new Chapel in Carrara, Gold Coast dedicated to Saint Leopold Mandić on 16 February. Saint Leopold Mandić is a Croatian Capuchin friar who worked and lived in Padua, Italy.

Bishop Ken Howell DD presided in the Eucharistic celebration for the blessing of the new chapel. In his homily, Bishop Ken commended the community on their dedication to their faith and culture and how those two are so beautifully intertwined. Mass was followed by refreshments and cultural performances at the Croatian Sports Club located next to the new St. Leopold Mandić Chapel.

CMPC Multicultural Project Officer
Jessica Laidler attended the gathering

and reports of a 'huge attendance of people, with many dressed in their traditional Croatian attire'. Jessica says she was pleased to witness 'a very positive community cultural spirit'.

For many years, the Croatian Catholic Community on the Gold Coast have been gathering for Mass and other religious activities at the Croatian Sports Centre. The building of the new Chapel is a significant community achievement and a product of hard work, generosity and productive collaboration within the community, its leadership and the chaplaincy.

Croatian Community Chaplain Fr Davor Dominovic OFM invites all to visit the St. Leopold Mandić Chapel (181 Nerang Broadbeach Rd, Carrara).

Backgrounder on the Croatian Catholic Community in Queensland

The first known Croatian settlers arrived in Australia in the 1890s coming mostly from the coastal and northern Croatia regions. Big numbers arrived as post-war immigrants in the late '50s and early '60s along with the Greeks, Italians, Hungarians, Germans, Dutch, etc.

Father Marko Djokmarkovic, an Albanian who fled Zagreb to seek political asylum in Austria, arrived in Australia in 1961 and was the first priest to minister to the Croatian Catholic community in Brisbane. For ten years, Father Marko celebrated Mass in Croatian in various locations. Father Vinko Kanizaj arrived in 1972 and was the first priest to be officially appointed to

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Feast of St Bakhita puts spotlight on awareness and action against human trafficking

St. Josephine Bakhita, a Canossian and patron saint of Sudan, is also the patron saint of those trafficked into slavery. In 2015, Pope Francis declared the 8th of February, the Feast of St Bakhita, as the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking. On Friday, 8 February, the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) and the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of the Archdiocese of Brisbane organised a Mass to celebrate the life of St Bakhita and to pray for victims of human trafficking. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mark Coleridge at the Cathedral of St Stephen was attended by the Canossian Sisters, parish and school social justice groups, and the Sudanese Community in Brisbane. Below is an excerpt from Archbishop Mark's homily.

St Josephine Bakhita: A Witness to Hope

... It was the power of kindness and love that spoke gently and powerfully of the good news of Jesus Christ that woke Bakhita from her nightmare. And the love and kindness that she had encountered through the Canossian Sisters flowed through her until the day she died and still that love flows through her by her intercessions as a saint.

Bakhita woke up to the truth that there is in fact good news for the poor, healing for the broken-hearted, freedom from captors, and release for prisoners. She was the poor, she was the broken-hearted, she was the captive, she was the prisoner quite literally. And this is a world that so often says — if you are poor, there is no good news for you; if you are broken-hearted there is no healing; if you are captive there is no freedom, if you are a prisoner there is no liberation.

In such a world, which is a world that never wakes up, the world of hopelessness, Bakhita woke up to the truth because she encountered not just the Canossian Sisters, she encountered and embraced Jesus Christ crucified and risen. He was the freedom; he was the healing; he was the good news that she found.

Bakhita stands as a witness to hope in a world that often is so 'hope-less' and ever more so in the lives of those who are trafficked and enslaved like she was. There are "We gather to commit ourselves, not only to the praise of Bakhita and the gift that she is, but to commit ourselves to the path of liberation_and for all those who, like her, live the nightmare and are desperate to wake up."

millions of them. Some of them on these shores, and some of them alarmingly close to where we gather now. Many of these people it seems are so hope-less, there is only the nightmare, they can never wake up. But you see, how will they find what Bakhita found in the Canossian Sisters? They need a Moses. And who will be that Moses if not the Church following in the footsteps of the Canossian Sisters? But to be Moses to those who are enslaved, we will have to show the same kindness and love.

It would take commitment and action, the kind of action that ACRATH is renowned for. But it's not enough to leave it with a few that are involved in ACRATH, or with the Sisters. The whole Church has to be that 'power', the power of the risen Christ in the end, that can 'set my people free'.

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The life of St Josephine Bakhita

Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita was born around 1869 in the village of Olgossa in the Darfur region of Sudan. She was a member of the Daju people and her uncle was a tribal chief. Bakhita is said to have grown up happy and relatively prosperous in her village. She did not know suffering.

It is believed that sometime in February 1877, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. As a child, she was forced to walk barefoot over 950 kilometers to a slave trade market in El Obeid. She was bought and sold many times during the grueling journey.

For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name.

As a slave, her experiences varied from fair to cruel treatment. Her first owner, a wealthy Arab, gave her to his daughters as a maid. One day she offended her owner's son when she accidently broke a vase. She was beaten so severely that she became incapacitated for a month. After this ordeal, she was sold until one of her owners was a Turkish general who gave her to his wife and mother-in-law who both beat her daily. Josephine wrote that as soon as one wound would heal, they would inflict another.

She told about how the general's wife ordered her to be scarred. As her mistress watched, ready with a whip, another woman drew patterns on her skin with flour, then cut into her flesh with a blade. She rubbed the wounds with salt to make the scars permanent. She would suffer a total of 114 scars from this abuse.

In 1883, the Turkish general sold her to the Italian Vice Consul, Callisto Legani. He was a much kinder master and he did not beat her. When it was time for him to return to Italy, she begged to be taken with him, and he agreed.

After a long and dangerous journey across Sudan, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean, they arrived in Italy. She was given away to another family as a gift and she served them as a nanny.

Her new family also had dealings in



"For the next 12 years she would be bought, sold and given away over a dozen times. She spent so much time in captivity that she forgot her original name."

Sudan and when her mistress decided to travel to Sudan without Josephine, she placed her in the custody of the Canossian Sisters in Venice.

While she was in the custody of the sisters, she came to learn about God. According to Josephine, she had always known about God, who created all things, but she did not know who He was. The sisters answered her questions. She was deeply moved by her time with the sisters and discerned a call to follow Christ.

When her mistress returned from Sudan, Josephine refused to leave. Her mistress spent three days trying to persuade her to leave the sisters, but Josephine remained steadfast. This caused the superior of the institute for baptismal candidates among the sisters to complain to Italian authorities on Josephine's behalf.

The case went to court, and the court found that slavery had been outlawed in Sudan before Josephine was born, so she could not be lawfully made slave. She was declared free. For the first time in her life, Josephine was free and could choose what to do with her life. She chose to remain with the Canossian Sisters.

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COMMIT TO ACTION IN STOPPING SLAVERY

Here are some suggestions listed on the <u>ACRATH</u> website

As a Church

- Create an easily accessible facility to outreach to victims of this atrocity.
- Have your youth group sponsor an event that will raise awareness of slavery and trafficking.
- Incorporate prayers for the fight against slavery and trafficking into your worship services.
- Encourage parishioners to raise awareness about these issues in their work and home lives.

For Any Community Member

- Report any suspicious activity or people that may seem to be involved in human trafficking.
- Email the website link to all your friends, family, co-workers.
- Write a letter to your local mayor/ State Premier asking him/her to involve your city in the fight to end slavery and trafficking.
- Call your local travel agents and inform them of the issue so that they can be aware of and prevent potential predators from taking trips by signing the ECPAT Code of Conduct.
- Write your local MP and encourage him/her to fight for more money to go towards ending slavery and trafficking.
- Help start, promote and support a walk-a-thon in your city to raise money and awareness.

As a Student

- Make the issue of human trafficking into a topic for your assignment/ thesis.
- Organise and support fundraising and awareness events.
- Put a link to ACRATH on your myspace, facebook and other social networking sites.
- Start a group that focuses on bringing awareness of slavery and trafficking to your peers and local community.
- Inform and warn friends.

As a School / Tertiary Institute

 Get as many student groups as possible to work together and put on

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Commit to Action ... (Continued from page 5) an event to raise awareness at your college campus.

- Start a petition on your college campus to help pressure the government to allocate resources to stop slavery and trafficking.
- Make posters to spread throughout your college, and student accommodation.

As a Priest

- Incorporate these issues into your homily.
- Organise specific prayer services for victims of trafficking.
- As many trafficking victims come from countries with Catholic foundations, they may be seeking refuge in your church......Keep an eye out for them!

As a Consecrated Religious

- ∘ Join ACRATH!
- Organise prayer meetings for victims of trafficking.
- Formulate and circulate postcards for awareness throughout your community.

As a Victim (pre-rescue)

- Seek refuge and counselling through contacts found on the ACRATH website.
- Go to your local Church.

As a Victim (post-rescue)

- Write to your local news station asking them to cover your experience.
- Reach out to others with similar experiences and encourage them to seek counsel.

A Witness to Hope ... (Continued from page 4)

Tonight we gather in the Cathedral, and we gather with the Archbishop who in some sense represents the entire community of faith in this archdiocese; we gather to commit ourselves, not only to the praise of Bakhita and the gift that she is, but to commit ourselves to the path of liberation_and for all those who, like her, live the nightmare and are desperate to wake up. (Archbishop Mark Coleridge, 8 February 2019)

The Life of St Bakhita ..

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She was baptized on January 9, 1890 and took the name Josephine Margaret and Fortunata. (Fortunata is the Latin translation for her Arabic name, Bakhita). She also received the sacraments of her first holy communion and confirmation on the same day. The Archbishop who gave her the sacraments was none other than Giusseppe Sarto, the Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, who would later become Pope Pius X.

Josephine became a novice with the Canossian Daughters of Charity religious order on December 7, 1893 and took her final vows on December 8, 1896. She was eventually assigned to a convent in Schio, Vicenza.

For the next 42 years of her life, she worked as a cook and a doorkeeper at the convent. She also traveled and visited other convents telling her story to other sisters and preparing them for work in Africa.

She was known for her gentle voice and smile. She was gentle and charismatic and was often referred to lovingly as the "little brown sister" or honorably as the "black mother."

When speaking of her enslavement, she often professed she would thank her kidnappers. For had she not been kidnapped, she might never have come to know Jesus Christ and entered His Church.

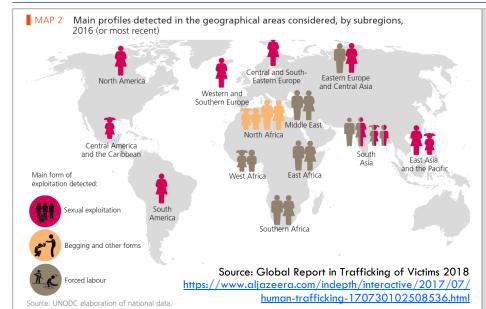
During World War II, the people of the village of Schio regarded her as their protector. And although bombs fell on their village, not one citizen died.

In her later years, she began to suffer physical pain and was forced to use a wheelchair. But she always remained cheerful. If anyone asked her how she was, she would reply, "As the master desires."

On the evening of February 8, 1947, Josephine spoke her last words, "Our Lady, Our Lady!" She then died. Her body lay on display for three days afterwards.

In 1958, the process of canonization began for Josephine under Pope John XXIII. On December 1st, 1978, Pope John Paul II declared her venerable. Sadly, the news of her beatification in 1992 was censored in Sudan. But just nine months later, Pope John Paul II visited Sudan and honored her publicly. He canonized her on October 1, 2000. Saint Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of Sudan and her feast day is celebrated on February 8.

(Shared on 8 February before Mass by Sudanese representative Daniel Zingifuaboro. Sourced from http:// www.saintjosephinebakhita.org/our-patroness)



"Traffickers the world over continue to target women and girls. The vast majority of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 35 per cent of those trafficked for forced labour are female. Conflict further exacerbates vulnerabilities, with armed groups exploiting civilians and traffickers targeting forcibly displaced people."

- Yury Fedotov, Executive Director United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime

Suggested reading: Global Report in Trafficking of Victims 2018 produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

A Sharing of experiences: centre for multicultural pastoral care

Ministry with Sudanese Youth

It has been an amazing and exciting experience for me to accompany the young Sudanese children on retreat at Marian Valley. This experience was a joyful one as well as rewarding because I was able to organise a day of retreat for these children. It was a privilege to be able to journey with them. This allowed me to help them to come to know who Jesus really is and begin to have a relationship with Him. I wanted these children to know how much Jesus loved each one of them.

I felt supported by the parents who accompanied us to cook the food, and help give a hand so all could go smoothly. The uncle of one of the children drove the bus. This involvement by parents was very important as a role model for the children and a great help to me.

The day long retreat was held in Marian Valley and there were about 25 children who attended this retreat. Our bus left Tarragindi at 8: 30am and returned by 6pm. The retreat went well according to what I have planned, and everyone had a good time together, sharing and having fun.

The children were invited to act out the scene of the gospel (Luke 5:1-11) where Jesus invites his friends to throw the nets and catch more fish. Peter tells Jesus to go away from him because he is a sinner. Jesus then invites Peter to become a different kind of fisherman. The children were excited about this acting of the gospel, and they really had fun. They showed their enthusiasm by participating during the session and they were fully engaged during the activities. They took turns to be the various characters.

There was a time when they were given an opportunity to listen and understand the gospel which they were acting out through drama. The children expressed their experience and understanding of the gospel through colouring the picture and answering the quiz. The children also were given the opportunity to go bush walking, to sing, to play and to pray together.

I have noticed during my time with these children that they have the ability to connect with their own spirituality when they are getting in touch with nature, symbols, music, activity, colouring, games and through play and drama. They enjoyed climbing the mountain to

reach the cross on top of the mountain. They were very happy to tell me that they managed to reach the top of the mountain.

It is my joy and my responsibility as a facilitator to provide an opportunity for these children to be able to come together to share their richness, and

the beauty that they are discovering in themselves. My role is to continue to provide some practical ways to help children to learn to love God and love their neighbour.

Jesus said in the gospel, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14).

The retreat concluded with a final prayer and during the prayer there was a ritual.



Each child was given a shell to take back home and put in their room as a sign of their being called by Jesus to spread His love to all they meet in their daily life. The shell is reminder that that they are precious in the sight of God and that Jesus wants them to spread His love to all their friends. It was an exhausting but a very worthwhile experience!

Sr Odete Moreira fdcc

Cross-Cultural Pastoral Minister, CMPC

A glimpse of multicultural Tamworth

During the month of February the CMPC office grew a little bigger, with the recruitment of myself, as the Project and Research Officer. This role will assist CMPC in maintaining its connectedness with cultural communities throughout the Brisbane Archdiocese, whilst also exploring how we can better develop the relationship between these communities and the Brisbane Catholic Church.

Also during the month of February, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) held a meeting in Tamworth for all directors from Catholic multicultural/immigration offices around Australia. In attendance were directors from offices in Adelaide, Armidale, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and our own office, Brisbane. The host diocese for this meeting was the country town of Tamworth, with the purpose of encompassing a regional focus throughout the meeting. With this in mind, the directors heard from two local migrant and refugee support officers. They both spoke of the work they do for refugees and migrants within Tamworth and also the challenges they face, with focus on how those issues may or may not be different to those faced by settlement officers in cities.

I feel it is important to note the progress that the town of Tamworth has made within recent years. Through speaking with one of the local settlement officers, it was clear that there had been initial push back from locals when large groups of migrants and refugees settled within Tamworth, however, through a few years of dedicated hard work by the small settlement groups (most of which comprised of volunteers), the community has created an incredibly positive, multicultural town with respect for all walks of life. Taxi drivers, shopkeepers and business people alike, all spoke of how much they love their multicultural community.

We can learn a lot from regional settlement and certainly this meeting showcased the need for development within this regional sector. It was incredibly positive to witness how a small town such as Tamworth, has developed into a prosperous, multicultural community.

I look forward to the year ahead in this new role and on behalf of the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care, we look forward to discovering how we can further serve the community of Brisbane. (Jessica Laidler, Project & Research Officer, CMPC) Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care 194 Charlotte Street GPO Box 282 BRISBANE QLD 4001 Subscribe online to What's Up? Newsletter. http://www.multiculturalcare.org.au click on the 'newsletter' tab

Meet the Staff

It is an exciting year. The Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care (CMPC) now operates with five people working in the migrant, refugee and multicultural area in various capacities.

On photo from left:

Tricia Dakin (Volunteer since 2005) - Tricia comes on Tuesdays each week to sort through and catalogue hundreds of Catholic Immigration Office files for ease of access and for future archiving.

Sr Odete Moriera FDCC (Cross Cultural Pastoral Minister) - Sr Odete ministers to the Timor Leste Community in Brisbane since 2012. In late July 2018, Sr Odete began cross cultural work with the St Bakhita Sudanese Catholic Community. (See Sr Odete's article on page 7).

Jessica Laidler (Project and Research Officer) - Jess began work at CMPC in



February 2019. Part of Jess' role is to maintain CMPC's connectedness with cultural communities in the Archdiocese. (See Jess' article on page 7).

Percy Pamo Lawrence (Cultural and Administration Officer) - Percy has had various administration support roles from 1995 with CMPC and the structures from which it operates including Evangelisation Brisbane. Percy continues to foster information and awareness in multicultural

pastoral care in the archdiocese and wider communities through information tools such as print, social media and website.

Clyde Cosentino (Director of Evangelisation Brisbane and CMPC) -

EB is the archdiocesan agency from where CMPC operates. As EB Director, Clyde gives direction on evangelisation initiatives in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, including the multicultural pastoral care in the local archdiocese and beyond.

New Chapel revitalizes

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minister to the Croatian community. This was the year when the Croatian Catholic Centre Aloysius Stepinac was established. For many years, the Centre was the hub for community, social, cultural, educational, humanitarian and welfare activities of the community. In 1984, the Croatian Community Centre in Rocklea was formed which also became a focal point for community activities during the 1991-96 wars in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Father Ivan Jurak ministered to the community for a brief 6 months in 1975. In 1979, Father Drago Prgomet was appointed Chaplain and began celebrating Mass in Labrador, Gold Coast, in addition to the regular schedule of Masses in Brisbane. Father Nicholas Zlatunic OFM was appointed Chaplain of the Community in 1989 and ministered to the community for 27 years. Over this period, the Chaplaincy base moved from Salisbury to Carina, then to Buranda, and finally settled back in Salisbury (85 Henson Road) in 2004.

In late 2016, Fr. Davor Dominovic OFM was appointed Chaplain of the Croatian Catholic Community.

Percy Pamo Lawrence

[For more information on the Croatian Catholic Community Brisbane and Gold Coast, visit https://www.hkcbrisbane.com/ or <a href=



Photo above: From left, Fr. Jozo Marincic OFM, (Provincial Minister of Bosnian Franciscans), Bishop Ken and Fr Davor.



Chaplains to Croatian communities in Adelaide, Wollonggong, Canberra and Melbourne, along with local priests and community chaplains concelebrated Mass with Bishop Ken Howell.