*All aboard!*

No. 34, Winter 2023

*All us Catholics on board together*

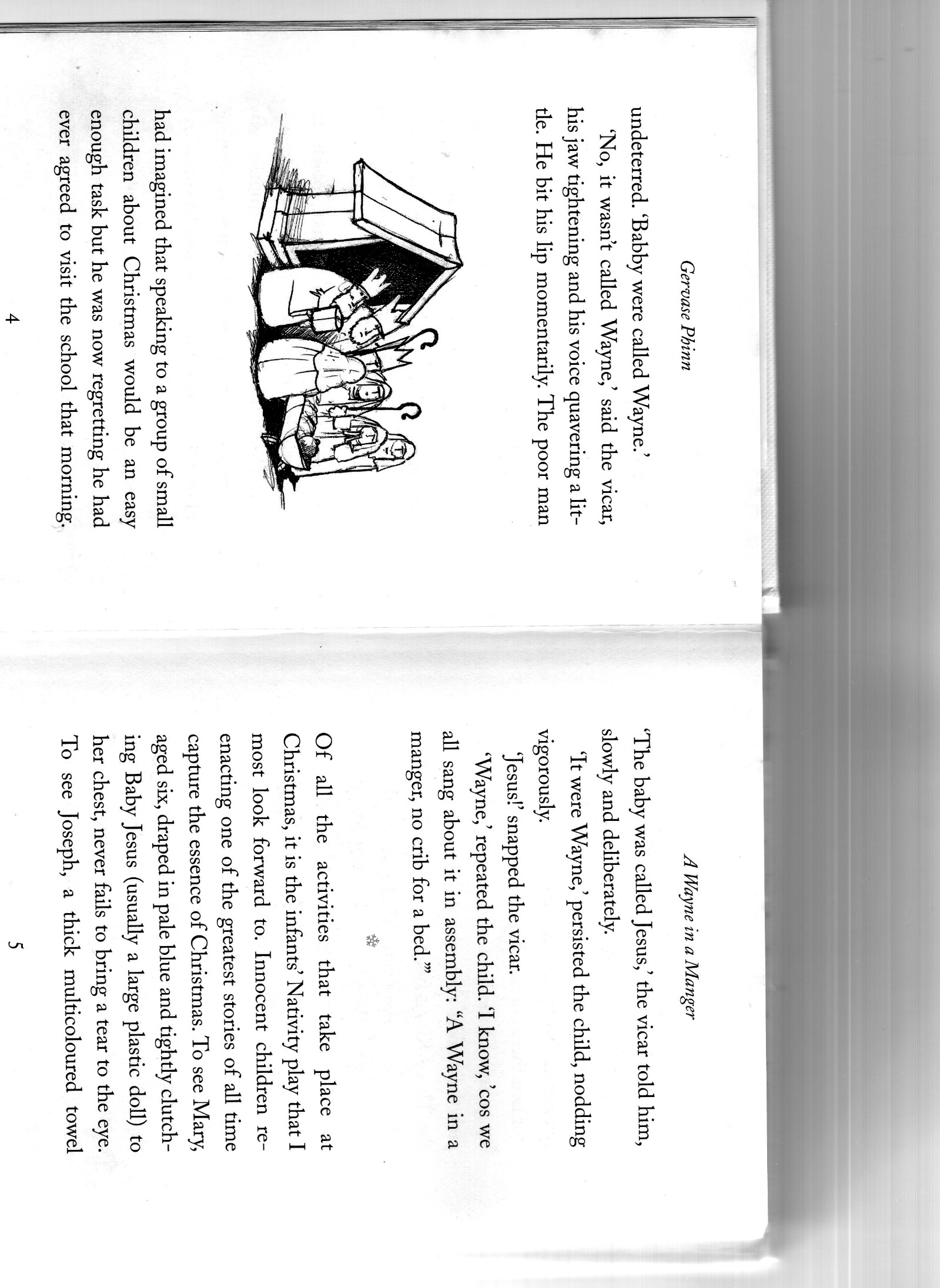
A quarterly Newsletter of encouragement for all Catholics in the parish of St. Pius X, Heidelberg West.

**Our Lady of Good Health** ([Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_language): **ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை** *Ārōkkiya annai*), also known as **Our Lady of Vailankanni**, is the title given to the [Blessed Virgin Mary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veneration_of_Mary_in_Roman_Catholicism) by those who believe that she twice appeared in [Velankanni Town](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Velankanni_Town), [Tamil Nadu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamil_Nadu), [India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) in the 16th to 17th centuries. According to tradition, the first Marian apparition is said to have occurred to a young boy delivering butter-milk to a man who lived far away. During his travels, the boy stopped to rest beside a lake that was shaded by a [Banyan tree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banyan_tree). A beautiful woman, carrying a child, is said to have appeared, and asked the boy for some milk to feed her child, which he gave. When he reached the home for his milk delivery, he apologised for the delay and that there would be less milk in his pot. But when they opened the lid of the milk pot, the container was brimming with milk.

The second apparition occurred a few years later. A lame boy would sell buttermilk to passing travellers, who would pause in the shade of a large Bayan tree, to escape the heat of the day. However, he had no customers. Suddenly, an ethereal woman, holding a child appeared before him, and asked for a cup of buttermilk. He gave her a cup, which she fed to her child. The woman asked the boy to go to Nagapattinam, and find a certain Catholic man in the town, and tell him to build a chapel at Vailankanni in her honour. Apparently cured, the boy ran to Nagapattinam, where he found the man and told him his story.

These apparitions have not been approved by the Holy See.

The [Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basilica_of_Our_Lady_of_Good_Health) erected by the [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_people) and the [Indians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_India) stands at the site where the buttermilk seller saw Mary and Jesus. The iconic depiction of the Madonna is unique in that it is one of two only icons where Mary is portrayed wearing an Indian [Sari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sari), while the other statue is said to have been buried with [Aurangzeb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurangzeb), the [Mughal Emperor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mughal_Emperors) . The basilica is known as a site for pilgrims from all over India and its assembly of multilingual prayers every Christmas.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>**Christmas pageants gone wrong** This author, Gervase Phinn, a former teacher and School Inspector, put together a collection of Christmas pageants that did not go to plan. In this extract a child tried to insist that Mary and Joseph called their baby **Wayne**! This is how the story ends:

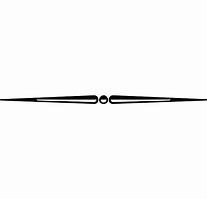


**Mary and Jesus laughing together**

The image of Jesus and Mary laughing together was found on the net, but the artist’s name could not be found. What do you think? Do you like it? Do you think it represents the Mary you have in your mind?

If Mary came into your house for a visit and a chat, what would you like to talk about? I bet mothers would talk about raising children, and stories of their peculiarities at different stages of growing up.

What would fellows like to talk about? Maybe how she managed with all those apostles around Jesus all the time.



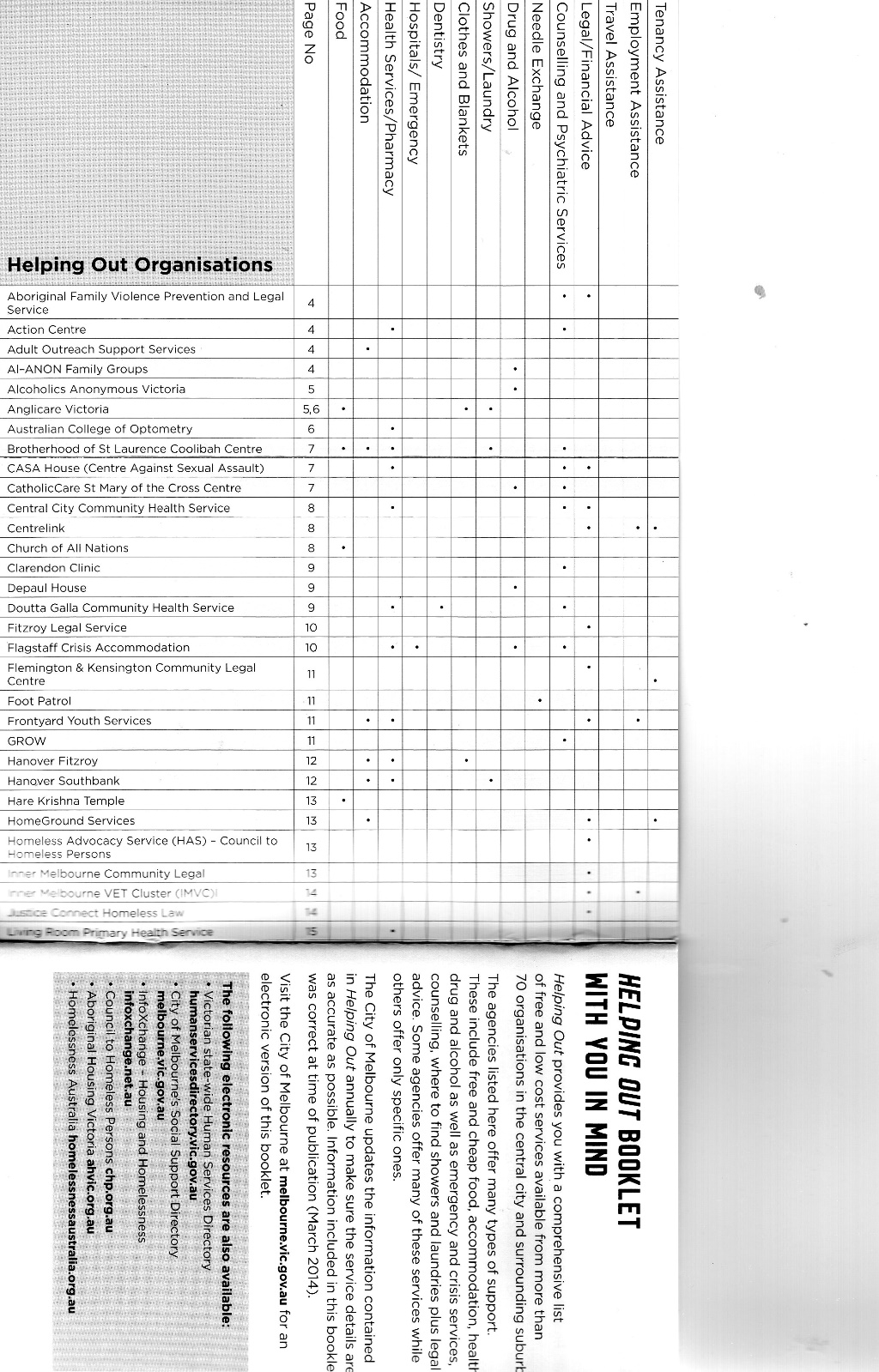
How does my **love** measure up?

St. Paul has a bit of a measuring stick on LOVE. If our love is **genuine** love, then we might measure up well on St. Paul’s list of qualities. He wrote this to the Corinthians, and it is in Chapter 13 of that Epistle:

***“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”***



If we’re tempted to say things are crook!

If we sometimes feel that things are crook with murders and home invasions in the news, we should pick up this little booklet at *the Melbourne Information Centre* in Federation Square and meditate on the **numerous** agencies with volunteers every hour of every day providing services for the needy of our city in a selfless and kindly way!

The booklet goes for 35 pages, listing the address and contact numbers of about 75 agencies that care for all sorts of needy Melbournites. The accompanying list only shows A to D.

In the Bible we have the story of **one** “Good Samaritan” and his example of practical charity. In Melbourne we have this little booklet listing **many** such Good Samaritans.

**There’s an enormous amount of goodness in Melbourne!**

**[](http://images.google.com.au/imgres?imgurl=http://www.trafficsignstore.com/R7-4D.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.trafficsignstore.com/parking.htm&h=359&w=264&sz=18&tbnid=fBG0XTGhzRcJ:&tbnh=117&tbnw=86&hl=en&start=5&prev=/images?q=no+stopping&svnum=10&hl=en&lr=&sa=N)NO STOPPING OR TURNING**

I experience more than a twinge of unease if ever obliged to drive on a stretch of road or highway with the demanding sign: NO STOPPING OR TURNING. But what if I need to stop, I ask myself anxiously. What if I slow and try to pull over to the side? Those behind me are zooming along knowing we have all been instructed NOT to stop. Will I be able to give them enough warning that I am stopping? But with a niggling fear I stay the course, keep up the speed and with an occasional tiny glance to left and right hope that I will get to the end in one piece.

“Love is not love”, Shakespeare writes in one of the Sonnets, “which alters when it alteration finds.” A pledge of “eternal love” means that there is NO STOPPING OR TURNING.

The traditional marriage vows of old included the pledge to continue “in sickness and in health … till death do us part”. That’s really NOt STOPPING OR TURNING. What a wonderful witness it is to see the dedication of one spouse or partner to another in times of terrible sickness; daily, even hourly, ministrations of kindness when sometimes there is no response or recognition. Sometimes children and adolescents must become the carers of their parents at the same time as struggling with school and holding down a part-time job. An inspiration!

So when are these times that there is to be NO STOPPING OR TURNING?

[](http://images.google.com.au/imgres?imgurl=http://image.www.rakuten.co.jp/aw/img10081415600.jpeg&imgrefurl=http://www.rakuten.co.jp/aw/459705/553171/&h=466&w=350&sz=36&tbnid=23AzwQZBUWMJ:&tbnh=125&tbnw=93&hl=en&start=7&prev=/images?q=no+stopping&svnum=10&hl=en&lr=&sa=N)This is definitely a very personal question. But once we have made a decision to see something through, the sign NO STOPPING OR TURNING will continue to be an inspiration.

Maybe an essential course of medication is irksome and distasteful. Maybe a period of study is becoming wearisome and entertaining distractions beckon. Maybe the heat and deprivations of a foreign posting are more irritable than originally imagined. Maybe the surly resistance of a teenager to a parent’s well-meaning prohibition or obligation ties a most uncomfortable knot in the stomach. Maybe the seemingly endless repayments on a loan are taunting that so many pleasures are being denied for too long.

There are so many things that we must stick at. How many times have we said to ourselves: “Not long now! Keep it up!” And even when it is “forever” we have to talk to ourselves kindly and encouragingly to keep going.

Mangus Magnusson was a very famous British TV compere and for many years conducted *Mastermind* where questions and answers were to be completed in a certain number of seconds. If he had begun a question and the time buzzer sounded mid question it was his rule: “I have started so I will finish”, thus giving the contestant yet another chance of winning. We have to decide when to say, “I have started so I will finish.”

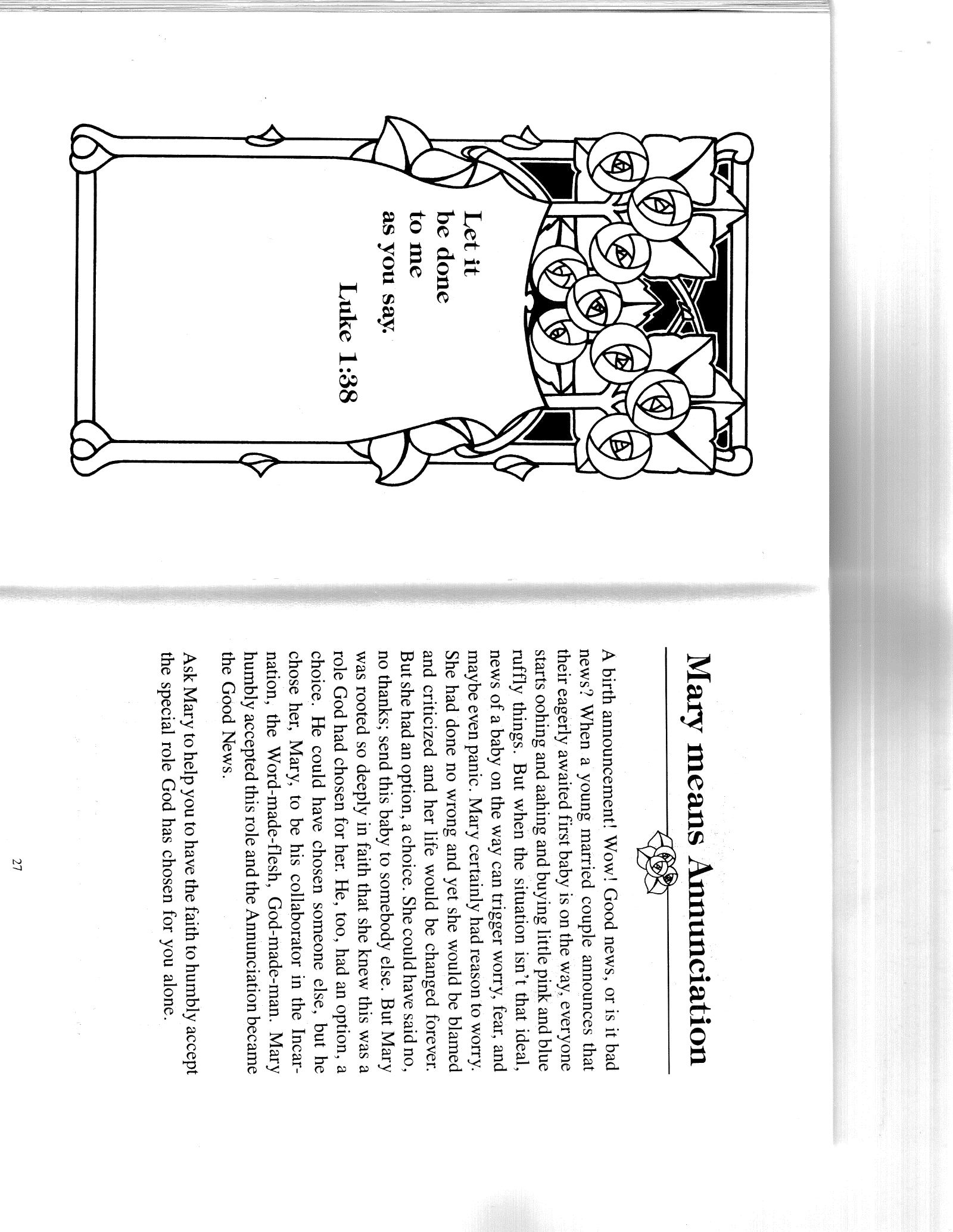
The first highly publicised heart transplant in Australia for a teenager was that of 14 year old Fiona Coote. The whole of Australia was amazed and delighted that this vulnerable girl’s life had been saved by the brilliance and skill of Dr. Victor Chang and the donation of someone else’s heart. As she recovered her smiling face became known to millions. My delight, however, was tempered when I learned that there was a variety of medications that she must take every day for the rest of her life! I thought at the time how terribly restricting that would be. Every day! I, of course, was not in the position of my life depending on doing something like that every day. But now, on reflection, I so greatly admire Fiona’s fidelity to the sign NO STOPPING OR TURNING. And the time of writing is many years down the track from Fiona’s teenage years.

[](http://images.google.com.au/imgres?imgurl=http://www.cofchrist.org.uk/leeds/sign.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.cofchrist.org.uk/leeds/hcmeet2.htm&h=400&w=400&sz=8&tbnid=Q514v9J3H2UJ:&tbnh=120&tbnw=120&hl=en&start=7&prev=/images?q=no+turning+sign&svnum=10&hl=en&lr=&sa=G)

Winston Churchill was determined to encourage the British people to bear with the hardships of the war till victory was achieved. Part of a famous speech to the House of Commons on June 4th, 1940, is the following***:*** *"We shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender…”* At a difficult time when persevering is an increasingly heavy burden, it may be helpful to softly whisper: “We shall not flag or fail!”

The following reflection, “Mary Means Annunciation”

Is taken from a booklet by Bernadette McCarver Snyder,

 entitled **“Merry Mary Meditations”**



*“I’ve had enough! There’s only so much you should have to take! Why can’t the stupid old thing wake up to herself and take a grip. I’m going to tell her a piece of my mind!*

*“What will I be like when* ***I’m*** *old?*

*I’ve got my likes and dislikes. I make the occasional mistake. And I’ve still got my health and my marbles. And how would I like to be treated? I don’t like to be browbeaten about silly mistakes I’ve made! And going off my brain will only make me more upset.*

*And what would* ***MARY*** *do?*

Oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

**I pray for those whose lives are grey**

as a rainy Monday morning, who must return to days they loathe, and despise:

Men chained to desks

in square cubicle rooms

who long for sun-pure air and outside work.

Women who work in odious factories at boring tasks under arrogant bosses,

Women who long to stay at home caring for their children’s needs.

Grant them grace to know they are serving You in the menial.

[Taken from *“I need a miracle today, Lord”* by Wilma Burton]

**Contacts**: **St Pius X Catholic Parish Heidelberg West**

**Father Wayne Edwards**: St Pius X Presbytery 419 Waterdale Rd., Heidelberg West 3081

Tel: 9457 5794 Fax: 9457 1036; [stpiusvic@bigpond.com](mailto:stpiusvic@bigpond.com)

**Exodus Community**: 273 Liberty Parade, Heidelberg West, Tel: 9457 7593

**School Principal:** Barbara Gomez, Tel: 9457 3776 [principal@spheidelbergwest.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@spheidelbergwest.catholic.edu.au)

**Mass times**: **Saturday evening** Vigil – 7.00pm; **Sunday**: 9.00am & 11.00am; 12.00 Noon, Exodus Community, 273 Liberty Parade

**Weekdays**: 9.00am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

**Confessions and Rosary**: After 9.00am Mass Saturday mornings

**Taize Prayer:** Last Friday of the Month, 6.00-7.00pm

**Church open for prayer**: 8.30am – 4.00pm on school days only

***All Aboard*** editor/compiler: Brother Barry Lamb at [barrylamb@hotmail.com](mailto:barrylamb@hotmail.com) or 9456 9641