

# The Word of Youth

ಕಿ ತಿಳಿ Publication

January 2013

Suggested donation: ೩೦೨

PERTH CATHOLIC YOUTH PROJECT - SUPPORTING ST JOHN'S, ST MARY MAGDALENE'S and OUR LADY'S

## Who knows what this year will bring?

**A**rriving in the Holy Land to find Jerusalem covered by a blanket of snow was a surprising and inspiring experience. Verses of 'In the Bleak Mid-winter' came to mind as we wound our way along streets busy with Jews, Muslims and Christians taking advantage of the rare occasion to come out and play in the snow. This magical spectacle, however, belies the tension and mistrust that permeates the Holy City. Tempers flare at the slightest challenge to the 'Status Quo,' and frustrations between religious and cultural groups regularly result in violence. Jerusalem is without doubt an incredibly diverse, beautiful and immersive city, however the harmony is fragile.

We've all seen 'fragile' written boldly on packages containing easily broken objects, urging us to exercise caution and to handle with care. That is the reality of everyday life for the people of Israel: everything they have built and worked for balances on a pedestal that could quite easily come crashing down at the whim of a harsh word or a dispute over pencil marks written on a map by British governors 60 years ago. The stones sigh and life goes on.

If you asked an Israeli or a Palestinian what they hope for in 2013 some will answer: 'security,' others 'prosperity' and perhaps more than a few would be heard to say 'freedom.' It strikes me that regardless of religion, culture or political affiliation, everyone in the Holy Land wants to continue with their way

of life free from persecution, war and anxiety – everyone wants to live in peace.

When I reflect on my experience in the Holy Land I can draw a number of less dramatic parallels with my life and the lives of those around me: All of us do plan, set ourselves goals, pursue our chosen career paths, raise our families, and build our homes. Occasionally things don't work out the way we



**Whose nose or who knows?**

**Time to review the resolutions you made.**

*Its not too late!*

hoped that they would and then we turn to resolutions and 'new starts,' or we become frustrated. Peace of mind and contentment are elusive and fragile.

Returning once more to the Holy Land it is amazing that with the heavy weight of historical hangover and religious difference there is any peace at all, yet all over the country there are signs of hope: Community proj-

ects between Jewish and Arab young people; peaceful places of prayer maintained and protected; customs honoured, and traditions respected. Ultimately, the peace of the Holy Land has at its source the love of God. So, before you make a list of resolutions and worries for 2013 ask yourself: 'Do I love God?' and 'How can I bring his peace to others?' Start with that and who knows what this year will bring.



# Youth Retreat to St Mary's Kindroull

Saturday December 8th, Feast of the Immaculate Conception, was a day of surprises for 3GY. A small group of young people were taken by car to St Mary's Monastery. We had the chance to explore some parts of Monastery before finding ourselves in the Crypt, a beautifully restored meeting place, with a kitchen for drinks and snacks.

The programme of reflection and workshops centered in the theme of Advent. Fr Tom came along with us too.

Before lunch we climbed to way on top of Kindroull Hill. The way to the top was very hard because all the paths were covered in ice. A few didn't quite make it to the top. There was time for group photo before making out way down again.

We ate a very good lunch and there were

lots of other people there too.

We watched a movie in the afternoon, about Christmas in World War I - when the soldiers from both sides decided to stop fighting and share a truce,

After that we started to get ready for the Youth Mass with Fr Tom which was going to start in St John's Church at 6.30pm.

I had a prayer to read and others read from



the bible.

The music group from 3GY played in upstairs. At communion they played a hymn - Like a Candle.

At the end of the Mass my sister Wiktoria played some music on the organ and it was a big surprise for her friends that she could do that.

After that we played games and ate pizza.





# Capital Capers - 3GY on Ice



The day after their Retreat at St Mary's, and the Youth Mass at St John's, 3GY set off for the capital city to enjoy a day of sightseeing, skating and the thrill of the big wheel.

The group got a great welcome back from the chippy next to St Mary's Cathedral, where they had popped in last year at the same time.





# Raising Funds for the Perth Catholic Youth Project

A series of fundraising events takes place throughout the year. Among these the themed meals are the most successful and popular.

Just before Christmas volunteers helped to organise tables and serve food which was cooked by people of the Indian community in Perth for an Indian Christmas meal.

Members of 3GY served tables - but had chance to eat too! Many of the diners turned up in Indian

costume and there was an opportunity for everyone to learn some Indian dances. From the youngest to the oldest. It was really great.

On St Andrew's Day we celebrated with some tasty traditional food, ceilidh dancing and live music which got nearly everyone dancing. For some the celebration was their first experience of Scottish dancing too!

A fun and fantastic night was had by all.



## Thought for the Month

*"I believe in the sun,  
even when it is not shining.  
I believe in love,  
even when I don't feel it.  
I believe in God,  
even when there is silence."*

-Words scratched on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, by a Jew hiding from Nazi persecution.