

2019 ACPA Awards

Winners and judges' comments

Best News Story

Winner

Mary Brazell – *Catholic Outlook*

‘Granville Parishioners gather to farewell a stranger.’

This is a beautifully written and atypical story. It makes news out of something not normally considered newsworthy: the sad fact that Christopher Baker died alone and expected his funeral to have no attendees, other than the priest. Yet thanks to social media, parishioners who did not know him came. If news tends to be sensationalist, this provides a touching counter balance.

Highly Commended

Mark Bowling – *The Catholic Leader*

‘It’s never too late’

This informative story provides some excellent context about an event that attracted nation-wide, but mostly superficial, attention. It details Hayden’s reasoning for conversion, some intriguing background – especially the influence of a Shia Islam text – and the invisible, yet critical, impact of the Ursuline sisters on his character. A fine piece.

Best Feature Story

The judge was heartened by the many stories of good people doing good things and having an avenue to report on such good news of the Church - many were general news reports about current events, and very engaging interviews of people, or communities. Many of the entries submitted were not 'features' *per se*. The judge was seeking specific articles that reflected most, the Best Feature category criteria.

The judge was particularly drawn to features of faith in action - that showcase the basis of our Christian vocation (Matthew 25) that evokes a response in the heart and to action - to invite the reader think or act beyond the article.

Winner

Debbie Cramsie – *The Catholic Weekly*

‘Saving Sydney’s Desperate Souls’

Celebrating 80 years of the Matthew Talbot Hostel, this article brought the reader to some insight, through interviews, commentary and photographs, into the world of a homeless men's shelter and how volunteering there can change not only your perspective but actually influence our community. The interviewed QC who volunteers there said, ‘In court I deal with confrontational and skilled opponents, my time at Matt Talbot has taught me to respond in a less aggressive manner. I am a more fairer prosecutor

...I can now look at life from the other side.’ This insight about getting in touch with his own humility and the needs of others, through stories from the men at the hostel is most touching and would remain with the reader well after reading..

The heart of this message is that every encounter is an opportunity for transformation - for the workers and homeless people at Matt Talbot, the featured volunteer, and the people he serves coffee to - and for us the readers.

Highly Commended

Francine Crimmins – *Australian Catholics*
‘Women pioneer new models of Church’

This beautifully presented article on the role of lay women in rural and remote parishes community with few priests, no religious women and huge geographical distances showcases a woman being paid to do what rural women often do on a voluntary basis. It is a hopeful sign. Historically it was religious women who saw a need and did something about it in this fledgling country and now the season of the church is changing and what is hopeful in this article is that the church is paying someone to provide services and support to build up a new look church. It gives confidence that some members of the church are willing to look at deeper lay involvement to keep local communities connected with each other and the sacraments.

Best Editorial

Winner

Fr Robert McCulloch – *The Far East*

‘Christians and Muslims in Asia and blasphemy laws in Pakistan’

Fr McCulloch worked in Pakistan for more than 34 years and the clarity with which he describes the complexities of the Islam itself and its relations with other faiths, the countries in which it is the majority faith and the role of the West is a fruit of that long engagement with the Muslim world. He avoids the all-too-easy characterisations of so much that has been written about Muslims and their religion and is candid in his assessments of Islam, Western countries and the Church and their actions in the past few troubled decades. This is a refreshing and enlightening piece of writing.

Highly Commended

Michael McVeigh – *Eureka Street*

‘Advice to new Bombers fan bishop’

This is a clever piece of writing, in the best sense of the word, using the choice of a football allegiance by a new Archbishop from outside the diocese to explore what kind of pastor he might become. The reference to the ‘broken, wounded organisation’ of the club’s recent history, the suggestions of other choices that might have been made, the repeated appeal to the new leader to ‘sit with the people’ and not to succumb to those who think they are masters of the game leave the reader in no doubt about the club of choice being a metaphor for the Church he is to lead in challenging times.

Best Column

Winner

Sister Patty Fawkner – *The Good Oil*

Sister Patty nicely weaves together her excellent knowledge of theology with warm and wise discussion of the contemporary issues that face the Church and its followers. Her column is erudite, intelligent and thought provoking. She draws on a broad understanding of spirituality to bring forward lessons from the Bible, Sufi mystics, poets, political and philosophers. A pleasure to read.

Highly Commended

Catherine Day – *Broken Bay News*

One of the elements of an engaging blog is authenticity. Catherine has an honesty and warmth in her writing that is very appealing. She weaves her personal insights on life as a young Catholic woman into heartfelt discussions about what faith means, the importance of the church in modern life and its need for our support. She is not afraid to tackle difficult issues but does so from the prism of her empathetic take on life.

Best Headline

Winner

Marist Messenger

‘A Very Modern Model of a Marist Seminarian!’

Catchy and a bit of fun without being crass or taking away from the article. The loose alliteration cleverly adds to the rhythm of the headline without overpowering its attractiveness to the reader.

Highly Commended

Eureka Street

‘Dress sense or political statement? It’s a tie’

The question arouses curiosity. The answer is intriguing. I need to read the article; by the article’s end, the headline is very clever.

Congratulations also to (in no particular order) *The Southern Cross*, *Australian Catholics*, *NZ Catholic*, *The Majellan* and *Journey*.

Best Mission Coverage

Winner

Anne Sutherland and Daniel Hopper - *Journey*

‘I was in prison and you visited me’

This holistic coverage of the Diocese of Wollongong's ecumenical outreach to prisoners contains two well-written, descriptive articles that give the reader a sense of being there and having a cuppa with the storytellers. In a specific way, the writer has used the 'show rather than tell' technique to furnish the narrative about the work of prison chaplains and simultaneously afforded dignity to those in prison who are served by this essential ministry. The article had a very clear link to scripture and justice and mission imperative of the Churches.

Highly Commended

Debra Vermeer - *The Good Oil*

'70 years since six Good Samaritans set sail for Nagasaki'

An excellent piece of journalism that shows the sensitivity and experience of the author. Vermeer writes about the valuable contribution of Australian religious, in this case, the Good Samaritan sisters, to missionary activity around the world. This piece demonstrates using simple, to-the-point facts interspersed with warm, relational storytelling, to show in a real way how transformation occurs across a lifetime, and how experiences can grow in us compassion and love for those on the margins.

Best Social Justice Coverage

Winner

Lisa Beech – *The Nathaniel Report*

'Poverty and abortion'

A challenging article shining a light on one of the less well-known consequences of poverty and the ubiquitous political rhetoric that implies that somehow poverty is a person's individual choice and responsibility, thereby leading some couples to feel they have to make lifestyle decisions against their own desires and judgments. Crisply written in a compassionate and non-judgmental way, the article conveys not only the heartache and pain of those caught in the poverty trap, but also the frustration of the writer who shows the injustice of poverty and how it is misrepresented in society by many of our leaders.

Highly Commended

Debbie Cramsie, Marilyn Rodrigues and Catherine Sheehan – *The Catholic Weekly*

Series of articles on Homelessness

A thorough analysis of homelessness in Sydney giving good data on the extent of the problem, the change in the demographic of those who are homeless (youth and women over 55), and the effects on those individuals and families suffering homelessness. Gives a good theological analysis of why we should assist the homeless, coupled with practical ways that individuals and groups can get involved in offering such assistance. Applies the principle of subsidiarity in challenging governments to change economic structures to address the issue – something individuals and groups cannot do.

Best Education Coverage

This section attracted many blessed stories of faith, determination, prayer, sacrifice and vision. The two winning entries are simple but compelling tales. In short, both are a good read.

Winner

Lindy McNamara – *The Southern Cross*
'Celebrating "joyous" learning at Our Lady of La Vang'

A compelling story about how education can be a special experience for those for whom life has presented more than a few extra challenges. It is descriptive, well told and flows well while providing the information needed to answer a curious reader's questions. An inspiring story.

Highly Commended

Chris Gordon - *Catholic Voice*
'To Christchurch: From Cooma, with Love'

This is a clear example of education not just being about preparing young people for exams but preparing them for life and engaging with the world at large. It's a beautiful story about love, peace and compassion; true Christian education.

Best Article on Catechesis

Winner

Loretta Coman – *Horizons*
'Ministry Spotlight: SPRED'

This engaging article by Loretta Coman successfully increases the reader's understanding of the 'theology of accessibility' while at the same time highlighting how the Word of God is lived, received and understood by those associated with the Special Religious Development (SPRED) ministry. With great clarity of language and thoughtful structure of ideas in the article, Loretta manages to both inform and to challenge the reader to consider, amongst a range of ideas, their understanding of the Christian's growth in holiness as a journey in community, side by side with others.

Peter Gilmore – *Journey*

'An Unlikely Message – Virtue and the Jordan Peterson Phenomenon'

Replete with arresting images and descriptive language, Peter Gilmore's article about the Jordan Peterson phenomenon takes the reader on an exploratory journey into this modern day enigma. We are led in the article to reflect, through the success of Jordan Peterson's approach and key message, on the richness of the Church's teaching on what makes a virtuous life and the contemporary search for meaning among people of all ages. "As Catholics, we have much to offer the world" Gilmore states and the reader is enriched by his explication of the beauty, truth and challenge of that tradition in this article.

Best Devotional Article Applying Faith to Life

Winner

Anne Sutherland and Daniel Hopper - *Journey*
'Alpha: A powerful message'

Our own journey of life is one that is often complicated, involving twists and turns, that can rattle our sense of who we are, and our sense of faith. In the article by Anne Sutherland, we experience what truly is key into the journey of faith; trust in God and a willingness to surrender to his will. The writer has beautifully told Eddie's story of faith and encounter with Christ, experienced through Alpha, allowing the reader to see what each of us is called to do; to go deeper with God and to be willing to allow God to work through each and every moment of our lives. In the beautiful testimony of Eddie, we see his journey of Faith, we see how the gift of Jesus' love has transformed him to be who Christ calls him to be. Anne, in her writing, has allowed us to journey and to reflect on who we see Jesus Christ as in our life. This article is a wonderful example of how writing can be a source of inspiration and renewal, allowing others to see how their faith can grow. We see Eddie's journey and we are reminded of another great Christian writer, St Augustine, who said: 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in You.'

Highly Commended

Deacon Peter McCulloch – *Broken Bay News*
'God is an equal partner in our marriage'

Peter McCulloch offers a first-hand experience of faith in relation to his parents and their life. In it, he shows his parents great wisdom in being aware of the important place God has in each of our lives.

Peter allows insight that is profound and beautiful that also challenges us to look deeper into our own story to see where God has been working and showing us his presence. It is wonderful to see parents handing wisdom down to their children, especially wisdom that shows us the beauty of marriage and the continual call for our Church to support couples in their journey of life and faith.

Best Feature Multiple Authors

Winner

Tui Motu

'Dialogue and Collaboration'

The *Tui Motu* entry on 'Dialogue and Collaboration' featured seven substantial articles by Mary Betz, Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Mike Riddell, Brendan Daly, Neil Darragh, Jo Ayers and Thomas Lamb on the perils of clericalism and the call to build a collaborative and synodal culture in the Catholic Church. This is a sensitive and critical matter, but the coverage is theologically informed, grounded in reality, and offers practical steps forward.

The articles are well written and to the point. The presentation, illustration and layout are excellent. The editors should be congratulated for producing such a comprehensive issue. It makes a valuable contribution to discussions about the future of the Church and should be acknowledged as such.

Highly Commended #1

NZ Catholic

‘Christchurch mosque attacks’

The *NZ Catholic* issue on the Christchurch mosque attacks presents several reports written by Michael Otto and Anne Rose on the aftermath of the attacks and the local Catholic community’s involvement with, and support for, their ‘Muslim sisters and brothers’. These are moving responses to a terrible calamity, inclusive of Muslim voices, and demonstrating all that is good when people of faith support one another. These are examples of excellent journalism, written under pressure, to comfort, inform and inspire. The who, what, when, where, why, how questions are all covered, with judicious quotes and complementary high-resolution photography. This is a fine example of the great value of good journalism during critical events in our lives.

Highly Commended #2

Australian Catholics

‘How do you pray?’

Australian Catholics offers a series of very practical, engaging, helpful, and well-illustrated stories, articles and activities on spirituality. The authors include Kate Moriarty, Margaret Mary Flynn, Peter Fleming, Nevie Peters, Andrew Hamilton, Tracey Edstein, Thea Kurniawan and James O’Brien. Some pages of the presentation are clearly aimed at making the material accessible to children and young people. Underlying the apparent simplicity of the presentation is a very solid spiritual theology, that God will engage each of us in a unique way. All our communications with children and young people should be as sensitive to their needs and situation as is this issue of *Australian Catholics*.

Best Original Photograph

Winner

Jonathan Pierce – *Marist Messenger*

This photo beautifully displays the intersection between faith and culture in New Zealand, with a poignant moment captured on Ash Wednesday of the ashes being drawn in a cross on the forehead of a man, with two women on either side in the background. Using traditional photographic techniques such as the rule of thirds, exquisite details have been captured and sharp focussing communicates a message of hope, and also reverence for the moment.

Highly Commended

Atu Luvina – *Fiji Catholic Times*

This cover photo is evocative and uses excellent photographic techniques. The light of candles on the faces of children creates atmosphere and anticipation, and the choice of black and white gives it a sense of sacred poignancy.

Best Original Artwork

Unfortunately we didn't receive enough entries in this category to award a winner this year. We encourage members to consider entering this category next year.

Best Magazine Front Cover

Winner

Madonna

Winter 2018

The title of the publication is strong yet friendly and the tab running from the top of the page displaying the date and pricing is a clever element. The colour palette is complimentary to the image and the uniform colour blocks holding the tag line above the title and the graphic at the bottom work so well. The illustration along the bottom has been carefully considered and forms a lovely base line for the design. There is a really nice balance of chosen typefaces and the sizing is appropriate for each use. A beautiful design to entice the reader.

Highly Commended

Melbourne Catholic

April edition

The simplicity of the greyscale image and vibrant text help create this very attractive cover design. The header is bold and clever and the bracketed month and pricing are modern and effective. The tabs on the side of the page help highlight the publication's featured articles and are inviting and easy to read. The image itself is striking and the [Hope] wording compliments the image beautifully and balances the feature tabs well. A very confident, eye-catching design.

Best Newspaper Front Page

Winner

Good News

'Good news from around the Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton'

The strength of this front page is mainly attributable to the photo, a compelling image of a nativity scene projected on to the Rockhampton Church. It is also arresting because of other, small touches: the nicely aligned use of red and blue in the headlines and sub-heading and the placement of the logo of the Rockhampton Diocese.

Highly Commended

The Catholic Leader

'God is there for us'



The strength here is the strong photo, featuring the fire fighter and hues of an ominous yellow. The headline is also strong, sending a message of support in a way that differs from more conventional newspaper headlines, which usually only focus on the more traumatic aspects of such events.

Best Layout and Design – Online Publication

Winner

Eureka Street

The *Eureka Street* website has a very clear and spacious layout. The navigation is clear works well on desktop and mobile. The home page acts as a very usable guide to the rest of the site with each category showing the latest articles. They have done a great job at presenting a large amount of content in a clear and usable manner.

Highly Commended

There were not enough entries for a Highly Commended to be awarded in this category.

Best Layout and Design – Magazine

Winner

Melbourne Catholic

Melbourne Catholic is a stand-out winner. It is an elegantly designed magazine that uses white space beautifully. It is clean and accessible, making it a pleasure to read. It's choice and use of typography make it legible. It also makes excellent use of photography, with dramatic full page and deep etched imagery. The pullout quotes are discreet, blending well with an overall classy design.

Highly Commended

Aurora

Aurora does a very good job of managing a hard format that could easily be cluttered and cumbersome in its design. The designers have made an interesting use of space, breaking up copy with coordinated panels, breakout quotes, standfirsts and straps. It is easy to navigate and also makes best use of white space.

Best Layout and Design – Newspaper

Winner

The Catholic Leader

Good design hinges on that “magical area of layout”, British newspaper guru Harold Evans says. The magic is the element of a newspaper that initially attracts the reader's eye and then encourages or even compels further inspection - the bait that attracts the fish and keeps it on the line!

It incorporates the juxtaposition of headlines, typeface, images, graphics and white space – and the organisation or calibration of news values. Brisbane’s *The Catholic Leader* fulfils all these criteria. The modular design and sans serif headline typeface is engaging, and an attractive image solidly anchors each page. Minor but important details such as the use of coloured type in sub-heads and caption intros are also attractive.

The Catholic Leader does not appear to suffer from an identity crisis that other publications have – am I a newspaper or a magazine? It knows it’s a newspaper and looks like one. As Evans also remarked the ‘authority of a newspaper consists of the clear visual signal and how you organise the values on the page.’ The Leader knows its priorities and, aided by its layout and design, so do its readers.

Highly Commended
The Southern Cross

Most Improved Publication

While all of the publications submitted for consideration in this category remain text- dense, the new versions of each publication were much more appealing to the eye.

Several publications, however, displayed marked improvement over the previous year. Most noticeable were the use of space and colour and not only improved use of photographs but the quality and expressiveness of the photos chosen. New fonts and diversity in page layout also were obvious and successful.

Winner
Broken Bay News

This publication exhibited all of the above-mentioned improvements to the most noticeable degree, producing a very modern, clean and appealing look supported by good writing and diversity of news. Even the advertisements looked better.

Highly Commended
Horizons

While several publications could have been named runner-up, each exhibiting the above-mentioned improvements to similar degrees, the increased diversity of content without diminishing the publication’s diocesan focus gave the nod to *Horizons*.

Best use of Electronic Media

Winner
Melbourne Catholic
Podcast

There are many Catholic podcasts around and a most of them good. However, some are more engaging than others. The *Melbourne Catholic* podcast has a diverse amount of guests from all different walks of

life. This is something that all diocese should have as it gives community access to stories they wouldn't otherwise hear.

Highly Commended

Emrys Jansen – *The Nathaniel Report*

More often than not, the Pope is misquoted in social media. On top of that, a lot of Catholics do not have the time to read his encyclicals (Somehow they do have the time to be on social media). This series of social media posts provide a quick digestible way to communicate the Pope's message. They have done a great job at picking out the key points and making them available to the public.

Best Advertising Feature / Supplement

Winner

The Catholic Weekly

Sydney Catholic Schools Christmas Book

The cover design suits the theme of the publication well and the content is very colourful with a nice use of white space throughout. The text is easy to read and the collaged headers and footers help to frame the featured artwork and add an interesting element. The decorative typeface for the heading and artwork title are well suited and the blue blocks for the captions are effective. Overall the publication showcases the artwork very well and is a lovely keepsake.

Highly Commended

Judith Gardner – *Good News*

The Morning Bulletin

This is a clean publication and there is a nice consistency in the use of the header. There is a good use of white space allowing the pages to 'breathe'. The grid system works well and is flexible to allow for text, images and block advertisements to vary on each page as required which adds interest to the layout. The headings are strong and friendly and the body text works well. The block ads at the bottom of the pages are eye-catching and strong and very well designed.

Best Ecumenical / Interfaith Story

Winner

Zain Ali - *Tui Motu*

'Jesus and Mary in the Qur'an'

This article by a Muslim scholar and published in the weeks leading up to Christmas is a fresh perspective on the familiar story and characters surrounding the Nativity. It demonstrates clearly both what Christians and Muslims have in common in their beliefs around these events -- and the ways in which they differ. It enables Catholic readers to appreciate the status given particularly to Jesus and Mary

in the Qur'an and to reflect more deeply on their own faith tradition. As such, it is a most welcome means of enhancing interfaith understanding.

Highly Commended

Ashleigh Green - *The Good Oil*
'From strangers to cousins'

A young writer shares her experience of an Iftar dinner, which breaks the daily fast of Muslims during Ramadan, and -- with honesty, candour and humour -- her awakening to how much she has in common with people who at first glance are so different. We sit at the table with Ashleigh, glimpse the lives of young Australians, are encouraged by their open hearts and minds and are invited to contemplate our own attitudes.

Best Online Publication

An exceedingly difficult, if tiny, section to judge. The guideline refers to a publication that "best serve the needs of its target audience". I'd like to think, perhaps naively, the target could be seen as all Catholics, not only educated, or well-informed, or middle-class, or the in-crowd, or the alienated. We need to all listen to what the other has to say at a time that is not business-as-usual for the Catholic Church. A great many Catholics want more than a recitation of the standard company line in publications they consume. Both winner and runner-up deserve greater readership than they, no doubt, receive.

Winner

The Good Oil

This publication is good news. It is, also, good journalism, good quality writing and I found it touching at a simple, grassroots level that many would appreciate. Sr Patty Fawkner's article on what it might take to be an adult Church should be published in every parish bulletin.

Highly Commended

Eureka Street

I enjoyed this publication immensely. Its value to the Church in Australia is beyond count, and its deeply thought-provoking and pointed articles, poems and cartoons are so spot-on and, well, provocative. An example is a recent contribution by John Warhurst writing on the challenges of the plenary council. It's hardly a mere runner-up, but I had to choose one.

Best Print Magazine

Winner

Marist Messenger

Sometimes the best things come in small packages. So it is with the *Marist Messenger*. This year the 'magazine of Catholic spirituality' celebrates 90 years of publication, a truly wonderful achievement for

the Marist Fathers in New Zealand. The magazine is compact in format (and in administration and operation) but is packed with good reads – no admonitory preaching here, just inspiring spiritual reflections from laity *and* religious, including daily insights into the readings of the day, interesting Marist history, guidance from Pope Francis and short biographies of the month’s saints. *The Messenger* is both edifying and entertaining - with a jokes section guaranteed to raise your spirits with a laugh. There’s also a crossword. Happy 90th birthday, *Marist Messenger*. *Ad multos annos*.

Highly Commended
The Majellan

Best Newspaper

All entries in this category spoke highly to the dedication and hard work of their teams bringing faith-filled Catholic journalism to their people. Congratulations to all entrants.

Evaluating weekly against fortnightly and monthly publications; larger teams against very small; unknown circulations, readership figures and production costs is not straightforward, nor easy to compare. In the final outcome, the publications that stood out from the group spoke directly into their communities, and about their communities.

Winner
The Southern Cross

In an ever-changing world of faith engagement, the Church’s mission of communicating the Gospel can no longer be simply be ‘putting out’ news. It has to seek to make a difference. Under an overall marketing banner of *Living Catholic*, Adelaide’s *Southern Cross* tells the story of its faith community and how they engage with the events and issues around them. An eye-catching front page ‘people’ photo across all submissions indicates a consistent understanding that communication first and foremost is all about people. This is followed throughout with a steady mix of quality-produced grass roots, national, and international content that relates consistently to its impact on the local communities and lives into which the newspaper is reaching. This is a rich and diverse community – and one to celebrate.

What raises it above its competitors in a very close category, is its reach. The innovative ways of distribution undertaken by the *Southern Cross* – through digital distribution to Archdiocesan schools and inclusion in the local secular *Advertiser* twice per year (broadening its reach during those times to over 160,000 copies and a readership of 300,000) is profoundly significant. Such efforts firmly place the Catholic voice into family homes, into the broader media landscape, and certainly into the public square. Congratulations.

Highly Commended
The Catholic Leader

With a significant stated weekly readership, and a solid staff operation, *The Catholic Leader* brings together a strong mix of hard hitting national and global issues amongst regional, local, faith formation, and entertainment. Stories are well-crafted and relevant, and have been sought out rather than simply running Media Releases.

Good photography and interesting layout elements draw readers through from front page to close. A consistent and interesting delivery with each issue.

Bishop Philip Kennedy Memorial Award for Overall Excellence in a Catholic Publication

Winner

The Good Oil

The Good Oil stood out not only among other on-line publication entries but also the print winners - as deserving as they were. This publication is true to its mission of aiming to 'nourish the spirit, stimulate thinking and encourage reflection and dialogue about contemporary issues from a Good Samaritan perspective'. It is a powerful voice for a forward-looking vision for the Church. Not beholden to hierarchical constraints, it is forthright in its opinions and in the van of social justice campaigning. The site is well-designed, easy to navigate with a good array of news, features, opinion and reflection.