

"I must
proclaim the
good news
of the
kingdom
of God"

Good News

Catholic Charismatic Renewal
serving the Church



The newsletter of the
Catholic Charismatic Renewal.
Melbourne, Australia.
www.ccr.org.au

FIFTY YEARS OF GRACE

By LENYCE WILLASON

Our annual conference this year was a time of great grace as we welcomed Michelle Moran, International President of Catholic Charismatic Renewal and Ulf and Brigitta Ekman, former leaders of the Word of Life Church in Sweden and Moscow and now, as they kept reminding us, 'happy Catholics'.



The atmosphere for the week was set as we intoned the words of the *Suspice* of St Ignatius beautifully sung for us by Peter Moran. It was a time of total emptying of self and complete surrender to the Holy Spirit and his will during the week.

We were blessed to have a rare historical moment during the Conference. We had with us past present and current International Presidents in Allan Panozza and Michelle Moran, as well as past and present Chairperson of the National Service Committee in Allan Panozza and Ann Brereton, who between them had clocked up 110 years of service to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. An amazing achievement of service! It was interesting to listen to them as they reflected upon their fondest memories, funny moments, highlights and low-lights of their terms in Office, with each one of them acknowledging that without a doubt they could not have carried out these roles without the full support and participation of their respective spouses. This is a factor that can be taken for granted on the local level worldwide as the role of leadership requires many absences from home and family, and is in fact an 24/7 role. Another important support mentioned was that of the Popes during these last 50 years. They took Catholic Charismatic Renewal seriously as being a grace for the whole Church. Allan spoke of his time working alongside Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict as well as Cardinal Suenens then Michelle informed us of the support and affirmation she receives from Pope Francis.

Michelle was a ball of fire as she spoke to us of the history of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, where we are now and what the future holds. "The Jubilee is not a time to pat ourselves on the back" she said, "as though we have 'arrived'; it is more than a big party; it is a God moment because the Jubilee is going to take us in the unfolding of God's purposes". She encouraged us to "hone in on the cultivation of expectancy" because there is so much more to come. The two words for this year are Repentance and Humility. She issued us a challenge – "are you carrying an excess of charismatic baggage?" as she reminded us that we belong to a flawed family. "Learn to breathe with a new capacity" she asserted. "Catholic Charismatic Renewal is **not** another church organisation because it is not a church organisation, it was birthed by the Holy Spirit. We are people of the Spirit at the heart of the Church, deeply, deeply Ecclesial. Pentecost birthed the Church. We live out our calling from a Pentecost perspective at the heart of the Church. Our identity is about being a current of grace. CCR is not a movement but a renewal breath for all members of the Church. We cannot live from yesterday's blessings, we must be always expectant of the "new" thing God is doing and calling us to do. We must ask the right questions: where have we been fruitful? What is the Lord asking of us now?"

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The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is
Friday 21 April 2017.



Friday 20 January 2017 will be a day that many
will remember for a lifetime. It was a day of
madness as innocent people, including children,
were mowed down by a lone man driving his car
through the Bourke St mall. Many of us were
stunned and incredulous as reports came in of
the injuries and death in the heart of our city. For
us at CCR the shocks had begun much earlier in the day when
three of our community were involved in a car accident at 9am.
Fortunately there were no fatal injuries, except for the car.

As I listened to the reports of the horrific melee in central
Melbourne and of so many bystanders rushing to the aid of
the injured, words from the Acts of the Apostles came to
mind:*there are many in this city who are my people.*
(Acts 18: 10b).

Tony Walker, Ambulance Victoria CEO, told Melbourne radio
audiences that the spirit of the community shone beautifully
on that day. Paramedics, 110 in number, commented on the
silence. A deafening silence as people helped to calm the
injured – everyone doing what they needed to do without any
noise. No sense of superiority, everyone simply pitching in to
do whatever they could. What a great witness to the true spirit
of our community with everyone freely contributing in so many
different ways.

What better sign of the love of God being poured out? What
better example of the ideal of a Christian community? Love
being poured out with the actions of each one allowing the spirit
of the community to shine brightly. Isn't that what we are called
to be and do as Christians? Perhaps our church numbers are
down because our churches are not always the hospitals for the
wounded that Pope Francis would have them be.

With the rise of secularism in Australia one often hears the
comment that we have become godless, that backs have been
turned on God. We can be very quick to judge and hold on to
our own prejudices when things on the surface seem to be so
opposed to our own beliefs. That indeed was the theme of one
of the presentations by our international guest for this year's
Conference - Ulf Ekman. Ulf challenged us as he outlined the
judgements and prejudices he and his wife Birgitta had to let
go of as they searched for the truth that led them away from
Protestantism and into the Catholic Church. What happened
in Bourke Street on that fateful day is a powerful reminder that
we must resist these quick judgments and fight against our
prejudices.

*Lord, forgive us for the judgments we make and hold on to. Help
us always to look for your goodness in those we meet. Show us
the way to enter into conversation with those different from us,
so that prejudices may dissolve as we acknowledge your love for
all your people.*

Lenyce Willason

ULF AND BIRGITTA EKMAN, THE 'HAPPY CATHOLICS'

Words and photos
by FIONA BASILE

Thursday 19 January 2017

If you had asked Ulf Ekman 15 years ago whether he would ever consider becoming a Catholic, the answer would have been a very strong 'No way!' At that time he was the congregational leader of a non-denominational Charismatic megachurch in Uppsala, Sweden, called Word of Life, which he and his wife Birgitta founded in the 80s. Since that time, they have dedicated their life to spreading the gospel, as far afield as the Middle East, Russia, India and China.



In those earlier years Ulf had also been ordained a Lutheran minister and was a chaplain to students at the University of Uppsala. When Ulf and Birgitta started their Bible School, which later grew into Word of Life church with its own congregation and mission school of thousands, Catholics and the teachings of the Catholic Church were completely ignored, and even actively shunned. According to Ulf, 'In Sweden the Catholic Church hardly existed. Given our Reformation background, a history that had banned Catholics for all sorts of reasons, and which spoke badly of Catholics in text books, history books and what was conveyed in the media, the picture of the Catholic Church was rather dark.'

But this historical background was not strong enough to keep at bay a deep calling from God for both Ulf and Birgitta 'to go deeper'. 'Something was missing in our lives,' said Ulf. There was a truth that the spirit was calling them to uncover and embrace. Fighting a constant battle with their long-held prejudices and criticisms of the Catholic Church, they started reading books and asking many questions of the faith.

Among the major questions confronting Ulf was the very nature of the Church: What is the essence of the Church? Is the Church sacramental? 'The sacraments were one of the biggest things that attracted us,' said Ulf, 'because if the Catholic Church is right when it speaks about sacraments and how they confer grace and how important they are to our salvation, in the broader sense as our way to heaven, then we need them. I need them. Our thirst for the grace that the sacraments confer was one of the driving forces for us in eventually becoming Catholics.'

Ulf said there were four main phases to their journey to Catholicism. 'The first was discovery. I was a little afraid of discovering things that could make it inconvenient for me. But when you see the attraction and the beauty of something that God is and has done, He makes you appreciate it. So that's the second thing—to appreciate what I discovered rather than try to throw it away.

'At this point people started saying "He's Catholic; he smells like a Catholic. Something strange is happening here!" And of course you get a little resistance and you

back off a bit because nobody likes persecution. But the attraction got stronger.

'So the third phase was to draw closer and this is what we sensed we needed to do—to draw closer, to understand more, to appreciate more, to be able to explain more. And then came the fourth phrase—to join.' This is what Ulf and Birgitta did in 2014.

Their actions were not without controversy and a cost. Ulf and Birgitta said some of their friends were upset and couldn't understand why they'd do such a thing. As a result, some relationships have ended.

'I say this over and over again,' said Ulf, 'his is a step forward, not a kick back. It is not a denial of our past and all we've done—we loved what we were part of for so many years and we have faith in the Lord that step by step those people who don't understand our reasons, will one day see the greater picture. We will continue to nurture our relationships and build understanding.

'We sensed that this is what the Lord wanted us to do and so we came to a mature—not a hasty—decision that this is the way we needed to go and we have not, three years down the road, regretted it at all. We are very, very happy Catholics.'

Editor's note: *This is a much nicer term than 'happy clappers' - let us all declare we are very 'happy Catholics.'*

continued from page 1

Ulf Ekman supported Michelle's view by affirming that being in the Spirit is not an emotional experience. "Rejection" he said, "was one of the biggest problems in the world. It is not a problem we ought to experience because we belong. We belong to the Father". The first affirmation in our heart is do I love God? Then I belong.

Ulf and Birgitta are people who absorb the Word of God and live it with their lives. "The Word needs to find a place in our lives" Ulf encouraged, and with humorous analogies described the variety of ways we can stifle this process. "Most people campy by their first revelation and shoot anyone who comes along. We need to move on always." He described how sometimes we look for the spectacular and miss the supernatural or we push for the high's and try to stir it up ourselves not always wanting to spend time in prayer and the Word. "Yet" he said, "the answer to prayer is connected to bearing fruit". We need to see the Bible as a love letter not as a brick to throw at people's heads."

Michelle spoke of Pope Francis' request, repeatedly to Charismatic Renewal, to take the grace of the baptism in the Holy Spirit to the whole church. "Now is not a time to get tired", she said, but to start afresh with the Holy Spirit. Pentecost in Rome 2017 is shaping up to be a wonderful event with Pope Francis taking a very active role in the preparations and guiding the ICCRS Council in what he would like to witness during this time.

*“the grace
of Charismatic
Renewal is
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Michelle Moran



CCR: Renewing the face of the earth.

By MICHELLE MORAN

Michelle Moran reflects on the global impact of Charismatic Renewal 50 years after its birth in the US.

I was once asked what is the purpose of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. As the renewal is not does not have a human founder, but is rather a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit, the question is perhaps somewhat misplaced.

However, as we are now in our Jubilee year maybe it is appropriate to ask, what are some of the main fruits after 50 years of Charismatic Renewal within the Catholic Church?

Three moves of the Spirit

In *Acts chapter 2* there are three moves of the Holy Spirit.

Firstly the wind fills the entire room, so the Holy Spirit descends upon all the community. This indicates that the grace of Charismatic Renewal is a grace for the whole Church. Certainly, in many parts of the world the CCR has made a significant contribution to the life of the Church.

Secondly, at Pentecost there was what seemed like tongues of fire that fell on each of them. Therefore every person in the Upper Room received a personal Pentecost. Pope Francis has asked us to 'share with all in the Church the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit'. This seems to be gathering a new momentum worldwide and people are looking for new and more effective ways of presenting the transforming message of new life in the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, they moved out of the Upper Room into the surrounding neighbourhood empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to renew the face of the earth.

Renewing the face of the earth

In essence the Charismatic Renewal is a current of grace renewing and transforming individuals and communities, thus enabling the culture of Pentecost to spread. This makes a difference in the world in which we live. It is estimated that there are now 120 million Catholics in 235 countries around the world that identify themselves with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement. Here are just three examples of the global impact of the grace of Charismatic Renewal:

In **Brazil**, the Charismatic Renewal have for a number of years had a ministry dedicated to faith and politics. Recently, in the light of the Jubilee, CCR received recognition from the Brazilian Parliament for all the work it has done working with politicians, judges and magistrates. This is certainly good news in a country where politics and the legal system are so often caught up in scandals and corruption.

In many parts of the world Charismatic Renewal has actively been involved in serving the poor and the marginalised.

In **South Korea** there is a large community, 'Kkottongnae' (meaning flower village). They were birthed in the Charismatic Renewal and are dedicated to helping the poorest of the poor. They live out 'love in action'. Pope Francis knows this community very well. When he had the desire to create more washing facilities for



the homeless in the Vatican, he invited religious sisters from Kkotongnae community to come and serve in this ministry. He has specifically requested that for the CCR Jubilee celebrations in June, the sisters should accompany the homeless people to the special events and that they should be seated at the front of the assembly.

In 2014, the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS) held an international event in Uganda.

On the first day, the president of the country came to welcome all the international guests. He was particularly pleased to renew his friendship a group of missionaries including Sister Miriam Duggan and Fr Ernst Severs, who could be described as pioneers in the Charismatic Renewal. President Museveni paid tribute to their 'outstanding humanitarian work' especially in the early years of dealing with the HIV crisis in Uganda. He emphasised that their medical care and 'behaviour change' programme had done so much to save the lives of so many in the country. He emphasised that this had made a real difference to the way in which people were now living.

There are many more stories that could be shared. The challenge is for all of us to continue to live and promote the Culture of Pentecost.

Michelle Moran is president of ICCRS and a founding member of the Sion Community for Evangelisation, based in Brentwood, Essex.



Pope Francis' mission for unity and CCR

By CHARLES WHITEHEAD

Pope Francis' meetings with Anglican, Lutheran and Pentecostal leaders remind us of CCR's roots in ecumenism, says Charles Whitehead.

October 2016 was a month where Pope Francis busily set about meeting with leaders of other Christian denominations. He began the month meeting with Georgia's Patriarch Ilia II and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, and finished it visiting Sweden as Lutherans begin a year-long celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

As we prepare for the celebration of 50 years of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) next February, our thoughts turn to the events of that student weekend at The Ark and The Dove retreat centre near the US city of Pittsburgh where it all began.

A major reason the professors leading the retreat chose the theme of the Holy Spirit was their conviction in prayer of the importance of being open to the Spirit, which had taken them to a local Protestant prayer group where they had received prayer for Baptism in the Holy Spirit. This highlights the fact that the CCR has an important role to play in the work for Christian unity, because without the example, availability and support of Protestant, Pentecostal and New Independent Church groups, it is

unlikely the Renewal would have taken root and spread throughout the worldwide Catholic Church in the way that it did.

Holy Spirit & Unity

Pope Francis fully understands this and knows well how important Baptism in the Holy Spirit is in the work for Christian unity.

He has described the CCR as a current of grace, a sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. He has stated that it is inherently ecumenical, and that Baptism in the Spirit is for the whole Church. For him the key to the development of unity is to build strong personal relationships with a cross-section of leaders in other expressions of the body of Christ.

His aim is to meet, to pray, and then to work together. He has a high regard for the theologians who work with their opposite numbers in other churches to address the areas of theology, doctrine and pastoral practice where we are not in agreement - their work is essential. But at the same time he knows well that this will take time. He has even jokingly commented that the Lord may well have returned before some of it is finished!

Working together

So in the meantime we must get on with doing together as much as we possibly can, hence his frequent meetings to get to know leaders across a range of Pentecostal and New Independent Churches - meetings which do not always receive any publicity.

At the same time, he's establishing joint initiatives with the mainline Protestant denominations. After meeting with the leaders of the Orthodox church in Georgia, Pope Francis began this month welcoming Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby to Rome, where they signed a common declaration and sent out on mission together 19 pairs of Anglican and Catholic bishops from countries around the world. He's also taking a very positive line with Lutheran leaders as we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. So he's expecting us in the CCR to follow his example and to establish local initiatives across the whole body of Christ.

If we also follow his methods and build close personal relationships with all the local church leaders - sharing together, eating together and praying together regularly - we will certainly find ways to work together throughout the year instead of focusing all our efforts on the January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, important as that is.

So let's commit ourselves to this vital work, following the example and encouragement of Pope Francis and many other leaders across the Christian spectrum, recognising that the CCR owes a particular debt of gratitude to our charismatic brethren in many of the other churches and fellowships.

Charles Whitehead is chairman of Celebrate and of the CREW Trust.

A COMFORTING GIFT

By DINA MANANQUIL- DELFINO



One time I was asked to pray over someone in hospital. I was advised the patient had terminal illness. As I did not know her very well, after praying in English, I asked the Holy Spirit to lead me and pray in the special language He gifted me with. Tears streamed from the patient's eyes profusely and after the prayer she said it was the first time she experienced profound peace.

The gift of tongues sounds like a strange language, often "gibberish" to the listener, but if understood as a special gift to be used wisely, it has tremendous spiritual power.

When the Lord gave me the gift of tongues in May 2000, during a Life in the Spirit seminar, it was a spiritual bequest I received with humility, to be used responsibly. It was given after a year of being thrown into a wilderness period with God, through illness when I needed to repent of my sinful life.

In my forth-coming book, *Under His Wings*, (to be published by Philippine Times along with three authors, Asther, Lydia and Joel) I share a deeply personal testimony and how I was saved by the working power of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Thus when I received this charism, it was part of my salvation.

I do not deny that the gift of tongues is a controversial gift. Glossolalia or speaking in tongues was contentious on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. Today, millions of Christians speak in tongues. Some are found in Roman Catholic churches, some in liberal mainstream groups, some in conservative evangelical churches, and many in Pentecostal denominations. Even though tongues-speaking has such diverse participants, it is still perplexing to many (*Charisma News*). St. Paul wrote to the Church at Rome, "We know not what we should pray for as we ought." But just because I know how to pray doesn't mean that I know what to pray for as I ought. So St. Paul said, "the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with 'groanings' which cannot be uttered" (*Rom. 8:26*).

In my counselling ministry, visiting the sick and praying over them, this gift helps me bring myself and the person closer to God, reveals things unknown to us- things the natural mind knows nothing about. Healing takes place in many forms- forgiveness, miraculous intervention, spiritual deliverance, salvation, peaceful death.

One evening on my way home from work, while on a train, I got seated with a man who was deeply distressed. He was raging, screaming and cursing. No one attempted to negotiate with him. I sat terrified, my eyes closed and I asked the Holy Spirit to protect us. I prayed in tongues silently, but with urgency... After a few minutes of praying in the Spirit for him, he stopped, became calm and said "Why is God talking to me now? What does He want of me?" After a few stations he alighted, turned to me and said. "Thanks for praying for me! I am at peace now" I nearly fainted!

One morning in March 2014, when Melbourne was

battered by a fierce storm, as I was standing at a bus stop, the angry winds shook the waiting shed and I was so frightened that I could only pray in tongues to protect me and my loved ones wherever they were at that time. A few hours later, I received a call from my daughter and my grand-daughter, distraught and sobbing, that they nearly lost their lives as a 100 year old cypress tree along Pound Road, Hallam uprooted and was about to descend on their car. I am very certain it was a spiritual intervention that protected them.

This gift also tamed my tongue. In *James 3:8* "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison," Yielding our tongue to the Holy Spirit is a big step toward holiness; for if we can yield our tongue, we can yield any member of our body to God. Before I was given the gift of tongues, I used to swear a lot. When I received this gift, I can no longer continue defiling God.

This gift is not to be used as a weapon. We cannot employ it when we are angry with someone and pray that bad luck falls on them. The reverse happens. Speaking in tongues confirms the initial evidence of the Holy Spirit's infilling-peace, comfort and forgiveness come as result.

St. Paul wrote a great deal about tongues in his letter to the Corinthians. Jesus did not mince His words in *Mark 16:17*: "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues."

This gift and all other gifts (supernatural and ordinary) move us to share God's love freely. Love remains the core reason for these gifts. So my prayer every day is be a person of substance, where goodness prevails. When God gives us a special gift, He will look for the fruits (*Galatians 5:22*); otherwise we will only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

Ecumenical Endeavours

Ulf and Birgitta Ekman were in Melbourne as guests of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, which hosted The Great Discovery conference as part of its 50-year anniversary celebrations. As well as speaking at the conference, the Ekmans were also guests of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission, which hosted a conversation with the couple and representatives from various Christian denominations from around Melbourne.

The leadership of CCR has been developing close relationships with local church leaders over the past 5 years so it was a very enriching experience to be able to sit in conversation with members of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission along with our brothers and sisters in Christ listening to all parties express their view on the future of the church and Christianity. The one important area for all of us in our journey of understanding and working alongside each other is the need to lay aside our judgments and prejudices formed over many years of misunderstanding and to approach each other as part of the family of God.

FROM DEPRESSION TO MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

By MIRIAM JARVIS

Miriam Jarvis was considering suicide until the love of God transformed her life.

I've grown up in a household where depression was always present.

From before I was born my dad suffered with depression and later in my teenage years it crossed my own path.

After a series of difficult events within my family, alongside sitting GCSE exams and normal teenage changes, I found myself battling each day with depression, self-harm, suicidal thoughts and an eating disorder. At first it was all very secretive but with time I sought help.

After two years of community treatment I was admitted into a young person's psychiatric unit where I spent the next six months.

Towards the end of my stay in hospital I was allowed leave to attend a Catholic conference called Celebrate.

It was a two-day weekend event and it was there that I experienced the love of God for the first time. It was at Celebrate that healing began in my life and helped me find something to live for- God.

Feeling suicidal

Arriving at the venue for the weekend I felt frustrated, fed up, bored and with a plan to end my life once I got home.

Reluctantly I followed my Mum as she was walked me down to the group for older teenagers and young adults.

I pretended I felt ill and got to the point of begging her to let me stay with her.

I hated the idea that I would walk in and everyone would be full of joy and everyone would be talking about how great life is and how good their God is. That wasn't the life I knew.

I couldn't believe that there was anything worth hanging around for. I couldn't believe that life might just change for me.

All that healing stuff happened to the super-Christians - not bog standard and mentally-ill Miriam!

Darkness to light

In the first session we were split into groups of guys and girls and were able to ask for prayer. Within time I opened up to the few girls around me about what was happening in my life.

Within moments I was in tears as the girls all reached out to me and prayed over me. It was the most powerful and life-changing moment and I can't help but smile as I think back to it now.

These girls weren't condemning my actions, they weren't mocking me. Their first words weren't 'Miriam you really shouldn't self-harm. You should always turn to God.'

Instead they thanked God for my life. They prayed for

protection and for healing. They asked that God would make his presence known in my life. That I wouldn't feel alone or frightened.

The love I experienced that weekend from my peers and from God, changed my perspective on life. It was such an incredibly powerful experience and I fell in love with God that weekend.

A brighter future

Four years on, almost exactly to the day of the Celebrate weekend, I am in my final year of university training to be a mental health nurse. I always knew I wanted to be a nurse, but mental health was not on my list!

As a nursing student I love seeing the power that healing has in people's lives.

Not only the patient's life but their friends and their family too. Sometimes complete healing doesn't come, but the power of storytelling and listening is just as important to them and to me.

When you have experienced the healing work of God, you can't pretend that it didn't happen and go on living life quietly. God has given you a story, a testimony to share with others.

During my recovery I have been open and honest which has led to interviews for local news channels and newspapers. I have worked alongside services, schools and charities. God doesn't want me to keep quiet. He has placed used my experiences to bring Him glory. To show to others his mercy.

God is alive and He working. He is a healer and longs for each and every one of us to live in relationship with Him; even those of us who feel fearful, sinful, ashamed or weak. He loves us and is waiting with arms wide open for you. For me.

Don't ever feel like you are too dirty, too sinful, too much or too little for God. He will use everything you have experienced to bring his Kingdom here to Earth.

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Jesus, a Pilgrimage

BY JAMES MARTIN SJ

James Martin SJ is not only regarded as one of the most prolific and readable authors of religious material today but a gifted story-teller and regular commentator in the national and international media. *Jesus, A Pilgrimage* is an unforgettable book combining up-to-date biblical scholarship, personal real-life travel observations, profound spiritual reflections on the Christ of faith and interesting historical insights into the culture and environment of Galilee and Judea in Jesus' life and times.

Father Martin states quite simply that through Scripture, prayer and travel he is inviting his readers "to experience the Jesus whom he knows and loves, the person at the centre of his life as a priest". The Jesus that Father Martin presents us with is the result of his journey of the heart, wherein he desired to merge the Jesus of history with the Jesus who the mystery of faith has revealed to him. His book, resulting from a short visit to the Holy Land in the company of a fellow Jesuit, is in part: a deeply personal memoir; an historical documentation of Gospel stories; a perceptive observation of environmental sameness and also change in the Galilee and Judea of Jesus time; a source of inspiring spiritual reflections.

Father Martin's literary sensibility and competence is evident in all aspects of this remarkable book. The sequential organisation of material along the timeline of Jesus' life engages the reader in a faith inspiring journey. Basing his visit to each holy site established through tradition, Father Martin intertwines the anecdotes of his life-changing experiences with discussion on the Jesus of faith and of history, whom he encounters at each place he visited. He includes both positive and negative impressions while writing with clarity, simplicity and a joyful touch of humour.

Each chapter is organised to contain first a narration of his visit to allocation, for example "Nazareth" to experience "Jesus early life". These accounts contextualise information and understanding of the social expectations and environments surrounding Jesus ministry. Second, scripture exegesis informed by in-depth study and reading is applied to the Gospel narrative.

Glimpses of the author's personal life often surface in the reflections he present on Jesus' life and mission in the third part of each chapter. These meditations model

the Jesuit tradition of contemplation and are especially helpful as they draw the reader into spiritual engagement to discover transforming insights of faith. Father Martin clearly indicates throughout the book's engaging content which material is sourced from the Gospels, the Christian tradition, historical research and his own personal prayerful reflections.

Testimonies of praise and recommendation from Bishops, Biblical scholars and Christian authors introduce Father Martin's unique work. *Jesus, A Pilgrimage* affords the reader an experience of the humanity and divinity of Jesus brought about through a pilgrimage of faith to sacred sites in the Holy Land nurtured by reflection on material from the Gospels and contemplative prayer in the Jesuit tradition guided by Father Martin. A thoroughly enjoyable and spiritually enlightening book, written in a conversational manner. Highly recommended.

Available from Pauline Books and Media Melbourne and Brisbane or www.amazon.com

Also available in an 18-hour audio-book version.

Come Celebrate

Catholic Charismatic Renewal celebrates 50 years

Mass will be celebrated by
Archbishop Denis Hart
who will then bless the Jubilee Cross
to begin its journey over Victoria.

26 February 2017 | 2:00pm
St Patrick's Cathedral

Evangelisation and Healing Prayer Centres

Four regional Centres for Evangelisation and Healing Prayer are operating in Melbourne under the direction of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Appointments for prayer may be made by contacting the CCR Centre on 9486 6544. Psychological, Counselling and Physiotherapy Services that work in conjunction with healing prayer are available in the central and southern areas of Melbourne. Phone Miriam at the Centre for details.



St Leo's Prayer Group
315 Mason St, Nth Altona

Celebrates 40 yrs

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

You are invited to celebrate
with them
Thursday 30 March, 2017
Prayer and praise at 7:30 pm,
Mass at 8 pm, followed by Supper.

**St. Leo's Prayer Group
celebrates 40 years in 2017**

In 1977, Fr. Joe Grech, later, Bishop Joe Grech began the first prayer group in the foyer of the old Church of St. Leo's in Altona North.

The beginnings saw large numbers participating and on fire with enthusiasm. When Fr. Joe left for another appointment in the diocese, Fr. Victor Farrugia led and supported the group. Over the years as the numbers diminished and grew, the group continued to meet each Thursday evening.

From this group, within the last 20 years, leaders emerged and went on to found other prayer groups: Queen of peace in Altona Meadows; El Shaddai in Werribee; Yarraville prayer group and the Deer Park group led by Martin and Carmen.

We give thanks to all the priests, leaders and members over the forty years.

Our celebrant is Monsignor Franco Cavarra.

Enquiries: Lorraine Robinson RSJ. Ph: 9391 1230

dates for
2017

PROVIDING DYNAMIC
FAITH ENVIRONMENTS
WHERE YOUNG CATHOLICS
IN MELBOURNE GATHER
TO ENCOUNTER & BE
TRANSFORMED BY JESUS

One

**DATES FOR
TWENTY 17**

RALLIES (CITY-WIDE GATHERINGS)	RETREAT DAY (GOING DEEPER)
Jan 21	Sep 23
June 4	
Oct 27/28	

UPPER ROOM SESSIONS
(MID-WEEK WORSHIP NIGHTS)

Mar 7	Jul 11
Apr 4	Aug 15
May 16	Dec 12

 /onespiritaustralia

LIFT UP THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Want to make a difference in
the lives of others for eternity?
Now is your chance.



**To celebrate the great gift of the
Holy Spirit the Cross will be carried
to 40 parishes in 40 weeks to show
God's love for ALL people.**

As the Cross moves through your area join together
with all Christians in praise and prayer at the foot
of the Cross.

For more information visit our website
www.ccr.org.au/jubileecross



A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



In any intimate relationship people will often call each other by affectionate names or expressions. "Love", "dear", "honey" or "sweetheart" are some terms of endearment that now come to mind. So what then, is our term of endearment for God the Father, if any? If we have a personal and intimate relationship with God we may call Him *Abba Father*. For many though the reality is that *Abba Father* is just an expression or name without any true affection or meaning. Even though we may sing songs referring to *Abba Father* we still might not *know* Him as "*Abba*" even though we *know* of Him.

There may be many reasons behind this and each of us is called to explore the reasons for any inability to come to know the Father as Jesus knows the Father. I daresay that for some of it is an ongoing struggle. We may love Jesus and have encountered the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives but have yet to encounter the full beauty of knowing *Abba Father* as Jesus did. It may seem an inaccessible and impossible dream.

Don't give up. Jesus came so that we may come to know His *Abba* who is also our *Abba*. Keep seeking and searching for Divine Revelation of *Abba*. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Counsellor and is there to help us and to reveal to us the whole truth of who Father God is. Jesus said "...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (*John 14:26*). And again, Jesus said "The Father and I are one" (*John 10:30*). He also said "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

So you see, we have to persevere in prayer and supplication to understand this point. I know I struggled with it. But often we can be like the Apostle Philip and walk with Jesus and talk with Jesus and sing to Jesus and yet not know the Father. It almost seems comical doesn't it? But it's true nevertheless for so many people. For some it may be a continual struggle. But when and as we allow Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit the Comforter, to guide and lead us then our earnestness in prayer will be rewarded.

In our natural lives we have mothers and fathers albeit imperfect. It is the same in our spiritual lives. We have Mary as our mother and *Abba* as our Father. In the natural, mothers will often intercede to fathers on behalf of their children. In the spiritual, Mary also intercedes for us to God the Father.

Remember to call on her to help you so you too can come into an intimate relationship just as she had and remember that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, is your aid just as it was hers. *Abba* wants this relationship with you even more than you do. Our God is not a stone idol. He is first and foremost a God of relationship. Trust in Him.

A Special 'Thank you'

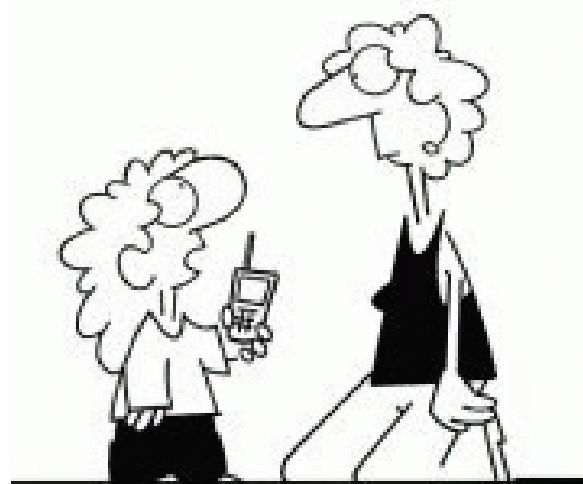
Friday 20 January was memorable day in more ways than one. The last day of the Conference and we were looking forward to the culmination of what had been a simply beautiful and Spirit filled week. Even the day itself set out to be perfect; the weather was just right and we were in great anticipation of what was to come as Mary picked us up at 7.30am.

Joking and laughing and sharing some chocolate and our own interpretation of the morning news in general we set off for International House on Royal Parade. We were almost there – one half block away – when we were involved in an accident. (We had already been warned that the evil one had other ideas about our day). It was quite a serious crash and each of us was hurt in different ways. Police, paramedics and people were all in attendance within seconds. Our leaders from CCR and members on their way to the Conference were on the scene and many, many prayers were said. Kindness and concern were in abundance to comfort us and we felt it as we were taken away to the hospital for treatment.

We thank and praise the Lord that today we are all well and recovering and looking forward to the beginning of our Prayer Group meetings in early February.

The kindness, phone calls and concern shown to us was simply beautiful. GOD IS GOOD. Once again it was brought home to us that no matter what happens the Lord is always with us and his love and mercy will shine through to overcome any adversity. On that morning, and ever since, his love and mercy has flowed like a torrent. No evil can ever last as the love of the Lord prevails.

Thank you to all the people who came to our aid especially with prayer. God bless you all. Psalm 30 has become our rock. Please read it.



"If I send my prayer as a text message, will I get a faster reply?"

MARK YOUR DIARIES...



Renewal Days

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

20 May, 19 August and 18 November 2017.

Our Lady Help of Christians Hall, 49 Nicholson St, East Brunswick.

NO PARKING IN SCHOOL GROUNDS. *Public Transport:* train to Parliament Station, tram no.96 along Nicholson St to stop no.22.

Visit by Fr Michael Barry

Fr Michael will be conducting healing Masses in Melbourne on the following dates.

Tuesday 21 March: Regional Mass at St Oliver's Parish, Pascoe Vale.

Wednesday 22 March: St Agatha's Parish, Cranbourne.

Thursday 23 March: Our Lady Help of Christians, Narre Warren.

Friday 24 March: St Francis Xavier, Frankston.

50th Anniversary Mass

Sunday 26 February

On Sunday 26 February Archbishop Hart will offer a Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral in celebration for 50 years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Praise and worship will begin at 2pm and the Mass at 2.30pm. Please invite everyone to come along and celebrate with us, especially any past members of CCR.

Can't make it to a Healing Prayer Centre during the week? These are dates for 2017.

Then you are welcome to come to the Open House Healing Ministry Days 2017:
Saturday's 25 March, 24 June, 23 September and 25 November. 9.30am - 2.30pm at the CCR Centre.

CHARISMATIC MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Third Sunday	12 Noon	St Benedict's, Burwood
HEALING MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Each Sunday	7.00pm	Holy Family, Doveton (Ministry after)
First Saturday	2.30pm – 5pm Adoration followed by Healing Mass	St Peter's, 38 Guinane Ave, Hoppers Crossing
First Sunday	2.30pm	St Peter Chanel, Deer Park
	3.00pm Praise & Worship, 3.30pm Mass	St Christopher's Parish, 5 Doon Ave, Glen Waverley
	5.00pm	St Benedicts, Burwood. Prayer Ministry after Mass, Praise Rally at 7.00pm
	5.30pm Praise, Worship, Adoration 6pm Mass, followed by Prayer Ministry	St Marks, Fawkner
First Monday	7.00pm Praise, 7.30pm Mass	St Joseph's, Springvale Phone 9547 9557
First Friday	8.00pm	St Patrick's Parish, Rovira House, 5 Dalny Road Murrumbeena
	8.15pm	St Peter's Clayton
First Wednesday	7.30pm	St Peter & Paul, East Doncaster
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	St Mary's, Castlemaine
Third Thursday	7.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry St, Eltham
Third Sunday	5.30pm	St Francis Xavier, Frankston
	5.30pm Praise, 6.00pm Mass	Good Samaritan Chapel, 1-29 Southern Cross Drive, Roxburgh Park
Fourth Tuesday	10.00am	St Joseph's, Chelsea
First Friday	10.00am	Holy Hour For Priests St Anthony's, Noble Park

St Peter's, East Bentleigh - Healing Masses: Monday's 6 June & 20 November with Fr Francis.