

"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

The Cross is moving

By CHRISTINE GRECH



As the coordinators met for their regular prayer session to discern what was on God's mind for the fiftieth anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal, it became evident we firstly needed to go out to the market place and secondly to be united with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The means to that end is the journey of the Jubilee Cross throughout Victoria.

I was overwhelmed by the task before us but had to jump right in as I had charge of the Northern Region which was the first Region through which the Jubilee Cross would travel. The leaders in the Northern Region were equally overwhelmed as we discussed and planned the timetable, legal requirements, responsibilities, and possibilities of this venture. Initially our leaders were a bit reserved but once they caught the vision there was no stopping them. The creativity, enthusiasm and commitment of the Northern Region leaders has been very encouraging and has generated 'new life' for the leaders as they took charge of their areas.

We prayed for the healing of the land and all who used the Hume Highway as we travelled from Melbourne to our first stop in Shepparton, where Fr Joe Taylor gathered with the different pastoral groups in the parish to thank God for this current of grace and for the conversion of all hearts.

The Jubilee Cross has now travelled 330 kilometres, from Shepparton via Bendigo in the Sandhurst Diocese. It came into the Melbourne Diocese at Castlemaine where it was received by Fr Wahid into the Parish of St Mary's. Various activities were planned, some including the school children. The Jubilee Cross was walked through the streets, in obedience to the discerned direction of the Lord to "go out!"

It is interesting to note that we gathered more than prayers along the way! Despite having provided ties and bubble wrap for the Jubilee Cross's travel, we are

also collecting blankets, as vast distances require road transport, including a horse float!

At Sunbury it was received at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and walked through the main road to St Ann's, where it was placed prominently in the foyer and received with songs of praise.

From Sunbury the Jubilee cross moved to St Oliver's in Pascoe Vale, where it remained in the church during the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. After the Day of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Jubilee Cross was carried through the streets to Coburg Lake where there was also a celebration of the Kurdish New Year. Motorists "beeped" and cheered as they encountered the Cross.

From Coburg the Jubilee Cross visited Fawkner North, West Preston and Moreland as it made its way to Moonee Ponds on the back of a ute fondly known as "the donkey". From here it moved to St Christopher's in Airport West, St John Bosco in Niddrie and St Peter's East Keilor where after 9.15am mass, the Way of the Cross began accompanied by Fr Sebastian PP, and 25 parishioners, to the Greek Orthodox Church, with each of the churches hosting one of the Stations finishing at St Monica's, Moonee Ponds by 3pm – a journey of 12 kilometres. As it was Holy Week the Cross was central to a Passover Meal at St Monica's Prayer Group in the evening. **Continued on page 8**



For enquiries about Catholic Charismatic Renewal, its events or prayer groups visit the:

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The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is
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Don't give up on true love

On Easter Sunday morning our joy at the resurrection of Jesus was clouded by the news that 126 people, including at least 80 children, were killed in a suicide bomb attack on an evacuation convoy in Syria as they were being transported to a safer area.

A wounded girl, who said she lost her four siblings in the blast, told *Al-Manar* TV from her hospital bed that children who had been deprived of food for years in the two villages were approached by a man in the car who told them to come and eat potato chips. She said once many had gathered, there was an explosion which tore some of the children to pieces.

The next day we saw for the first time a murder played over *Facebook* as it was being committed. An innocent man walking home from the grocery store was shot by someone who simply wanted to kill. Closer to home we read and hear daily of bashings and people losing their lives due to violence emanating from hatred. Coldness of heart, along with unforgiveness, is the great sin of our time.

We all are saddened when we hear these reports. I could not help but reflect on the words from *Matthew's Gospel* (24:12) – words he puts on the lips of Jesus in what is known as the Olivet Discourse: "Because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold." These words were part of Jesus' response to the disciples' question, "What will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?"

These murderous actions show no love at all. A person would have to be "cold," without feeling, to do such things. 2 *Timothy* warns of distressing times because "people will be lovers of themselves,... without self-control, brutal" (3:2). It could be said that we are seeing this today as people seem to have less hesitation about terrorizing and taking the lives of their fellow human beings. Under the grip of a merciless narcissism, too many are losing their humanity.

However, *Matthew* 24:12 is not speaking about such people; these words are spoken directly to Jesus' disciples. Jesus uses the word *agape* for the love that grows cold. This spiritual, godly love, is inaccessible to those driven by the spirit of this world. *Agape* love is the kind that is "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (*Romans* 5:5). Jesus is giving a warning that as the wickedness of the world escalates it will sap the spiritual fervour out of his own people, causing their love to grow cold.

The consequences of this are that people in God's Church will love him and each other less. We will ease off in our prayer and gossip about our Church and our friends, taking advantage of their kindness and forgiveness, betraying them when convenient, and judging them mercilessly even for their very minor faults. None of these things express godly love; they all depict love growing cold.

Let's not give up on love, especially the unconditional love we know in God the Father. Grasp the magnitude of his love for us in giving his Son, Jesus, to die for us. Unconditional love is a force beyond imagining for turning evil into goodness, reconciling families and melting the heart of stone. The practice of godly love - *agape* - is the most urgent need today. As we prepare for Pentecost let us pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us with the fire of his love so that we might share it with all people.

Lenyce Willason



Michelle Moran, the chairperson of the English NSC and the President of ICCRS, reflects on what she feels the Holy Spirit is saying about the future of the CCR.

One of the blessings of having an International ministry is that I have an opportunity to see the broad picture of things, to see what the Lord is doing across the nations. Sometimes there are patterns or recurring words that keep emerging in very diverse situations. Last July I was in Rome for a Jubilee preparation meeting, with charismatic leaders from around the world. One of the words we received quite strongly was from Psalm 24:7 'O gates lift high your heads; grow higher ancient doors; let him enter, the king of glory'. The following day one of our members was late for the meeting so he decided to go to the chapel to pray. To his surprise, the big doors were closed and appeared locked. He decided to just pray outside. As he was praying he suddenly heard a noise and one of the doors began to open. He went to investigate. There was no one there. What had seemed so tightly closed and locked, now, after prayer was freely opening.

Then I went to Melbourne, Australia at the beginning of this year, the same word, Psalm 24:7 began to emerge again. It seems that the Lord is encouraging us to widen our horizons, to gain a new perspective. There is a danger that our old spectacles simply magnify our short-sightedness. We need a new clarity of the Holy Spirit to see what the Lord is doing in this out day. In this season of Jubilee let's be expectant that the Lord will open doors that have been previously closed and let's not be too surprised if they are doors that we are least expecting to be opened. The Holy Spirit is full of surprises.

Whenever I come to Rome I seem to be wearing too many clothes. It is natural to dress for the environment where we are from, but the Lord is bringing us to a new place. The danger is that we can carry on behaving in the way we did in previous times. This new season requires a different way of thinking and acting. We need to be especially attentive and sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We need to move in the way the Spirit leads today and not imagine that the terrain is the same as the road we have travelled thus far.

During our preparations for the Jubilee Celebrations in Rome we assumed that the vigil of Pentecost would be in St Peter's Square, where there have been many encounters with the popes in the history of Catholic Charismatic Renewal. To our surprise, however, we received a message from the Holy Father saying he did

not want the vigil to be held in St Peter's Square. Instead he suggested that the venue be the Circus Maximus, an open space in the heart of the city, used for many secular concerts and events. This ancient site, however, is also where many Christians were martyred in the early church. By choosing this venue, the Pope is being incredibly prophetic. He is encouraging us to move out from the safe confines of the Church, the secure walls of St Peter's Square and to situate ourselves in the heart of the city where the whole of Rome will be aware that we are there.

During the past year, the Pope has frequently visited Christians from a wide variety of backgrounds to come to the vigil at Pentecost. Certainly, this celebration of our Jubilee will not be an in-house party. It is surely no coincidence that this is also the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and also the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Let's be open and expectant that the Lord will do new wonders this year. That, from the historic place of martyrdom in the heart of the city, as the Holy Father prays together with brothers and sisters from all backgrounds, nations and denominations there will be a new Pentecost in the Church and in the world!

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Editor: *It has been a wonderful confirmation for the Coordinators of CCR Melbourne to read Michelle's words and the reasoning behind the Pope's choice of venue for the Pentecost vigil. One year ago, the Lord gave us the words of Psalm 24:7 and we have faithfully prayed and waited on the Lord. We have faced many closed doors as we have tried to follow the Lord's directive to 'go out into the city' to have the final celebration of the Jubilee Cross, but, praise God, those doors are beginning to open!*

STARTING GATE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,
— COLOSSIANS 2:6 NIV

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.

Nurturing future leaders

By JUDE MUSCAT

*“True
leaders are
gate-crashers
so they
can forge
pathways.”*



Jude Muscat

We all know that good leadership is essential in all areas of human life. If we want people to be motivated and productive we need to have inspiring leaders. Of course, in each area of human activity motivation and productivity may take on different meanings. Concision forces us to assume that we know what we are talking about and so we move straight to the subject matter.

Creating an Environment

Lk 6, 12-13 captures an important image and shows that the twelve were chosen from among the disciples. Jesus first created an environment then chose the twelve. If the next generation of leaders (or any other gift) are to be effective and charismatic, the present environment is to be Spirit-filled. Leadership is simply one of the services within a Spirit-filled environment where great things are happening and people are encouraged and given the freedom to exercise charismatic gifts in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spotting Leaders

It is commonly believed that the twelve Jesus chose would have been the least possible contenders for a leadership job. I am not too keen about this theory since it reduces human nature to nothing. We know that Grace does not destroy human nature, but perfects it. So, Jesus would have already seen the twelve, he would have analysed their action, their fervour, their intelligence, and their potentiality. He did not stop there; Luke made it clear that Jesus “went up on a mountain to pray.” Our good hunch is not enough; the last word should necessarily be given to the Holy Spirit. A nearness to God (the mountain) is essential for present leaders when discerning and looking out for potential leaders.

Leadership may be a skill but experience taught us that many leaders share similar traits. It is these traits that we have to identify. In this short article, I will concisely limit myself to the most important spiritual traits that can identify a good leader.

Community builder: A good leader is always an affable person who can bring people together, hold them together and shows great respect to all.

Motivated by love: Many people can manifest a lot of stamina and a lot of creative attributes, but they are not always motivated by love towards the community.

Prayer: It is extremely easy to spot a person who has a strong and committed prayer life. A person who prays shows a great desire for God rather than a desire to belong somewhere or a desire to ‘do’ things for God.

An inclination towards study and truth: Since a leader is expected to lead, to spur and to mentor, an inclination towards deeper study, reflection, meditation and a search for the truth are essential. Surfing the waves is not for people who want to change the world.

A genuine charismatic approach: In simpler words ‘led by the Holy Spirit’. Charismatic gifts have to be apparent and manifested in the power of the Holy Spirit. A leader within the CCR must not only use one’s gifts powerfully, but looks for other gifts and motivates people to use them.

A person of Authority: We read in *Mt 7:29* that Jesus taught as ‘one who had authority’. This is the underlying concept of authority and surely not being despotic or authoritarian. A person of authority must show a good degree of humility and must have an open heart, an open mind and an open ear. Potential leaders must be approachable, receiving people with love, joy and mercy.

A person of impetus and vision: Such people are intent on what is essential. They do not just react to things happening around them but they push toward a goal and move others with them. They are not people of empty words, but their action is in sync with their ideas and visions.



How to Nurture

First and foremost, we need to establish good relationships with these people. Extreme care is needed here because it is very easy to create division within a community if a person or a group of persons are perceived as 'favourites'. Calling people into leadership is not moving them up the scale, but rather helping them move into humble service and bringing out the gift bestowed on them.

While keeping a watchful eye for the traits discussed above, we need to show trust and provide them with opportunities to take on roles of responsibility. These roles give a lot of feedback and help us monitor the progress.

When we are nurturing leaders, we are collaborating with God. He gifts his people and we help them reach maturity. God may have different plans for them. For this reason, we have to delegate different roles to them.

As long as division is not created or pain is not caused, we have to give them the freedom to solve problems and manage things according to their abilities. True leaders are gate-crashers so they can forge pathways where they do not exist. Do not burden them with old strategies, as long as a good balance between the old and the new is maintained.

Mentoring includes ongoing training and so we need to provide good programmes and teachings. Open and honest discussion with potential leaders is essential. We must recognise their achievements and show appreciation and praise where it is due. On the other hand, we have to point out mistakes, admonish and correct accordingly.

Jude Muscat is the National Coordinator of CCR in Malta and a member of the ICCRS Council.

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Testimonies of those carrying the Jubilee Cross from St Christopher's Airport West to St John Bosco's Niddrie

On Tuesday, 4 April, my wife and I participated in the "Carrying of the Cross Ceremony" from St. Christopher's Church. The ceremony began at 7:30 a.m. and comprised of about 25 people. I was very impressed with their devotion; perseverance and piety. What I was particularly impressed with was a young girl whose one thong broke soon after the start but she walked all the way to John Bosco Church on one bare foot. Her perseverance deeply touched me as an Agnostic.

Raymond

Few beautiful thoughts about the precious moments I spent with Our Blessed Jesus, when the Holy Cross came at St. Christopher's Church, on the 3 April. I am so grateful that I was there to adore Our Lord Jesus, HE deserves ALL the Glory and Praise. It was time for me, to meditate in Our Lord's presence. Time to allow myself, to be away from worldly ways, and feel HIS Holy presence, HIS holy peace and HIS holy love. Love that heals our wounded hearts.

Thank you, Jesus, for choosing those moments for me, to spend time with you. Thank you, Jesus, for many blessings and graces, that you poured upon the world through every one's prayers. Many thanks.

Your sister in Christ Jesus,

Elizabeth

What joy I felt on the morning of Tuesday 4 April to be carrying the Jubilee Cross from St Christopher's parish through the streets to the church of St John Bosco when that joy turned to feeling an emptiness, unclean and sinful. The realisation (and peace) came to me that Jesus Christ came to take my sins upon himself to the cross and not just for me but, for EVERYONE. Praise GOD.

Angelo

I chose to walk the way with the Cross as a follower of Christ; meditating along the path we went through as we contemplated the mysteries and prayed the rosary.

While we walked with the cross, I prayed for the cross bearers who willingly offered their hands and worked as a team to relieve others. The children were very respectful and prayed fervently. Onlookers took photographs, some bowed their heads while others stopped in their path as a mark of respect. I am sure many were touched even though we were only few that participated and proclaimed our love for the cross and what it stands for: LOVE.

Dora

THERE'S NO APP FOR JOY

By KATHLEEN SWIFT

Social media manager Kathleen Swift on why Simon Sinek's viral video about Millennials speaks truth about joy.

If you haven't seen it already, marketing guru Simon Sinek's video about the "Millennial" generation has become a huge hit on social media.

In the video, which you can watch below, Sinek says: "The best case scenario is an entire population growing up and going through life and never really finding joy." In attempting to answer "The Millennial Question", Sinek speaks prophetically into how all generations can be challenged to be more present to God and to each other. He describes Millennials as "a generation with lower self-esteem than previous generations, who don't have the coping mechanisms to deal with stress".

Technology addicts

Sinek describes how many young people have become addicted to technology, and to its numbing effects rather than relying on friendships. Comparing it to alcoholism, Sinek says: "When faced with significant stress, they will not turn to a person, they will turn to a device."

When faced with significant stress, who or what are we turning to? God created humanity for relationship, primarily with Himself, but also with each other.

Social media has us more connected than ever, and yet has helped form a generation of the loneliest people. We "share" constantly, yet fail to find anyone with whom we can really share, so we find it difficult to form deep and meaningful relationships.

Our desire to be seen and heard has us 'counting the likes' and rating ourselves on how many followers we have, or by how many people are jealous of the meal we ate. We often lose sight of the One who always sees us and hears us, and knows our hearts.

Being present

"Real relationships with others, with all the challenges they entail, now tend to be replaced by a type of internet communication which enables us to choose or eliminate relationships at whim, thus giving rise to a new type of contrived emotion which has more to do with devices and displays than with other people and with nature." *Pope Francis, Laudato Si: 47*

God's call to relationship means being present to the Holy Spirit and to the person that you are placed in front of, allowing ourselves to be actually seen and heard and to listen and learn from each person we meet. This being present is being too often exchanged for the world's call to be always available.

A few times in the last few years I have found myself out and about on my own, without a working phone. This idea of always being available is suddenly challenged, and if you're like me and have found yourself in this situation, you may have felt a strange sense of freedom. "If you don't have the phone, you just kind of enjoy the world," says



Sinek. This joy can lead us into a greater awareness of God in the world, in nature, in the every day happenings around us. It is impossible to follow St. Paul's instruction to 'Pray unceasingly' (1 Thess 5:17) without looking up and around, tuning in to what God is already doing.

Put your phone away

You may have looked around on a tube, or even in a park, and had a jolting realisation that everyone around you is staring mindlessly at their phones, completely separate from one another.

This dystopian scare might be enough to give you the resolve to put away your phone more often. However, as Sinek observes, "we cannot trust our willpower, we have to remove the temptation".

The challenge that he gives us is to not take our phones to dinner, to not take our phones to bed, and to challenge our addictive habits everyday. Don't get me wrong, I love social media. You don't get the job as a "social media manager" without loving it.

But I also am aware that this can interfere with my real friendships and relationships, and can get in the way of that true call by God to presence. I know many of us use apps for our prayer, or use social media to share the gospel or connect with faraway friends, and Sinek explains that we can't allow these justifiable uses of technology to lead us into irresponsible or addictive use of technology.

Personally, I use an app that tells me 'my addiction score' and keeps me accountable to how often I'm unconsciously checking my phone. I have started charging my phone away from my bed so I can't check my phone in the night when I can't sleep, or first thing in the morning.

What can we do to be more able to ask this question: "What is God doing here and now, what is the Holy Spirit teaching me in this moment, and how can I be more a part of it?"

"You must live beautifully and not allow the spirit of the world make you forget that you have been created for greater things - to love and to be loved." (Mother Teresa)

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Kathleen Swift is a student who also works as a social media manager. She is also a member of Sion Youth and the ASCENT discipleship programme.

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Silence: the surrender in sacrifice

Martin Scorsese's new movie Silence, about Jesuit missionaries in Japan, asks us to tread the line of doubt and faith and to never be sure we've found safe footing, says Rachel Mannix.

Be in no doubt, film director Martin Scorsese's new Hollywood adaptation of *Silence*, the 1966 novel by Shūsaku Endō, is painful.

Both the depictions of physical torture and the utter torment of impossible moral decisions inflicted on 17th century Japanese Christians can be at times heart-wrenchingly unbearable. It is not a stretch for the mind to think of our brothers and sisters in Africa and the Middle East in these moments. There is a reason though why Padre Rodrigues, a Jesuit missionary from Lisbon, is the protagonist of the tale and not these brave, martyred villagers.

While they fit our idea of what it is to die for Christ, Endō and Scorsese have chosen a more subtle focus by exploring the spiritual journey of several apostate priests.

"What you must do, do quickly."

The danger of drawing a parallel between Jesus and ourselves in our suffering is that we lose sight of him as our Saviour.

For Rodrigues, played by British actor Andrew Garfield, to suffer for God is to be like Christ. Rodrigues believes that the salvation of others is his own cross to bear. If Rodrigues, sent to free persecuted Christians, is Jesus then Kichijiro, his pitiful Japanese guide, is Judas Iscariot. Rodrigues condemns him with a fearful mistrust and in his heart begs his betrayer to carry out the betrayal quickly, as he imagines Jesus did in the gospels.

We can be forgiven for understanding the words that passed from our Lord to Judas at the Last Supper to come from desperation for his trial to begin and be done with as soon as possible.

But what Scorsese astutely draws out from the novel is that instead this was an act of immense love. It wasn't to minimise Jesus' own suffering but to release Judas from the burden of guilt: "What you must do, do quickly". (John 13:27).

The surrender in sacrifice

Silence is not the story of a noble missionary bringing salvation to a foreign people, or being rewarded with martyrdom for his unwavering faith under relentless pressure.

But when Rodrigues reaches breaking point, it is Jesus that meets him with tenderness and calls him to let go of his struggle, because the purpose of Christ's death is to shoulder burdens for us. Deeper than that, letting go is the ultimate self-sacrifice for Rodrigues because it requires renouncing his faith. It is not his steadfast and public declaration of his Catholic beliefs that will save the Japanese but the relinquishing of it, and that surrender into lifelong silence is ultimately a sign of his trust in God.

The concept is nuanced and I wonder if it will be lost on people who have not intimately experienced the loving nature of Christ or fully understood His sacrifice of love.

Nonetheless the poignant lack of soundtrack, the breathtaking landscapes and the challenging yet inspiring displays of courage are a beautiful and truthful rendering of this profound novel.

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Continued from page 1

Included in the Moonee Valley journey were visits to St Martin of Tours in Avondale Heights and St Mary's Ascot Vale.

A solemn ceremony was part of the St Francis at Mill Park handover. An ecumenical prayer service was organised that included Stations of the Cross. The school children were invited to place their prayer petitions in the base of the cross at morning mass.

From Mill Park the Jubilee Cross was transported to Greensborough via St Damians, where the Mass concluding the movement of the cross through the Northern region was celebrated by Bishop Terry Curtin and Fr Steven Rigo. The music ministry by "Allure" enhanced our celebration.

The Lord has surprised us in many ways along the journey through the North in the comments of people and the hearts that have been touched. Some of their testimonies can be read on page... One prophecy that has stayed in my mind is that even the unborn will be touched as their mothers looks upon this cross.

The Jubilee Cross has now moved to the Eastern Region where its first stop is at St Clements of Rome in Bulleen with Mgr Franco Cavarra.





Step into the Light

By DINA MANANQUIL-DELFINO

“Your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.” *Isaiah 58:10*

A friend once called me, distressed that she is in a horrible place - she seems to be losing everything due to her alcohol addiction - home, family, friends, work and health. She is in deep mess.

I prayed for her and without sounding unkind, I shared that sometimes being in a horrible place is the best place for us to be, for there, once we admit to our errors, and in humility, the good Lord can start working on us.

It reminded me of the many “horrible, dark” places I had been in - and in hindsight, I can only thank God for not giving up on me and helping me learn important lessons as I crawled my way through every one of these shady periods of my life. They were painful moments but at the end of each of them, the liberating feeling of being healed.

I loved watching TFC Healing Eucharist. In one of the homilies of Father Gomez, he taught about being salt and light to the earth. He explained that in our “multiverse” (no longer universe, as more new galaxies are discovered), 95% of what surrounds is darkness (dark matter and dark energy); only 5% is light.

I started to wander about the significance of this in our personal lives. Is it the reason why Jesus preached on the theme of light and darkness all the time? Fr Gomez illustrated how we can exacerbate darkness around us - when we become negative, critical, evil, carnal - these seem to be manifestations of the dark energy that surrounds us; when we become peace-makers and apply the character that Jesus advocates, we are dispelling this darkness. Is this also the premise that Heaven is described as a place of eternal light, compared to earth where frightening shadows follow us most of the time?

My grand-daughter Eva, aged 7 has always expressed fear of the dark. Often I counsel her about it - prayers will dispel these fears. And so we pray together before she sleeps - and indeed she sleeps quite well through the night. Prayers chase away darkness too.

An incident involved my hubby recently. He gets up to go to the bathroom but does not bother to turn on the light as the sudden glare awakens him. However, once he walked to the bathroom in the dark, he bumped his head against a post and cut his forehead. I warned him that darkness can be dangerous - we need the light to guide us. At least now he uses a flashlight. In whatever form the light comes - candle, flashlight, bulb, we need the light to see. Darkness cannot conquer light unless the light is diminished or departs.

In our spiritual life, Jesus calls us to be light and salt of the earth. He knows there is a lot of darkness around. When we discern that darkness is about to descend on us, on our loved ones, family members or community, through

disunity, disharmony, intrigue, quarrels, rage, revenge, negativity, evil, bigotry, let us step up and dispel the gloom and doom through our loving prayers and encouragement of one another, asking the Holy Spirit to vanquish the spell of evil.

Andy Otto in his *“Ignatian Spirituality”* shares: *“God is always calling us to the light, transforming what feels like bleak emptiness into a joy-filled abiding with God, a divine light that the darkness cannot overcome.”*

Darkness and light cannot occupy the same space. We can choose which one will inhabit us.

How can we be salt

By KRYSS HERRMANN

Recently I went to Coburg to go to my bank and get my watch repaired. I had my granddaughter with me. When we left the bank, I noticed a man sitting on the footpath with his head down holding a sign that read **“HOMELESS, HUNGRY AND HOPEFUL.”** Wow that was confronting! He looked like every other ‘rough sleeper’ but yet there was something different about him; it was just that one word on his sign: **‘HOPEFUL!’**

I walked across the road and on the other side was a ‘Piazza’ where people were having their lunch, meeting friends etc. My granddaughter said, “Nana can we sit here and have a babycino and a doughnut?” “Of course!” I replied. We ordered and sat down at one of the tables. I watched with joy as my granddaughter struggled to bite into the doughnut, which was way too big for her mouth!

Even though I was concentrating on her, so that she didn’t make a mess; I couldn’t stop thinking about that ‘sign.’ “Homeless, Hungry and Hopeful.” The guilt was overwhelming! We are a ‘Hopeful and Expectant’ people:

We all live in Hope that God will grant us his mercy and grace. No matter whom we are! I kept asking myself where I would be if I didn’t have “Hope?”

I went back into the cafe and ordered some food and coffee. I then took my granddaughter by the hand and we walked back across the road to where the man was still sitting. He hadn’t moved; his head was down and the ‘sign’ was still in his lap. “Homeless, Hungry and Hopeful.” My granddaughter went up to the man and said: “Excuse me” and the man looked up, she gave him the food and the drink. He looked up at us and his eyes were wide open. The look in his deep blue eyes was **‘HOPE’** and gratitude! He smiled and thanked us for being kind. I replied, “May God Bless you” and he replied, “May God bless you too!”

My prayer every night is to thank God that by His grace I have a bed to sleep in, a house to live in and food to eat!

We don’t have to save the world, but what’s important is that we take our core skills and stretch them across all four areas of life to serve the body of Christ. It’s just as important to use your skills and talents in volunteer work as it is in your career.”

This poem was written by Julie Spillane. Julie was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer early in January this year. She was a loving person, rich in character, who was always thinking of others before herself. She surrendered herself into God's hands and went home to be with him early March. These are the real feelings of a person with great insight and most of all a remarkable woman who possessed a very strong faith.

Cancer

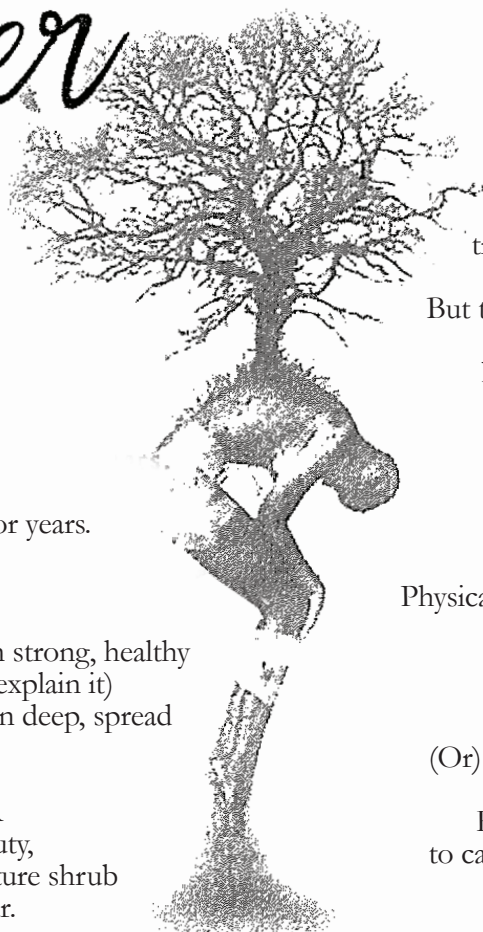
How do I feel?
CANCER
SHOCK
PAIN, more pain 24/7

What is CANCER?
Doctor explains it.

Not very nice!
We've been living together for years.
It kept quiet.
Until now.

It (the CANCER) has grown strong, healthy
(now that's a funny word to explain it)
Like a tree, it's dug its roots in deep, spread
from one organ to the next.

If I could see this CANCER
It would be a picture of beauty,
Like a Rhododendron, a mature shrub
in full blossom, rich in colour.
Healthy, deep pink or purple.



While it grows and thrives,
the host, (that's me)
starts to shrivel.
Weight drops off me.
My mind and spirit
try to support the physical body.

But the physical me keeps changing.
Quickly. Pain increases,
Nausea, tiredness increases too.
Sleep is less and quality lacking.

The future????

The CANCER wins.
It claims the host.
Physical me is a goner, has died/gone.
The mind caves in too.
The spirit stops fighting.
And calms.

(Or) perhaps it's the spirit that wins,
and not the CANCER.
For my spirit has used this time,
to calm, to heal, to be close to God.

Julie Spillane
February 2017

Growing in grace as a woman of God.

**Come along to hear Hilary Back share practical
tips on living with the person of the Holy spirit.**

Ladies Day - 6 July 2017

Morning Tea & Soup provided. BYO lunch to share.
CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street, North Fitzroy.
10.00am - 3.30pm

The Sri Lankan Charismatic Prayer Groups have invited Cyril John to visit Melbourne

7 - 9 July 2017

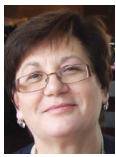
A two day program is being devised and will be confirmed shortly, however, it will consist of a Friday evening Prayer Group Meeting followed by two days of teaching on Saturday 8 July and Sunday 9 July.

Cyril John is the past Vice President of the ICCRS Council and Chairman of the ICCRS Finance Committee and currently heads up the International Intercession Training Courses for ICCRS.

All members of Catholic Charismatic Renewal are invited to come along.

A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



During Lent, Holy Week and the celebrations of the Easter Triduum this year, I have been particularly reflecting on the power of the Cross and Resurrection. I have felt the nearness of the Cross coming to mind again and again. Not as something heavy or tiresome but as something that has just made its presence felt. It's been there as a reminder to lean on it and to ponder most especially on the power of the Resurrection.

You all know that the Jubilee Cross is well on its journey around our Parishes. Undoubtedly, the Lord is already at work and going ahead of the journey. There will be interesting stories happening along the way that will be a wonderful reminder in years to come of how the Lord draws people to himself. At a welcoming Mass for the Cross in my own Parish the visiting priest reminded everyone that "there is no Resurrection without the Crucifixion". What a powerful image that is. It has somehow remained ingrained in me.

Anyway, that image of the Cross and the Resurrection, which displayed the awesome power of God has in some mysterious way (I say mysterious because it's like an insight not of my own making) impacted on the way that I look at the messiness in the world today with different eyes. It's made me look beyond the messiness. Almost as if scales have lifted off my eyes. I attribute this to the awesome power of the Cross and Resurrection. I recently saw a documentary on the Shroud of Turin wherein the various scientists interviewed described that power as akin to the explosion of a nuclear bomb. What an awesome God! The Lord risen from death to new life has given me a heightened awareness of this extraordinarily unexpected event that has touched the lives of so many people over the centuries and to this day and will, no doubt, continue until He comes again and brings about a new Heaven and a new Earth!

Yes, there's so much mess in today's world that it can lead to discouragement and disillusionment with God. It would be easy to lose focus on the power and effect of the Cross especially the resultant Resurrection. This same power is still at work today in so many ways. Nothing can stop that power! St Paul spoke of the power of the Cross and said, "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." *1Cor 15:14* Paul preached an all-powerful Christ!

We mustn't lose sight of the victorious power of Christ otherwise we can tend to despair. Worse still we can become lukewarm. The Lord in *Revelations 3:16 NIV* said 'So, because you are lukewarm-neither hot nor cold-I am about to spit you out of my mouth.' May the good Lord preserve us from lukewarmness!

Good and bad. Love and hate. All require effort. Indifference however, saps energy and is deadlier than death. So, it's important to remember the victory of the Cross and the new life that Christ's resurrection has won for me and you and, indeed, for the whole world. Ultimately, it's the power of the Cross and Resurrection that will triumph!! As it says in *1Peter 3:15* "...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." The hope and answer is the power of the resurrection of Jesus of which we are partakers!

Location dates for the Jubilee Cross

EASTERN REGION

21/05/2017 - Croydon

Sacred Heart, 35 Wicklow Avenue,
Croydon, VIC

24/05/2017 - Burwood East

Crossway Baptist Church, 2 Vision Drive,
Burwood East, VIC

24/5/17 (Late PM) - Burwood

Crossway Baptist Church, 2 Vision Drive,
Burwood East

25/05/2017 - Ringwood North

Holy Spirit Parish, 120 Oban Road,
Ringwood North, VIC

28/05/2017 - Wheelers Hill

Good Shepherd, 34 Academy Avenue,
Wheelers Hill, VIC

4/06/2017 - Syndal

St Christopher's - 5 Doon Avenue,
Glen Waverley, VIC

4/6/2017 - Vermont

Stairway Church Whitehorse, 171 Rooks Road,
Vermont

5/6/17 - Surrey Hills

YWAM (Youth with a Mission) - 1 Kent Road,
Surrey Hills, VIC

11/06/2017 - Bennetswood

St Scholastica's Parish, 348 Burwood Highway,
Burwood, VIC

FINAL MASS FOR EASTERN REGION

18/06/2017 - Burwood

St Benedict's, 299 Warrigal Rd,
Burwood, VIC

25/06/2017 - Doveton

Holy Family Parish, 100 Power Road,
Doveton, VIC

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Like a kid at Christmas, Wally wanted ALL the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor 12:8-10**

MARK YOUR DIARIES...



Renewal Days

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

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.

Ladies Day

Thursday 6 July

Special guest – Hilary Back.

Hilary will share practical tips, stories and encounter on how we can understand and live with the person of the Holy Spirit.

CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street Fitzroy North.

Coffee and welcome 9.30am, with a 3.00pm finish.

Day for Leaders and Core Group Members

Saturday 15 July

A special day of formation for Leaders and Core Group Members to be led by Jim Murphy. 9.30am to 4.00pm at the CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street North Fitzroy. Light lunch provided. **Please save the day now.**

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 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 Church Murrumbeena, Cnr Dalny and Murrumbeena 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.