

NOVEMBER 2017

**"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](http://www.ccr.org.au)

## Christian Unity in Action!



**ACROSS MY DESK** PAGE 2 • **COMMON GOOD: CALL TO ACTION** PAGE 3 • **POPE FRANCIS' DISTINCTIVE VISION FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** PAGES 4 - 5  
**CARRYING THE CROSS OF CANCER** PAGE 6 • **MENTAL HEALTH, PRINCE HARRY AND LIFE TO THE FULL** PAGE 7 • **CREATED FOR WONDER AND AWE** PAGE 8  
**WERRIBEE WELCOMES THE JUBILEE CROSS** PAGE 9 • **A WORD... FROM MIRIAM** PAGE 11 • **MARK YOUR DIARIES...** PAGE 12

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

CCR CENTRE  
101 Holden Street  
North Fitzroy  
VIC 3068  
(Car park entry in Dean Street)  
Telephone: (03) 9486 6544  
Fax: (03) 9486 6566  
Email: [centre@ccr.org.au](mailto:centre@ccr.org.au)

The Centre is open 10.00am - 4.00pm,  
Monday - Friday, except Public Holidays.

## Good News

*Good News* is published quarterly, on each  
Renewal Day (see back page).

Editor: Lenyce Willason  
Email: [goodnews@ccr.org.au](mailto:goodnews@ccr.org.au)

Assistant Editor: Andrea Baxter

Editorial Assistant: Mary Crawford

Distribution: CCR Centre Team

Articles, news items and other contributions should  
be sent to the editor at the above address.

*Good News* is published by Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal (CCR) in the Archdiocese of Melbourne,  
Australia, by the Co-ordinators: Lenyce Willason  
(Executive Director), Miriam Markis (Centre  
Manager), Daniel Serratore (Youth Co-ordinator),  
Ban Wee, Christine Grech, Gunawan Goh and  
Vera Gelo.

Neither the Co-ordinators nor the Editor necessarily  
endorse opinions expressed in articles in this  
publication, nor does CCR necessarily endorse  
events mentioned, other than those events listed  
on the back page.

*Good News* is distributed free of charge to  
registered CCR groups in the Archdiocese of  
Melbourne.

For individuals who would like a copy mailed,  
the annual subscription is \$15.00 for four issues.

All subscription enquiries should be addressed to  
The CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street, North Fitzroy,  
VIC 3068.  
Ph: (03) 9486 6544

*Good News* can be downloaded in Adobe Reader  
format from the CCR website: [www.ccr.org.au](http://www.ccr.org.au)

Unless otherwise indicated, any article printed in  
*Good News* may be reproduced without change  
and in its entirety (acknowledging the source)  
for non-commercial and non-political purposes  
without prior permission from Catholic Charismatic  
Renewal Melbourne.  
Copyright © 2010 CCR Melbourne.  
All rights reserved.

The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is  
**Friday 22 January 2018.**



The closing of a year invariably invites reflection. This past year for Catholic Charismatic Renewal has certainly been full of God's grace and blessings. A year ago, we were pondering just what we had taken on in this project of carrying the Cross around Victoria to say 'thank you' to God our Father for the blessings of the past 50 years. It seemed such a mammoth undertaking logistically, yet here we are at the finish line and with St Paul we can say 'I have run the race!'

The project could have been fraught with hostility and mockery, yet every step of the journey has shown that Jesus' promise to go before us always is real and true. Passers-by have asked to carry the Cross; motorists have tooted a "good on you" and given us the thumbs up of approval; people's hearts have been opened and healed to begin a journey of their own, following the way of Jesus; a new passion has come into prayer groups and fanned into flame the gift that was given to them. New relationships have been formed with other Christian denominations, so that the finale - *Rediscover* - has been much more than we could have imagined twelve months ago.

*Rediscover* was a prophetic title for the ending of such a blessed year. The most important thing was not the event itself, but all the Churches gathering together to make an impact on the city for Jesus. We were blessed to have the 60 voice German choir singing Die Himmel Rühmen (Glory to God in all Nature) and the Ntaria Ladies Choir, part of the central Australian aboriginal women's choir performing recently at the Melbourne international film festival. Then followed the final procession of the Cross down Swanston Street and into Federation Square. What a sight this was! A sea of many cultures united around the Cross, recalling *Revelation 7:9: ....behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, as people sang praise to God.* 'Lifted', CCR music ministry provided exceptional worship as the Cross stood centre stage. Pastor Peter McHugh, from Stairway Church, mentioned how the Baptism in the Holy Spirit that Catholic Charismatic Renewal had brought to the churches jumped many denominational boundaries over the last fifty years. He prayed that this would continue for the next fifty years. 'Hope Unleashed' which brought the day to a close was a vibrant expression of praise for the young at heart by talented young musicians, featuring the visit of Micah Bourne who has used his gift for poetry and rapping to proclaim the scriptures. A great hit with the young in spirit.

Pope Francis insists that unity is a gift of God and that our task is to make it visible. *Rediscover* has shown that working towards building the body of Christ can be embraced and celebrated without losing the unique character of one's own faith tradition. We live in a time when it is no longer fashionable to be Christian, so we must listen to Jesus' prayer: *Father, may they be one as you and I are one so that the world will know that you have sent me (John 17:21).*

As we move into the year about to unfold, may we grow stronger together as Christians who believe in and follow the way of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. May we continue to gather around the Cross, at the centre of our faith, so that at the end of our days we may adopt Jesus' own words: *I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do (John 17:4).*

I pray that the 'waiting' of Advent may be for you a time to sit in silence and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. And may you have a very happy and holy Christmas filled with God's peace and joy.



# COMMON GOOD: CALL TO ACTION

By FLEUR DORRELL



Fleur Dorrell unpacks an exciting and challenging new resource from the Bible Society.

From the beginning of the book of Genesis, God calls people to live in relationship with him and each other.

Why, then, are we experiencing such economic and social inequality and cultural polarisation across the Western world, as reflected in Brexit, Trump and the aftermath of the UK General Election? To what and to whom do we want to belong?

To respond to this challenge, Bible Society with Together for the Common Good, the Jesuits in Britain and the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics have created a practical tool for churches of all denominations.

## Finding Common Ground

We want to model the very principles we are advocating: through finding common ground. In listening to each other's approaches to the Bible we seek a collective voice.

The new resource, entitled *Calling People of Goodwill: The Bible and the Common Good*, helps churches create unity and community. We believe all churches can be places that refuse to be tribal, spaces of welcome and encounter that address mutual suspicion. This ecumenical and discussion-based parish resource ensures that common good principles are available to many more people.

## Everyone Is Included

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah said: 'Seek the welfare of the city... for in its welfare you will find your welfare.' (*Jeremiah 29.7*)

This understanding of welfare is central to the common good conditions necessary for everyone to flourish. The common good promotes human dignity, relationships, participation and stewardship. It insists that everyone is included. Are we doing enough of this in our churches, jobs, schools and neighbourhoods?

In passages from Acts, Genesis, Amos, John, Peter and Revelation, we explore what the Bible says about the common good through reflections, discussion, questions and prayers. For example, in *Genesis 11: 1-8*, the Babel story reveals the divisions we see in our society today between different groups reflect the same attempts by the people of Shinar to build a city for their own ends.

## From "I" To "We"

The Bible identifies many areas in which the common good is crucial for a fair society: justice at all levels, good legal processes, economic opportunity, ethical profit-making

and creation-care.

The prophets consistently challenged corrupt systems in which the vulnerable and poor were exploited by the powerful and wealthy. Amos demands justice in the 'gate'-the negotiating table that could save or destroy a person's livelihood.

He highlights how the powerful abuse the poor (*Amos 5:11*); and deal deceitfully in the marketplace (*Amos 8:4-6*). Worst of all, they think they can please God with sacrifices whilst ignoring any relationship between justice and worship (*Amos 5.24*).

Jesus throughout the Gospels shifts the focus from 'I,' to 'we', to 'us'. He spoke out against systems which undermined the most vulnerable.

He reminds us that the private and the public are not different when it comes to issues of justice and compassion.

## Our Call To Action

The recent Manchester and London terrorist attacks show that unity at all costs is necessary for our survival and our future.

Just as Christ came to reconcile us through his death and resurrection, we have to work much harder at reconciliation if we want to move from a world of fear and self-interest to one where both young and old are cherished equally. We must challenge mechanisms which perpetuate injustice, be they in government, the church, the supermarkets, the classrooms or boardrooms. However, we must change ourselves first in order to change the world.

*Fleur Dorrell is Scripture Development Co-ordinator at Bible Society.*

*Used with permission Good News UK. IMAGE: Bible Society*

***Calling People of Goodwill: The Bible and the Common Good*** is available from the CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street, North Fitzroy, 3068. Cost is \$12.00.



*May the joy of Christmas bring peace and happiness to you and your family. Wishing you a very Happy and Holy Christmas.*

*The Coordinators of CCR Melbourne*

*“A current  
of grace of  
the Spirit”*



Pope Francis

# Pope Francis' Distinctive Vision for Christian Unity

By AUSTEN IVEREIGH

In February this year Pope Francis indicated three roads to Christian unity: an attitude of humility, shared prayer and actions witnessing to God's mercy, and learning from the creativity and freedom of young Churches in the developing world.

First, humility. In a reflection on St. Paul attempting to evangelize a divided Corinth, the pope described in his homily how the apostle relied not on his own ability and strength but on God, “as a beggar of mercy.” This, he said, is “the starting point so that God may work in us.” Seeking reconciliation in the face of divisions, St. Paul “grasped the fact that he was fed by mercy and that his priority was to share his bread with others: the joy of being loved by the Lord, and of loving him.”

The second point was that one he has made often: that acting together for the poor creates the space for the Holy Spirit to overcome differences, and indeed is already “a powerful sign of renewed communion.”

Referring to the joint outreach performed by All Saints and the Catholic parish in Rome of Ognissanti - who were formerly twinned on Sunday - the pope noted how “solid communion grows and is built up when people work together for those in need.”

The third point was one made in answer to a question from a Nigerian congregant about what the Churches can learn from developing-world ecumenism, where relations are often “better and more creative” than in Europe.

Francis agreed, but he also gave a more provocative example from the remote Chaco region of Argentina, where Anglican and Catholic indigenous practice, in effect, inter-communion, with the knowledge of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

“When people can't go on Sunday to the Catholic celebration they go to the Anglican [church], and the Anglicans go to the Catholic [church], because they don't want to spend Sunday without a celebration; and they work together,” the pope said, adding that “this is a richness that our young Churches can bring to Europe.”

Another example he might have given is Papua New Guinea, which has one of the largest files in the offices of the Vatican's Christian Unity congregation. Anglicans and Catholics began practicing inter-communion while interned together under Japanese occupation during the Second World War, and have never stopped. The Catholic bishops of Papua even once brought an Anglican bishop with them to Rome.

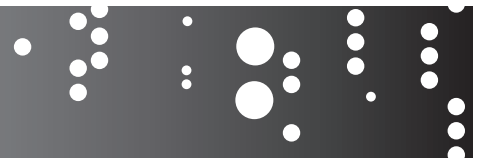
In his answer Francis never excluded theologian dialogue, observing that ecumenism is “perhaps more solid in theological research in a more mature Church” such as Europe's. His point, as ever, is that those searching for Christian unity need to be attentive to the movements of the Spirit running ahead of the institutions, and the young Churches - unencumbered by the centuries of disputes - can help with that.

But the question must still be asked - and it was, by the second questioner - whether Francis's approach represents a departure from Benedict XVI's, and the answer seems unquestionably to be ‘yes.’

Benedict told the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 2012 that ecumenism must never become a “praxiology”, that is, social action, rather than concerning itself primarily with theology, the search for truth.

As a former official of the Vatican's Christian Unity office who served under Benedict





XVI put it to me: “For Benedict, truth is ultimately what matters. It’s not to say that one shouldn’t do things together, but the danger is always that it’s easier to open a food bank together than to discuss women priests.”

When Francis on Sunday was presented with what Benedict said on that occasion (“your Predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, put us on guard regarding the risk in the ecumenical dialogue of giving priority to collaboration in social action rather than following the more exacting path of theological agreement”) he demurred. As if anxious not to be seen to be contradicting his predecessor, the pope instead said he did not know of the context in which it was said. Yet what he went on to say showed that for Francis the greater danger is to carry on theological dialogue as an abstraction (“in a laboratory”) rather than rooted in lived experience (“it must be done walking, along the way.”)

“We are on the road, and on the road, we also have these discussions,” Francis added. “The theologians do so. But in the meantime, we help one another in our necessities, in our life, we also help one another spiritually.” One of the difficulties with professional ecumenical dialogue is that it is conducted between theologians, often at a very technical level, and barely connects with the ordinary parish experience of Catholics and Anglicans. That has certainly been the experience of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, which has produced magnificent documents but has barely impacted the people of God.

The defence of that process is, of course, that it has enabled greater institutional proximity. Yet others might argue that it has succeeded mainly in clarifying the reasons for the insuperable obstacles that exist to unity.

Francis points to another way, one that is more “of the people,” more missionary, more based on common action. It is what he believes God is calling Christians to do - and let the theologians work it all out.

At the risk of simplification, one could say: Benedict said, “don’t do a food bank together as a substitute for discussing women priests,” while Francis says: “You’re not going to agree on women priests, so set up a food bank together - and work it out from there.”

*Reprinted from: Taking the Catholic Pulse 2017.*



*The cross being processed down Swanston Street.*



*The next generation being prayed over.*



*CCR's next 50 years being prayed for.*

# CARRYING THE CROSS OF CANCER

By MARY CRAWFORD



The words 'You have cancer' can strike terror into the hardest of souls.

My diagnosis came out of the blue as we have no history of cancer in our family. I had aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma with a very large tumour on my sacrum. Within 2 days I was in hospital ready to undergo intensive chemotherapy. I faint with injections, so the thought of undergoing such a dreadful medical regime filled me with horror.

I went into renal failure because the tumour was squashing my ureters and toxins had built up in my body to extremely dangerous levels. I had stents urgently put in which saved my life. Chemotherapy would have killed me if my poor kidney function had not been picked up. Praise God for that miracle! My oncologist was 90% sure that the cancer had gone into my bone marrow, but he didn't reckon on the power of prayer!! The results came back negative. Another blessing from the Lord!

I felt the effects of covered prayer and was peaceful. I took very painful procedures and nasty side effects in my stride. What an enormous grace from the Lord! In hospital I found myself visiting other patients and bringing them comfort. Many were elderly and dying, but God gave me a heart full of tender love for them. I was in the centre of prayer, yet I felt as distant as the planet Pluto. As the deep seated fatigue and mental fog of chemo descended, I was unable to pray for myself and for others. The prayers of the CCR community were strong enough to carry me along when I was unable to pray for my needs.

I was frustrated because I felt in exile. Thomas a Kempis wrote: *"The more spiritual progress a person makes, so much heavier will he frequently find the cross, because as his love increases, the pain of his exile also increases."* Having volunteered in the CCR office for many years, I knew how important the Jubilee year was and witnessed firsthand the hard work going on behind the scenes in preparation for the celebrations. I missed many unique events during the year, many that were opportunities of a lifetime. To say I was peeved would be a gross understatement!!!!

A wise friend passed onto me a wonderful book by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin called 'The Gift of Peace'. Cardinal Bernardin battled pancreatic cancer and I really identified with some of his insights. I had to learn to surrender which was difficult, especially when I so desperately wanted to be in the thick of things. Cardinal Bernardin had to do the same and hand over his Archdiocese to someone else. We both had to open our hearts to a deeper and more trusting relationship with God and allow Him take control. Cardinal Bernardin wrote, 'The essential mystery of the cross is that it gives rise to a certain kind of loneliness, an inability to see clearly how things are unfolding, an inability to see that, ultimately, all things will work for our good and that we are, indeed, not alone.' After chemo, I often felt the beating wings of despair threatening to engulf me as I kept people at bay to protect myself from

infection. I felt so alone and detached from the world around me and watching visitors blithely go back to their busy lives heightened that isolation. My life had completely shrunk to the 4 walls of my unit. God had really taken the reins of control out of my hands by uprooting me out of all activities. I had to allow the Master Gardener landscape my life with His love and weed my soul with His grace. I was undergoing some pretty severe pruning!

I had to learn to allow people to love me. My low self-esteem made me doubt that other people could possibly love me and a barrier had gone up.

My illness forced me to reach out to others for help and to my surprise and delight, I had a huge response! I received practical, emotional and spiritual support throughout my entire journey and was constantly surrounded by love and prayers. It certainly highlighted to me that we are not meant to travel this narrow road on our own.

To my intense disappointment, after 6 sessions of chemo, my tumour had not completely disappeared which meant more radiotherapy than anticipated. I cried bitter tears of disappointment and couldn't believe that God hadn't finished with me. I was buckling under the weight of the cross with exhaustion.

Some 'angelic' people volunteered to be my daily drivers for over 6 weeks ferrying me from home to hospital for radiation treatment. They were truly the hands and feet of Christ at my lowest point. I reacted extremely badly to the radiation. It irritated and inflamed my bladder and bowel and I was struck with constant cramps and severe diarrhoea which led to fatigue and further weight loss.

During this trying time I read *Matthew 11:29-30* "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light". A yoke is a heavy piece of equipment used to harness a team of animals for difficult labour. I had to yoke myself with Jesus and pull in the direction He wanted me to go and work as a team. Jesus did not remove my burden but carried it with me. A burden shared with Jesus becomes lighter. Christian life is a pilgrimage, an ongoing road on which we follow Jesus and carry our cross, which is also His cross.

*'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness'* - Desmond Tutu. Walking in faith sometimes feels like walking in the dark. God granted me the grace not merely to grope and struggle through the darkness, but to be a reflection of Christ's light to others even as I endured suffering and pain. Many have commented how I've battled my cancer in good spirit but I've had my black moments of doubt.

I recently had all my scans and there is still one stubborn root of cancer left. I offer my grateful thanks to all those who have prayed for me and for the mercy of God over the last year. 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' is my motto as I continue to focus on 'fighting the good fight'.



# MENTAL HEALTH, PRINCE HARRY AND LIFE TO THE FULL

By HELEN BURGESS

Working as a lay chaplain in a secondary school, I was delighted to be asked to attend a 'Mental Health First Aid Course for Youth' run by the Diocese of Northampton.

Although many staff are trained to deliver first aid and receive regular updates to ensure we are prepared for the needs of the students, this was the first time I had heard of a Mental Health First Aid Course.

Recently it has become increasingly apparent that our students have a range of emotional needs.

As school chaplain, the first signs may be identified in prayer based activities, such as creative prayer and prayer spaces, as well as discussion groups and short courses including Youth Alpha.

## Practical and Informative

The Mental Health First Aid Course was run over two days by MHFA England CIC. It was practical and informative whilst encouraging group participation and sharing.

It was well resourced, providing revision and backup with a handbook for when we returned to the workplace. It assumed no prior knowledge, worked professionally and confidentially whilst allowing for practice based discussion.

A review of the literature, a scan through the media or simply a conversation with teenagers and/ or their parents/ carers confirms that our young people are presenting with an increasing range of mental health concerns. These range from low self-esteem, friendship worries, the experience of a bereavement, a lack of belonging, to physical health needs relating to eating disorders, self-harm, and substance abuse.

The Mental Health First Aid Course addressed all of these issues, albeit superficially, whilst opening up the themes and dispelling some misconceptions.

## A Holistic Approach

In John's Gospel, Jesus gives a beautiful promise to every individual: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10: 10)

Teachers of health promotion have for many decades identified a number of dimensions which contribute to health, including physical, emotional, mental, social, spiritual and sexual health (Scriven A. 2010. Promoting Health A Practical Guide: Ewles and Simnett. Bailliere Tindal Elsevier: London).

The challenge, then, for those of us working with the young, is this: how are we working in all of these areas to bring about a holistic approach which enables an individual to "live life to the full"?

In a faith school, a designated prayer/ reflection space is a good start. However, young people may have some concerns about dropping in! Therefore, offering a range of opportunities and approaches opens up the possibility

of crossing the threshold. Activities which coincide with liturgical seasons such as Advent and Lent can be helpful. Outside areas, prayer gardens, labyrinths and faith walks are also useful.

## Speaking Out

In the prayer room itself, focusing on a specific theme has worked very well, allowing students the opportunity to reflect, explore and express.

In recent months, the media have captured the support of the royals to promote Mental Health awareness. YouTubers and Bloggers speaking out helps as well.

These are then conversations which can be explored further in a faith setting.



When Jesus was asked how to live a good life, He gave a holistic response, embracing many dimensions: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10:27).

How can we help our young people explore, question and grow spiritually if we do not work holistically and support their mental health?

<https://youtube/g2GJu7u55Rs> is an excellent video resource.

*Used with permission Good News UK.*

## Our amazing, amazing God

By IMMACULATE NAMPEERA

For a while I had been trying to fall pregnant with my second child. I had struggled for years to be pregnant with my first one and the second was no different. We have tried for a while but without results. The CCR Healing Ministry came over to our prayer meeting late last year to talk to us about God's healing power and during the ministry time prayers were prayed for each individual. When they asked me what my prayer should be, I told them that there was a lot I wanted to pray for. They asked me what the main thing I wanted and I responded that I wanted a second child. They prayed over me and told me to believe it will be so in Jesus' name. A couple of months later I fell pregnant. Today, I hold my daughter Maria in my arms and thank God for what he has done for me. Thanks again to God for hearing my prayer and to the CCR Healing Ministry.



# CREATED FOR WONDER AND AWE

By FR CHRIS THOMAS



We can discover the footprints of God everywhere—including in difficulties and brokenness, says Chris Thomas.

We human beings are created with a huge capacity for awe and wonder, to see and know the presence of God everywhere and to delight in it.

For five years, the parish community that I was part of ran a project to help homeless people. One of the men who used to come was Patrick.

He was a lovely man who told me he could not remember a day when he had not drunk. He told me that, as a baby, his Dad used to put Guinness in his bottle to keep him quiet.

Patrick always wore a big sheriff's hat with a huge sheriff's badge on his chest and under the coat he wore was everything he possessed.

His pockets were always full of bottles and he cut a fearsome sight as he staggered along the high street in our town.

## Furious And Angry

His alcoholism had led him to become epileptic. One day I opened the door to find that Patrick, having had a fit, was completely disorientated. He had wet himself and dirtied himself and was in a real state.

I was furious. I was angry with Patrick for letting himself get in that state. I was angry with the sort of society that let people like Patrick get in that state. I was angry with myself for being angry. I brought him in, sat him down and eventually got him to agree to undress so that we could help him.

I sat with him until he was almost naked, and then, very gently, began to wash his poor emaciated body. He was covered with sores, and the dirt was ingrained, but Patrick sat there and let me do it.

## The Marvels of God

As I helped him, and he helped himself, I was filled with a real love for this poor, broken man and I knew that it was because somehow God was present in him.

I was filled again with that sense of awe and wonder at the marvels of God. Here in this poor, broken man, this cracked damaged vessel, was the treasure the Gospels speak of.

I was aware again of the sanctity of life from conception to the grave.

I realised, at more than an intellectual level, why we have to make a stand against those things that would limit human life, because God has chosen to dwell within us.

## I Hope You Dance

I love the song I Hope You Dance by Ronan Keating. Several lines in that song help me reflect on the invitation to live in the blessing of God, that invigorates and refreshes us.

One of them is this: "I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean."

Time and time again, I miss the magic and mystery present in another human being. I lose that sense of awe and forget how much I need to spend time reflecting on every experience I have to become aware.

When that process of reflection is happening, we will see God in the strangest places and the strangest of people—indeed, within ourselves.

## Touch The Infinite

Every moment in life is about encountering mystery and uniqueness in the people we meet, those we like and those we don't.

Are we open each moment to the opportunity to recognise the footprints of God in the difficulties of the day and the precious moments of goodness? Are we so filled with wonder that others are encouraged to see beyond and touch the infinite?

Each second is about seeing the presence of God and rejoicing in it.

It changes our perspective and we begin to live in a wonderful world overwhelmed by the presence of God.

This article is adapted from a chapter in ***When Did We Stop Skipping?*** by Chris Thomas, New Life Publishing. It costs £8.99 and can be ordered online: [www.goodnewsbooks.co.uk](http://www.goodnewsbooks.co.uk)

*Used with permission Good News UK. IMAGE: Pixabay*

## Thank You

A big 'thank you' to all Prayer Group Leaders and their various groups and helpers.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks for all the ways you have enthusiastically supported and paid homage to our Lord Jesus Christ accompanying the Jubilee Cross on its journey throughout Victoria. You gave this project your tremendous support. It has been a mammoth task, but most encouraging to see everyone work together in unity. It would not have been possible without you all.

May the Lord bless you all abundantly!

*Coordinators CCR Melbourne*



# WERRIBEE WELCOMES THE JUBILEE CROSS

By MARIE HELENĚ CHONG

Profound. Unique. Amazing. Inspirational. Prayerful. Touching. Moving. These are some qualifiers of the events of the Jubilee Cross at St Andrew's Parish in Werribee from 18 to 22 September 2017.

During these five days events were planned for all our parishioners, be they stay-home mums and dads, retirees, shift and day workers, children and students.

Most mornings, parishioners venerated the Cross, prayed the Divine Praises and participated in the Holy Eucharist. The day events comprised students from the five Catholic schools as well as MacKillop Catholic Regional College carrying the Cross around the school zone and participating in either the Holy Eucharist or prayer service.

On the Wednesday after Praise and Worship and Mass organised by the Gesu' Risorto Prayer Group, the Cross was carried through the streets of Werribee to St Thomas Anglican Church for an ecumenical service. Reverend Mike Lewis from Crossroads Uniting Church emphasized to the congregation that they were all branches of the same vine, unique but diverse, and they were responsible to make this vine, which is Jesus Christ, flourish. Representatives from the different Christian churches participated in a community prayer. At night events, parishioners took part in Praise and Worship, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass. All night celebrations culminated in fellowship where great food and conversation abounded.

What touched me most were the unique and prayerful events organised by the five primary schools and secondary college. Each school programme was distinct. Pupils carried the Cross to St Andrew's Church and venerated it in the church. MacKillop College students carried the Cross in the streets around about and handed it over to the students of Corpus Christi School who carried the cross to the Chapel of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. They then took part in the veneration of the Cross and Holy Eucharist. Students at Our Lady of Southern Cross

carried the Cross from the neighbouring streets into their school for a prayer service. In the sports centre, the sounds of drums welcomed the Cross and each class wrote their prayer intentions and placed their card at the foot of the cross during the veneration. I was amazed by the unrestrained and free shouts of elation by the students of St John the Apostle School when they saw the Jubilee Cross, they called their friends to "come and see the Jubilee Cross" with cries of enthusiasm and excitement. They were so happy and joyful about "sharing the cross" that they just went out to anybody who would listen – which reminded me of Matthew 19:14 Let the little children come to me. Lastly, at Bethany School, some students played the drums as the Cross was carried through the school yard with multiple stops for prayers and veneration, and final prayers and blessing in the sports centre.

I was touched by the reverence of the littlies, the way they knelt in front of the Jubilee Cross and the respect when they touched it. What a profound lesson from the littlies to us. Unbeknownst to the little girl who drew this picture the Jubilee Cross represents the perfect and complete love of Jesus for us as shown by the seven hearts behind the cross. What else do you see in the picture?



60 voice German choir in St. Paul's Cathedral.





*Procession of the Cross.*



*Indigenous ladies choir in St. Paul's Cathedral.*



*Church Leaders being prayed over.*



*Praising God in Fed Square.*

### **Fr. Peter Hocken: May he rest in peace**



**A truly great servant of God has passed from our midst. Fr. Peter has given so much to the world-wide Renewal that his presence will be sorely missed. His wisdom and knowledge were matched only by his humour and his longing for the things of God.**

**Still, we rejoice for his sake that so many mysteries he has pondered he now knows as reality. May he joyfully rest in the presence of His God." All praise and thanks be to Almighty God for Fr. Peter who served faithfully on the ICCRS Doctrinal Commission since its inception.**

**James Murphy, ICCRS President**

Fr Peter will be remembered by those who attended the celebrations in Rome. God's last mission for him was the Theological and Ecumenical symposium held as part of the fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

Born in 1932 Fr Peter was ordained as priest for the Catholic Diocese of Northampton, England in 1964. He received the STL degree from the Accademia Alfonsiana in Rome in 1971, and taught moral theology in the Birmingham diocesan seminary from 1968–1969, and 1971–1976. He received his PhD in 1984 from the University of Birmingham, England and was the Chaplain to the Bishop of Northampton from 1997–2001. A British citizen, Father Peter has been privileged to minister around the world, with bases in England (1964–1976), United States of America (1976–1996), England (1996–2002) and Austria (2002–10.06.2017).

Father Peter was active in the charismatic movement since 1971 and has served as Executive Secretary of the Society for Pentecostal Studies (1988–1997). He was also a member of committee for Gatherings in the Holy Spirit between Catholics and independent charismatic leaders. Father Peter was a member of unofficial Catholic – Messianic Jewish dialogue from 2000.

He was also a member of the Theology Commission for the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal since 2003. Father Peter passed away to the Lord on 10 June 2017, and he would have been "dancing" with us for the show of unity in Melbourne.



# A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



Barely forty-eight hours after a tremendously joyful *Rediscover* event in Federation Square, Melbourne, I ponder on the words of the Psalmist who says in *Psalms 133:1*, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” The Square, Swanston Street and St Paul’s Cathedral all resounded with joyful songs where brothers and sisters of different denominations dwelt together in unity and in praise of our God.

St Paul’s Cathedral was crowded with believers and some tourists as well who were taking advantage of the wonderful concert that was being provided by the various ethnic choirs. And all for free!! I was especially delighted and moved by the wonderful Indigenous choir and their sweet voices. I felt that the various languages and voices were surely a foretaste of heavenly praises as voices from different ethnic choirs filled the Cathedral reminding me of the song we all sing in the Renewal “He is Lord. He is Lord. He is risen from the dead and He is Lord. Every knee shall bow. Every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord!” Truly, many tongues, Tongan, Swedish, Korean, Chinese, German and many others confessed in song that afternoon that Jesus is Lord. It was not just the choirs, but the audience as well that sang with robust voices the praises of our dear Lord and Saviour! Especially encouraging, were the number of young people from all denominations who praised and worshipped the Lord jumping joyfully and singing with great gusto as only the young can do! Someone I met later commented what a joy it was to see so many young people there and that there was hope now for the future! Yes, indeed. The Spirit is still at work.

At the heart of this great united celebration of the 50th Jubilee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal as well as the Commemoration of the Protestant Reformation, was the desire for unity ignited in the hearts of us all by the Holy Spirit to be of one heart and one mind in praising God. Pope Francis especially asks us to pursue unity with his exhortation of ‘you must’ pray with one another. When we pray and praise together all division is forgotten, and joy fills the heart of everyone and we gladden the heart of God.

Please continue to pray that the good Lord will water the seeds which have been planted all around Victoria, in our city and beyond, so that they will bear good fruit in due season for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit with vigour and joy in the Charismatic Renewal for the next 50 years and beyond, so also our Church and for greater unity amongst all Christian churches. The time for prayer starts now!

## Lifting Jesus Higher

By MARY CRAWFORD

Due to my illness, I have missed all of the Jubilee Cross journey, even when it went through my local suburb. I have really hungered to participate in its journey.

I was delighted that I was strong enough to go to part of ‘Rediscover’ in Federation Square. I was finally able to give glory to my King with my brothers and sisters from other denominations. How special was that!!

On a sunny afternoon (despite a dire weather forecast), I met up with the Jubilee Cross outside of Melbourne Town Hall in Swanston Street. Whilst waiting, I was chatting with a lady from Stairway Church and assured her that she was warmly welcome to join the procession of the Jubilee Cross. A homeless man approached a group of us. Without missing a beat, one lady turned around, engaged him in conversation and found out his name and circumstances. We all prayed over him with his agreement and money was pushed into his hands. I still remember the look of astonishment as he walked away and he turned back and said the prayer touched his heart. The Spirit was already moving!

We sedately processed down Swanston Street with the Jubilee Cross joyfully singing ‘Join our hearts as one in unity’ with many wearing their Jubilee t-shirts. To be quite honest, I didn’t take much notice of people passing by, but I did see a few bemused looks. One person yelled abuse at us, but he got a chorus of ‘Bless You’ back!! Focusing on the Cross, I pondered over the last 12 months and realised what a privilege it has been to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

As we came into Federation Square, the Jubilee Cross was greeted with cheers and resounding applause from the waiting crowd. The cross had reached the city of Melbourne after travelling over 3000 kilometres around Victoria. I got quite emotional seeing the cheering people - the very opposite of what Christ received at Golgotha. A great crowd of CCR members were present with some travelling in from country Victoria. It was good to be back in the fold of my spiritual family again.

The highlight for me was the praise and worship by Lifted. It was extraordinarily anointed and John Duiker got the crowd praising Jesus at the top of their lungs. I got really excited and pumped up! I joyfully said to those around me ‘This beats any rock concert!’ They all agreed with big grins. What a joy and a privilege to praise our wonderful God in such a public arena! May countless blessings flow from it upon the city of Melbourne and beyond!



“Lifted” providing great praise and worship.

# MARK YOUR DIARIES...

## Renewal Days

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

**2018 dates: 17 February, 19 May, 18 August and 17 November.**

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.

**The Centre will close Friday 14 December 2017  
and re-open Monday 29 January 2018.**

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	7.30pm Eucharistic Adoration	St Pius X Church, Heidelberg
	8.00pm Healing Mass	St Pius X Church, Heidelberg
	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 Mass:

Monday 20 November with Fr Francis. 5 February, 21 May and 19 November 2018.