

AUGUST 2018

**"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

A warm welcome to Melbourne



Archbishop Peter Comensoli



ACROSS MY DESK PAGE 2 • ONE NEW SINGLE SERVICE FOR CCR PAGE 3 • MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD, THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH PAGES 4 - 5
REPORT: GLOBAL CHRISTIAN FORUM, BOGOTA COLOMBIA PAGE 6 • JESUS YOUTH PAGE 7 • LEANING ON GOD IN ALL THINGS PAGE 8
LETTER TO THE EDITOR PAGE 9 • JESUS HOPE OF THE WORLD PAGE 10 • A WORD... FROM MIRIAM PAGE 11 • MARK YOUR DIARIES... PAGE 12

ACROSS MY DESK

By LENYCE WILLASON

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Good News

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The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is
Friday 19 October 2018.



***In him we live and move and have our being; as even
some of your own poets have said, For we are indeed
his offspring. Acts 17:28***

A gentleman (we will call him Gabriel – he was like an angel
of God) came into the Centre a few weeks ago to bring us
the books, tapes and rosaries that had belonged to his mother. She had
died 12 months previously. We had a little difficulty in remembering who
she was, and it was only in his stating that she was ‘troublesome’ that
the ‘aha! moment came’. We did remember her, and sadly to say the
word ‘troublesome’ aptly described her. Her son told us of the hard life
she had had, and why she was so ‘troublesome’.

Being Anglican, she converted to Catholicism when she married. She
had already had a child out of wedlock and then went on to have two
more children after her marriage. Then life intervened. The father of the
first child had also married and his wife could not have any children. He
asked for the child born out of wedlock to be given to him because they
could not have children. So, Gabriel’s mother gave her first born to the
father to raise. Over the years this action, coupled with the shame and
guilt she felt about having the child out of wedlock, took its toll on her
mind and she spent time in and out of mental hospitals. None of this
was publicly known.

As Gabriel nursed his mother in the months before her death she
often told him of the joy and peace she had received from the people
in Charismatic Renewal. She loved coming to Renewal Days and
attending her local prayer group when she was able, as well as whatever
Conferences she could get to. Yes, she was troublesome and would
cause a ruckus when she arrived. She was also very funny as well as
open and friendly and responsive to the love she found in the CCR
gatherings.

We never know which lives we influence, or when, or why. People can
never be truly mature Christians until they come to realize that God has
called them to be examples to others. As Jesus pointed out, “A disciple
is not greater than his teacher, but everyone when fully trained will be
like his teacher” (*Luke 6:40*). In this context, the Lord was showing that
one’s true spirituality, or godliness (or lack thereof) is revealed in our
actions and that such actions will of necessity influence others. Our
impact on the lives of our family, friends and the others God brings our
way will be proportionate to the time we spend face-to-face with him.
Just like with Moses, others won’t know what happens in our intimate
time with the Lord, but the aura of God’s presence will go with us¹. You
see, being with God changes us – and the change God works in us is
the key to our ability to influence others to know him and worship him.

Obviously then, the key to spiritual maturity is not how great we are, but
how much we are following Jesus Christ who is our supreme example.
“Do not judge”, ‘love your enemies’ – these words of Jesus when put
into practice enable the love of God to shine through, and this is what
has a far-reaching influence on others. It challenges us to a personal
stocktake: how much are we allowing Jesus Christ to be the Lord of
our lives? Are we in hot pursuit of knowing and experiencing the life of
Christ as was the apostle Paul?

I would like to say, ‘thank you’ to all of you for being that loving presence
to others even when faced with those who would be ‘troublesome’.
You are being the field hospital of which Pope Francis speaks.

¹*Hosting the Presence by Bill Johnston*

ONE NEW SINGLE SERVICE FOR CCR

By MICHELLE MORAN



As many of you are aware, one of the things that Pope Francis has focused upon in his pontificate is the re-organising of some of the Vatican structures in order to make them more fitting for their work in the service of the Church today. This has become known as 'the reform of the Roman curia'. In its most extreme, this has been welcomed by some who see this move as an excellent opportunity for the removal of dead wood, others, however, fear the move and prefer to cling to the perceived safety of the status quo. Reassuringly, Pope Francis in his 2016 Christmas address to the Roman curia said that; 'reform is first and foremost a sign of life, of a Church that advances on her pilgrim way, of a Church that is living and for this reason is in need of reform because she is alive.....reform is not an end unto itself, but rather a process of growth and above all of conversion'.

This is the wider context in which Pope Francis has asked CCR to work towards establishing one new international service. It has come at a very important point in our history and will serve to enable the CCR worldwide to continue to be faithful to its mission in the Church and in the world.

From its early years CCR had a growing ecclesial identity. In 1974 Pope Paul VI appointed Cardinal Suenens as Episcopal advisor to accompany CCR. Then by 1985, the ICCRO office that had its beginnings in Ann Arbor USA and Malines Belgium was, at the invitation of Pope John Paul II, transferred into the Vatican.

In 1990 a network of CCR international covenant communities was recognised at the Pontifical level as a private association of the faithful. This was known as the 'Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities and Fellowships'. Their mission was to consolidate the bonds of these communities to the Catholic Church and to encourage evangelisation and ecumenism. Similarly, ICCRO in 1993 received Pontifical recognition. The name was changed to ICCRS to emphasise that it was more than an administrative office, its role was to offer a pastoral ministry service to CCR in all its expressions worldwide. The Catholic Fraternity and ICCRS have a long history of working together presenting seminars and conferences.

In April 2016, during a private audience with the Holy Father he appointed 'ad personam' myself and Pino Scafuro, the vice president of Catholic Fraternity to form the structure and statute of the new service with the accompaniment of the dicastery of Laity, Family and Life. At the Jubilee, the Constitutive Act of the new service was signed, so we are well on the way.

Clearly Pope Francis sees this as a kairos moment for all CCR to move forward in new ways with a deeper maturity and new capacity. During the Jubilee, he reminded us that 'fifty years is a moment of life to stop and reflect and it is a moment to go on with more strength leaving behind the dust of time that we have allowed to accumulate'. Undoubtedly, the graces of the Golden Jubilee will assist us with this task.

Working closely with the dicastery for Laity, Family and Life and after various consultations, we have drafted the Canonical statute for the new service, which is called CHARIS. A copy of the statute with accompanying texts has now been sent out to leaders and CCR worldwide, so things are in process. The new service will officially begin at Pentecost 2019. In the meantime, the service to CCR from ICCRS and CF will continue. It is vital that in this time of change we continue to move forward with the projects that the Holy Spirit has already put before us.

Obviously, for the new service to be effective everyone needs to be involved. In each of the regions around the world there needs to be reflection and discernment as to what structure are needed nationally to allow the CCR to grow and develop in this new season. Following our Jubilee we need the courage to allow the Lord to renew everything. Let all of us play our part and do all that we can to herald in this new time of the Spirit and this new chapter in the history of CCR.



'TALKING' JESUS

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*“I am not
in control
of my life,
but God is.”*



Michael Power

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth

By MICHAEL POWER

Wendy and I, live in the Sale Diocese, which stretches from the growing south eastern suburbs of Melbourne at Hallam Rd, east to the forests at the NSW border. North, to the Great Dividing Range and south to Bass Strait. It is a beautiful part of Australia and from most places, you can, ‘Lift up your eyes to hills or mountains’ and ask, ‘from where does my help come?’

Psalm 121 continues, ‘My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.’

I am not in control of my life, but God is. He created me, along with every other living creature and he has a plan for me and for each and every one of us. We may say, ‘Not my will Lord, but yours’. Again, *Psalm 121.3* continues, ‘He will not let your foot slip, he who watches over you. He will neither slumber nor sleep’

I sometimes pause long enough to ask God, what is the right direction, action or word, but not often enough. What is the path that God wishes for me, in my life, this year, this week, today now? He has a great plan for each of us, a great purpose; he loves to hear our prayers and especially our praise of him and thanksgiving. Eucharisteo (Greek) ..be grateful, to give thanks, from which we have Eucharist, our act of thankfulness for the great act of Jesus truly present in every Mass.

Over a number of decades I have come to the conclusion not to waste pain, loss, suffering or hardship or disappointment or success. They are a far better offering to God, than many of my word or thought prayers. How often I miss the very thing God hopes of me for that moment, perhaps because of pain, loss or hardship. But then, even what I do, can be turned by God for good (*Rom 8.28*). I read a book twenty five years ago, call ‘Pain, the Gift No One Wants’, by Dr Paul Brand and Phillip Yancey. It is based on Dr Brand’s amazing work in identifying the real cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease, using all the gifts God had given him. A disease which stops nerves to our extremities, fingers, toes etc, from sending signals of pain to the brain, which leads damage to skin and bone in hands and feet. Pain can be when I suffer death of a loved one, wrong judgment of my actions, separation, from those I love. When my knees ache from wear, when I have a headache, when I burn my fingers or toes, when I bang my shin, stub my foot on a stone or fall and graze skin, strain my back or suffer from sickness. I am sure everyone can think of more. Sorrow is a testing trial that came into the world with the sin of Adam, the original sin of disobedience, leading to death for all of creation. We can see or hear many situations that grieve the soul. It is when it comes close to us personally that we can be overwhelmed by grief and offering that sorrow can help us through to the peace of Jesus.

It made me think, what a beautiful gift pain is to me, even when I don’t enjoy it. I should offer these occasions of pain to God. Each time I try to put this into action, I notice varying lessening of pain and sometimes I have seen change in those for whom I had been praying. On one occasion I was in hospital for three days of tests and exploration for a suspected heart problem, but nothing was found. I thought, God why am I here? The final night I heard the buzzer for the nurse going almost constantly. I prayed for the nurses and went to sleep and woke at 4.30am, to the buzzer going every 10 minutes. I prayed a rosary; interceded for the nurses and the patients in tongues and prayed the liturgy readings for the day and then began on the psalms. The buzzer kept ringing. At six thirty a nurse came into the room and began to apologize for not coming in. I stopped her and said how busy she must have been and then said something which I can’t remember. As she walked

across the room she said, 'It's gone!!' and opened the blind and exclaimed how beautiful the sunrise was! I asked her what had gone, she said, 'My depression, when you spoke it went'. I asked how long she had been depressed. She said, "since I came to Australia, twenty-two years ago, and I have never seen the colours that are in this sunrise, everything has been grey! I must go" she said, "I have to hand over and I have been the only nurse on for this section, the other nurse became ill and had to go home.

I am greatly impressed by the testimonies from people at prayer meetings or elsewhere when they tell of their prayers being answered, often after many weeks or other times instantaneous prayers. This leads to thankfulness, growth in faith and warm praise of God in song or word. This in turn leads to greater thankfulness and praise. Praise, especially in tongues, when the Holy Spirit gives the words of great praise and thankfulness, leading to joy and perseverance, beautiful fruits of the Holy Spirit. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit Psalm 22.3 proclaims, 'God lives in the praises of his people, Israel'.

Recently, when I took our car, to Australia's best mechanics I had time to fill before some other appointments. I sat in a café with a mug of coffee and realized I was between two very audible conversations, one with someone with a very serious illness and a good listener; on the other side two people with a difference of opinion on a problem. Into my mind came "we are a people in great need" and Lord, have mercy on these your people. 'Coffee' intercession! I was reminded again to pray as I walked between other appointments. When I picked up our car the mechanic, usually cheerful was complaining about the costs of banking and then paused and said, 'it does make you pray a lot and we need plenty of that'.

Our six year old grandson recently said to me, 'well... Grandpa, God doesn't answer my prayers' followed by a pause. I fortunately was able to say to him. 'Well, He does and He has. 'Do you remember when I was in hospital and you and your family were praying the rosary for me, well God heard those prayers and made me well, right at that time! Sometimes He may give the answer at a later time.' His lovely mother said she had never heard her army of intercessors praying so earnestly that evening, from the youngest to the eldest. It made me think of Amy Carmichael a missionary from Northern Ireland to Southern India. She was born with brown eyes in a family, all with blue eyes. She prayed earnestly as a three year old can. "Please God turn my eyes blue". In the morning she told her mother, God doesn't answer all prayers, because her eyes were still brown. Her mother replied, yes he does, he said no. He has given you brown eyes for his purpose. As a missionary, with olive skin and brown eyes, she was able to dress in a Sari and shawl and enter places, looking like a local and rescue babies, who had been kidnapped or bought because of poverty and taken to places to be raised as slaves and some as temple prostitutes.

At another time I was recovering from knee replacement which is fairly painful, and I said, Jesus, use this pain for your good purpose as I recover. Wendy had spoken to a priest we knew to see who could bring communion to me. Wendy told me he was coming the next day. I then asked someone else whom I knew at the rehab hospital, if she would like communion and she said yes and could two other patients she had met who were Catholic also receive communion. So, with a phone call to missionary Fr John all of us were able to receive sacraments. Thank you Jesus. Near the end of days at that hospital a nurse came in at change of shift and asked if I would mind if she sat for a short time. She sat for about fifteen minutes and then said, "I can go home, it is very peaceful in this room" and she left. Sometimes we have to be still to hear God in the silence or gentle breeze.

I am really encouraged by the multitude of witness of all the saints and try to each day read some of their witness. At this time the Church proclaims the witness of many martyrs of France, Spain and Mexico, who died, witnesses for their Catholic faith.

For years I have been inspired by the sixteen Carmelite nuns of Compiègne, lead by their Prioress, Madeleine Lidoine, known as Mother Teresa. She was looking at archives of a century before, which spoke of a nun who foretold of the martyrdom of the whole community. From that time, the beginning of the French Reign of Terror, Mother Teresa said to her sisters:

"Having meditated much on this subject, I have thought of making an act of consecration by which the Community would offer itself as a sacrifice to appease the anger of God, so that the divine peace of his dear Son would be brought into the world, returned to the Church and the state."

They were forced out of their destroyed and profaned convent. They dispersed in civilian clothes to four houses, continuing to pray and intercede for the end of the executions. (Some reports speak of 40,000 people, lay people, priests and brothers were executed.) Taken before the courts, accused of hiding weapons for enemies of the State, Mother Teresa pulled out a Crucifix and held it high saying "here are the only arms we have ever had in our house." Finally they were charged with "fanaticism". Sister Henriette challenged the Prosecutor of the Terror, "Citizen, explain what you mean, define the word fanatic." "I mean your attachment to your childish beliefs and your silly religious practices" he replied.

On July 1th 1794 they were taken singing in the rumbling tumbrels singing the, "Miserere", "Salve Regina" and "Te Deum". The usually raucous and jeering crowds were silent and some turned away They were then executed, from the youngest to their Prioress. The executions ceased ten days later.

Michael Power is the Director Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Sale Diocese of Victoria.

REPORT: GLOBAL CHRISTIAN FORUM, BOGOTA COLOMBIA



The 3rd Worldwide Global Christian Forum was held in Bogota, Colombia from 24 to 27 April 2018. The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity invited ICCRS to send representatives to this event. Jim Murphy (ICCRS President); Ann Brereton (ICCRS Oceania representative); Oreste Pesare (ICCRS Director) and Shenyn (President CONCLATT) were in attendance.

The GCF held its first meeting in August 1998 when a group of 28 visionary leaders met to create a new space for broadening interchurch encounter and dialogue. The Guiding Purpose Statement of the Global Christian Forum is "To create an open space wherein representatives from a broad range of Christian churches and interchurch organizations, which confess the triune God and Jesus Christ as perfect in His divinity and humanity, can gather to foster mutual respect, to explore and address together common challenges."

With 55 Countries represented to dialogue on the theme "Let Mutual Love Continue" (*Heb 13:1*) the Gathering in Bogota drew together 251 participants from the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Evangelical Churches, the Historic Christian World Communions, Independent and indigenous Christian Churches and communities, the Pentecostal Churches, and the Roman Catholic Church.

The program in Bogota consisted of Morning and Evening prayers: Sharing of faith stories: Plenaries: Global and Regional Interchurch Groups. Morning prayers were led by a different Denomination each day. ICCRS had a 5 minute slot on the last day of the Gathering. Although very short it was a blessed time which included Introduction; Proclamation of the Word; Release of the Holy Spirit and Singing in Tongues. Evening Prayers were within the Interchurch Group and were *Lectio Divina* in format. Personal Faith Stories were shared throughout the days of the Gathering both formally within the program and informally during meal times. These occasions hold some of the most enriching memories from the GCF and were powerful opportunities to building relationships.

The Global Interchurch Groups were made up of representatives from different Traditions, Church memberships, age, gender and Country. Starting with our own faith journey story we openly listened to one another's diverse expressions of Christianity. This was a time for "Letting mutual love continue" and to break down misconceived stereotypes. The Regional Interchurch Groups were made up of representatives within their specific regional of living.

Plenary Subjects:

Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (1999). We heard testimony to Repentance and Reconciliation from representatives of the Lutheran World Federation, the Catholic Church, the World Methodist Council, the World Communion of Reformed Churches and the Anglican Communion about their Churches' respective journeys

to embracing this document. "What happened in the past cannot be changed, but what is remembered and how it determines our present can."

The Way of Jesus Christ, Suffering and Sacrifice (Hebrews 12). This subject looked to a readiness to follow Jesus as a disciple even to giving up our own lives as He did. There was an honoring and prayer for His Eminence Metropolitan Mor Gregorius Yohanna Ibrahim, a devoted member of the GCF Committee and the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Aleppo Boulos Yazijy. These men were abducted in Syria 5 years ago and have not been heard or seen since that time. There was a call for all Christian Communities to remember them as well as our brothers and sisters in the Middle East and indeed all who are suffering through persecution, war and martyrdom, for living their faith throughout the world. (*Matthew 5:10-12*)

Let Mutual Love Continue in a Life-Generating Work of the Spirit. "As disciples of Jesus, we acknowledge that sharing the Good News of Jesus to all nations is a joyful calling of all Christians (*Acts 1:8*). We are called to pray with and lift up in prayer all peacemakers (*Matthew 5:9*); those who feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and visit the imprisoned (*Matthew 25: 35-36*); those who defend God's creation awaiting the revelation of the children of God (*Romans 8:19*); those who labor to free those who have been enslaved and put an end to human trafficking; those who strive to end violence and discrimination against women; those who serve migrants and displaced people; persons with disabilities and those who care for the sick." We acknowledged a need to continue the journey of repentance and reform being encouraged and led by the Holy Spirit. We must in the first instance look to and examine ourselves. "We cannot be content with "polite ecumenism," but rather let our narratives be redeemed in the Spirit, confessing that our division openly contradicts the will of Jesus Christ, scandalizes the world and harms our mission to share the Gospel." The created atmosphere of closeness and trust at the GCF helped to address issues that still separate us and facilitate repentance, forgiveness and reform.

It was acknowledged that voices were missing from GCF 2018 in Bogota and looking towards future Gatherings invitees would include more women, young people, indigenous people and persons with disabilities.

Participants heard and applauded strong warnings to resist the captivity of the Gospel by any national or ideological powers. Also was expressed a desire to share and grow the joy experienced in Bogota, by extending the experience of the Global Christian Forum through regional and local initiatives rooted in the places where we live. Gathered together in Bogota as Brothers and Sisters in Christ, witnessing to each other through listening, prayer and sharing has nourished and sustained us in responding to the prayer of Jesus "Father may they all be one..." (*John 17:21*)

***Quotes from Final message of the Third Global Gathering of the Global Christian Forum.*



‘You did not choose me but I chose you and I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last’. (John 15:16)

Over 200 young adults from different parts of Australia made for a cozy bunch at Mannix College, Melbourne. The Jesus Youth Movement understands that new evangelization is a priority for the Church. The mission is simple and clear: To propose once again to young people the entire Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. In this context, Jesus Youth Australia organised a National Youth Conference named ‘CHOSEN’ to help young people encounter Jesus in a life changing way.

12 to 15 July was never meant to be just another ordinary youth gathering. From the first evening Rally on Thursday the 12th the mood was electrifying. Bishop Terry Curtin set it off with his lively inaugural address and MasterPlan gave the eager crowd a delicious dose of their talent.

MasterPlan, an International Catholic band, is an initiative within the Jesus Youth Movement in the UAE. The Band had played centre stage at WYD Poland and WYD Brazil and have performed in 3 continents! MasterPlan led the Chosen Morning and Evening Rallies, Impact Sessions, Soul Cafe and assisted with liturgical celebrations.

Moving on, time just seemed to fly during this conference. Each day included a morning and evening rally, workshops to choose from (25 Workshops across 4 days and over 18 speakers), Holy Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, Soul Cafe (music performance by Fr Chris Eaton MGL and MasterPlan), indoor games, and many attractive sessions. The sacrament of Reconciliation was available throughout all the days of the conference at Mannix Chapel. Personal sharing and testimony of young leaders had a deep impact on the participants.

During breaks one could witness coffee catch ups, chess games, table tennis tournaments, and more. The warmth of the participants far exceeded the chill of Melbourne. Participants too inspired the crowd through dance and drama performances which were at ‘Got Talent’ levels.

Bishop Terry Curtin, Bishop Mark Edwards, Bishop Bosco Puthur, Fr Ken Barker MGL, Fr Chris Eaton MGL, Sr Kathryn Kingsley MGL, Fr Alex Vickers OP, Fr Robert Krishna OP, Fr Joseph Abutu, Fr David Cartwright, were the religious speakers. Paul Nannes (RealTalk Australia),

Ellen Hales (Youth Ministry Development Officer, Lismore Diocese), Dony Peter (Leadership Trainer & Life Coach), Brendan Lindsay, Matthew MacDonald, Penny Badwal, Leeanne Grima, Jake Santito, Jethin Thottan (Worship Leader), Dr Priya Allencherry, Jento Arakkal (National Coordinator, Jesus Youth Australia) and Dr Abish Antony were the gifted lay preachers.

‘The ‘Chosen’ conference was very impressive. It took those attending on a journey with multiple opportunities to encounter Jesus. I was there for a morning session where those attending broke into groups of three and the two prayed over/for the other one. And then rotate. I thought it powerful. At one stage, also, we prayed for those trying to work out their vocation. In turn we prayed for those who were trying to discern their profession, whether/who they should marry, and those thinking of religious life or priesthood. Each group stood as we prayed for them. About 10 stood when we were praying for those discerning religious life/priesthood!’ said Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI (Auxiliary Bishop to Western Region, Archdiocese of Melbourne).

Highlights of the conference were Rallies with MasterPlan, Eucharistic Adoration, inspiring talks by speakers, music time, inviting young people to surrender lives to Jesus, Healing Adoration, praying as a community for those contemplating religious life and lots of rap sessions by Fr Chris Eaton MGL.

From basking in the love of Father God, to receiving Christ’s mercy and finally being empowered by the Holy Spirit, the angels and saints in heaven surely rejoiced as the multitude turned their eyes and lives unto their Maker.

On asking several young people on what they would have liked to see done differently their response was, ‘Nothing!’. Some claimed they were healed, some said they were blessed, some said they were new creations and all agreed they were ‘Chosen’.

The CHOSEN Conference 2018 encouraged young people to take a bold commitment to live as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ in Australia. Chosen 2018 has become another opportunity to encounter Christ for many young people - ‘open new horizons for spreading joy; which is the theme of Year of Youth 2018.

LEANING ON GOD IN ALL THINGS

By MARY HARDIMAN



When Mary Hardiman wanted to support her son in his struggles at school, God intervened and showed His care for the details of her life.

Before reading this article, I invite you to reflect on these questions:

1. Do you believe God can intervene in your life?
2. Have you ever put God on the line?

I ask you these questions because they are inter-linked. I believe God WANTS us to put Him on the line so He can intervene. I would like to share a life-changing story of God's intervention - when I neither invited Him, nor expected Him to do so.

A Stressful Time

My son had difficulty settling in and making friends at primary school. Since my husband and I both worked some distance away, the school run was the responsibility of a very obliging grandad.

Desperately wanting to collect my son from school, I asked to finish 25 minutes early, two afternoons a week, at the school where I worked. In return, I would start an hour before school began each day-a fairly generous exchange, I thought. Sadly, the request was denied. After my subsequent appeal was denied, I involved unions and prepared for an industrial tribunal. This was stressful for my family. My relationship with my head teacher was also compromised.

Enter God

Two weeks before the tribunal, I attended a parish guided prayer week. I sobbed as I explained my dilemma to my prayer guide and thought God had turned his back on me.

She invited me to read the story of Jesus calming the storm from Luke's Gospel in my imagination. I agreed-with no small degree of reluctance:

1. Because I did not think I had an imagination
2. Because I get sea sick on a pedalo!

I sat in the empty church under the cross to do the meditation. In my imagination, I entered a motor boat to travel to a small island. Somebody else also got in-a faceless person in whom I had no interest. When a storm came, this person stood up and said: 'Quiet now; be still'. The storm died down. When we arrived at the island, he got out of the boat with me and held me in a long embrace.

"I love her and she is precious to me"

My prayer guide told me to write this down. As I wrote, the pen seemed to take on a life of its own. My hand could hardly keep up! What came on to the page was not what had been in my head:

'I am the faceless person. I get into the boat with Mary, although I sense she doesn't want me there. I want to be with her and she reluctantly allows me. She steers the boat and I let her. The storm comes as I knew it would and I hear her ask for help. I calm the storm. We get out and I hold her. I give her the gift of my presence and love. I do not speak to her through my faceless guise. I am Jesus and I speak to her from the cross. I tell her that I will never leave her, that I love her and that she is precious to me. I tell her to lean on me.

I am the boat that carries her, the water that holds her on her journey, the motor that drives her and the island where she will find her home.'

Faithful God

The tribunal never happened.

I was offered a part-time post on my terms. My son settled in much better. The afternoons when I picked him up will always remain my favourite memories of his childhood.

Often we think God turns a blind eye to the small details. It's not true. That experience taught me to lean on Him in all things, and to put Him on the line, so that He can demonstrate how He can, and will, intervene in our lives.

Mary Hardiman is a person-centred counsellor and Head of Wellbeing at a pupil referral unit in Salford. She is a regular speaker at Celebrate North West.

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On Saturday 4 August 2018 the new Archbishop of Melbourne, Peter Comensoli, celebrated the 20th anniversary of PDKKI - Indonesian Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Pictured with the Archbishop is the leadership team of the PDKKI.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By CHRIS LANE



I am a parishioner of St Agatha's church, Cranbourne. I have been a member of the local Charismatic Prayer Group for many years. I am an old man, aged 87 years, with a rapidly fading memory. I have always been an avid reader of the Bible over the years and at times was moved to share my discoveries and the joy which God's word gave me.

The reason for this letter is something which happened to me early in January this year, which puzzled me because nothing like this had ever happened to me before. It brought back memories and I just knew that I had to follow wherever it led. I have titled it "The Brook."

The Brook

I woke in the middle of the night with a little poem on my mind. It was something I had learned in school back home in Ireland. Such a thing had never happened before, but I did try to remember the words. I could only think of the first four lines.

"I come from haunts of coot and hem,
I make a sudden sally,
I sparkle out among the ferns,
and I bicker down the valley."

I was disappointed that I could not remember more than that, but because it was over 80 years ago since I first heard I really had to think about why this poem had come to mind. What I am sharing with you is the result of my thoughts about why I had remembered it.

A brook is simply another name for a tiny stream, and the coot and hem mentioned are two kinds of birds which nest in the area. Streams always begin in high places and when the rain falls, and the mountain soil is sufficiently saturated then streams are created. When that little stream, which was so insignificant on its own, joins another, and then another, eventually they become a river.

Whilst thinking about all of this I remembered a time when Margaret and myself visited Canada. One of her sisters, Mary and her husband Bill, took us on a long drive to see Niagara Falls. It is surely one of the wonders of the world. It is amazing. The water drops 188ft into the lower Niagara River at 2,832 tonnes per second as it flows over the falls. The water is used for many purposes, among them the generation of electric power and even for drinking water. The official information tells us that the water originally comes from streams hundreds of miles away flowing into the great lakes. That tells us about the importance of streams.

In our Bibles the prophet Ezekiel tells us about visions which he had (*Ezk 47*) the first vision is of a stream flowing from the Lord's temple. It began with a small trickle of water, which got deeper every 500 metres until it got so deep that you would have to swim across it. It was no longer a stream. It was a river and there were many trees on its banks. In Ezekiel's vision he was told that the river would flow into the Dead Sea and make the water fresh and that there would be all kinds of animals and fish and that wherever it flows it would bring life; that the trees growing there would provide food and their leaves would not wither and they would not stop bearing fruit. They will have fruit every month because they are watered from the stream that flows from the temple.

I then read a prophecy from *Isaiah 35* in which he speaks of a desert. When we think of a desert we picture vast expanses of sand which are totally barren because it is incapable of bearing any greenery or vegetation. Isaiah paints a very optimistic picture of the desert when he says, "that the desert will rejoice and flowers will bloom in the wilderness". Then Isaiah tells how that will happen: he says that streams of water will flow through the desert, that the burning sand will become a Lake and the dry land will be filled with springs and that there will be a highway there called the "road of Holiness" and that no sinner will walk that road. It is clear in this Scripture that it was the streams which made all the difference.

I found myself thinking about how this applies to us when I realised that Jesus spoke of an even more important stream in *John 7: 37* – "On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." Jesus said this about the Holy Spirit, which those who believe in him were going to receive. At that time the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been raised to glory.

In this Scripture Jesus describes US as stream because we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts. We too have a great opportunity to make a difference in this world by being willing to share those streams of life giving water with as many as we can by telling them about our faith in God and that the peace and joy we have in our hearts can be theirs also.

All of this sharing began when I awoke in the middle of the night with a little poem in my head!!! Praise God.

Editor's comment: Never give up – God can still use you in old age or youth.

Can't make it to a Healing Prayer Centre during the week?

Saturday 22 September 2018

You are welcome to come to the Open House
Healing Ministry Day.
9.30am - 2.30pm at the CCR Centre.

JESUS HOPE OF THE WORLD

By CHRISTOPHER NOONE (CATHOLIC FRATERNITY MEMBER)



Hope is an essential ingredient for human life and happiness and a necessary virtue in the Christian life, but what is the foundation of hope? What is false hope? What is true hope? What distinguishes Christian hope and what makes it a sure and certain hope?

In Charles Dickens' book *Great Expectations*, one of the legendary characters he created was a lady by the name of Miss Havisham who, at 8:40am on her wedding day, received a letter from her groom to say that he would not be in attendance. Stopping all clocks in house at the precise time the letter arrived she spent the rest of life in her bridal dress and wore only one shoe, as she had not yet put on the other when the letter arrived. For Miss Havisham time stood still. She could not move on or would not move on. She was hopeless. Her life had ended.

Hopelessness, despair, grief, tragedy, condemnation, failure, shame, discouragement... they can all lay claim to our lives at one point or another. We can't control life's difficulties, but we can control how we respond to them. We can let them dominate and control our lives and cause us to live in the past or we can choose to move on. To do that, we need hope.

In the Bible we see people in hopeless situations like Joseph in Pharaoh's prison or Job who loses everything in a day, yet they choose to hope anyway even when they have no evidence that things will ever get better. Hope is always about the future.

The death of Jesus was a traumatic, defining moment for the disciples, a moment to hope or despair. Peter hoped, Judas despaired. Judas gave up all hope of forgiveness or redemption and took his life.

Peter, on the other hand, had been confident, hopeful, strident, brash and willing to give his life for Jesus, but by evening, Peter is fearful, humiliated, devastated by the weakness of his disloyalty and weeping bitter tears over his betrayal. Jesus is crucified. Peter is nowhere to be seen, a deserter, shamed, confused, hiding. The dream is shattered. Jesus, the fulfilment of Israel's hope is dead. Peter is losing hope. Come Sunday, Jesus is alive! Yes, it's true. He's alive, He's alive and that means everything changes! Hope is restored not just for Peter and the disciples, but for all humanity.

Peter refers to the resurrection event as a "living hope" that we are born into, a hope whose foundation is both an event AND a person. "By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." (1 Peter 1:3). Jesus is alive and because he's alive, he's conquered every obstacle to hope at its source. The resurrection is proof that the death of Jesus worked! Satan, death's author, the master of hell and despair, is defeated. Jesus disarmed and defeated him at the very moment when all seemed hopeless. Jesus' death and resurrection become the foundation of all true hope.

In difficult circumstances we need hope, but what we usually want most is change, deliverance, a quick solution. We all want that, but, sometimes what we need more, is for God to sustain us until we see the change, and that's always longer than we want it to be... and so the need for hope. So, how does hope come? Hope comes through believing in God's character and His promises in the bible. Faith in God's character and promises evangelises our hearts to hope and hang on. Feeding on the truth gives us hope, joy and peace despite our circumstances.

Disappointment comes with false hope. In our age, humanity on the whole has a misplaced hope in science, technology, engineering, medicine, education, its own cleverness, etc. We have replaced God with hope in a new Eden of our own creating where man is both author and manager. There's another word for it, idolatry. God in his mercy smashes idols so that we can find him and put our hope in him alone. Often, we need to reach a place of hopelessness before we can discover that, "Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth," (*Psalms 121:2*) and only in Him.

Christian hope is for this earthly life, a means to overcome difficulties and discouragement, but more than that, it is an anchor in eternity. Our hope is secured in heaven. Jesus is alive! We hope in Him, His promises and His resurrection. We hope in Jesus coming again, in our own resurrection from the dead and the life to come "And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (*Rom 5:5*). As sure as his hoped for coming was fulfilled in Bethlehem, so will his coming in glory because: Jesus is alive!

Prayer for Catholic Charismatic Renewal

God our Father pour out your Spirit
on us as you did at Pentecost.

We pray that you will bless with Wisdom, Strength
and Vision all who hold authority in the Church, and
especially the leaders of the Charismatic Renewal
within our area and throughout the world.

May their loving ministry strengthen us
in our unity, prayer and service.

Renew the depths of our hearts, fill them with
praise, prayer and power for service
to others.

Help us in the Charismatic Renewal to become a
prophetic people who are able to love as Mary did,
and so renew the Church for your glory and honour,
through Christ Our Lord

AMEN.

A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



A 240 litre recycling bin is currently in the office for cleaning out years of files and paperwork that are no longer needed. In much the same way that we spring clean our homes, yearly or more often if we're houseproud, we undertake this task in the office. Otherwise, unnecessary clutter can clog our storage space and we hardly notice until we set to work to clean out the accumulation of all sorts of things. I sense that it can be the same in our homes as well as with our inner lives. When we store up things in our hearts or store away things in our minds to be dealt with at a time in the future which can often be many years away, it can hamper the way we live our lives. And so, we carry needless baggage.

Reflecting upon how often we think about cleaning out the accumulation of heavy baggage that we hold onto, Jesus, often referred to as Rabbi in the Gospels, exhorts us to lay down our burdens and the yokes that bind us. In *Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)* He teaches us to, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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." We've all heard and read this passage of scripture, but do we really understand and do it?

Too often, we think that it's only the big or disastrous things that need laying down, but this is not the case. An accumulation of small and seemingly insignificant things when added collectively can have just as much weight in our lives. I recall a High School Sports Teacher who wouldn't let me try out for the Basketball team.

My response was to become defiant and consequently after a few attempts at softball, I threw in the towel and didn't take part in any school sports at all from then on. As I look back now I lament the missed opportunity and wonder what part that may have played in my lifelong difficulty in partaking in any sport or exercise. Although, I can happily watch sports without any problem. I tend to dismiss the memory, as we can so often do in life, as insignificant. Not surprisingly, hurt surfaced.

In dealing with these seemingly little issues in life, we need to be willing to embrace the truth if we seriously want to experience the freedom which Jesus promises us. Setting aside time asking Jesus to remind us of what we may still be holding onto can be beneficial. Facing up to our long-held hurts, beliefs and even our own shortcomings, is a step towards freedom. For deeper issues prayer ministry may be needed. This is a wonderful way in which the Holy Spirit can free us from our miseries, regrets and burdens. Not forgetting, of course, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, if necessary, wherein we receive the loving mercy of God our Father for any shortcomings on our part. This can be so uplifting and freeing.

So, as you go about your spring cleaning this Spring, allow Jesus and the Holy Spirit to enlighten you about

the circumstances in your life wherein there might be clutter and where He wants to bring you into a new-found freedom. *2Cor 3:17* "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (NIV) Only Jesus can truly free us and that is why "When the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." *John 8:36 (NIV)*. This is Jesus' promise to us.

OBITUARY

**Well done, good and faithful servant.
Enter into the joy
of your Master.**

Matt 25:23



Therese Parker came to Sacre Coeur Prayer Community in the mid 1980s. She was a real influence right from the beginning. As a member of the Pastoral Team, her powerful prophecies seemed to be directed to the Pastoral Team and the Core group and acted as direct counsel to the team.

Therese was always a member of Margaret West's team on Sacre Coeur's outreaches to towns like Warnambool, Traralgon, Cobram, Portland, Geelong, Bass and to Hay in NSW. On these outreaches she would often lead the Praise and Worship using her singing talent and encouraging the use of tongues.

At Fr. Tardiff's first visit to Melbourne, she was part of the four part choir in the alto section with Franka Waters from the Vermont group. The band had been formed by Lyle Hoeffler from Catholic, Anglican and Pentecostal sources. Therese's husband, John was the key stone of the group. Peter Foster had the privilege of writing the four part arrangement of the favourite Charismatic songs and conducting the ensemble. Therese and Franka were tops at their jobs.

Therese and John led the Music Ministry at Sacre Coeur for many years. They only retired when they could no longer drive at night. Therese continued to occasionally join the group for special events and retreat.

They led a prayer group of about twenty people in their own parish until Therese's death.

Therese touched many people's lives. She was a great encourager and was fun to be with in both spiritual and recreational times. She had the joy of the Lord with her always.

More recently she enjoyed travelling with several friends from Sacre Coeur on train journeys across Victoria. She loved to train it to the city and walk along the Yarra around Southbank and it was on this last trip that she suffered a cerebral haemorrhage, was brought back to Box Hill Hospital where, surrounded by family, she passed away.

May God bless you, Therese. Rest in peace. You will always be in our prayers.

MARK YOUR DIARIES...

Renewal Day

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

24 November 2018

International Festa – all communities invited to bring along their national dish and participate in end of year celebration.

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.

New Course

8 September 2018

'Talking' Jesus – a course designed to equip and train in presenting Jesus in a conversational manner. See flyer on page 3.

Annual Conference

15-18 January 2019

'Lavished by Grace' will be presented by keynote speakers Jim Murphy International President of CCR & Bishop Colin Campbell from New Zealand. More details to follow soon.

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 – 5.00pm 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 Anthony's, Glenhuntly Cnr Neerim Road & Grange Road, Glenhuntly
	8.15pm	St Peter's, Clayton
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

St Peter's, East Bentleigh - Healing Masses: Monday 19 November 2018