

FEBRUARY 2020

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

Good News

Catholic Charismatic Renewal
serving the Church



The newsletter of the
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Melbourne, Australia.

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SHAKEN!

By LENYCE WILLASON



What dance are you participating in? The survival dance or the sacred dance? When were you last disturbed by God? Have you become complacent? Are you taking healings for granted? Have you lost your awe for God's power and are not realising how you are grieving God's heart?

What a refreshing challenge to be faced with during the annual conference – *"Shook: the ground-breaking ministry of Jesus"*. With great emphasis Michelle Moran and Mark Nimo told us to not get comfortable because we have been around for fifty-two years – we are drawn in to be sent out.

Over four days we explored the ministry of Jesus from the aspects of "inbreaking", ground-breaking and boundary breaking. "Inbreaking" into humanity happened through the Incarnation. *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"* (John 1:14). The kingdom of God is still "inbreaking" our lives through the many encounters through which we experience God's presence. The "ground-breaking" examples Jesus gave us of 'radical' hospitality presented another challenge. Jesus created spaces where those gathered around him encountered relationship and found a place of belonging. He gathered communities of faith where people could gather and be honest about how they feel, not to be judged but to be ministered to and prayed for. His hospitality encompassed whatever was needed in the moment. We tend to forget that Jesus was firstly Jewish. He was also a preacher, an exorcist and a healer. His was always an invitation to come into the presence of the one who heals, liberates and sets free.

We live in a culture that is focused on I, myself and me. Who or what is at the core of our being? Is it the Lord, who is peace, love and joy or is it myself who is fearful or anxious? Jesus broke through boundaries of race, culture and ideology. One example - the woman at the well - Samaritans were a race that Jesus should not have been speaking to yet he told her the truth about herself and brought her freedom.

Our young people are suffering "social anxiety". Society has never been so well connected with the technologies today and yet there is a major starvation inside people, craving another person. One in four people struggle with mental health and if the church doesn't step in then the devil won't waste time filling the gap. We exist for others. We exist to take the love of God to others and wherever God is present, healing takes place.

This was a Conference where the power of God was very evident. May we listen and act!



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ACROSS MY DESK

By LENYCE WILLASON

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The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is
Friday 17 April 2020.



**But select capable men from all the people –
men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate
dishonest gain – and appoint them as officials
over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.**

Exodus 18:21

Often times words fail when trying to relate the impression left from hearing an excellent speaker. This was the case in listening to Shayne Bennett, Moderator for Charis for Oceania, convey the vision of Charis the possible implications and reality for Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It is for this reason that his talk is given in full in this edition of *Good News* (see page 4). It is recommended reading for everyone. I make no apology for the length of the article because it is a transcript of his talk given at the recent “Shook” Conference. It is recommended that every leader of a prayer group read this and perhaps share with core groups how best you might address it in your groups.

Shayne Bennett is an excellent choice as Moderator of Charis Oceania, summed up by the instruction Moses gave (*Ex: 18:21*) for selecting those who were to carry on the work begun by God. Charis is a new wine skin for a new season.

We are now the Catholic Charismatic Renewal ‘Family’ and as such there will be more outreach to the realities that have been birthed from Catholic Charismatic Renewal. When one stops to think about the many ministries etc that have arisen from the Baptism in the Holy Spirit one becomes awestruck at just how much the Holy Spirit has accomplished in fifty years. The overriding message is that there is only **one** charismatic renewal consisting of many parts, each needing the other.

Over the next couple of months, the co-ordinators of CCR Melbourne will be going through a discernment process as we seek God’s vision for the ‘communion of service’ that will replace the traditional Coordinating body of CCR. We would ask you to pray for us as we meet to pray and discern the way forward, not only for who is to join the service of communion but also for the future of the Centre.

Over the past year when the co-ordinators have met for prayer there has been a consistency on the Word spoken in prophecy. “Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities (*Isaiah 54: 2-3*). We have waited on the Lord for understanding not wanting to resist what God was calling us to. When a tent peg has been in the ground for a long time the ground becomes hard and it can take a long time to move the peg. It often needs much water to soften the ground so that movement is possible. Hence our need as co-ordinators for the rain of the Holy Spirit. As we “lengthen our cords and stretch our curtains wide” we pray that the Holy Spirit will “strengthen our stakes” so that the new wine will be sweeter than the old and we “will take possessions of the nations”.

Wonderful and awesome God, we come before you, and desire that our lives to be like an open book. Come write your story of love across every page, so that we will hear your voice of guidance in all we do. May our every move be at one with your will. Come and reveal to us all that we need to see along the way, as we journey on this incredible adventure with you.

In Jesus name, Amen.

WHY DO WE NEED TO BE SHAKEN?

By BAN WEE



Michelle Moran, in her first talk at the January 2020 CCR Melbourne Conference asked, “Why do we, as followers of Christ, need to be shaken?” Her response is that we are not called to be followers but disciples of Christ.

Those present at the conference are clearly disciples of Jesus according to her. The Lord is calling us to be the people he called us to be.

She felt led by the Lord to speak about Sir Francis Drake who lived in the mid 16th century. He is a famous English sea captain who carried out the second circumnavigation of the world in a single expedition and he claimed the west coast of the United States the part we know as California for the English. The Spanish were not too happy with that and they called him Pirate Drake. Queen Elizabeth I awarded him a knighthood. We could call him a colourful and controversial extraordinary figure and he was a son of a clergyman. He was a man of faith and a great explorer. He wrote a prayer called “Disturb us O Lord” and it is appropriate for the beginning of a talk on the Shaking Ministry of Jesus Christ.

Francis Drake’s prayer

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well
pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

That is a prayer we need to make, “Disturb us O Lord.” We have become too comfortable and we need to allow the Lord to shake us up. It is a dangerous prayer, Francis Drake approached faith with the courage of an explorer. When we think of our call not just to follow Jesus but to become a disciple; we need equally to prepare to pray for courage; a strengthening of our hearts. The Lord wants to do this because we are coming upon times when things

are not as certain or as easy as they have been. The Lord wants us to have an unshakeable faith. In order for us to be strengthened and to have an unshakeable faith, the Lord needs to disturb us.

A famous Dominican, Herbert McCabe, said, “Christianity is often associated with the good and the safe but the focus should be on the rescued and the saved.” When we put the emphasis on the rescued and the saved, we are taking the emphasis away from what we can do and focusing it on the Lord. He is our Saviour, he is our rescuer. It is not about us, it is about the Lord. Really, we cannot control anything. We think we can but actually we can’t. We need to be out of control but be in the control of the Lord. Don’t fear loss of control as it is a saving grace. God wants to save us from ourselves, from our small-mindedness, from our narrow horizons and from sailing so close to the shore that we never do anything. It is time to go out to where you never been before. “Don’t worry because I am with you, I am in control.” says the Lord.

We start off well in our journey having been set free, released, with the Lord in our lives and seeing colour rather than black and white. We move on and hit a plateau place and then stay to enjoy the view. We are not tourists but pilgrims, so we should stop admiring the view and keep going. The Lord always call us forward. Don’t go to the place where you drop the anchor and you are just bobbing in the sea. Francis Drake didn’t circumnavigate the world by dropping the anchor and enjoy the bobbing around. He was a man of vision, he knew where he was going, he didn’t have the ability to get there, he had to learn to navigate the rough seas and by the grace of God he was able to accomplish what the Lord gave him to do. This is what God calls us to do. For those of us who have been on this journey for a long time, the Lord says, “I have so much more I want to accomplish in you and through you. You are vital people in the kingdom that is coming, the kingdom that is among us and not fully realised. It will be peopled by people like you.”

Once Michelle was travelling with Patti Mansfield to many Brazilian towns for WYD, giving their testimonies night after night. One morning the Lord said to Michelle, “The most important thing is not how you began the race but how you finish.” She felt a shock as they were rejoicing over what the Lord had done the previous nights. She felt the Lord was reminding her that we **are** a testimony, not just that we have a testimony. The way we began the race is not as important as how we finish the race. In all those images that St Paul has about running the race, he is always urging us to keep going.

Discipleship is costly. It will cost you your life but we need the right perspective. For Christians death is not the end, death is the passage into the even more glorious. Discipleship is the living of the more glorious life. It is costly but the inheritance is out of this world. It is about glory, living in the presence of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. At the heart of our lives in Jesus Christ is this call to live under the Lordship of Christ. **Cont. page 7**

THE WORK OF CHARIS IN OCEANIA

By SHAYNE BENNETT



In June 2019, Charis, the new single service for the world-wide Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), was launched. As this was to become the one service for CCR, it meant that the offices of ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity were to be closed. This came as a shock. In this conference, we have spoken about being shaken, well this was certainly a shaking that we did not have in mind. It was first of all a shaking which came from the decision of the Holy Father but as we reflected more – this was a shaking up of what we had known for many years which was coming about through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I was conscious that for some people, this decision caused pain and confusion but there was no choice. Jesus reveals to us that pain is part of the journey and we have to push forward in faith even in the face of pain. For me there was also some struggle involved. I knew something of the cost of establishing both ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity – the human, spiritual and financial cost was great. It was a decision that challenged me to pray and seek God. After a while it became a question of “not what was Pope Francis doing” – but “what was the Holy Spirit doing”. That was an important step for me.

When things are hard, one of the gifts that is most important is the gift of discernment because without the gift of discernment we can become discouraged or disillusioned – with God. It is like “God, what are you doing, you’ve let me down, we have worked at this year after year after year and now it has all ended!” What about all our good work. I wonder if the disciples had questions like these when Jesus had been crucified. These are the human questions that confront us when we have to let go of something, and this is not always easy. We had to try and discern what the Holy Spirit was doing. I want to offer you a few reflections about what I think the Holy Spirit is doing and some discernment about where we are going. I attended my first International Conference for CCR in 1974 at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and one of the things I will never forget is the proclamation of 30,000 people singing together “Jesus is Lord”.

Year after year after year, this was the proclamation for CCR – “Jesus is Lord” – and why is that our proclamation? Because the Holy Spirit had done for us what we read about in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit had opened our eyes to the reality that “Jesus is Lord”, as he did for Mary Magdalen, as he did for those disciples on the road to Emmaus, as he did for the apostles as they found him cooking breakfast for them on the shore when they came in with their fish. That experience of opening our eyes to Jesus is the foundational experience of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Seeing Jesus, being convinced that Jesus is risen from the dead, and then being empowered by the Holy Spirit; that the same Spirit that we have read about coming upon Jesus has come upon us – we experienced it. It wasn’t as if we had not received the Holy Spirit in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, but for most of us it hadn’t been an experiential reality. In the baptism in the Spirit, the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit were released within us profoundly. Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus set out immediately to return to Jerusalem (a dangerous journey in the evening) and announce that Jesus was truly risen from the dead, we too have gone out to tell our friends as well as strangers that Jesus is alive and we can encounter him. We ran around like crazy people, telling anyone who would listen, ‘Jesus is Risen’ ‘you must experience prayer, you must come to the prayer group, I can’t keep quiet about this.’ The impact of that was to make Jesus the priority of our lives. We read our Scriptures, we prayed, we would seek out others who had also encountered Jesus.

I experienced the Baptism in the Spirit in my final year at high school when I was prayed over by one of the teachers after a prayer meeting in the Science Laboratory. Interesting! I like to

think I am one of God’s little scientific experiments! One of the first things I wanted to do was to gather with other people who had this same experience. To be together, to pray together to share this reality of Jesus risen from the dead.

While prayer groups were foundational for CCR, they were soon to give birth to other realities. Ministries of healing and deliverance came pretty quickly – who could forget Frs. Francis MacNutt and Emileano Tardif, ministries of evangelisation, preaching and teaching, a variety of forms of community emerged, Houses of Prayer, Religious Communities, Retreat Centres, youth ministries, Charismatic forms of praise and worship reaching out to new generations and so much more. This has been the fruit of this great current of grace that we name Catholic Charismatic Renewal. That is our history – what is to be our future? I think there is no reason to believe that our future should be any less than our history – it should be better. We need to keep growing in the Holy Spirit. However, there can only be a future if we find ourselves proclaiming with our mouths and living with our lives that Jesus Christ is Lord. The history of the Church tells us that Charismatic Renewals (we’re not the first) often last around 50 years and then die out. It also tells us that the Charismatic Renewals that last, e.g. Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, and Carmelites – must maintain two distinct features.

The first is to remain faithful to the original charism. Do not give up on what God has given. When you do, then it becomes some kind of human good idea. And the Charismatic Renewal is not just a human idea. I am sure if we were to evaluate it from a human perspective it probably wouldn’t be a good idea at all. We can be seen crazy people (they thought the apostles were drunk)! We must remain faithful to the original charism.

Secondly, we need the ability to integrate that charism into the ordinary life of the Church. We need some form of institutionalisation and that is exactly what Pope Francis has given CCR in establishing it canonically as a Public Association of the Faithful. Institution and charism are described as two constitutive elements of the Church. They need each other to function properly. Institution provides that dimension of stability and structure while charism breathes life into those structures.

When you lean into charism what happens? You are at the mercy of the Holy Spirit and anything can happen. When I was first baptised in the Holy Spirit, I experienced this incredible urge to proclaim the Gospel. I said, “Lord send me anywhere except Africa!” In 2003 I realised I’d had the opportunity to preach the Gospel on every Continent except one! I was praying one day and the Lord brought this to mind, and I said, “Lord, I don’t know whether I’ve placed a blockage to your call but from today, I give you free reign in my life – I will go where you want me to go”. Within 3 months I received an invitation to go to Africa and in 2004, I set foot in Uganda where I have been working for the last 14 years setting up Net Teams and supporting local community initiatives. Just recently, I have also been working with the Archdiocese of Cape Town. When you lean into that sense of inspiration by the Holy Spirit, we can find ourselves in unexplored territory where everything is not so safe and ordered. I’m sure this was the experience of missionaries who moved from Europe to South America, Asia and Africa. There were not only new languages but new cultures, new encounters with people. The certainty of Europe was replaced by the uncertainty of the missionary experience.

Some people today talk of charismatic prayer liturgies – 2 songs, a reading, 3 prophecies followed by 2 songs and then some intercession and then we will have a cup of tea and then go home. That behaviour signals the death knell of the Renewal. We must make sure we have not tamed the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our groups. There are many testimonies of both prayer groups

and communities who have ceased to use the charismatic gifts because it makes some people feel uncomfortable. Well, the Cross should make you feel a little uncomfortable as well but that doesn't mean we give up Jesus. Either these gifts are given to be received for the building up of the body for the mission of the church or they are not authentic gifts. The church has already confirmed they are authentic gifts: one Papacy after another, together with Conferences of Bishops from around the world have confirmed they are authentic. We can't then say "These gifts are a bit embarrassing – we are not too sure what God was doing when he thought up the gift of Tongues but let's just put that on the shelf. Prophecy is a bit iffy too – there is someone who comes and give weird prophecies every week – let's forget about prophecy. In the end, all that will be left will be the cup of tea. We disempower the Charismatic Renewal when we refuse to utilise the charismatic gifts. This current of grace has been given to renew the church and the world. It is so important that we are living what God has given to us. This diminishing of charisms for the sake of fitting in with secular character or feeling challenged to utilise them is a challenge to which we must respond. Charisms remind us that we follow a God who actually intervenes in the world, in the church, and in our lives. God is not way out in the clouds but close to us in our lives. If people think we're crazy or freakish because we believe this then so be it. Do not allow others to rob you of a God who has made himself known to us, a God whom you can experience, who will speak, who cares about you, who loves you, who is not remote but is as close as your breath. We are promised in the Gospel of John. "He became flesh and lived amongst us". God comes and lives amongst us.

We have to stir up the gifts and for the gifts to be stirred up we must be stirred up. We must be shaken out of our complacency. Each of us needs to be renewed in the Holy Spirit if we are to bring renewal to the church. We need to be stirred up, refreshed, renewed, re-empowered by the Holy Spirit if we are to bring renewal to the Church. My life was touched when I was 17 years old, and that's a little while ago now. As each decade has passed, I continue to recognise my own need to be stirred up, to be renewed, to be open again to the power of the Holy Spirit, especially when you work in institutional settings. One of those settings for me is the Seminary. It is a great joy to be able to speak about the role of the Holy Spirit. I don't go recruiting for the Charismatic renewal, but I do ask students to respond to what the Scriptures promise and what the Church asks of us. This is what I mean by integrating the experience of charismatic renewal into the ordinary life of the Church. This outpouring of charisms is not for a few, it is for the whole Church. As Cardinal Farrell has said, this renewal belongs to the whole Church not just a few. What Pope Francis has done in removing the previous structures has said, 'let's start again' not in the sense of starting from the beginning but by renewing ourselves in the current of grace. He reminds us that this is a grace for all and the place he wants to begin is the CCR itself. The role of Charis is to serve the unity of the charismatic renewal, to bring together in communion the many expressions of CCR - prayer groups, communities, ministries of healing deliverance, preaching and teaching etc. This sense of being one family is critical. If we can't build unity in this context, we will not build unity in seeking to serve in our parishes, dioceses etc.

In November of 2019, we had our first interim National Service of Communion (NSoC) gathering and we began to speak about the CCR "family". I was speaking to someone recently and I mentioned CCR and he said, "and Communities". I replied "no" that language is dead. Yes, there are prayer groups and communities and charismatic ministries but Charis is called to serve "all". We don't split up the renewal into the entities of prayer groups and communities. That vision is too small and insufficiently inclusive. Sitting around the table of the NSoC will be representatives of the 'all' and we will take a concern for one another. This is a major change of mind. What we have tended to do is to look after our own, but to take a concern for all actually represents the fact that we are a family together, without trying

to reshape anyone in anybody else's image, people are free to continue to grow as they are but they won't be alone in the same sort of way. We have a responsibility to care for each other.

So, in summary, the first point is that Pope Francis calls us back to our foundation and one of the ways he has done that is to remove the structures that have existed so as to rediscover something 'new'. And that rediscovery of something 'new' is to rediscover who we are, as family, as a charismatic family who have been renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As the journey of CCR evolved over these last 50 years we have worked hard in this country to be unified. In Australia, we owe an incredible debt of thanks to Allan Panozza and Brian Smith, as leaders both internationally and locally. They developed a friendship which spoke of the mutual respect of prayer groups and communities and of International bodies such as ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity. And while that has been our experience here in Australia, it is not true to say it has been the same in other countries who have had some significant difficulties. While we have not experienced division there has been a fragmentation, and that fragmentation has been in the sense of everybody goes and looks after their own little plot. It is like a big family where the kids go off and get married and they establish their own families, but it is important to remember that they are also part of something bigger than just their particular family. I think that one of the significant things that God is calling us to do, is to recognise the other members of the family and to be generous to others – not just those in the charismatic renewal. Remember that the renewal belongs to the church not the other way around. The grace that we receive is a grace to be shared and this is something to be done in a respectful way recognising the action of God's Spirit already alive and active in the Church.

We are going to launch Charis in Australia with a national gathering of leaders in Sydney at the end April – early May, where we will bring together the leaders of the different realities and launch this new vision. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal does not belong to itself. It belongs to the Church and has a responsibility to the Church. St John Paul II often spoke of Charismatic Renewal as being a force for the renewal of church and the world. Brothers and sisters, we live in a challenging time in our country. You don't need me to tell you of the difficulties that exist – they are obvious, they are in the paper every day. If we are going to be a force for the world and the church we need to stand together, with respect for what the other is doing. So often we have a great confidence in what we are doing. The real test of whether we actually believe in the church is whether we believe in what the "others" in the church are doing. God is not just active in our part of the world, in our little group, or big group whatever it may be. It is important to realise that God is at work far beyond us. So it is that spirit of communion at work: cooperation, collaboration, mutual respect, sharing resources, where it is practical, believing in one another, speaking well of one another - these are all aspects of a spirit of communion where we recognise that Jesus is Lord and that he has poured out his Spirit on each of us. It is really important that as we gain this sense of family it also allows us to build relationships which extend beyond the borders of the Roman Catholic Church. We are challenged by our own Church to make real the relationship we have with other Christians. This is what our church is committed to. When I hear that some senior people in the church are saying, "we can't pray with these people or we can't do this" – that is not what the church teaches. The church teaches us to work predominantly in the area of spiritual ecumenism. There are some complex ways of working together which require more oversight or more reference to the Bishop or to the direction of ecumenism as practiced in the Diocese. However, at the very practical level, and this is the level Pope Francis is speaking about, pray with each other and learn to love one another. The emphasis of Pope Francis is to say that unity is about more than agreeing on doctrinal statements, however important they are. If tomorrow the church declared "we are one and nobody has any problems with one another" would anything be really different?



Relationally we are separated— and until we can learn to love one another — this is the big challenge even in our own church—the lack of love that is being manifested, the lack of charity that is being manifested, the divisions that are being sown. This is not the work of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis challenges us to grow in love and relationship and as we do that, we can work together in caring for those in need. Unless we build the relationship, we're not going anywhere. It is that relationship that gives substance to the theological dialogue. It is that relationship which pushes the theological dialogue and says "this is what we are experiencing" now "let's talk about that -what does that mean theologically?" Otherwise it remains an exercise in academics disconnected to real life experiences. So, the people of God have a real contribution to make in this whole ecumenical journey by growing in love and unity with one another. I think we have to ask ourselves, "Do we care about unity? Do we pray for unity? Do we engage with other Christians?" I remember back in the 1970's, ten years after the Second Vatican Council, there was just this great belief that God was going to do marvellous things from an ecumenical perspective. Truly, there were some amazing things that happened. And then, as the 80's and 90's rolled around everyone seemed to retreat back into their own groups. There is a lot of that that exists today. I think that Charismatic Renewal has a prophetic role to play in this area. Cardinal Farrell went onto speak of CCR as "the instrument of choice for the Church's ecumenical effort". Why? Because of this grass roots ecumenism; because of the capacity to share relationship and faith and around the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit with other Christians. He went onto say that "therefore there is a shared spiritual experience across Charismatic Renewal for Christians of all denominations. The Renewal is providentially placed as an experience that unites Christians. It was born as something ecumenical in the maturing of its ecclesial identity. The Renewal is called by Pope Francis to participate in this task, as the successor of Peter, reconciling Christian Churches and Communities so that all might be one."

Cardinal Farrell points to spiritual ecumenism and the actions of praying together with other Christians or doing works of mercy alongside them, is actually a sharing in the Pope's responsibility to build unity among the Christian Churches. There might be some Christian friends here today who are not Catholic, let me welcome you — you are very welcome. It is also a blessing to have a speaker who is not of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal but who will speak to us from the unique perspective of being a Christian Jew. We should be grateful for that, for that generosity, for that willingness to meet us. The world needs Jesus Christ.

The third point I discern that Pope Francis is calling the CCR to at every level is to reach out to the church and the world with love. As I said, you don't need me to quote you facts and figures to alert you that the church in Australia is in trouble — serious trouble. Some of the projections are frightening. However, we should not be governed by the projection of figures. The practice of faith is not defined by the sociologists — the church in Australia is defined by the Holy Spirit. Sociologists can tell us what they see when they look back or a direction forward based on the past but they are not prophets, they don't have the power to define the future.

Two of the major challenges to the church both from within and without is the lack of both authenticity and relevance. There are others, but let me focus just on these two for the moment. I think we should take these two challenges and see it as our business to respond to them both as individuals, as families, as groups or communities or wherever we come from. The baptism in the Holy Spirit releases a power within us to be faith filled disciples — not perfect disciples. No one here is perfect — neither those up

front or those in the auditorium. Please don't put anybody on that sort of pedestal. Do not expect your leaders to be perfect — they won't be — because they are like you. We are sinners together in need of the mercy of Christ, but the Holy Spirit causes us to be like Jesus; to be men and women who won't compromise the Gospel; to be men and women who allow our actions to speak more loudly than our words. The situation in our church is not something we are going to talk our way out of. Talk is done. We can repent for 50 years but unless our behaviour changes — that's the only thing people are going to be interested in. Is there going to be a change of behaviour? On our part we always have to allow the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, and to do our best to be authentic in following Jesus. Relevance is one of those qualities that must be lived. We need to live in such a way as to understand the connection between faith and lived lives. Faith is not something disconnected from daily life. It is at the heart of daily life. Our faith in Jesus should determine our decision making, our relationships, our priorities, how we spend our time and money. Conferences such as this are an inspiration to us to go for 'more'; it is sometimes hard for us to hear that — 'more'. It's like, "well, I am doing all I can", actually you are so much more than you are currently. And God will call forth the 'more'. It is not as if we have to sit there and generate sufficient will-power to be the 'more'. To be the 'more' is to be transformed by the HS. It is the HS that makes us the 'more', who enables us to be all that we can be. We need to be able to model for others how faith and life intersect. If Jesus is not real, our lives should make no sense. We can't renew the church and the world in our own strength. We can't do it on our own in our groups, communities and ministries; we need one another, and we need the Holy Spirit.

As we gather, our eyes must always be conscious of the others who are not gathered with us, and we should never be content. Oh, we have a Prayer Group of 150 — great! — when will you have a Prayer Group of 200? Not to say we should have a Prayer Group of 150 but how do we unleash the power for mission of that 150 so that it becomes 200. It is not about existing for our own purpose — we exist for others. We live for others — we live to give our lives away. As much as I would love to see the Charismatic Renewal grow to a great multitude, I sometimes wonder whether that is God's intention. God's intention clearly is to awaken the Church to the charismatic reality. To awaken the Church to what the HS desires for everyone and that cannot be confined to one or another group. We are not talking about something little — we are talking about God's Holy Spirit — we are talking about the power that hovered over the chaos — we are talking about the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead — the same spirit who awakened within us eyes to Jesus resurrected. These things belong to the Church, but many in the Church don't know it. We have a responsibility — we've been told we have a responsibility; we have been told by the Holy Father himself that we have a responsibility. Not a responsibility to be exercised in arrogance or in pride, but a responsibility to be exercised in service. And the role of Charis in all that is to support the giftedness that God has raised up; to support the unity of Charismatic Renewal in all its manifestations and to serve the needs of the Renewal. Our role in the many manifestations of CCR is to help people become aware of the Holy Spirit; to become aware of the power of Baptism in the Holy Spirit, to become aware that gifts and charisms that have been given as a result of Baptism and Confirmation. We live in a time of a current of grace and that grace is sweeping the world.

And so, brothers and sisters, will we allow ourselves to be shaken so as to seek a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit to enable us to arouse a missionary spirit which takes us beyond our comfort and laziness. We pray that we will have the grace to be like Mary our mother and simply say "YES".

A Testimony from the Conference, "Shook"

Let my praise exalt the Lord for I can never praise Him enough. I give glory and thanksgiving to my beloved, Saviour Lord Jesus Christ and praise God with all my heart, for all circumstances. I believe, that late last year, the love of Jesus healed me of rheumatoid arthritis which I had for many years. I had been waiting for this healing for a long time, 23 years, and as the Lord had foretold long ago and the Lord had promised me, Jesus healed me. Thank you Jesus again and again for healing me.

A few days before the conference I had a lot of joint pain and lack of strength in my body. Then on Wednesday, during the "Shook" Conference, I was already in pain when I had a bad fall, falling flat and injuring a few parts of my body. I know that the Lord raised me. Immediately after the fall I noticed that all the other pain and weakness had left me. Later that afternoon, during the adoration, which Michelle Moran conducted, my body felt free again, strength had returned and the aftereffects of the fall were much reduced.

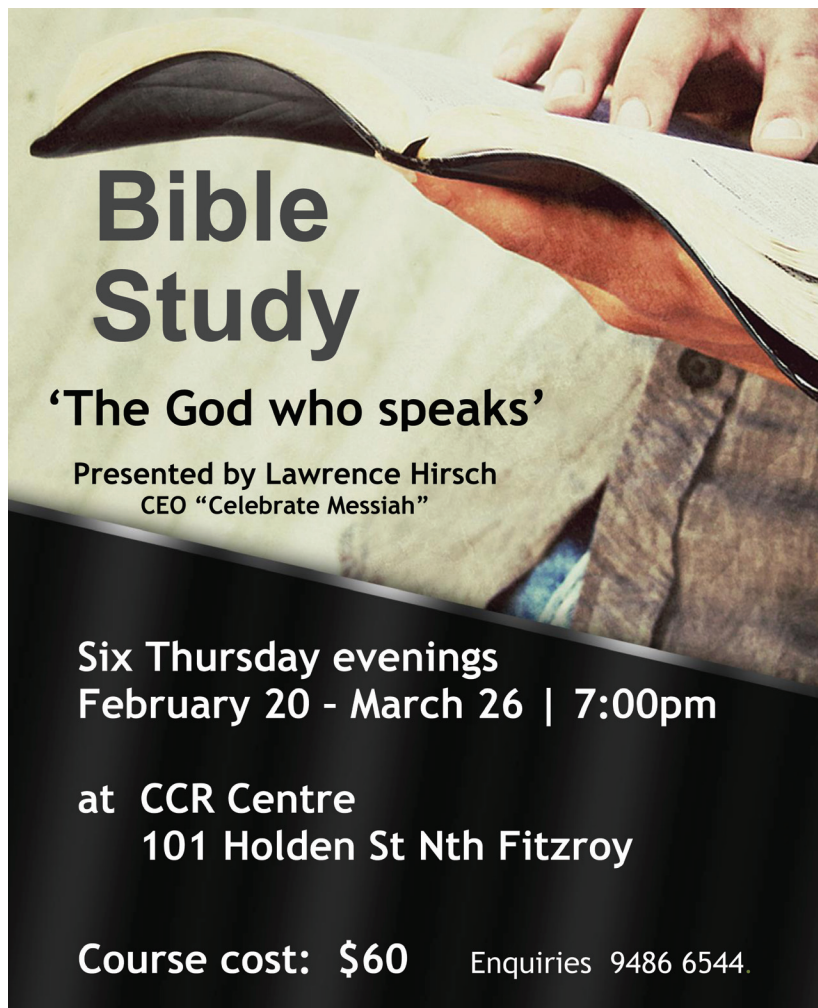
Great is our God for His protection and healing me; the Lord gave me a full recovery from the fall by Friday evening, two days later. Lord you are my God. I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness, you have done wonderful things planned long ago. I give thanks to your name, for you have worked wonders in my life.

YOLANDE BLOM

The attendees at the Annual conference were treated to presentations from our young adults. Ayus Matthews reported in on the Young Leaders summit held recently in Auckland where young adults were trained in leadership and on the ways to present the Life in the Spirit Seminar that was written for young people. Josh Angriasno, young adult's co-ordinator brought an anointing down on those present with his Gospel Rap. There were a few tears in the eyes listening to Josh. More on their reports next edition.

Continued from page 3

In the Renewal sometimes we like the idea, Jesus my friend and Jesus my brother but Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, in the words of John the Baptist, "I need to decrease so the Lord can increase." That is the journey. St Thomas Aquinas says to live with Jesus Christ as my Lord, means he is the centre of everything. In short if Jesus is not the Lord of everything, he is not the Lord of anything.



Bible Study

'The God who speaks'

Presented by Lawrence Hirsch
CEO "Celebrate Messiah"

Six Thursday evenings
February 20 - March 26 | 7:00pm

at CCR Centre
101 Holden St Nth Fitzroy

Course cost: \$60 Enquiries 9486 6544.

CELEBRATING GODLY LIVES

R.I.P. Rev Dr. Francis MacNutt

The Reverend Dr. Francis Scott MacNutt, a beloved leader in the worldwide Catholic Charismatic Renewal and an ecumenical leader in healing prayer ministry, died 12 January 2020 after a short illness.

Francis was a pioneer in his field who dedicated his life to restoring the legacy of healing to the Church. His extraordinary wisdom and deep compassion for all who are suffering will be greatly missed.

R.I.P. Anthony (Tony) Grieve

Tony was a long time member of CCR and spent the last four years as a co-ordinator. He will be greatly missed.

A CHARISMATIC CHECK UP FOR THE NEW YEAR



By FR PAT COLLINS CM

We visit a doctor to check our physical health. As 2020 begins, Fr Pat Collins asks about our charismatic health-and suggests ways, with the Holy Spirit's help, to make changes.

We surely need regular spiritual check-ups. They should look at important aspects of our spiritual lives, with a view to ascertaining what changes might be needed.

A Questionnaire

1. At some point you experienced a spiritual awakening, one that enabled you to have a new, personal awareness of the length and breadth, the height and depth of the unconditional love of Christ for you. Have you had subsequent in-fillings that have strengthened that sense of God's merciful love?
2. A spiritual awakening is often associated with the granting of the charismatic gifts mentioned in *1 Corinthians 12:8-10*. If you received one or more of the charisms when you were filled with the Spirit, or afterwards, e.g. the gift of praying in tongues, do you exercise them as much now as you once did?
3. Charismatic spirituality is Scripture based. The Holy Spirit leads those who prayerfully reflect upon it into the truth about God and God's purposes. When you read the Scriptures, does the word of God regularly leap alive off the page into your heart with such inner meaning and relevance that it guides your everyday actions?
4. The exhortation, "Walk by the Spirit" (*Galatians 5:16*), is the key to an inspired Christian ethic. The spiritual guidance required to carry out this injunction can come in different ways, such as an inner prompting, a twinge of conscience, a prophetic word of knowledge, etc. Are you sensitive and docile to such forms of guidance?
5. The gift of discernment of spirits enables you to identify the origin and orientation of your inspirations. Those that come from God, and lead to God, are prompted by the Holy Spirit and are associated with feelings of consolation, such as joy and peace. Those that come from ourselves or the Evil Spirit are associated with feelings of desolation, such as sadness and dissatisfaction. Are you reflective enough to notice what spirits are motivating you?
6. St Ignatius of Loyola pointed out that God may withdraw the consolation of the Spirit as a result of

such things as spiritual laziness, neglect of prayer, lack of effort in resisting temptation, or because the person is focusing on the consolations of God rather than the God of consolation. When you suffer from desolation of spirit, do you prayerfully try to recognise how God is trying to purify you?

7. Genuine religious experience and divine guidance usually lead to a greater sense of inner freedom. As St Paul observed: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (*2 Corinthians 3:17*). Do you find that, instead of living your life on the basis of cheerless duty, you are increasingly motivated by a joyful sense of inner conviction?
8. St Paul asked rhetorically in *2 Corinthians 13:5*: "Do you not realise that Jesus Christ is within you?" Besides being aware of the transcendence of the loving God beyond you, are you also aware of the immanence of Christ's loving presence within you, enabling you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live in Him all that He Himself lived?
9. When you are conscious of the love of God, do you try to see and love in others-especially the poor and the oppressed-what the Lord is seeing and loving in you? Does your love find practical expression in deeds of mercy and action for justice?
10. Those who have a spiritual outlook appreciate the fact that the existence of the world around them, as well as the countless blessings they have received, are all gifts from God. Moreover, they also believe that evil, both their own and that of others, never has the last word. It belongs to God and it is always a word of blessing. Do you express gratitude always and for everything (*Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18*), by thanking and praising God in all circumstances, good and bad alike?

Conclusion

The check-up proposed here not only intends to help you gauge your charismatic state of health, but also aims to help you to identify what you could do to improve it. However, the questionnaire is experimental and tentative in nature.

Picture: Pixnio. Used with permission CCR UK.

R.I.P. Godfrey Pinto

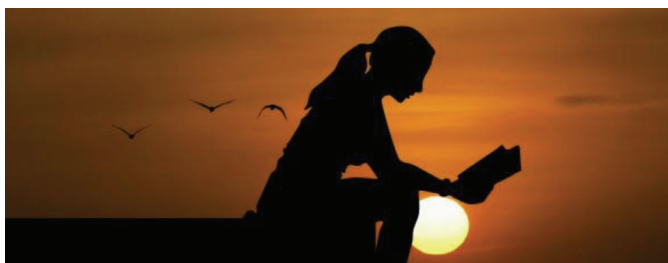
Another of our faithful Charismatic family has gone home to God.

Godfrey Pinto who was born in India, died at Melton South on 5 January 2020. His funeral Mass was held at St Anthony's Church. For many years Godfrey played the guitar at the Melton Prayer Group.

He suffered with Parkinson's Disease for 30 years and he offered his sufferings for the Missionaries of God's Love. We extend our deepest condolences to Vilma and all his family.

PROPHETIC INTERCESSION

By ROS POWELL



Seeking God's Heart: Prophetic Intercession

Prophetic intercession is the direction for our times as it reveals the Lord's heart through the workings of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of prophetic intercession is to enter into the will of God, on the earth, so that lives are changed, and communities, towns and cities transformed.

When we prophesy, we communicate with God and listen to Him share the secrets of His heart and His strategies. The word intercession simply means to pray or intercede on behalf of someone else.

However, intercessory prayer extends beyond this, since we are not praying from our own heart, but the Lord's heart. Praying prophetically means laying down our agenda and petitioning God for His agenda, His mind and His will.

We have to be dependent on God, listening closely in order to act on His divine inspirations. The more we press into His presence; the more the Holy Spirit will direct and guide us.

Stepping Out In Faith

The hardest part is stepping out in faith. Once you take that step, the more prophetic revelations will be revealed; like a box of tissues, when you pull out one, more will follow.

Prophetic intercession is an amazing gift from God and we are often led to pray this way at our prayer group, which meets twice a week in Stoke-on-Trent-a lively charismatic meeting.

Early on, we were shown that, as well as the Monday prayer group, the Lord wanted us to spend time really listening to Him. On Friday mornings, a smaller group of mature Christians gather, from a variety of denominations, to seek the heart of Jesus.

God brought us together to seek His heart, and by His grace we have developed and grown. The Lord revealed a new direction for our group and our meetings became a 'listening to the Heart of Jesus' meeting.

The Holy Spirit leads and directs our prayers according

to His will and the meeting finishes when the Holy Spirit finishes.

Laying Down Our Agendas

We begin by surrendering to God and laying down our own agendas. We praise and worship spontaneously and ask the Lord to reveal His heart, which is usually preceded by a time of silence.

After the silence, we are encouraged to share what we have received from the Lord. A scribe writes down what the Lord is revealing.

We often find that what someone assumes to be insignificant is usually a key contribution: we are never discouraged from sharing as the Holy Spirit gathers the fragmented parts of the puzzle from each person. He pieces them together, revealing the heart of the Lord.

A lady once received this scripture that she insisted we listen to very carefully: "He who clings to worthless idols forfeits the grace that could be theirs" (Jonah 2:8). This ministered to me and someone else in the group.

We prayed and asked the Lord what idols we had in our lives. For two of us, it became very clear that our idols were our jobs (we were college lecturers). Within twelve months, we had both left our well-paid posts and embarked on a new adventure in ministry.

How Privileged We Are

On another occasion, a Pentecostal brother, who normally did not receive pictures, shared a picture of himself designing letter boxes, none of which were quite at the right height.

As he shared, I was shown what it meant.

I had been struggling with a prophetic word I had received for someone, which had not been received well when I shared it. This brother's picture was the Lord's way of showing me that, when I receive a prophetic word, I am only the postman-and not responsible for what people make of it.

How privileged we are that God allows us to hear and experience Him through mental impressions, pictures, scripture verses, open and closed visions, words of knowledge in our own bodies and hearts-and even receiving the inner voice or audible voice in our emotions.

Used with permission CCR UK.

Editor: If you feel called to Prophetic intercession then call the CCR Centre (9486 6544). Our group meets each Thursday. All are welcome.

Prophecies

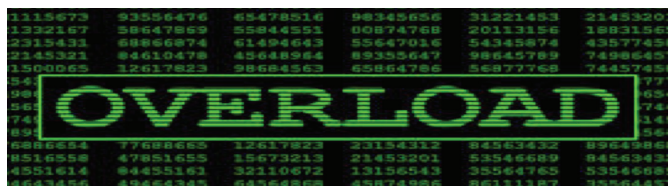
The following Prophecies were received during the Shook Conference.

"My Church is indestructible; I am the foundation. Allow me to shake the fear off you so that you can defend my Church, not by might nor by power, but by my Word. Walk humbly with your God."

"The day is coming when you will stand together one with the other, side by side, from end of the earth to the other. Your need for each other will come to be fulfilled."

OVERLOADING

By DINA MANANQUIL-DELFINO



“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

Psalms 139: 23-24

For a few months I was waking up with arthritic pains. Thinking it was part of getting older, I accepted the disorder silently and tried to live with it. However, when it was accompanied by the feeling of an overheated body, I decided to do something about it.

I prayed hard for my healing. One night as I was surfing the net, the ad on an arthritis website drew me into listening to their presentation. I usually do not have the patience for these ads as I know the end result would be a selling scheme. Their talk was about the 5 worst foods for an arthritis sufferer. The worst culprit they said was sugar.

I reflected on my sugar intake. I convinced myself that I am not that guilty – I do not even put sugar in my tea or coffee, avoid cakes, pastries or sweet desserts. One morning my daughter mentioned that I was putting too much sugary stuff in my oats – dried fruits of different kinds. I also like fresh fruit so I eat a lot of it. The occasional dark chocolate is an excuse to have that extra energy. I realised if I was truly honest, I too was having sugar overload – just in a different way.

When I come down with a physical challenge, I know that there is a spiritual dimension to it. As I prayed for wisdom the Lord impressed upon my heart that those small, secret sins, dark areas of my life which I do not notice because I have justified them to be right are making me sick too.

What about those white lies I indulged in? The promises I broke? The bills unpaid because I was happier buying other stuff? The lack of mercy? The judgment placed on others' shortcomings? My hidden impatience with my dad's repeated stories of the past or my husband's view of the world? The disrespect for the environment with my wasteful ways? The jealousies, envy and those desires to control and be approved? The unexpressed grumbling whilst forced to serve beyond the call of duty?

Although I know Jesus will never condemn me for being imperfect, Wisdom calls that if I continue to live this way, I would suffer heavily one day and be crippled by these overload- both of sugar and those “small” sins.

The New Year is a good time to break old habits. But I know I won't last the distance without the grace of the Holy Spirit. On my path to recovery, I have learned to pray more, ask His daily anointing that should I fall again into these traps of sin and indulgence, that He would gently nudge and remind me, take my hand and make that crooked place straight.

The Lord is kind and merciful. He often sends life lines to us to help us through. Mine came through a desire to meditate on Jesus' love daily (check out Gabriel Gonzalves – Healed by the Sacred Heart of Jesus), pray the Novena to the Holy Spirit (youtube) as often as I can, avoid sugar in all its insidious forms (check the ad on Heal and Soothe for arthritis sufferers) and examine my conscience daily.

I may not have perfect health, in as much as I do not have a flawless spiritual life, but I need to choose wisely. As one spiritual teacher said: “Life is messy, it has pains, trials, tribulations. And because this is life, often we have no option when pain knocks at our door. But misery, it is a different ball game... it is a choice.”

I pray that for year 2020, whatever “overloading” we have taken on the last year or years that have contributed to some of our unhappiness, misery or ill health, that we can look at them with humility, honesty and work with God in changing for the better. It is worth the journey of discovery, to move closer to the improved version of ourselves and what we truly aspire to be.

In our prayer group, every now and again we sing this action song to remind us: “Little by little, every day, little by little in every way, Jesus is changing us...”

The step may be little to us, but in the Kingdom of Heaven the rejoicing is great. Overcoming with the grace of God stirs us away from overloading.

Look after your armour

Never stop learning from the Bible.

Never stop believing what the Bible says.

Never stop obeying, to the best of your ability, what Jesus tells you to do.

Read and Pray, and then Obey.



A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



As the New Year gets under way the way forward has been highlighted in our Shook Conference 2020 as being a total surrender to God's ways and not our ways. This may seem ground breaking but in actual fact Jesus has already highlighted the way for each of us. He did, after all, break ground by breaking through attitudes, customs and rituals that followed the letter of the law and not the heart of the law nor was it the heart of God our Father.

At the Shook Conference I heard Mark Nimo say that 'Jesus was dropped behind enemy lines' when He was born. Those words really shook me up. That meant that he was in danger of being discovered by King Herod. As I meditated on that image of Jesus in the manger, which today seems almost quaint and beautified in the many ways the story of Jesus in the manger is portrayed, we can all forget that, in fact the reality it was anything but a nice and cosy story. In today's world it would have been considered unhygienic at the very least. There was also danger lying around the corner with King Herod's desire to find the predicted Messiah and do away with him. He was saved because Joseph's dream highlighted the danger the child was in and so the young family fled to Egypt (*Matthew 2:13-23*).

Fast forward thirty years when in due course and at the appointed time Jesus began his ministry. From the outset He went about upsetting the status quo and preconceived ideas. He was in danger from the Pharisees whose rigidity He opposed. This did not deter Him. He pressed onwards with His work of preaching that the Kingdom of God had come and healing all those who were sick even the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath. (*Matthew 12:9-13*). In doing so Jesus was showing the people the Merciful face of the Father which overrides tradition.

It got me thinking about how nowadays that we also need to be shaking and breaking ground. The clearest way to do this is to imitate Jesus and his works. Sometimes this will necessitate going behind enemy lines i.e., places or situations we might not readily seek. It may mean we will be opposed on every side. But we need not fear because Jesus said: "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father (*John 14:12*).

Now is the time for action not apathy. Steadfastness and not fear and trembling. We've already been equipped with the gifts we need. Will we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us to bring about God's Kingdom here on earth?

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An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

Dates for 2020: Saturdays 16 May, 15 August and 21 November.

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

NO PARKING IN SCHOOL GROUNDS. Public transport: train to Parliament station, then tram no.96 along Nicholson St to stop no.22.

Celebrate the Year of the Word of God

20 February – 26 March 2020

To celebrate the Year of the Word of God there are Bible Study courses that will be held throughout the year. The first of these, entitled *"The God who Speaks"*, presented by Lawrence Hirsch, will happen over six weeks commencing Thursday 20 February. See flyer on page 9.

To register please contact the CCR Centre on 9486 6544. Course cost: \$60

Ladies Day

2 July 2020

Save the date. Ladies Day is an opportunity to grow as women of God, strong in trust and faith.

More details later.

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

You are welcome to come to the Open House Healing Ministry Day.
Saturdays 21 March, 20 June and 19 September 2020. 9.30am - 2pm at the CCR Centre.

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
	5.30pm Praise, Worship, Adoration 6.00pm Mass, followed by Prayer Ministry	St Marks, Fawkner
First Monday	7.00pm Praise, 7.30pm Mass	St Joseph's, Springvale
First Friday	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	St Thomas the Apostle, 251 Diamond Creek Rd, Greensborough North
Third Friday	7.00pm	707 Holy Cross Parish, Caulfield South. Mass, Adoration and Devotions to the Holy Cross
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 Mass: Monday 23 November at 8pm. Celebrant will be Fr. Wahid		