

FEBRUARY 2021

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

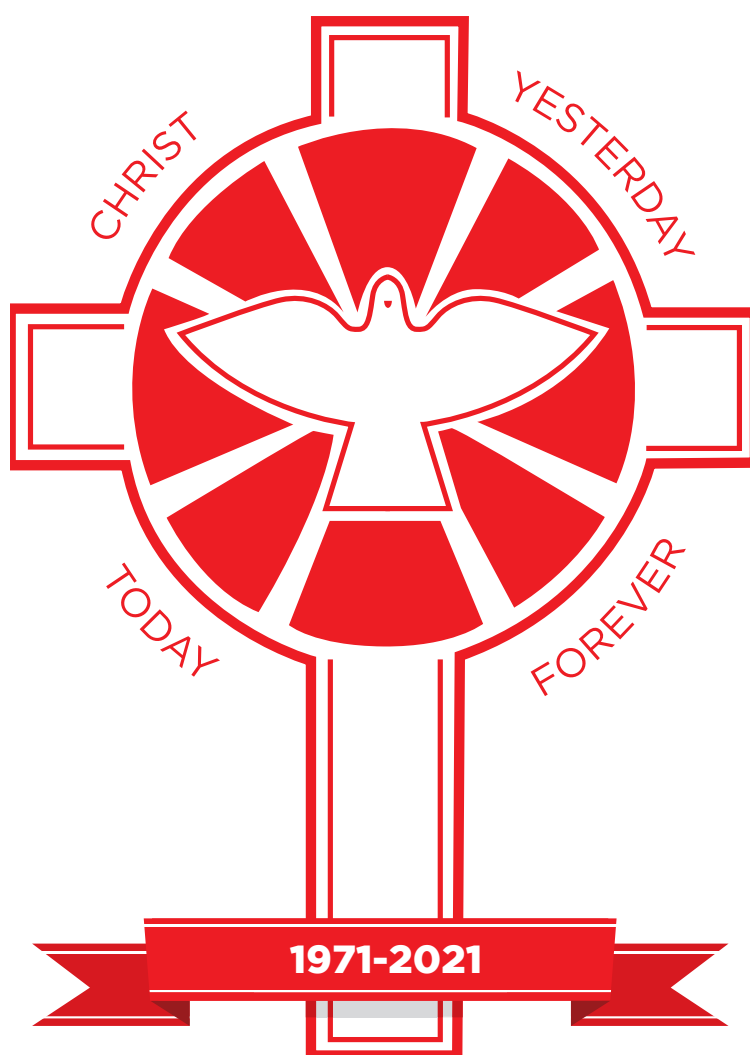
Good News

Catholic Charismatic Renewal
serving the Church



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

Catholic Charismatic Renewal Melbourne thanking God for 50 years of grace



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

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Good News

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

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Good News is published by Catholic Charismatic
Renewal (CCR) in the Archdiocese of Melbourne,
Australia, by the Co-ordinators:
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Joshua Angriansano (Youth Co-ordinator),
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and Vera Gelo.

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

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

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

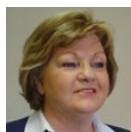
All subscription enquiries should be addressed to
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The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is
Friday 23 April 2021.



**As Jesus was coming up out of the water,
he saw heaven being torn open and the
Spirit descending on him like a dove.**

Mark 1:10 NRSV

There is no greater need that we have as individuals than to receive the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are able to live as we long to live and are able to overcome the power of sin and guilt and fear within us. The most fundamental need of people is the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can come to really know just how much God loves us, unconditionally!

Jesus was baptised in the Holy Spirit. This is not the first time Jesus had the Spirit. It is recorded of John the Baptist that he was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. If that was true of John, it was also true of Jesus. He lived by the Spirit during those quiet years in Nazareth. He submitted Himself to His parents, grew up in a carpenter's shop, and learned the trade. And through those uneventful days, Jesus lived by the power of the Spirit in His life.

Why then do we have this story of Jesus emerging from the water and having the Spirit comes upon Him like a dove if not to show us that we too need to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? To use the language of Scripture, Jesus was anointed by the Spirit at this point. He is being anointed by God through the Spirit with power - power to meet the demands of the of the ministry upon which He is about to launch.

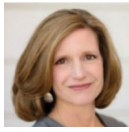
This is not something isolated from us. All these things that happened to Jesus can happen and, indeed, must happen to us. That is the whole thrust of this teaching. He was taking our place; therefore, what happened to Him must happen to us. That is why Jesus, standing with His disciples after the resurrection, said to them, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you" (*Acts 1:8*). The Spirit of God must come upon us. We are baptised by water and the Spirit.

This is not so that we can perform dramatic acts, but, rather, so that we can have a new quality of life that is beautiful and resistless, yet quiet and gentle. Notice the symbol of the kind of power that is given here - it is a dove. Athletic teams sometimes use birds as emblems, signs of their power and ability. We have the Magpies, the Eagles, the Lions - even the Dogs. But did you ever hear of a team called the Doves? No team would ever use a dove as a symbol of its power. A dove is a gentle, non-threatening bird, one that does not fight back and yet is irresistible.

This is the power that Jesus is describing - the power of love, love that can be beaten and battered down and put to death and yet can rise again, until it wins the day - that amazing love Jesus released. The greatest force in the world today, without a doubt, is love. And yet it is the kind of power that does not threaten or break apart or destroy; it gathers and heals. It is rejected, turned aside, and beaten down; yet it rises again and again. The dove is an apt symbol of the new life our Lord came to teach.

Lord send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Fill me with the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit manifest through me the power of love.

THE ENDGAME OF TRANSGENDER IDEOLOGY IS TO DISMANTLE THE FAMILY



By KIMBERLY ELLS

The stage is being set for the legal marginalization of mothers, fathers, and families by force of law.

Nancy Pelosi and her fellow gender-inclusive enthusiasts have taken a bold and much-disparaged move to erase language that expresses the reality of familial relationships. In the name of inclusivity, words like “father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law” have been targeted for erasure from House proceedings.

If pursued, this scrubbing of gendered words from public communications in concert with other trans-inclusive initiatives will prove seismic in its effect on society.

Pelosi and her associates are echoing the socialist-feminist ideology articulated by Shulamith Firestone in the 1970s: “It has become necessary to free humanity from the tyranny of its biology” and “eliminate the sex distinction itself [so that] genital differences between human beings would no longer matter culturally.” At its core, this means that male and female manifestations of the human body should no longer be legally recognized or culturally valued. We have been marching down this road for decades and are now approaching the endgame: a genderless society. The vilification of gendered language in public settings is a significant leap toward “freeing humanity from the tyranny of its biology” and undoing the significance of biological sex.

Mothers on the trash heap of history

Firestone made a stunning prediction. She jubilantly declared that when biology was subdued and “transsexuality” became the legal and cultural norm, “the blood tie of the mother to the child would eventually be severed” and the triumphal “disappearance of motherhood” would follow. And she was right. Legal movements surrounding transgenderism are setting the stage for the legal marginalization of mothers, fathers, and families by force of law.

Though Firestone’s astute prediction has been largely overlooked in the debate about transgenderism, the fact remains that when women legally disappear, so do mothers because “mother” is a sex-specific designation. The same goes for fathers. If there are not two specific, perceivable sexes that can be definitively recognized by law, then it becomes difficult to define or defend mothers and fathers - along with their parental rights - in legal terms. Therefore, the belonging of children to their parents is increasingly thrown into question and the family stands on trembling legal legs - which is precisely the point.



When parents’ ties to their children are obscured or weakened it creates an environment hospitable to government intervention and socialist-communist revolution. That is why Marx’s Communist Manifesto openly called for the “abolition of the family.” Dethroning the family creates a void that can and must be filled - though it is impossible to adequately fill it. If we are to avoid the destruction of the family and the domination of the state that necessarily follows, we must resist efforts to cancel biological sex.

Rejection of anatomy

The push for gender abolition seems to be accelerating. Last year a California state Senate committee attempted to ban the words “he” and “she” during committee hearings. The “rainbow voting agreement” in the Netherlands calls for “the registration of gender to be abolished wherever possible.” A recent article in the New England Journal of Medicine, arguably the world’s most prestigious medical journal, asserted that sex demarcations on birth certificates should be reconsidered because “assigning sex at birth perpetuates a view that sex as defined by a binary variable is natural, essential, and immutable.”

It is becoming difficult to keep up with the myriad initiatives being rolled out to forcibly suppress biological sex distinctions.

The legal and social embracing of transgenderism encapsulates rejection of the human body as inherently manifested in two distinct and complementary forms. This rebellion against anatomy is not only tragic for individuals, who wage war against their own bodies, but it also undercuts the inherent, two-pronged voltage of male and female that propels, balances, and drives the world. If it becomes legally inappropriate to recognize the two bodily sexes or to articulate how the interplay of those sexes forges and perpetuates the basic relationships by which we fundamentally define ourselves (mother, father, son, daughter) then the core of civilized society is in peril.

What started out masquerading as a celebration of gender turns out to be an edict for the elimination of the sex distinction itself, which in turn erodes the family - the essential cradle of humanity. If we are to salvage the family and civilization with it, we must protect and defend the “gendered language” that is now on the chopping block.

Kimberly Ells is the author of “The Invincible Family: Why the Global Campaign to Crush Motherhood and Fatherhood Can’t Win”, and is a policy advisor for Family Watch International, where she works to protect children from early sexualization and to promote the family as the fundamental unit of society.

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Editor’s comments

It is of major importance that we are informed, and understand, what is happening in our world. ‘Male and Female God made them’ and in our Christian belief the family is the core of society. In light of the Conversion Therapy Bill being presented to our Victorian Parliament for enactment we, the people of God, need to be firstly, praying and secondly writing to our members of Parliament opposing this Bill. Remember, bad things happen when good people do nothing.

MELBOURNE'S CURRENT OF GRACE - CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL



By ADRIAN COMMADEUR

Birth of Renewal in *The Ark and the Dove* Retreat

The history of Catholic Charismatic Renewal is full of marvellous highlights of the Holy Spirit moving in power. The very beginning of this current of grace in the Church can be traced to the February 1967 Retreat in The Ark and the Dove Retreat Centre in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Some thirty students from the Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit, with some of the professors, had studied the Acts of the Apostles. Following the Second Vatican Council, (1962-1965), they yearned for the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, as had been experienced by the first Christian at Pentecost. Their earnest study and prayers that weekend climaxed in the sovereign act of grace, the outpouring and Baptism in the Holy Spirit on that Saturday night. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal was born.

Spreading the Baptism in the Holy Spirit to Melbourne

Soon after the Duquesne Weekend, the students moved across the USA and Canada bringing the message of the Renewal in the Holy Spirit, and started prayer meetings in many places. At first the response was from clergy, religious and lay people alike. Professor Alex Reichel of the University of New South Wales, was on sabbatical study leave in the US and brought the message of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit back with him in early 1969. He visited Cardinal Norman Gilroy asking permission to start a prayer group. The Cardinal answered: 'At last someone has come to speak to me about the Holy Spirit'.

Later in 1969, the Trappist Abbot, Fitzroy born Fr Gerald Hawkins visited Melbourne from Oregon, US and sowed the seeds of the Charismatic Renewal. I was privileged to hear him explain how the Holy Spirit was renewing the Catholic Church, but at that time there were no prayer meetings to follow up his teachings.

In 1970 English Dominican, Fr Esmond Klimeck OP, preached the Rosary devotions in St Francis Church in Melbourne City. Interviewed for the weekly Catholic Advocate, by journalist Tony Ryan, Fr Klimeck, touched by the new current of grace, told Tony to enquire about this new move of the Holy Spirit, and recommended reading *The Cross and the Switchblade*, and *Catholic Pentecostals* by Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan.



In November 1970 Fr Klimeck and Tony met and studied the documents of Vatican II concerning the Holy Spirit. Later Tony met Norma Poutney, recently returned from Canada, where she had received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and Kathleen Hawkins, sister of Fr Gerald. They had been meeting with some Anglicans and members of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. At the next meeting Tony was accompanied by his wife Barbara, and two other couples from their Christian Family Movement, Arthur and Edna Eley, and Arthur and Claire Otis. Fr Gerald returned from Sydney and they all met together at Norma's place in Ringwood, on Tuesday 2 or 9 February 1971. They were all baptised in the Holy Spirit and some began to speak in tongues. Soon after, the meeting transferred to the Eley's home at 97 Regent Street, West Preston, which may be considered the stable of the beginnings of CCR in Melbourne.

The first official Catholic CCR meeting commenced on 8 March 1971, after Archbishop Knox, later Cardinal Knox, approved the beginning of what was then called the Catholic Pentecostal Movement, in Melbourne. I myself attended my first Saturday evening meeting and received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit on Sunday morning, 22 August 1971.

Initial Growth

Tony Ryan became the leader of that first prayer group. With his standing in the Catholic Community as a journalist with *The Catholic Advocate*, he received approval from Archbishop Ronald Knox to meet, and later from Archbishop Frank Little to use the word 'Catholic' Charismatic Renewal – their stamp of approval. The first meeting at the Eley's exploded and soon it was necessary to form a leadership team and the formation of several other prayer groups in 1972.

On 19 February 1973 the very first official Catholic Charismatic Event took place during the Eucharistic Congress at St Francis' in the city. Called the Catholic Pentecostal Prayer Groups Rally, the church packed 1,500 people to hear Bishop Joseph McKinney of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, speak about Jesus is Lord! The Renewal was now on the official Catholic map.

In June 1973 Tony Ryan and I were invited to attend the 6th International Conference at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana, with a team of 12 representatives from all over Australia, led by Brian Smith, a key leader in the Renewal. This experience widened our vision of what God wanted to do in renewing the Church through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In October 1973 a national leaders meeting in Canberra decided on holding the First National Conference in Melbourne. It was held at the Carlton Exhibition Building, in January 1974 with 400 people registered from all parts of Australia, exceeding all expectations. One of the helpers was Claude Lopez, who later played an important leadership part, not only in Melbourne but also in Rome, and was a genius in organising major events.



Growth in Numbers and Development of Leadership

In 1974 there were already 22 prayer groups meeting around the Archdiocese of Melbourne, with leadership provided by the Melbourne Service Group comprising: Tony Ryan (Chair), Frs Humphrey O'Leary CSSR, Tom White PP, Bro William Bracken SSS, Tony Lanigan, Gerard Mansour, Margaret West, Denis (later Fr) Ryan and Adrian Commadeur.

A wide range of spiritual activities began at this time, including retreats at Kalorama, Growth in the Spirit days, monthly rallies and healing services, picnics, dinners and participation in national and international conferences. There was a promising interest in a number of youth groups, which numbered 4 by the end of 1975. A first State conference was held then with 1,000 people attending De La Salle College, Malvern.

In 1976 Claude Lopez took the chair of the Melbourne Service Committee, which comprised ten members. There were some changes in representation in the leadership. At times it was based on regions, but finally settled on members who, as Fr (later Bishop) Joe Grech stipulated, were FAT, faithful, available and teachable.

In 1977 began a series of country outreaches to the diocesan prayer groups of Ballarat, Bendigo and Sale. Many of these produced much fruit for the renewal in parishes.

In the 1970's also were begun State Conferences under the leadership of Claude Lopez, with many distinguished speakers, and attendances of more than 1,000. There was also a strong ecumenical sense, with a number of Temple Trust Conferences chaired by Rev Alan Langstaff. Annual Pentecost Masses were celebrated in various location with large attendances. National Charismatic Clergy and Religious Retreats began to be held. Over time these joined together and were annually held at Newman College, Carlton.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Matures

In 1980 Allan Panozza was named as organiser for the visit of Fr Ray Roh OSB from Pecos, New Mexico. He was nominated to the Melbourne Pastoral Co-ordinators Team in 1981 together with Fr Brendan Broderick (chair), Margaret West, Sr Denise Sullivan, Reg O'Brien, and Adrian Commadeur. Allan became the chairperson of the Co-ordinators in early 1984, a position he filled with great distinction and effectiveness to November 2010, having

become the full-time Executive Officer of CCR in 1985. In the meantime he was also elected as member and then chairperson of the National Service Committee, member and then President of International CCR Services in Rome. He was invested as a 'Papal Knight Commander of St Gregory the Great' in 2009 by Archbishop Denis Hart.

In April 1983 Archbishop Frank Little blessed the first CCR Centre, an upper closed verandah, at St Bridget's, Fitzroy, hosted by Sr Patricia Brown FCJ, who promised every visitor 'a prayer and a cup of tea'. In 1994 the centre was located with the Pallotine Fathers, Cotham Rd, Kew with Mary Quin (later Spizzica) as much loved manager. Archbishop George Pell allocated St Augustine's Church and hall as a centre for CCR in August 1997, with Fr Wahid Riad as chaplain to the Renewal and Mary Spizzica as Centre manager. The Centre was transferred to 101 Holden St, Fitzroy in 2007, with Miriam Markis as the manager to the present. During all the years the Centre was assisted by a range of willing Spirit-filled volunteers. During this time also there a number of Liaisons who related well to prayer groups fostering good practices and links to the wider CCR.

In the 1980's and into the 1990's, CCR Melbourne was a hive of activity, with Leaders' Days, Renewal Days, special teaching courses, conferences and special events with international speakers. Perhaps the most memorable events took place at the Myer Music Bowl with Fr Emilien Tardif MSC with his healing gifts, and Fr Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap with his teaching gifts.

In 1992 there were 75 thriving prayer groups with a total of 1,490 people in attendance. These figures were collated on an annual basis by Co-ordinator Brian Incigneri.

In early 1993, Fr Joe Grech was appointed chaplain of CCR for 3 years. He located his office at the Italian CCR Centre in St George's Rd, Northcote, to serve both English and Italian prayer groups. He led many retreats. In 1993 he was introduced by Fr Vic Farrugia to the KeKaKo School of Evangelisation initiated by Mexican layman, Pepe Prado. A first course was conducted in Italian.



In March 1994 some 70 attendees from all Australian states took part in the first English speaking course, from which grew the Melbourne Catholic School of Evangelisation. Many courses were conducted across Australia as well as in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and New Zealand over the next 20 years.

In 1996 Fr Joe was appointed Rector of Corpus Christi Seminary and in February 1999 he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop for Melbourne. He was bishop of Sandhurst Diocese (Bendigo) from 2001 to 2010. As a member of the ICCRS he travelled far and wide as a popular speaker in CCR.



The New Millennium

In 2001 the Co-ordinators of Melbourne CCR were: Allan Panozza (Chair), Margaret West, Mary Quin, Milton Roberts, Claude Lopez, Jan Richards, Adrian Commadeur, and Fr Wahid Riad was chaplain. In the nineties, CCR Melbourne continued a fairly busy program of Renewal Days, Retreats, Seminars and Conferences. One prayer activity was the pairing of each of the priests in the Archdiocese with a CCR intercessor. At one stage some 250 priests were regularly prayed for. A feature of these years were the Annual Pentecost gatherings, some of an ecumenical nature, and others of various movements in the Catholic Church.

One notable feature that should be mentioned is the Good News quarterly periodical which has been published 4 times per year from 1986. Good News has included news items, specialist columns and teaching articles, as well as coming events, and regular healing Masses. It has been a point of contact for prayer group members and others not only in Melbourne but well beyond. The internet is now partly replacing the printed word.

In 2002 there were 75 Archdiocesan prayer meetings with a total of 1,780 participants, the largest groups being Indonesian, Filipino and Maltese. The prayer group directory of 2011, the 40th Anniversary Year of CCR in Melbourne listed a total of 80 prayer groups, showing a changing pattern, with some older prayer groups closing and others, especially language based groups, opening including Sri Lankan, Indian, as well as existing Filipino, Croatian and Spanish speaking groups.

At the end of 2012 the Co-ordinators included: Lenyce Willason (Executive Director and Chair), John Duiker, Miriam Markis, Diana Tominac, Norma Keyt and Nikki Daniele and new Co-ordinators Tony Grieve and Ban Wee. MGL Seminarian Daniel Serratore represented youth. Claude Lopez retired at this time after 40 years of extraordinary service at local, national and international levels. Over the subsequent years, there have been significant events like the January Conferences, almost annual pilgrimages, Pentecost masses, ecumenical events, and in 2017 we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the beginnings of CCR with a Jubilee Cross which criss-crossed the state of Victoria.



The leadership of CCR in Melbourne in 2021 consists of Lenyce Willason (Executive Director), Miriam Markis, Ban Wee, Christine Grech, Gunawan Goh and Vera Gelo and the 'advisor/chaplain' to CCR is Bishop Terry Curtin. At last count there were some 66 prayer groups, 24 of which are language or ethnic based.

The Pandemic Year of 2020 has meant the closure of all prayer meetings in Melbourne, and the need for innovative practices, like virtual prayer meetings. Like many, the gift of Zoom came just in time to enable Leaders Days and Prayer Meetings to be conducted by the Co-ordinators and individual prayer groups themselves, enabling interstate and international speakers to address the CCR in Melbourne.

As we emerge from the lockdown, in God's providence the CCR in Melbourne, like the Catholic Church itself, will experience a fresh Holy Spirit revival. This can only be initiated by the Lord himself, just as He did in February 1971 when he moved in a sovereign way to pour out his Holy Spirit on 10 people in Melbourne. May we see this new outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we conclude 50 years of CCR in Melbourne and begin a new era in the Holy Spirit.

Melbourne diocese 50th anniversary of the CCR

Hi Everyone!

First of all, we want to congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in your diocese! We're delighted to know that you are really celebrating this important milestone. And it is important to celebrate, because baptism in the Holy Spirit, which lies at the very heart of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, is a life-changing moment for every single one of us.

When we say a genuine and unconditional "YES" to the Holy Spirit, who has been living in us since the moment of our baptism, and when we give Him total freedom to inspire, equip, empower, lead and guide us, we are on the way to becoming the people God created us to be. This is surely something to be celebrated, not only on special anniversaries, but every single day!

When we, Charles and Sue, look back over the years since we were baptised in the Holy Spirit in 1976, 45 years ago, we are constantly amazed at what God has done and continues to do in us, around us and through us.

We are amazed at the people we have met, at the places around the world that we have visited, at the talks we have heard and those we have given, at the books we have read and those we have written, at the people we have seen come to a living faith in Jesus Christ, at the major healings we have witnessed – including Luke, one of our own children, who suffered from severe deafness – and at the miracles we have seen! It has all been an amazing and wonderful experience of the love and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in all sorts of different situations.

Continued on page 9



JESUS

is alive!

THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY & FOREVER

**AN INVITATION TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS
OF THE JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**6-7
MARCH
2021**

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CHARISMATIC
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MELBOURNE

**THIS IS A
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Any donations will be
gratefully received.

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ENQUIRIES**

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SATURDAY 6 MARCH

9.30AM - 5.00PM

CELEBRATION EVENT LIVE ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Guest speakers include Archbishop Mark Coleridge,
Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Michelle Moran,
Dr Mary Healy, Fr Ken Barker and many others.

SUNDAY 7 MARCH

3.00PM

THANKSGIVING MASS CELEBRATED
BY ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

Our Lady Help of Christians, Nicholson Street, East Brunswick.
(Numbers dependent upon COVID restrictions).

5.00PM - 7.00PM

SHARED MEAL & FELLOWSHIP

Our Lady's Hall - underneath the Church. Cost \$10 per person.
Funds raised to support Holy Spirit of Freedom Community
ministry to the homeless.

For catering purposes register at the CCR Centre
on 9486 6544 or email centre@ccr.org.au
(Numbers dependent upon COVID restrictions).

MEMORIES OF A WORKER IN GOD'S VINEYARD



By MARY SPIZZICA

As 50 years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal is being celebrated in Australia, it is with a great joy in my heart that I remember and contemplate the amazing work of the Holy Spirit within the Catholic Church and in the CCR Centre in Melbourne during my time at the Centre.

I was quite a broken young woman when the Holy Spirit responded to my desperate cry and touched my life. From that very night in 1989 my life was changed forever.

In 1993 after going on a CCR International Retreat in Assisi and experiencing the teachings and blessings of Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, (The Popes preacher) I decided to give a year of my life to serve the Lord in gratitude for the way my life had been transformed.

In February 1994, I moved from a country town in NSW to attend the first English speaking School of Evangelisation with Pepe Prado, and Javier Silva from South America being held in Melbourne. Bishop Joe Grech (then Fr. Joe) and Fr. Victor Farrugia were the driving force behind the school. The school was an amazing experience, and yet again the Holy Spirit was fanned into an even stronger and brighter flame, not only in my life, but in the lives of the 50 or so participants. When the school concluded, I was invited by Allan Panozza (CCR Chairman and Director) to become the Administrator at the English CCR Centre in Melbourne. It was such a privilege to work alongside Allan and the Melbourne Co-ordinator's. The Centre was moving into a small office within the grounds of the Pallatine Community in Studley Park Rd, Kew, and they needed someone to man the office as a volunteer. I knew immediately that this was my opportunity to serve the Lord for a year!

I had very little experience but felt that if this was the Lord's response to my offer to serve Him that He would make a way and the Holy Spirit would be the driving force. I stood firmly on the words from *Proverbs 3:5 and 6*. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make the path straight. This is exactly what happened.

Every day of the week a volunteer would arrive to give me a hand. The generous volunteers were rostered on a weekly basis to help out and never once was I left in the office alone. These great people also became friends. Some of these lovely people have passed from this life now, I feel sure they are receiving their heavenly reward. I will not mention names in case I miss mentioning any person. That would be a disaster!

From the very first day the phones rang hot, prayer requests, people in need, prayer groups leaders requesting a speaker for their prayer meetings. We had several wonderful speakers many of whom had attended the School of Evangelisation. They generously offered their time and would travel from one side of Melbourne to the other (sometimes even to country prayer groups many kilometers away) to spread the message of God's

love in the strength of the Holy Spirit. There was one very special person who whenever I would phone him to ask if he would go to give a talk, always replied "Mary... you already know my answer... Have Jesus, will travel". This dear man is now with His Lord.

Each Wednesday morning a group of men and women would come to pray in intercession for the needs and people of the CCR. Fr John Winson (Pallatine) would offer Mass in the little chapel. It was a privilege to be with such devout people of faith. Some of those pray-ers still attend the CCR Centre every week interceding in prayer, what amazing love and devotion!

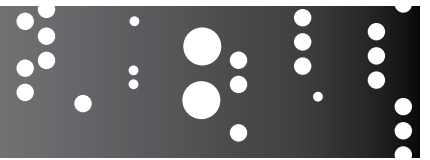
That little office in Studley Park Road was a powerhouse. I remember early one morning as I arrived to open the office, a young man was hiding in the grounds. He told me that he was told this was the place where he had to come if he needed prayer and help. I invited him into the office, and we talked for hours. He told me that he was on the run and he was trying to get away from his old life, that he was a hit man for "the underworld". He had grown up, knowing only crime, robbery and murder, as did his father before him. He was not educated and had known no other way of life. He started with petty crime as a young boy but progressed into things much worse. He said the people he had 'worked' for would never let him walk free. He had met a lovely lady who talked to him about God. They fell in love and they became parents. He desperately wanted to change everything in his life and just to talk for another week or two, before heading to off live in the country, he was hoping he and his young family would be safe. I did not hear from him again.

A few months later the person who had sent him to us in the first place phoned to say that the people he had been trying to get away from had caught up with him, and very sadly he was found dead. She told me that since his experience of receiving forgiveness and 'accepting' the Holy Spirit his life was totally transformed, and for those few months he was completely happy and in peace. He had known they would catch up with him eventually. She felt he would now be alive forever in the hands of Jesus.

Another memory of the Studley Park Road Centre was of a woman who arrived every day for a couple of weeks, said she wanted to sit and watch what happened and how we operated! This is exactly what she did, she kept to herself, looked at a few library books, listened to how we used to speak or pray with people on the phone, then around lunchtime she would just get up and leave.

A few months later she attended the January retreat and under Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa she was Baptised in the Holy Spirit, became involved in a CCR prayer group. We are still great friends today!

After a year the Co-ordinator's asked me if I would remain and offered me a wage. My voluntary year to thank the Lord had come to an end. The rest is history! I stayed on at the Centre for almost 12 years.



In 1995 the CCR Centre moved into the city, to the hall attached to St. Augustine's Church. All the volunteers came across also. The work we began in Kew carried on with great increase. What a grace and blessing this was. Fr. Wahid Riad was the administrator of St. Augustine's, (he later became parish priest) and at the same time he was the Spiritual Director for CCR Melbourne. Fr. Wahid and I worked very well together, it was certainly a God appointment, because CCR opened the grounds for anyone who needed a quiet space in that busy and bustling area of Bourke St, Melbourne.

People from all walks of life came into the grounds, some to attend the regular lunchtime Mass, Lawyers, Barristers, Office workers, the public, along with the homeless, and lonely and broken people. The Centre and St. Augustine's became a hive of activity. Fr. Wahid celebrated a healing Mass every Wednesday, and people arrived from many places, including country towns, because the Centre was situated only 200m from Southern Cross Station.

A couple of days ago I came across an article in an old parish newsletter, it was inspiring to me because as I read it I thought that this is how the CCR operated when it was in the city. Parts of the article were speaking about what type of a messiah Jesus would be: He will be a servant, who, though mighty, is gentle, one chosen by God, yet committed to the needy and the marginal, who attends to the least within the community. He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. Filled with the Spirit of God He acts out of a gentle, compassionate spirit. For whom did the messiah come?

He came for people who are broken and suffering, for those who are blind and imprisoned, He came for those who are so easily pushed to the margins – the homeless, the unemployed, the abandoned children, the helpless elderly, the mentally and chronically ill.

As I read this article I thought WOW!!! This is what happened in Bourke Street when CCR was there. ABSOLUTELY we knew that we were helpless in our own strength, and we were DEFINITELY not the messiah!! But my goodness the Holy Spirit was certainly alive and active in that place.

These were the types of people who often frequented the premises in Bourke Street. What an awesome privilege, to have the broken hearted, the lonely, the homeless, the drug addicted, arrive at our front door, to be welcomed in and to share a cuppa, a chat, a prayer, just to be able to make a difference in their lives was such a blessing.

A prayer meeting began once a week, also the intercessory group from the Kew Centre, with more added to their number continued to gather each Wednesday. These intercessory prayers were vital for our work to be fruitful.

As I ponder the incredible things which happened in that place, I give praise and thanks to God for the work of His hand in many lives.

- The man who just got out of jail, who came straight to

our door, received the love and acceptance he needed, he started attending Sunday Mass at St. Augustine's on a regular basis with his life restored.

- The young man who had a huge falling out with his family and had been living under a bridge in Kew. His feet were red raw, and bleeding. He came regularly for quite a few days, received new clothes and medical attention. He gave his life to Jesus in my office, was then able to forgive his family, be reconciled with them and moved back home.
- Another man who was a chronic alcoholic came daily for many weeks. We would talk and pray each day. He was able to get off the drink, he too surrendered his life to Jesus. The Holy Spirit had a huge impact on his life. In fact, he returned to the Centre 18 months later, bringing his brother, also an alcoholic, saying I want what happened to me to happen for him, so it went on.

There are hundreds of God incidence's I could share! However, the most important sharing of all is this. I know for sure and for certain, if it were not for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in all of our lives, we who worked or volunteered at the Centre would have had very little impact at all, and the lives of the many of people who paths we crossed would still be just broken lonely people.

As I think of our CCR Centre in the heart of our city I am reminded of a verse in the book of *Esther 4:14*, and who knows that you have come to royal position for a time such as this? What a loss to Melbourne when the Centre had to leave the City!

Even though the CCR Centre is no longer situated in busy Bourke Street, the work continues today just as powerfully and is as busy but in a different way.

All Praise and Glory be to God.

Happy 50th anniversary Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Continued from page 6

And we know that this has been the experience of so many millions of men and women in every expression of the body of Christ – Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Free Church, Pentecostal and Independent Christians – in every country in the world. There is so much for which to be eternally grateful!

And the Good News is that there's always more to come! God hasn't finished with any of us, and our constant prayer must be – "Come, Holy Spirit!"

So may your prayer today not only be: "Thank You, Lord, for all that You have done in our Diocese in these 50 years, for which we praise and thank You!" but also: "Come, Holy Spirit! We welcome You again at this moment and invite you to touch afresh each and every one of us with your amazing love and transforming power!" Alleluia!

Many blessings,

From Charles and Sue Whitehead, England.



“Ekklesia – Rediscovering God’s Instrument for Global Transformation”

Ed Siloso’s main interest is evangelisation and he explained his more recent thoughts in a book called *“Ekklesia – Rediscovering God’s Instrument for Global Transformation”* (published by Chosen Books; 2014, 2017). This book was to provide Christians with the tools to transform the cities and nations (countries) into the Kingdom of God. His aim is to get ministers out from their pulpits and church goes out of their church buildings and go into the marketplace (where they work and live.)

Siloso develops his methodology in 17 chapters by citing real cases around the world and underpinned them by relevant biblical verses. Catholics may find his exegesis a bit peculiar as he is a Protestant and tends to interpret from the sola scriptura point of view. There is an implicit assumption that his readers are familiar with his previous books or teachings. Nevertheless, his arguments which are intended to be revolutionary make interesting reading even though some may find his logic is hard to follow.

The first chapter makes a radical proposition that when Jesus said he would build his church (Ekklesia in Greek), in *Mt 16:18* and *18:17* he was referring not to a building but liken it to an assembly of citizens similar to a local government institution familiar to his disciples. Siloso believes that Jesus’ objective “was to see nations disciplined by inserting the leaven of His Kingdom into their social fibre through His Ekklesia.” He challenges conventional idea of what a church should be. When Siloso was in Argentina, his health was deteriorating rapidly, they focussed on prayer (I assumed the word “we” refers to their evangelisation team.) Then they realised prayer and evangelism are two sides of the same coin. This gave birth to prayer evangelisation and the desire to evangelize cities not just people or towns. Meanwhile God healed him.

Next, they decided to evangelize Resistencia, a larger city in northern Argentina. Resistencia was “immersed in witchcraft and demonic altars defiled its sidewalks.” They recruited other pastors to join in their prayers asking for miracles and evangelisation to occur in the marketplace rather than in evangelical gatherings. A growing number of people came to Christ and led to an unprecedented number of conversions to Christianity after a citywide crusade. The number kept doubling every year. Basically, those involved in the evangelisation of Resistencia followed *Lk 10:5-9*: “First, bless the lost; next fellowship with them, minister to them, and then proclaim that the kingdom of God has come near to you.”

People who bring the power and presence of God into their workplace are marketplace ministers and those involved in church-based activities are called pulpit ministers. Siloso enunciated 5 biblical based paradigms that show pulpit and marketplace ministers are partners:

1. *Mt 28:19* (the Great Commission) is about discipling nations and not individuals;
2. The Atonement secured redemption for individuals

and the marketplace;

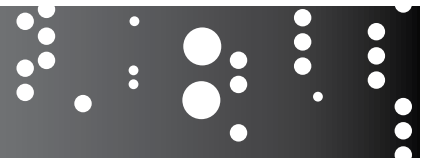
3. Labour is worship, all believers are to turn their jobs into places of worship and ministry to others;
4. Jesus is the one who builds his church;
5. “The elimination of systemic poverty in all its 4 dimensions - spiritual, relational, motivational and material - is the premier social indicator of transformation.”

Siloso believes discipling a nation is similar to discipling individuals and that the Great Commission refers to baptizing nations. When a nation is baptized, it means the nation is brought under the authority of the Triune God by exposing or submerging it in the teachings of Jesus rather than using water as in the case of individuals. Thus, baptizing a city or nation will progressively drive out the evil that is entrenched in its culture. An example Siloso quoted is Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, known as the murder capital of the world. Pastor Poncho Murguia was directed by God to fast and pray for 21 days at the city entrance. As soon as he completed his fast, he received a call from the newly elected mayor to help in cleaning up Mexico’s worst prison (El Cereso). Poncho had a small team (i.e. a small Ekklesia) who trusted in God to transform the prison. This team organised a midnight raid that took over control of the prison and it was rehabilitated. The turning point for the city was when Poncho and a Pastor Brian Burton from Phuket claimed it in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit from the top of a hill overlooking the city. After this event, Poncho had to baptize the city by submerging it in the teachings of Jesus (in this instance to show the city how to apply the teachings of Jesus).

Poncho, with the endorsement of the mayor, started a training programme for the municipal employees to eradicate corruption. It is based on the slogan, “Thrive without Bribes.” Each participant signed a pledge to renounce corruption, wear a wristband with the slogan and agree to take the programme into their sphere of influence. This is Ekklesia in action. The success can be seen now in the City Hall where there are signs stating those offering bribes will be reported and persecuted.

Siloso related many stories of successful transition from today’s church to the new Ekklesia. To implement the transition Siloso suggests that the concept should be sold to different groups over a period of time starting with the 5% of the congregation who are visionaries, followed by the 15% who are implementers. The rest will follow if they see results.

The desired transition is to bring what is happening inside the church building out into all the city all the time (24/7). Every member of the church is to be trained as a shepherd to others in the marketplace, leading by example. The Kingdom of God is to be proclaimed not only by words but also by deeds bringing justice, peace and joy. It is based on partnering with God to disciple nations based on the power that comes from baptism in the Holy Spirit. I believe Siloso’s claims of seeing some success of establishing the Ekklesia based on his teachings will only



be more convincing if there is sociological evidence that correlates improving social justice (in the broadest sense) with increase in the number of people claiming to believe in Jesus Christ.

This book is recommended for those who are seeking an alternative way of evangelisation.

50 Years of Charismatic Renewal

By JAN RICHARDS

Here in Melbourne, the news of a 'new move of the Holy Spirit' was brought to the attention of those seeking a deeper knowledge and understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit. It offered to draw people into a new relationship with God.

Since then, thousands of lives have been changed, renewed, and received the grace and blessing of a personal relationship with Jesus. Prayer Groups started to spring up in many parishes, in the city and country. They were havens of acceptance and warmth, and opened eyes and lives as the Holy Spirit moved in many different ways. People were healed in body, mind and spirit – as we were drawn into this out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

Praise and Worship was simple but profound, little hymns that touched wounded lives, revealing God's love to each and every person at these meetings. Spontaneous prayer and sharing of Scripture (new to many of us!) encouraging and giving hope, the simpleness and grace of the Holy Spirit transformed lives. Our faith became real and alive. Friendships were formed, many continue till this day.

Our hearts, thoughts and feelings came into God's presence as we sang and worshipped, shared fellowship, prayer and cried. Our spirits were set free, healing our brokenness, as God revealed himself to us. We were loved; a love we could not earn, this love we already had.

But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the world... (*Gal 1: 15-16*).

The Baptism in the Spirit brought us to places we never dreamed were there, let alone that we would be changed and gifted. Things began to emerge, great love and thirst for the Scriptures, Prayer, many different ministries came alive, people experiencing prayer tongues, prophecy, healing, miracles, deeper understanding, knowledge and wisdom, the power of the Spirit was tangible, a great desire for relationship with Jesus, obedience, surrender and trust.

People were hungry for praise and worship, listening to cassettes, teachings, spiritual reading, our faith and trust in the living God was so strong, boldness in prayer and believing and seeing Jesus was alive and moving in new and glorious ways. We had great expectancy to see signs and wonders. Of course lives were not changed in a week or even months. We are constantly changing, learning,

moving, doubting and searching, but Jesus is our anchor. We were reminded to never neglect our going away to a quiet place and continue to listen to Him.

Age is not a barrier, or even sickness

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (*Is 40: 28-31*).

The Holy Spirit is constantly on the move, we hear he is doing 'a new thing' The Lord is not sleeping! He is constantly putting people into our path, providing new opportunities. Lord, what are they?

- Baptism in the Spirit
- Parish work
- Sharing what we've been taught
- New ministries spring forth – sharing the power and love of God
- Meditation groups
- Mothers' Prayers
- Retreats
- Days of reflection
- Zoom meetings!

We are being sent to bring the Good News, to be messengers of hope, issuing an invitation to go deeper in our spiritual lives. We do not find Jesus, he finds us. He looks at us with love and issues the invitation 'Come follow me'!

I asked 3 fellow parishioners for their reflections of being part of a Charismatic Prayer Group:

Jenny: Brought the Holy Spirit alive to me. I didn't know anything about the Holy Spirit. This brought me into relationship with God. Many years I spent at St Leonard's Prayer Group, enabled me to have confidence in myself and become an active member of our parish and wider community.

Jim: Gave me the confidence and opportunity to recognise my gift of music. It awakened in me a desire to bring people together to praise and worship God. I found a new freedom and awakened the Holy Spirit within.

Shirley: it changed my life and my thinking in many ways. I was better able to cope with whatever came along. I prayed to God and his mother Mary, but they were on a pedestal somewhere! I came to a place of personal relationship with both - Jesus, his mother - and the Holy Spirit. I felt the Holy Spirit was spreading out over my family. It was great for me.



Bubbles! Bubbles! Bubbles everywhere! A sea of bubbles surrounded me in my shower one morning and try as I might I could not wash away the bubbles. Until I turned off the hot water and let the cold water run. Then the bubbles diminished and eventually all went down the drain!

What does this have to do with anything? Well, as I was laughingly reflecting the very next day, I was reminded of the bubbles, bubbles everywhere! I sensed the Holy Spirit trying to tell me something! It was one of the 'Ah, ha!' moments.

So it was that I understood that the bubbles multiplied quickly when the hot water was running but dissipated slowly when the cold water was running. Nothing new you might say! But the Holy Spirit was using a very ordinary happening to teach me something, i.e. I realized that the gifts of the Spirit were like those bubbles everywhere and they were multiplying and being fed with the flow of hot water ever so quickly. I understood that this is the way the Holy Spirit works when its actions and flow were not dampened but allowed to flow freely so that the gifts of the Holy Spirit increased and multiplied at an astonishing rate just like the bubbles which were overflowing right out of my shower.

However, when the Spirit's flow was stopped, the gifts, like the bubbles, receded slowly, slowly when cold water was used! A bit dramatic you might be thinking! Yes, indeed! It made me stop and think about the ways in which I might have, even unknowingly through fear or anxiety, stopped the working of the Holy Spirit in my life. Not surprisingly, I could think of a couple of instances. Can you?

It is no wonder that St Paul when he writes to the Church in Corinth says,

"For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 *Timothy* 1:6-7 and further in *Romans* 12: 6-8 he says, "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. This is reiterated in 1 *Peter* 4:10-11 concluding with the words – "...in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Let us try and be conscious that the gifts are not for our own keeping but for the building up of the people of God. So that there may be bubbles and bubbles of gifts overflowing everywhere in the Kingdom of God.

CCR RAFFLE DRAW

And the winners are...

Franka Waters

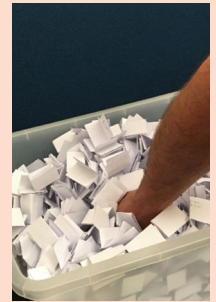
1st prize \$6000 travel voucher

Mariella Taouk

2nd prize \$3000 travel voucher

Jacinta Gunn

3rd prize \$1000 Coles/Myer voucher



Congratulations to our winners and a big THANK YOU to all who supported this endeavour!

Please pray:

- For God to provide all the resources needed as we celebrate fifty years of Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Melbourne.
- That there will be a supernatural move of God over our nation to bring all people to know the love God has for them.
- For God to raise up young people to extend the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit to the next generation.
- For unity among all Christians.
- For the end of the Covid 19 virus that all people may live healthy and safe lives.
- For the members of CCR who have died in the past year.

Amen

Living in the Shining Place

Psalm 15 - Passion translation

Lord, who dares to dwell with you?

Who presumes the privilege of being close to you, living next to you in your shining place of glory?

Who are those who daily dwell in the life of the Holy Spirit?

They are passionate and wholehearted, always sincere and always speaking the truth - for their hearts are trustworthy.

They refuse to slander or insult others; they'll never listen to gossip or rumours, nor would they ever harm another with their words.

They will speak out passionately against evil and evil workers while commending the faithful ones who follow after the truth.

They make firm commitments and follow through, even at great cost.

They never crush others with exploitation or abuse and they would never be bought with a bribe against the innocent.

They will never be shaken; they will stand firm forever.

MARK YOUR DIARIES...

Gathering Days

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

Dates for 2021: Saturdays 15 May, 21 August and 20 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 Street to stop no.22.

Let's celebrate

CCR is 50 years old in the Melbourne Archdiocese.

Saturday 6 March and Sunday 7 March 2021

This is a time for us to thank God for his graces and blessings of the last 50 years and to ignite our passion and fire to continue the great work God has begun. The theme will be the cry of CCR for 50 years – *Jesus is Alive! The same yesterday, today and forever.*

For further details see page 7 or visit www.ccr.org.au

Happy Hour with the Holy Spirit

3rd Friday of the month, 7.30pm via Zoom.

3rd Friday of the month, 7.30pm via Zoom

Hoping to reach all the country areas.

Join us for a night of praise and worship, prayer and teaching.

Zoom details

Zoom ID: 71760305001

Password: 101holden

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	

ALL PAUSED UNTIL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED

Please check with the Parish about any change to restrictions

Third Sunday	5.30pm	707 Holy Cross Parish, Caulfield South. Mass, Adoration and Devotions to the Holy Cross
	5.30pm Praise, 6.00pm Mass	St Francis Xavier, Frankston
		Good Samaritan Chapel, 1-29 Southern Cross Drive, Roxburgh Park
Fourth Tuesday	10.00am	St Joseph's, Chelsea