



The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

April 2023 Newsletter

A Lighthouse in the Storm

By Maryann Street, Deputy Director, CSOE.

Jesus spoke to them, saying, “*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*” John 8:12

I have always had great admiration for those who made the sea journey to Australia from England, including my own ancestors. For some it was an enforced journey as a convict, or crew member. For others it was a choice made under difficult circumstances seeking a better life in a New Land. You may not have heard of one such vessel, the *Cataraqui* that left Liverpool in April 1845 and sailed to Australia over the next 3 months heading for Melbourne. But in Australia’s worst maritime disaster (outside of wartime), at 4.30am on Monday 4th August 1845, in stormy weather, the *Cataraqui* struck a reef on the west coast of King Island less than 100 metres from shore and over the next 24 hours, 400 people perished, with only 9 survivors. Many of the British and Irish passengers on board were assisted emigrants, including children. As a result, the Admiralty banned ships from using Bass Strait from 1846 - 1848, until the completion of a lighthouse at Cape Otway. Other lighthouses were constructed on King Island in 1851 and 1879. Even so, Bass Strait remained a dangerous waterway, with more shipwrecks along the coasts of King Island throughout the 19th century.

I share this story because it reminds me that sometimes we are sailing in dangerous waters, unaware of what lies ahead. But we have the clear directive from Jesus to “*Follow Me*” so that we are not in darkness but remaining in the light.

For 5 years, from October 2017 to October 2022, Ann Serong was the Director of the Catholic School of Evangelisation. During those years, Ann provided leadership, with wisdom, encouragement and an ability to bring together those with opposing views. She took on the practical tasks of the Director with diligence and commitment to the School. In looking back over the articles Ann wrote for the *Witness*, I sense her humility and focus on Jesus at every step of faith. On behalf of all members and associates of the CSOE, I thank Ann Serong for those years of service and dedication. Her decision to step down from the role of Director was largely due to family circumstances with the deterioration in health of her husband Bill.



Since the AGM in October 2022, when there were no nominations for the role of Director, I have found myself assuming those responsibilities and appreciated the guidance of Ann, along with the help of Janine, Jacek, Sandra, Jivraj and Sam. However, it remains that the CSOE has no Director and this is not sustainable. I have been asked ‘Well do we really need a national director? Isn’t the role redundant because we have a Melbourne Co-ordinator?’ The role of the National Director is different to that of the Melbourne Co-ordinator. The CSOE is an incorporated association registered with the Australian Securities and

Investment Commission with legal responsibilities.

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The Witness

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on our web page:*

www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au

Post, email or fax your articles of an evangelistic nature, personal testimonies, jokes, news items, photos, advertisements, competitions, Bible trivia etc. to the Editor at the above address or
email: janinepwitten@gmail.com

The Director and other members of the National Executive Committee of the Catholic School of Evangelisation do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed in articles within this publication.

Catholic School of Evangelisation **MISSION STATEMENT**

To contribute to the formation of evangelising parishes by offering a formation program which:

- ▶ FORMS DISCIPLES
- ▶ TRAINS EVANGELISERS
- ▶ ESTABLISHES PARISH EVANGELISATION TEAMS

A Lighthouse in the Storm

Continued from front page

The role of the National Director is to provide practical, spiritual and emotional leadership, with decision making capacity, not taking the easy road but seeking God's will for the CSOE. The person who fills this role needs to be encouraging, able to humbly accept advice and supporting others in their ministry. There will be times when they need to step out in faith, showing leadership and commitment to the CSOE vision to be an instrument within the Catholic Church for the training of evangelisers in all dioceses of Australia and to other countries.

The Committee of Management are currently arranging a Reflection Day on Saturday 3rd June 2023 for members of the CSOE. Fr Robin Koning has agreed to facilitate this day and the venue is St Augustine's Parish, 631 Bourke St, Melbourne VIC 3000.

The Reflection Day will be an opportunity for us to gather in-person once again, to come to know one another at a deeper level and share as a community of faith. We will seek to hear the wisdom of the Holy Spirit with deep receptive listening, in a sacred space created through our presence together.

"We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

2 Peter 1:19

Maryann Street
Deputy Director, CSOE.

DONATIONS APPRECIATED

We are very excited to announce the Melbourne Catholic School of Evangelisation will be presenting a 2-week International Intensive Workshop in Melbourne during the June/July 2023 school holidays. 4 multi-day courses will be offered aimed at encouraging faith development and equipping participants to equip others.

The CSOE will be hosting Fr Adam Samsel (Papua New Guinea) and Wency Provideo (Philippines) who will be attending the Intensive accompanied by a member of their own team with the view of duplicating CSOE courses in their own communities. If you wish to make a donation to assist with expenses, please make your donation to:

Catholic School of Evangelisation
BSB 633108
A/C 153553003

THE RELUCTANT GRADUATE

By Emilia Sacchetta

We are pleased to announce that our own CSOE Melbourne Co-Ordinator, Sandra Bishop graduated on Friday, 23rd March with a Masters in Theological Studies from the Catholic Theological College, University of Divinity, Melbourne. This achievement has been the culmination of five years of part-time study during which CSOE participants have benefited greatly from the fruits of her labour – in particular three new courses resulting from assignments she submitted during this time: *Reflecting on the Hebrew Letters*, *The Art of Divine Encounters* and *Jacob's Blessings*.

Ironically, Sandra's return to study was quite by accident and not something she had been contemplating when in 2018 I asked her to accompany me to an information evening at CTC. I had expressed an interest in commencing theological studies myself but, paradoxically, after the information evening my interest vanished; I took a raincheck and instead Sandra found herself applying for her first course 'Hebrew A'. The rest, as we say, is history.

From the outset, Sandra's goal and desire were always to share her growing biblical and

theological learning with others, and to seek opportunities to enrich and expand the CSOE. The five year journey has not been without its difficulties and obstacles, however. Many times, she questioned her decision to embark on this path but her perseverance and reliance on God's grace has led her to the completion of this journey to which He had called her.

It was with great relief, then that Sandra submitted her final assignment in June 2022, later selecting 'in absentia' when asked how she would prefer to receive her graduation papers – no formal ceremony, fancy hat and flowing cape for Sandra! Her daughter-in-law pushed and this resulted in her presence at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne on 23rd March and so with much reluctance, submitted to the myriad rules and regulations associated with such a formal occasion. Sandra would not have known that as she processed across the polished sanctuary to receive the parchment reward for her labours, we too had become recipients – of God's abundant blessings showering down upon each one of us throughout these five years as Sandra so generously shared with us the fruits of her studies.

Congratulations, Sandra, and thank you!



From the CSOE Rule.

Vision and Mission: (1) The vision of the Association is to be an instrument in the Catholic Church for the training of evangelisers in all Dioceses in Australia and to other countries.

Objective:

(2) To establish local teams who would continue to conduct courses for the training of evangelisers i.e. multiply CSOE.

'JOURNEY TO FREEDOM' TESTIMONIES

This course was held in March in conjunction with 'The Way' Prayer Group.

To hear the story of another, to hear what the Lord is doing in another person's life really builds us up.

We are called to spread the Good News, to share with others what the Lord has been doing in our lives.

THE HOLY SPIRIT FILLS MY HEART WITH JOY - STEWART

I am so grateful to have an opportunity to join the 4 week Bible study 'A Journey to Freedom' during this Lent. Thank you very much Sandra Bishop and the team for preparing this. I received many inspirations and blessings. I and my wife Irma enjoyed the daily exercises together. Praise the Lord.

On the last day, when we began to pray for each other in our small group and spoke in tongues, suddenly I experienced my head grow big. I knew the Holy Spirit was empowering me. Then I was overwhelmed by joy and peace throughout the session. Thank you Holy Spirit for filling my heart with joy and peace. Even though we only met via the zoom the Holy Spirit was moving among us. Praise the Lord!

I RECEIVED THE GIFT OF INNER HEALING - IRMA

During the 4 week Bible Study 'A Journey to Freedom' my husband Stewart and I did our homework together. For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit I knew I had to ask forgiveness from God for my sins and to forgive those who hurt me. So I started to invite the Holy Spirit to come and help me to reveal my sins I needed to confess to God. I said the mantra *Jesus, free me, Jesus, heal me* whenever I could throughout the day.

One night I had a dream. In my dream I saw three persons who were my former junior high school mates – a girl and two boys. I knew their names. I did not like the girl during those days and I had hurt the two boys badly. In the dream I saw the face of one of the boys, he is an adult now but I knew it was him! I never remembered these three friends (they were my school mates 57 years ago!) When I woke up I wondered what that dream meant. I remembered back in Miri Diocese, in Sarawak (North Borneo), Malaysia our Emeritus Bishop Anthony Lee told us when we pray for inner healing we might have dreams, a revelation from the Holy Spirit.

Then I knew that I should ask God for forgiveness for bad relationships, hurting these three former junior high school friends, to set myself free from any bondage to them and to let them (alive or dead – I do not know) be free too in the name of Jesus Christ! Normally when I pray for healing I am more concerned about those who have hurt me. The Holy Spirit revealed to me that I have to ask forgiveness from those people hurt by me in order to receive healing from God. Praise the Lord!

FRANCA

Before I began the 'Journey to Freedom' course I didn't know what to expect. As the course began and by completing the homework each night, I knew Jesus wanted me to be open and honest about my relationship with Him.

During Week 1 'The Exodus' I needed to identify the dry and sick areas of my life, which was a difficult but fruitful experience. I decided that I was willing to allow the Lord to heal these areas.

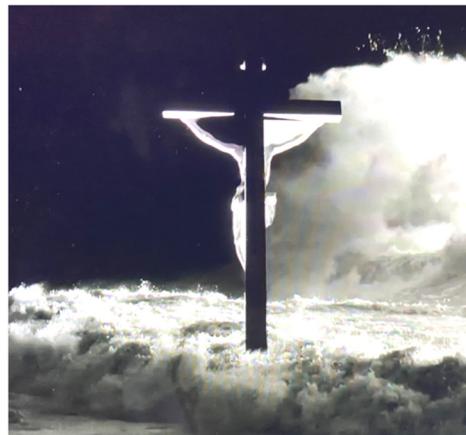
During Week 2 'The Desert' I learnt that I could not enter the Promised Land unless I wandered through the desert first. In my life, there have definitely been times when I have sinned, doubted my faith and not been close to Jesus. In those times Jesus remained near me. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I experienced Jesus' unconditional mercy and love.

In Week 3 'The Promised Land' I accepted the invitation to the Marriage Feast in the Promised Land.

In summary, through this course, I truly understand that Jesus is calling me into a deeper relationship with Him. I feel so blessed and privileged that Jesus is my Lord and Saviour.

ROSE

It was 1995 when I participated in my first 'Journey to Freedom' course and my first time at 'The Way' prayer group. At the time I was going through a



spiritual storm and had never looked back. This time round, perhaps 28 years later, I seem to be going through a physical storm. But, praise be to Jesus, I recently came across this amazing picture of looking from behind of Jesus on the cross at

the helm in this recent storm. No matter what happens to me, Jesus always makes His presence felt in one form or another. Be it a picture or a verse, or weathering my storm, as in this beautiful picture. Thankyou my Lord for always being there for me in my times of need. Amen.

EILEEN

I would like to acknowledge, with Patricia, the same things like judgement. It just seems to automatically come about when you look at someone and start to judge them. I find myself very prone to that. I'm sorry for that.

Lord God I know that You love me more than I've ever known. I know that as a human being I will never love You as You love me. My God help me to love You and my neighbour as I should. I am a sinner in need of Your help and I fall so often that You pick me up and like a loving Father embrace me. Please Lord, enlighten me, help me to avoid sin and to avoid hurting You. Lord help me to trust You more. Amen.

‘JOURNEY TO FREEDOM’ TESTIMONIES

JANINE

For me I found the Healing Prayer that took us right throughout our lives very fruitful. I also loved the Mantras which we were to say every evening very beneficial. When it came to the prayers for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit last week, I was amazed that the Spirit could work through the medium of Zoom. Whenever I’ve experienced the prayer in the past has been through the ‘laying on of hands’ and my concern was how it would work considering the vast distances between all of us. But the Lord was faithful and we found that the gifts of the Spirit flowed freely that night. It proves that He is the Lord of all the earth and overcame all the difficulties with communication. There was definitely healing on the night and throughout the course. I just happened to catch up in person the next day with four of the other participants and there was definitely a pervading sense of joy in each and every one of us that carried on throughout the next day. We know now that with the Lord there is always more and that no matter how many times you might do courses like this – there is always more. I give thanks for that.

MARGARET

There are two parts to my testimony. In the first week we had to say our goals and my ultimate goal was to make a really good Reconciliation before Holy Week. I had intended to go to Reconciliation after Mass on Saturday but it was cancelled. Our Parish Reconciliation was moved from then to tonight and so I thought I would be late. I was able to make a really beautiful Reconciliation and so that goal which I had made four weeks ago came to be and it was just so wonderful.

I would also like to give testimony about my daughter’s healing. She’s in her 30’s and she’s has Psychotic Schizophrenia, she’s been estranged for ten years, almost to the day. One of the things I used to say was, as she was adopted, I thought love would be enough. But, it wasn’t and I’ve often said that, love isn’t enough. But when the prophetic ‘word’ was given today that ‘*My love is enough*’ I realised that my own love isn’t enough, but Jesus’ love is enough.

So what I want to testify about her is that back in December a Psychiatrist contacted me to tell me that my daughter had been under their care since April and that she has treatment resistant Schizophrenia which means that you cannot be helped. They had managed to find my number by looking through her medical file, because she was estranged she didn’t want anyone to know about me. Anyway I’ve been able to visit her about four times in hospital and once out of hospital. She’s been in and out several times during that short time, but why I want to give praise to God is that just in the last week and a half they have managed to put her on a different medication and there has been a remarkable change. Her ‘voices’ have now become just like people talking in a room, they are not telling her to do things. She just sounds so different and she is on

track, and the people there do actually care about her. I just want to give praise to God because ten years is a long time to be estranged and psychosis is a terrible thing to deal with. So I just want to praise God because He is so faithful. Another wonderful thing she said is, after being in St Francis church I went into the Catholic Book Shop and she bought me a book. So I asked her if she went to church often and she said, “It’s my Church”. She has been away from God for 15 or 20 years, a long time and now I think that God is really touching her. So I want to give Him all the praise and glory because He does hear our prayers and answer!

DEIDRE

I entered ‘Journey to Freedom’ for two reasons. I had noticed that my spirituality was on a very severe downward spiral and I wanted to get it back. The other reason was to prepare for the Holy Week of Easter so that hopefully I could participate in a more spiritual way.

Participation has been very challenging to me and helped me to identify even more weaknesses than I knew I had. Some of the questions I found very difficult to answer in a positive way because I couldn’t see any good thing within me that could answer the question. But, it helped me to remember something that I’d forgotten and that is that each one of us is loved and treasured by God exactly where we are right now. I don’t have to do anything to earn God’s love, it’s just there. The joy of knowing that, or rather revisiting the truth that I had forgotten, reminded me that I can’t get there by myself. I had got bogged down with giving myself hard tasks to do and not achieving them was like I was stuck in the desert. I got out of Egypt, but I was stuck in the desert. He led me to see that my job isn’t to walk up a set of steps one at a time trying to achieve holiness, I’m never going to get there if that was what I was trying to do. My job is to stay in union with my Lord in prayer and just do my utmost to forget my will and let Him have His will in my life. If I become a slave to sin I open myself up to spiritual misery. But if I subject myself willingly to be a slave of Christ it gives me the spiritual freedom to climb higher than I could possibly do on my own. Without the burdens of greed, lust, pride, jealousy and all the other vices that have always caused nothing but sadness and misery. I’m finding that my true freedom is coming from giving Jesus the right to guide me on the best pathway and I now believe I am truly beginning that journey again and this time He will give me the grace to stay with Him. I truly believe that because I’ve had two spiritual friends, out of the blue, remind me that I’m precious to God. The mantra that I believe really stuck with me the most was ‘Jesus heal me’ and I’m looking forward to getting closer and closer to Him. As I look back through the readings, I want to thank all the people that have worked on that course, it’s been very, very beneficial.

Praise the Lord!

‘JOURNEY TO FREEDOM’ TESTIMONIES

LOVELYN

My husband and I had gone through some very difficult times with our younger boy. In the month of January we started the 30 day Novena to St Joseph. Our younger boy had kept asking us for sums of money all the time and I would get into arguments with my husband because he would end up with large sums of money being given to him under the pretext of having no regular income. Covid was one of the reasons etc. But I found it very strange that every week large sums of money were being requested and my husband would give it to him. I prayed very hard to Jesus and finally it was revealed to me that my son was gambling. My husband and I were totally shocked. It was unexpected that our child would do this and lie to us. Our child is now coming good and talking to us. He was never a boy who would ask for prayer for his friends. Last Friday I texted him to say I was going to Holy Mass and to pray the Way of the Cross. He replied immediately asking for prayers for his friends. He is now beginning to realise, to understand, and engage with us and talk with us, feeling sorry about the whole thing. The liberation, the freedom when it came to the desert experience I saw the Lord’s hand reaching out and I held His hand and I put our little boy’s hand (it was a child’s hand) in His hand and grasped very tightly. During this course I saw our Lord often walking toward me, His feet were very clear to me. I kept thanking Him but I used to get very frightened and scared because the whole situation was terrible, very terrible. But thank God for His freedom. I often used the mantra ‘Jesus free me’ and others too. I can’t thank the Lord enough for what He has done for us.

PATRICIA

I began the Program with the fear that I would not stick with the daily routine, I expected that I would slacken and make excuses that I couldn’t fit it in. The three areas of slavery that I was aware of were: Number 1, constant distractions in my prayer. Number 2, I became aware that it was most important to me to make a good impression. How I look, how I acknowledge others and I realised that this was just vanity and pride. Number 3. was judging others. I make an instant appraisal of someone and tend to make this govern how I treat them until I get to know them better. This is often reinforced by gossiping about another. Somehow, I had difficulty saying the mantra ‘Jesus, free me’ – I couldn’t see how He could. I don’t know that it’s happened yet. In Week 2 I had to write a timeline of my life and I was surprised that there were several hurts in my early life that I had completely forgotten about. However, I realised that they had helped to form me and often dictate my behaviour. I always say set prayers such as the Divine Mercy and the Rosary but I only speak to Jesus from my heart when I feel a great need. This was especially so when our first child Mark, died of a brain tumour when he was 35. The next year my closest sister died of cancer and the following year

my husband died. If I hadn’t had my faith during those times I don’t know where I’d be.

During the meditations I was becoming deeply aware of how I was seeking to make first impressions and how I was judging people. In Week 3, I consolidated my realisation with the help of the Holy Spirit to overcome these areas of my life. I went to Confession and talked to the priest and he said I need to work on my relationship with God. During the 3 weeks I have asked the Holy Spirit for Wisdom, Understanding, Courage and Fear of the Lord.

RITA

I really didn’t know what to expect from this course. I had received the message about it from a friend at Church, who did not attend herself!

At first, I thought “This is not for me!” During the first session... “I don’t need liberation from anything!” However, I stayed on because I liked the people in my breakout group and the course seemed to hold some promise of ‘being free’ at the end of it. I didn’t have any fears and didn’t know what I expected on completion – no goals. I couldn’t pinpoint the ‘dry areas’ of my life at the time. Then I began to feel that I was indeed thirsting for something more, perhaps a way of going deeper in some way during Lent this year. I don’t recall ever reading the passage from Ezekiel 37 before now, but the phrase “*I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live*” stayed with me that week.

Returning to the Journey though the Promised Land felt right – it seemed like a light at the end of the tunnel in which I had felt myself for the previous ten days. While I may not have experienced the authentic presence of God during my prayer times, I think that I came through this with another timely reminder that the Lord Jesus was with me every step of the way. He helped me to stay calm, to not raise my voice and to remember that I could say anything to Him at any time of the day or night. I hope that I am not misguided in seeing that the Holy Spirit wants me to share certain ‘gifts’ with others, not in efforts to bring about conversion, but just to be present, using those gifts for God’s Glory alone.

Thank You for having led me to this course/Journey and for reminding me of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please Lord would You increase my portion of wisdom to know what to hold onto and of what to let go. Amen

“The hand of the Lord was on me and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley. It was full of bonesI saw a great many bones bones that were very dry..... This is what the Lord said to these bones: I will make breath enter you and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you with skin, I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.” Ezekiel 37: 1-2, 5-6.

'JOURNEY TO FREEDOM' TESTIMONIES

MICHAEL

During the past few weeks I've come to rely on the Lord more. Whenever I've had a problem that seems impossible I've put it in the Lord's hands and the problem just seems to go away. In the last week there have been at least nine, each one as soon as I started praying diminished and almost disappeared. The Lord's power is amazing and I know it's not me doing it, it's the Lord doing it. I realise how great the Lord's power is. I've had problems where I'm crying, worried and feeling really sad and I've prayed to the Lord, sometimes quite frantically, but after even one day the problem doesn't exist, it's disappeared.

Healing

FIONA

My journey was a little bit disjointed because I had surgery and I missed a few sessions and I missed out on the group work which was a shame. But the Lord was faithful. My prayer was really for a deeper relationship with the Lord and a greater awareness of my own sinfulness. I guess it is because of my sinfulness that my relationship with the Lord hasn't been as deep as it could have been. So what I found really helpful was the Healing of Memories Prayer and I really latched on to that. I began praying that prayer every night, not word for word, but I started off doing it as per the book, then I became exhausted as I couldn't get through the whole thing. Then I found the Forgiveness Prayer from Fr Robert De Grandis SSJ on the internet and I began praying that every night like a Novena. I would just let the Spirit lead me and the more I prayed that prayer, (and I'm going to continue to do that) the more I realised how much is buried deep down and unrevealed. Even just little things each time I pray it something will come to my mind and I just let the Holy Spirit guide me through it. I ask the Lord's forgiveness and pray for the other person that they can forgive me etc. and it's just like a well has opened up like a bottomless pit. There's always more each night so I keep on praying and I try to pray it most nights and there's always something else. I realise now it's an ongoing journey, something that I have to keep doing because even though you might be going over something that happened years ago, then that very day something has occurred. So there's always things happening in my life that I need to bring to the Lord. I do thank the Lord for that greater awareness of my own sinfulness.

I was able to go to Reconciliation, even going wasn't as terrifying as it normally is for me because I get really anxious, but now I actually looked forward to it. The conversation with the priest was better and free flowing and I felt that was like a healing as well. It has been just little things that I've noticed but to me they are big things. They don't need to be big miracles just the little things that I notice. I do thank the Lord for that.

Healing

BRENDA

I started this journey and it's not my first time. I just wanted the Lord to heal me of what I call an addiction to online shopping. So I prayed and different things were revealed through prayer that were the cause of the online shopping. In Lent every day I also started logging onto Bruce Downes' Lenten program and he always starts every morning with, "I pray that God is with you in exactly the place you are." God is always with us wherever we are, whether we are in the depths of despair or when we are very happy. So I felt that through Prophecy and through other things, the Lord spoke to me and healed me of that area. Things pop up every day because I haven't unsubscribed to everything but I haven't shopped online.

I also had a healing from always having this doubt that God calls me to do certain things. When I look at Church groups and Prayer Groups everyone is so quiet and meek and mild, and I just feel I want to be like those people. But I just don't have a quiet voice. I don't even have a whisper voice – it's always loud, it's just me. So I always think that I wouldn't be useful, but God showed me that He keeps calling me back to the same thing and so yes now I believe that is what He wants me to do. So I had better just do it.

BRIGETTE

I started this course because *Healing* my Mum said I should do it. She probably saw in my life that I was very stressed and worried, getting quite worked up over things. So she said I think you need to do this course. I was really nervous to do it and didn't feel anything would occur but I can definitely say that it has. So praise God. I definitely wanted to get into a deeper relationship with Him and be revitalised in my faith and I think that happened. Yes I felt God speaking to me again quite clearly which was something I hadn't felt for a while, so that felt really good. Also in other areas of my life revealing my sinful ways, my pride and things like that I didn't realise I had. But also I found I don't have to try. I am a sinner and I'm not perfect and I've learned that I can just come to God freely any time. I don't have to make sure all my ducks are lined up spiritually before I come before Him. I think sometimes that's how I need to be and praying regularly. It becomes a religion and deep faith and partnership with Jesus. I really feel the peace of God now, maybe my Mum can tell if I've changed since the beginning or not. But I definitely feel more relaxed in my life with the peace of God. I was really nervous about my daughter going to childcare, but praise God I know that's where she's meant to be and it's such a beautiful place. I think at the start of this course it was causing me so much anxiety that she had go, and now that she's there I just feel it's what God wanted. So I just praise God for His Will He has over my life and doing things that I think I don't need or my family doesn't need. I feel that even sharing my faith now was healing.

‘JOURNEY TO FREEDOM’ TESTIMONIES

WENCY

The journey towards freedom isn't really easy. It reminded me of the most striking word from the traditional formula said by the priest when ashes were placed on our forehead last Ash Wednesday, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The DUST is what I thought as the most appropriate symbol of humility which for me is the very core value we need to live out in order to attain freedom. Let me spell-out the meaning of each letter in the word DUST:

D means DESIRE. The first step to freedom is to desire it. Every person who felt imprisoned, either by physical, emotional, mental or spiritual cells always starts with desiring to be free before they could actually be liberated. The journey to freedom would be impossible for those who do not wish to be free.

U means UNLEASH. After our desire is an effort from our part to be totally released from whatever force that imprisons us. From the week 1 activity, after reading and understanding the bible verse about dry bones, I learned to identify the dry and sick areas of my life which need unleashing and so I asked Jesus every day to free me. The mantra "Jesus free me" helped me a lot in progressing towards freedom for I strongly believe in Jesus' power over any force that restricts me.

S means SUBMISSION. Next to the desire and my own personal efforts to be unleashed from the negative forces that withhold me is the need to cultivate the value of humility. I need to submit myself to God's ways of freeing me. It should be God's ways and not mine. After identifying the dry and sick areas of my life, I offered them all to Jesus and allowed Him to heal them. I cannot be healed

on my own. I'm too powerless to do it. Jesus' divine healing is what I need especially towards those wounds that have been endured and buried for so many years. The healing of memories prayer was so striking for I thought before that those wounds I had since birth couldn't be healed anymore, but thankfully the prayer helped me to go back to those wounds and be healed from them with Jesus. The nightly mantra "Jesus heal me" was so helpful that I felt every part of my broken self was restored and healed every time and every day I utter it.

T means to TURN AROUND. Seriously I asked Jesus to accompany me towards healing and freedom and so in this final step I continue to follow Him. He has led me towards the Promised Land where milk and honey are overflowing. But before reaching the Promised Land I tried to fast for 24hrs. It's the very first 24hrs fasting that I made and I was surprised for I didn't feel the physical hunger despite the many activities I've done within that day. Yes, I felt the headache but it just disappeared as I tried to focus more on the very reason why I fasted. My hunger for food was replaced by hunger for God's Word and so I spent my day taking more of God's Word and more time in communion with Him in prayer. If you are going to ask, where to from here, my only answer is towards where God will lead me.

To be totally free, I need to return to my nothingness, to my being DUST and from here it is Jesus who will fill me with true freedom and life.

Thank you so much Sandra, Emilia, Breakout Room 2 my beloved prayer group who have become my prayer family. I was enriched and inspired more by our shared experiences and prayers. May we all have a meaningful Holy Week. God loves us all!

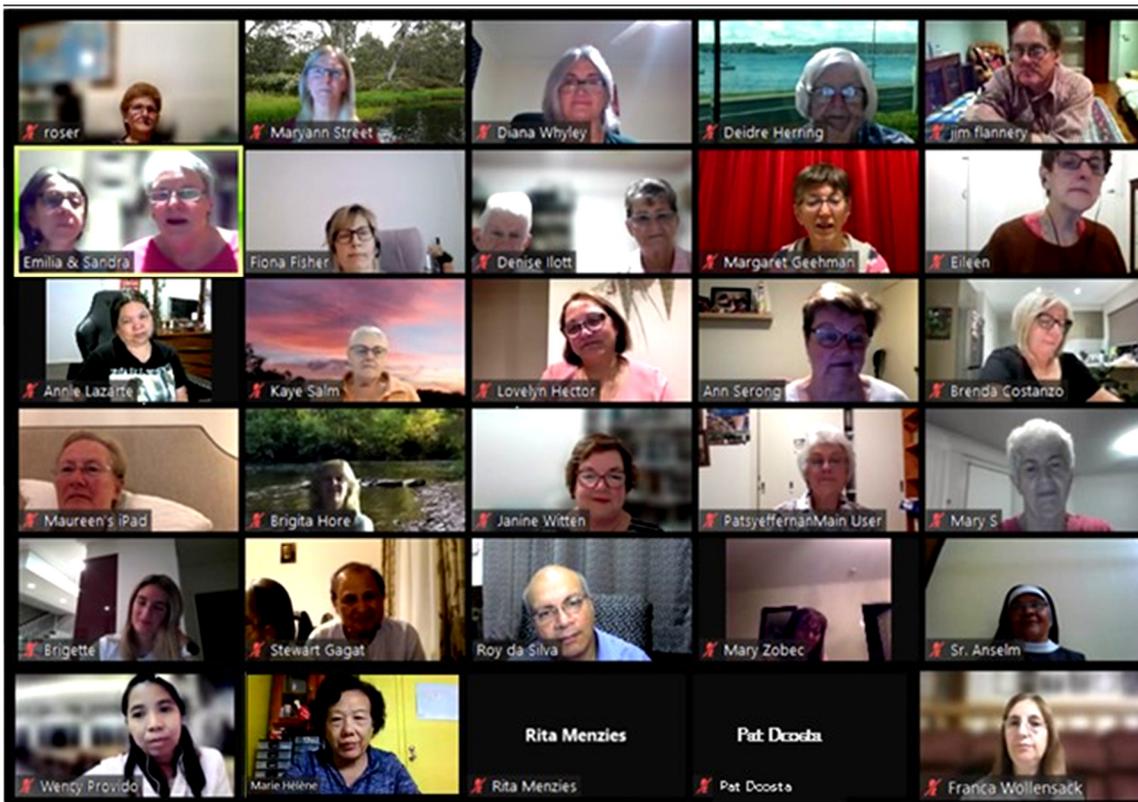


Photo left: Participants of the 'Journey To Freedom' Zoom course conducted in Lent recently. Judging by the testimonies it was very much appreciated.

EUCCHARIST COURSE Testimonies

November 2022

EUCCHARIST



Source & Summit
of Our Life

Michael

As a convert to Catholicism it is helpful to think about how everything Jesus said and did points to the Eucharist.

I enjoyed the Bible, the Fathers, Saints, Popes, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the miracles.

Maureen

The 'Eucharist Course' ran for three consecutive Wednesday nights at St Thomas' Church in North Greensborough. Each session ran for two hours. The course was excellent! I think I could best describe it as 'PURE GIFT'. My love and appreciation for the Eucharist has been deeply enhanced as a result of attending the Eucharist Course.

JACOB'S BLESSINGS

September 2022

You have opened a new 'window' for me on studying the scriptures and appreciation for the Land of Israel.

Before your lectures, I used to think of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and some time I would consider some of the sons of Jacob such as Judah, Joseph and Levi as Patriarchs. Your lectures on Jacob's Blessings made me appreciate the importance of all the 12 sons in the land of Israel, the Scriptures (the old and new), and also the history of the Israeli people.

I enjoyed all the maps of the land assigned to each of the patriarchs. You made those places real by bringing me back to those places I was fortunate to visit when I attended the BatKol session in 2013 (Book of Leviticus).

The video clips and the music you inserted in the discussion of each of the sons of Jacob, brought back strong memories, feelings and a longing to return.

I also thank you for introducing me to this great artist **Marc Chagall** and to the **Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs**.

I thank you and your team for all that.

Carlos Bauer de Carvalho

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, **"This is my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me."**

In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, **"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."** Luke 22: 19 - 20.

GIDEON'S ARMY

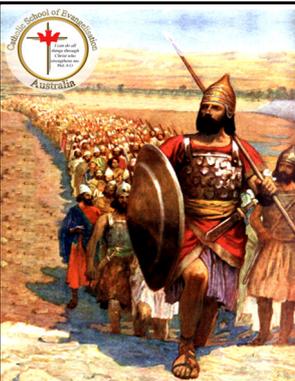
A big THANK YOU to the generous people who have made a financial commitment to assist the ongoing running of the CSOE. Without you we would not be able to continue our mission which is our response to the last 4 Popes' call for a New Evangelisation.

To make arrangements for direct debit or to forward donations please contact:

Jacek Holewa, 10 Rudolf Court, Ringwood North, Vic. 3134.

Ph. 9870 7625

Email: jacekholewa@hotmail.com



please ENROL me in GIDEON'S ARMY

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You are invited to join overseas participants at the C.S.O.E. International Intensive 24th June to 9th July, 2023



This course is an opportunity to come into a deep, personal relationship with Jesus, to experience His love & healing in your life and to make a deeper commitment to follow Him.

It will also give you a greater enthusiasm to share this Good News with others in your family & community.

If you are looking for a deeper sense of purpose & meaning in your life then this course is for you.

Come sit at the Master's feet, discover Jesus' master plan, spend a day in the life of Jesus, explore the relationships of a disciple and experience Jesus' pastoral formation program.

8.45am to 5.30pm, Saturday 24th June to Monday 26th June

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Hall, 251 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough North

BYO Lunch & Bible, morning and afternoon tea provided

Daily Mass will be celebrated

Book before 22nd June at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CHHCW>

Full fee \$90, Concession/Student card holders use code: CON/STUD for 20% discount



Mark, Matthew, Luke & John are 4 friends who carry us to Jesus who heals & encourages us to reach out to others.

Mark: Presents Jesus as the Good News, who performs 18 miracles & when dying on the cross is truly recognised as the Son of God.

Matthew: Presents Jesus as the Teacher who fulfills Old Testament prophecies & with his 5 discourses proclaims the Kingdom of Heaven.

Luke: Presents a vision of a merciful Jesus, the Universal Saviour, who proclaims the Good News to the poor & to sinners.

9.00am to 4.30pm, Wednesday 28th June to Saturday 1st July

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Hall, 251 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough North

BYO Lunch & Bible, morning and afternoon tea provided

Daily Mass will be that of the Evangelist discussed that day

Book before 22nd June at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CHGXQ>

Full fee \$120, Concession/Student card holders use code: CON/STUD for 20% discount

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Hall, Greensborough North

This course acknowledges Pope Francis' tremendous gift to the church – *Evangelii Gaudium*.

It identifies the greatest gift we can receive – the knowledge & experience of God's love & God's presence. Participants have the opportunity of deepening their relationship with God.

They learn how they can use their particular gifts to share God's love in a variety of locations & for a variety of audiences.

Practical methods are exercised so as to take *the church out into the streets* EG 49.

God's Presence - Our Present.



CSOE Response To *Evangelii Gaudium*

8.45am to 5.00pm, Monday 3rd July & Tuesday 4th July

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Hall, 251 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough North
BYO Lunch & Bible, morning and afternoon tea provided
Daily Mass will be celebrated

Book before 22nd June at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CHHMV>

Full fee \$60, Concession/Student card holders use code: CON/STUD for 20% discount

The Life of Moses



Beyond the Desert

A study of the life of Moses, especially as it models the attitudes required for Christian leaders.

The course will take participants through the Schools of Pharaoh, of Midian and of the Desert, to learn specific spiritual and leadership lessons.

It unveils the deep depression of Moses, his requests of God, and his trials.

It discusses the qualities of his collaborators and the power of a leader's intercessory prayer.

This course is especially beneficial to those in leadership positions as they learn, from the experience of Moses, that no leader "owns" their position, it always belongs to God as does the work to which they are called.

9.00am to 5.00pm, Thursday 6th July to Sunday 9th July

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Hall, 251 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough North
BYO Lunch & Bible, morning and afternoon tea provided
Daily Mass will be celebrated

Book before 22nd June at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CHHGA>

Full fee \$120, Concession/Student card holders use code: CON/STUD for 20% discount

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THE WITNESS

Protecting your privacy

The Catholic School of Evangelisation communicates with those who have participated in courses via email. To do this, we collect personal data at the time of registration. The data that is collected includes participant and contact information (name, email address, telephone number and course attended). Emails are sent to subscribers when a new issue of the Witness magazine is available, upcoming courses are advertised or as a request for prayer support.

There are options to change the way you receive these emails, including unsubscribing, by clicking the link at the bottom of the email. From time to time, we have been made aware that emails are incorrectly addressed.

Has your email address changed? Do you have questions about the email register for CSOE?
Please contact: Mr Sam Guidice [sam.giudice@bigpond.com]

International Intensive Booking Links

Sat 24-Mon 26 June	John the Beloved	https://www.trybooking.com/CHHCW
Wed 28-Sat 1 July	Jesus in the 4 Gospels	https://www.trybooking.com/CHGXQ
Mon 3-Tue 4 July	God's Presence—Our Present	https://www.trybooking.com/CHHMV
Thur 6-Sun 9 July	Moses—Beyond the Desert	https://www.trybooking.com/CHHGA

Bookings close 1pm Thursday 22 June

Concession/Student card holders use CON/STUD for 20% discount