



The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

March 2021 Newsletter

GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

The Covid pandemic hit the world and the subsequent lockdown closed churches, businesses and changed our way of daily living, but it did not slow the hard working team of presenters of **The Catholic School of Evangelisation**. The stories within this edition of the Witness show just how busy and enterprising many have been in continuing to spread the Word of God. Zoom has been a boon whilst we have been unable to present face to face courses and this will continue throughout most of 2021.

We are currently updating our contact list and are particularly keen to add more people to our database. If you know of family members/friends who would benefit from and enjoy reading this magazine then please pass on to us their contact details once you have obtained their permission.

Around the first of each month a list of our upcoming courses and other prayer needs are sent, via Mailchimp, to everyone who has promised to pray for the needs of CSOE. The ministry of prayer support is vital for the ongoing protection and success of the SCHOOL. Several weeks ago Fr. Adam Samsel, Sr. Rosemary and team from PNG presented, '7 Young People in the Gospel'. They had so many participants they had to turn some away. Fr. Adam gratefully assured us the prayer backing was the reason for this wonderful response. Another aspect to this is we can call ourselves MISSIONARIES to PNG whilst praying from our own homes.

Please continue to offer your Masses, prayers and rosaries and if you are not already on our E-prayer list contact us via email or post and we will add you to our database. (See back page for contact details)

Today's first reading from Hosea: ***"Let us set ourselves to know the Lord; that he will come is as certain as the dawn, he will come to us as showers come, like spring rains watering the earth."***

As we prepare for the great feast of Easter let us experience the truth of these words and share them with all.

Ann Serong

THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH PRAYER

The official prayer of the Year of St. Joseph,

– 'To you, O blessed Joseph' –

was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical Quamquam Pluries. The Holy Father asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary especially during October, the month of the Holy Rosary. This prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence. (Source USCCB)

**To you, O blessed Joseph
(Ad te, beate Joseph)**

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

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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

Ordination to the Diaconate of Rev. Edward Teye SVD

On Sunday 14th March 2021 Edward was ordained to the Diaconate along with four other young men, all Divine Word Missionaries at St Paschal's Chapel Box Hill, Vic.

Many would remember a 'quiet' Edward who participated in 2016 at 'Jonah' and '7 Young People in the Gospels' and in 2020 'Art of Divine Encounters' and 'Jesus in the 4 Gospels'.

I doubt if anyone would have imagined Edward drumming out a vote of thanks at the end of the ordination ceremony.



It was for one and all, "from north and from south, from east and from west" by drumming a la Ghana style, an amazing blessing to conclude a very moving ceremony.



After priestly ordination I understand that Edward will be heading back to Africa, this time Tanzania.

Please keep these young missionaries in your prayer as they take God's word out north and south, east and west!

Sandra Bishop

'TOUCHING THE FRINGE OF HIS GARMENT'

By Carmen Sylvester

**Adelaide Faith on Fire Seminar,
6th February 2021 – Fr Selva Raj**

There is a mystery inside each one of us. This mystery of human condition is such that in one way or other all will face pain, suffering, disappointments. But they have a potential of opening a person to new life. They also present an opportunity and a challenge to respond to the love and care that Jesus offers.

Why were people healed by touching Jesus' clothes?

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell the story of a woman with a "discharge of blood" who "touched the fringe" of Jesus' garment and was healed. (Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48).

What is the significance of the hem of Jesus' garment?

There are various passages in the Bible that refer to incidents whereby people who touched the "hem" of Jesus' garments were instantly healed. Some of these accounts are found in the following chapters: [Matthew 9:20-22](#) and [Matthew 14:36](#). **Let us look at the story of the woman with the issue of blood**, who knew that Jesus the Messiah was passing by. This woman took every opportunity to make her way close enough, to touch just the hem of the garment of Jesus. She came to Jesus in such a manner as to conceal herself so that no one would notice who she was. So, why did she do this?

According to [Leviticus 15:19,25,27](#) it says:

v19 "If a woman has a discharge, and the discharge from her body is blood, she shall be set apart seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening."

v25 "If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity, or if it runs beyond her usual time of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her customary impurity. She shall be unclean."

v27 "Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening."

According to the same account in the Gospel of Mark, she had an issue of blood for twelve years ([Mark 5:25](#)). According to [Leviticus 15:28](#) "But if she is cleansed of her discharge, then she shall count for herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean."

By this law, she has been unclean for twelve years.

Can you imagine the implications of this?

She is not meant to touch anyone, not her husband (if she had one), nor children (if any) or family, or friends nor could she do any house work, or even prepare her family food. She had to be isolated because of her impurity. It was as being as good as dead.

But one day she hears that Jesus is coming to town, and she finds this the perfect opportunity for her healing. She had tried every other option available and spent all she had but to no avail. This was her last hope.

According to [Matthew 9:21](#), she says, *"...If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."* What was it about the garment of the Lord? She had such faith that if Jesus was really the Messiah she would receive healing.

She could not reveal herself to anyone around her otherwise this would be seen as a serious crime. Anything and anyone she touches would become unclean. She is taking a big risk in the belief that there is healing at the hem of the garment of Jesus. She was embracing the promise that the Messiah had healing in His wings. She looked upon Jesus and believed that He was who He claimed to be. When she had touched the hem of His garment, it was the same as touching Him. She looked to Him by faith and when her faith touched His grace she was healed. She came to the right person in the right manner and received what she was after. Jesus responds saying, *"Your faith has made you well."*

Why has Jesus' exposed her secret?

This is the first step in removing the terrible burden of uncleanness from the woman. Jesus accepts her. He isn't angry. He blesses her with God's peace. He tenderly calls her daughter. This both helps restore her own self-esteem, but also her standing in the community, if she is from Capernaum.

"Your faith had healed you" He acknowledges. Her faith surely wasn't in his clothing. It was in God working through Jesus. The clothing didn't impart healing, He is saying, her faith in God has brought that about.

The disciples were to learn from this: *"That they should always pray and not give up"* (18:1). *"Ask and it will be given to you,"* Jesus is saying to us disciples. *"Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened"* (11:9-10).

Continued p. 5

PNG — '7 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE GOSPEL'

Twelve priests from different dioceses: Kerema, Alotau, Vanimo, Goroka, Hagen and Mendi, participated in the Evangelising Course: '7 Young People in the Gospel.' The course was held in Goroka Conference Centre on 2nd - 6th November 2020 during Vangeke Program, which is ongoing formation program for diocesan priests of PNG and Solomon Islands. The participants were informed about St. Andrew School of Evangelisation in Mexico, school's history, program, method and how it was growing; present today in about seventy countries around the World. We informed the priests that the course could be presented thanks to School of Evangelisation in Melbourne, Australia, which Goroka is part of. The priests were encouraged as well to join us and be a part of the future School in Goroka, if it is with accord to God's plan.



The presentation of seven young people was received very well and majority of participants expressed their wishes to take part in another



course. Some said: "The course is about us, everything fits to our life." Everybody has found the course very useful and helpful for the future work with young people in their parishes and dioceses.

We thanked God for that time of helping others but learning ourselves also. It was the third course of that type (after New Life and Emmaus) organized in Goroka and when we learned how it was received we have been encouraged to run courses in the future.

Thank you and cordial greetings to All members of School of Evangelisation in Melbourne.

With prayer,
Fr Adam Samsel &
Sr Rosemary Babate

GOROKA PNG

Forty young people from the surrounding dioceses spent Friday February 26th – Sunday February 28th with Fr Adam and Sr Rosemary at Goroka where they participated in '7 Young People in the Gospels'. Those forty were the fortunate ones who could actually fit into the facilities. Unfortunately some had to be turned away until another time.



A fortnight later the same course is to be presented to a group of teachers, all thanks to the way in which Fr Adam and Sr Rosemary have captured the potential of the course. Thanks also to the people who have been praying for the CSOE outreach at Goroka.

PNG - '7 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE GOSPEL'

Fourteen teachers and nurses participated in this CSOE course held on 12th—14th March. Four came from Kundiawa diocese and eleven from Goroka.



We were looking closely at different young people in the Gospels and learned from them how to answer Jesus who is calling us to be his friends and disciples. We understood that his mission is our mission and that with him everything is possible.

The participants' sharing convinced us that it is worthwhile to offer more courses. They are willing to take them. Thank you very much for the prayer support.



We are looking forward to the next course of this kind.

Fr Adam Samsel msf



'TOUCHING THE FRINGE ...'

Continued from page 3

Today is the day to come to Jesus and touch the hem of His garment. Isolation from others or from God, due to negative emotions such as shame or grief, often leave us enduring a kind of perpetual anxiety. We need contact with God and with others in order to feel safe and loved.

Ritual impurity is not something we identify with in our society, but the aspect of shame and isolation is. Our negative emotions flow from us, defiling others.

In those days, no one could go near her without having to go through a purity ritual. Just like her, if we are caught up in fear or guilt or some other powerfully destructive emotion, we drive others away. The loneliness alone can lead to some pretty severe depression.

We hide our pain. We pray silently in church; we castigate ourselves for our uncleanness, whether from our own sins or sins that were committed

against us. How fortunate we are that we have a God who will heal us even in our fear.

In the Old Testament, people are made unclean by the things they come into contact with. What a turnaround that in the New Testament, Jesus touches the leper, the woman with the issue of blood, even the dead. He is never made unclean, rather, they are made clean by contact with Him! We too are made clean because of our contact with Him. In fact, as salt and light, we then go out into a fallen world and bring light to the darkness, and cleanse what is impure.

We all need physical, spiritual, emotional, and social healing. Pope Francis says that Jesus saves and heals. It is every day that Jesus intercedes for us. When we are feeling a little down, let us remember that it is He who prays for us and intercedes for us continually. So many times we forget this. Turn to God asking for this intercession.

Carmen Sylvester

THE FIFTH GOSPEL

At the conclusion of the CSOE course 'Jesus in the Four Gospels' participants are invited to submit their ideas of how they might personally present Jesus in 'The Fifth Gospel'.

THE FIFTH GOSPEL – by Denise Illott

My dear friends, I wish to encourage you to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. He is truly alive! The passage of time has not changed this fact. I can attest this through my personal experience. Jesus is alive.

My eldest son Stephen, was stabbed when he went to the aid of others who were being attacked. Stephen had no pulse and underwent life-saving surgery. He lost a kidney and his spleen was damaged. Following much prayer, anointing and weeks on life-support, we were told Stephen was dying and would not make it through the night. I believed Jesus could heal him and relinquished him into His care. I prayed that God would do whatever was best for Stephen's eternal life.

My husband was crying and went to a sitting room where he opened the Gideon's Bible. With tear filled eyes and having removed his glasses he read, "**My son was dead and now he lives.**" He came back to ICU and shared that Stephen was going to live because he read it in the Bible. We, and other family members went and had a look in the Bible. One person knew those words were from the story of the Prodigal Son. We found the passage in Luke 15:24 – My son was dead and now he lives. Ken could not believe there was other writing on the page and that it was actually in small print. When he had read it, he only saw the one sentence in large **bold** print.

Stephen was 24 years old at the time, he now has three grown children and his first grandchild due in January. I encourage you to give thanks and

praise to God in all circumstances. God's word is a living word and can speak to us personally today, 2000 years after the first gospels were written. Take heart, surrender your circumstances and situation to Jesus, He will do what is best for you and your loved ones. Jesus is truly alive!

THE FIFTH GOSPEL – by Mary Stocco

My LORD, my LORD, since your death on the cross. People still don't understand, that the Son of Man was sent to earth, not to be ministered to, but to minister to us, His people.

The sick and the needy – the miracles Jesus Christ, my Lord, performed, the healings that took place. Still to this day the Lord's work has not ceased because He is working within each one of us.

Lord, you gave us life by Your death on the cross. You taught us the Scriptures of the prophets of Old and New for people to believe that Jesus Christ still lives in us today.

To go out into the world and proclaim the Good News to all nations for all people to believe and trust in You My Lord.

THE FIFTH GOSPEL – by Margaret Geeham

This is the Good News about Jesus, the One Who has loved me in spite of my failings, healed me when I was sick, comforted me when things have been difficult and He can do the same for you. He came to earth to save us and this is how it happened.

Right:
Participants of the
'Jesus in the Four
Gospels' course.



TESTIMONIES OF EUCHARISTIC EXPERIENCES

By participants of the Eucharist zoom Course

After the CSOE course on the Eucharist, Sandra asked for testimonies of Eucharistic experiences. I have been greatly blessed in my life because, since the preparation for my First Holy Communion in 1956, I have never once doubted the true presence in the Eucharist, and doubly blessed by the following experiences.

1. In the late 1990's at Mass one Saturday night, I gazed at the host being elevated during the consecration. In an instant I saw the background of the altar change many times and saw many altars and felt myself present in many churches in an ongoing movement. It was like a fast ride at the showground where you whizz past so many things and see them all for a single instant. I prayed over this and believed that I saw the continuation of the Consecration through centuries. It was only during the CSOE Zoom course that I heard of the word 'Zikkaron' and now believe that that is what I had a small experience of – time collapsing.

2. During exposition at a CSOE course I saw an image of Jesus' face embossed in the host, turned to the left. I presumed it was a play of shadows but He then turned to the right and I was overcome by His presence. When I shared this later with the team, another person attending confirmed that he also saw it the same way.

3. About ten years ago I was at morning Mass where our Bishop, Peter Ingham, was presiding and during the consecration, I saw what appeared to be incense rising from the altar and angels ascending and descending on either side of the Bishop as he held the host up for consecration.

I am nobody special in holiness. I have no explanations for any of these events but I hold each of them very close in my heart as signs of God's great love for all of us.

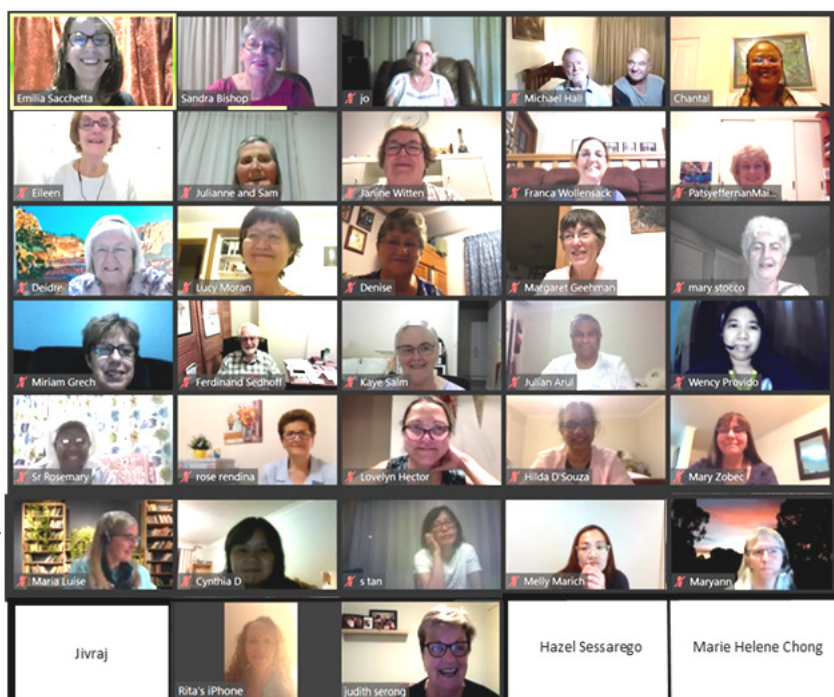
Deidre Herring

I was diagnosed with Coeliac Disease twelve years ago. I had been very ill for a good eight months. My stomach was so inflamed that I could barely eat. I looked anorexic. When I was finally diagnosed, I found I was very sensitive to gluten. If I just basically sniffed it, I was barely able to walk. My stomach would be unbearable. I was doubled over in agony. I would be bedridden at first and it would take me three weeks to recover. This happened quite often. In the end I preferred not to eat out, and if I went to any gathering, I would take my own food. As it was, I had to drill the chefs about the possibility of cross contamination, so they would take me seriously.

So, when I was diagnosed with Coeliac Disease I thought, what about taking Communion? I knew straight away that Jesus would not harm me, if anything, He wants to heal me. So the first Sunday after being diagnosed, I happened to be at a different Church than usual and my hubby said, "What are you going to do?" I said, "I really need to pray and ask God for a sign." So there I was, kneeling in prayer, with my eyes closed and I looked up and saw Jesus as the Good Shepherd, giving out Communion in place of the Priest. I thought thankyou Jesus. So I have never in 10 years had to ask for the gluten-free host at all. I would even receive Jesus before having tests done, when I was supposed to have an empty stomach. It never, ever affected the tests.

Coeliac Disease is an auto-immune disease, so it's incurable. But I'm totally healed of it. Also, a dairy intolerance I had for 23 years and chronic Lyme Disease for 33 years. I stood on God's healing promises and said them up to 100 times a day, if needed. I am now totally cured, praise God. Thanks be to God.

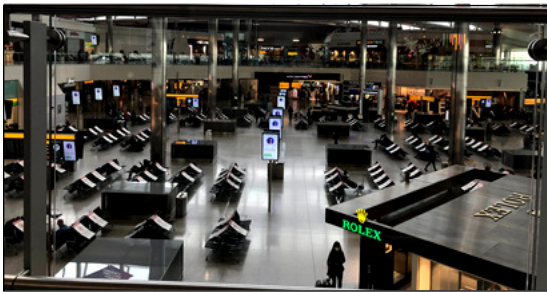
Rita Marshall



Above: Participants of the 'Eucharist' zoom course

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIMEBy Janine Witten

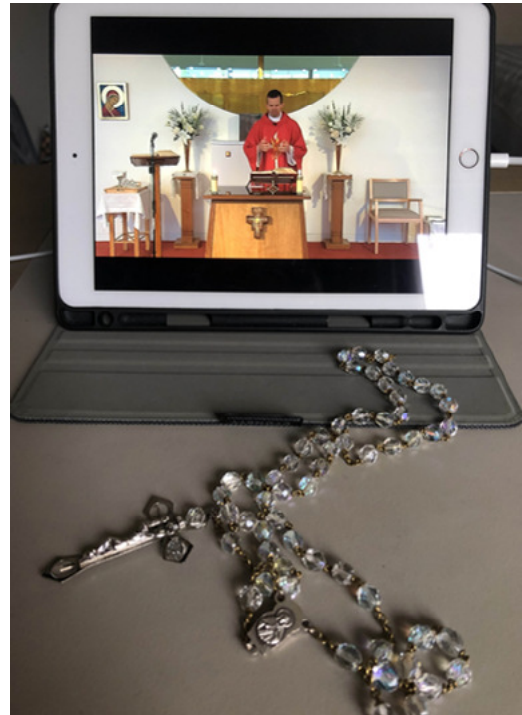
The saying 'It was the best of times, and the worst of times', rang true for myself and my family during the past year. In early March 2020, I was booked to fly to London to await the birth of our second grandchild there, so as to assist my daughter and son-in-law by looking after their three year old daughter. My husband wasn't able to accompany me on that trip as he was recovering from his third (yes third) total knee replacement. As we all know now, it was the beginning of the Pandemic and very few people were flying internationally at that time. The airports and planes were eerily empty and I was nervous but determined to go to be there to support my daughter, as they don't have any other relatives living nearby.



With much joy we welcomed little Emily Victoria into the world and the next few weeks were busy and fulfilled. Initially I was to stay for about eight weeks, but then the first of many of my flights were cancelled. In total I had six flights cancelled over a period of 8 months, each time causing a rollercoaster of emotions. During this time my poor husband suffered greatly with our separation and loneliness during Victoria's severe lockdown. He also ended up in hospital for several days with a severe case of Asthma. Soon after this medical event our youngest son broke his kneecap at work and was therefore unable to care for his father. Neighbours and friends were wonderful in stepping in to help out with meals, shopping and phone calls to check on his welfare.

Back in London I kept ringing the airline to ask if there was a waiting list I could join on compassionate grounds to try to get home. We decided (at great expense) to upgrade to Business Class to have any chance of getting a seat. Finally, someone rang me back with the offer of a seat which someone else had cancelled. I cried. I had to fly to Sydney and spend the compulsory two weeks in an Isolation Hotel, before finally returning home to Melbourne early in November. I was able to spend that fortnight alone as a retreat with the Lord.

In all this time I felt God's hand was upon me. My constant prayer was Proverbs 3:5-6 ***"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not on***



your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path."

My trust had to be total in Him as I had no control over when I could ever return home. We have seen as the Pandemic has continued, it has got even harder for Aussies to return home from overseas. My Prayer Group friends and CSOE team members were such as support during this time, and I will always be grateful for their prayers and generosity. Throughout those eight months I was able to attend Prayer Group and partake in CSOE courses via Zoom. Thank God for this technology.

Since returning home we have decided to sell our family home of forty-five years in order to downsize. God has continued to direct our path throughout these weeks, going before us to prepare a new home more suited to our time of life. So many people have commented on how the timing has been so perfect for us! I just continue to thank God for his provision.

..... ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD!



In Focus 2021 By Carmen Sylvester

We are thankful here in SA that we could start our year with live retreats although I am well aware that as I write this Covid 19 is still a big menace to contend with. We pray for safety upon all of us. Our very first healing seminar for the year was with Fr Patrice who brings so much vibrancy and also challenges in his presentations.

“We are Victorious by the faith we have in Jesus Christ” Jn 5:4

This was the theme for our one day healing seminar. We were challenged to contemplate what is it in our life that keeps us from being victorious over our sicknesses, our fears, our despondency, our hopelessness?

Matthew 15:21-28 shows us how a poor Canaanite woman had enough faith to bring about healing for her daughter. No matter the obstacles she came across, even being rejected by Jesus, it was her faith and persistence in asking (praying) that Jesus would have Mercy. It is with this same faith that we need to approach our everyday hurdles, stresses, pains and sorrows. Calling upon the Lord for Mercy and knowing without a shadow of a doubt that He can work the miracle that we need.

Often it is the evil one who gets the better of us when we are filled with fear, anxiety and hopelessness. His tactics are to keep us there overwhelmed by our circumstances. Yet as Christians we have God’s Word to give us a way out. God’s Word gives us promises that we so easily forget, overlook or simply do not believe. Yet as Christians who have experienced God’s love, we are called to remember these promises, what they mean and especially we are called to believe.

2 Timothy 1:7- For God has not given us a spirit of fear but of Power and of Love and of Sound Mind. The Spirit that we have all received in Baptism, the Spirit we have all received in Confirmation and the Spirit most of us have asked to receive in the ‘Baptism in the Spirit’ as our free choice, is the same Spirit that has been GIVEN to us to dispel fear and give us Power, Love and a Sound Mind.

A recent reflection from our pastor Fr Denis explains very well what Fr Patrice shared with us:

The ancient Romans had a term for a

phenomenon that might be compared to our modern concept of a ‘mirage’. While mirages are a result of light being bent so that we think we can see water in the distance, the Romans talked about how people thought they could see actual lights in the distance. That is, people wandering in the desert would see a reflection of light on the horizon or on a far distant hill, and thinking it was a campfire, would move towards it seeking refuge and safety. Of course, as they got closer, the light moved further away and so they were doomed to an endless and fruitless search for the safety they sought. The Romans called this light ‘ignis fatuus’ – a false light. While the ‘light’ they saw seemed to invite them towards shelter, welcome and the company of others, in fact it was an empty and alluring experience that offered nothing but further struggle and search.

At times of vulnerability or need, we too try to escape from darkness and difficulty, aloneness, and loss – we instinctively look for hope, for light, and for the way forward. But we can also be led astray. Our world is vulnerable at this level today. Many empty promises, numerous, popular but misleading slogans, and at times simple falsehoods can be so easily promulgated and spread quickly. They can surround us like the night, and lead people into behaviour that would seem to be seeking ‘the light’ but is in fact orientating them towards the ‘ignis fatuus’ – the false light. We must not allow our societies to descend into such darkness. We may not have all the answers society needs, nor will we always be right, but we certainly can seek the truth. It may take patience and discipline, but as Jesus reminds us, it is in sincerely seeking the truth – in all matters and moments – that enables us to come to the light.

Part of our spiritual life is to become a beacon of light to others - in relationships, in the wider community and especially amongst those for whom we are guides and guardians. Jesus, the Light, invites us to show others the way – something we can do every time we listen, each time we sit down around the kitchen table, every time we extend a helping hand or offer prayerful or practical support. The light of Jesus shines most brightly in the domestic church, and it will always show us the way to acceptance, belonging, meaning and authentic life.



A REFLECTION — MARK'S GOSPEL

by Mary Stocco

I was attending a Prayer Group in 2014 and we were led by a Prayer Leader into reading Mark 10:46-52 about Bartimaeus. We were then led into a time of silence, closing our eyes, and meditating on the Scripture about the blind beggar.


In the stillness of that moment it was as if I was there in the times of Bartimaeus. He was calling out to Jesus to heal him and take pity on him. He threw his cloak off as if he was unburdening himself to run to Our Lord. What a beautiful moment.



How I, or we, also need to throw off that cloak and cleanse ourselves of the sins, mistakes and burdens that we all carry. What Bartimaeus did was to Ask, Trust and have Faith in Our Lord.

There is an image of Our Lord standing and knocking at the door. For me, I felt the Lord knocking at the door of my heart to allow Him in and empty all my problems and concerns, whatever they may be, because He already knows what is on my heart and also yours.

JOSHUA



Formation of a Victorious Mentality

Zoom **JOSHUA** at home

When we look at the world today we can see many things to give us cause for worry and fear.

This reality can lead to a loss of hope and a defeatist mentality. Now more than ever we need the mentality of Joshua, the mentality of Victory.

Come with Joshua on this incredible journey into the Promised Land. Travel with Joshua and apply the principles he learned in your own life. Let the Lord lead you into your own "Promised Land."

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Josh 1:9

7 Wednesdays 7.30-9.00 pm, 21 April - 2 June

book before 20 April

at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BPNQE>

\$5 booking fee

Overseas participants use promo code: OVASEA

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2021

21 st April – 2 nd June	'Joshua – Formation of a Victorious Mentality'	Zoom course, 7 x Wed. 7.30—9pm - book by 20 th April https://www.trybooking.com/BPNQE
15 th , 22 nd , 29 th July, 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th August	'James – Discerning'	Zoom course, booking link T.B.A.

Courses subject to confirmation and may change. Please contact local co-ordinator for further information.

2021 Extra Activity Program for S.A.

Name of Event	Date(s)	Venue & Time
'Towards the Empty Tomb'	10.30am—3.30pm, 27 th March	St. Peter Claver Church , 8 Stuart Rd, Dulwich, SA
Retreat / Reflection Days	1 st Saturday of month, May—December	
Pentecost Weekend	22 nd & 23 rd May	
Charismatic Mass	7.30pm 3 rd Thursday of month	Monastery, 15 Cross Rd, Glen Osmond
Contact details: Carmen 0883392573 or 0419144872		

FIAT – Let it be according to Your Word – Luke 1:38

(A Summary from Fr Josy Sebastian's Adelaide Retreat)

The history of salvation:

Eve was the beginning of the Old Testament and Mary's 'Yes' to God is the beginning of the New Testament. When the angel came to Mary to announce that she would become pregnant, she was very confused as she was a virgin. The angel greeted Mary with the words, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

Mary did not have any fear. She was a prayerful person, even though she was an ordinary person, but very holy. Her FIAT – Let it be done, was a complete surrender to God's will. She says Yes to the Incarnation, God's Will and our Salvation. She answered promptly and decisively,

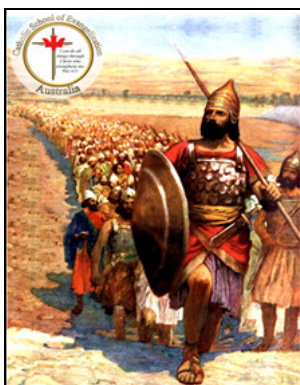
without hesitation. Would we be able to do the same?

Why did God require Mary's consent? Because we all have free will. Eve also had free will to obey, but she did not. Mary had free will to obey and she did. The result of Eve's disobedience was our Original Sin and physical death. The result of Mary's obedience was our Eternal Salvation, through Christ. Mary sat with God's word and meditated upon it. She treasured His word. The fusion of the human will and the divine will is a wonderful thing.

Reflection:

Do I say – May it be done to me? Do I strive – to understand God's will for me? Do I strive – to faithfully and daily follow God?

Carmen Sylvester



GIDEON'S ARMY

A big THANK YOU to the generous people who have made a financial commitment to assist the ongoing running of the CSOF. 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.

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THE WITNESS

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Photo: Participants of the 'James' course.



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