



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Phil 4:13

The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

December 2016 Newsletter

Have you ever had a ‘mirror shock’ confirmed? It happens when you look in the mirror and see more salt in your hair than pepper. Then a ‘friend’ takes a somewhat startled look at you and comments, “Boy, you have gone very grey lately.” Confirmation comes when you look at some photos taken when you were standing right under a light or out in broad sunlight and there it is again - lots of salt and very little pepper in one’s coiffure.

It got me thinking about salt and pepper. I pondered about what the Bible had to say on the subject. Soon I started feeling better! Pepper is not mentioned in either the Old or the New Testament. Salt is right there, 35 times in the Old Testament, 6 in the New Testament and, wait for it, 8 in the Deuterocanonical books, so that makes a total of 49. After spending 2 days with Fr Donal McIlraith teaching on the Jewish understanding of the symbolism of numbers, I am right onto it - 49 is 7x7, perfection times perfection! Alleluia!

It’s little wonder that my salt is showing up, it has been a very busy year. By the time you receive this I will have been involved in 13 courses this year. With outreaches to Adelaide, Broken Bay (Sydney), Philip Island & Cranbourne (Sale), Bendigo (Sandhurst) and back home in Melbourne we have had 8 courses this year. Three ‘7 Young People in the Gospels’, 2 ‘John the Beloved’, 1 ‘Philip - New Life’, 1 ‘Jonah’ and the Apocalypse based course with Fr Donal.

All these courses can only be achieved with the dedication and commitment of a good team working together for the glory of God. There are so many different tasks, so many roles to be fulfilled if a CSOE is to function well. E.g. prayer warriors to intercede, hospitality, administration, accounting, music, advertising, audio technicians, computer know-how,

creativity, people who know people, ideas people, discerners, delegators, the list goes on... but especially people who love Jesus and want to share Him with others. We are always on the lookout for more people to join CSOE teams, not just in Melbourne, so please don’t hide your gift. Do make contact.

Here in Melbourne, and I suspect other locations as well, we need people gifted in the area of promotion. So if that is your gift, I would love to hear from you. At courses I often hear, “Why aren’t there more people here, this is fabulous?” Our courses have the potential to change people’s lives and draw them closer to the Lord. We need new ways of promotion so that more people can be reached. Every day it becomes more obvious how much our society needs to draw closer to the Lord.

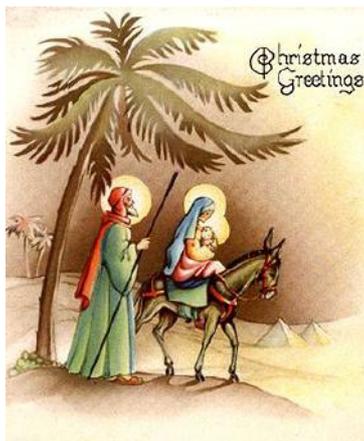
The Year of Mercy has just concluded but God’s mercy and love is never ending. Let’s all pray and ask God to inspire us so we can effectively and creatively help others to experience God’s mercy and love in a tangible way. Let’s ask the Holy Spirit to open up the way for us.

Do you remember the hymn ‘Bring Forth the Kingdom of God’? It begins: “*You are salt for the earth O people.*” Mt.5:13 tells us if salt has lost its taste it is *thrown out and trampled under foot*. You know, it still served a purpose even then. The Talmud reports: It was *sprinkled in wet weather upon the slopes and steps of the temple to prevent the feet of the priests from slipping.*

Are you ready to be sprinkled about to prevent people from slipping up? Are you willing to season your environment with the knowledge of God’s unending love and mercy? If we work together with the Holy Spirit and each other as a ‘salty’ team we will make people thirsty for God and surely bring forth His Kingdom.

Christmas blessings to all.

Sandra Bishop.



The Witness

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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

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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

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

Indeed this scripture has been the impetus for us to reach out and support and work with other Charismatic communities in Adelaide.

South Australia has a small population as compared to other states so needless to say it is always a struggle to get sizeable numbers in any of our events. However, with foresight, one of our team members, Hiacinata Msomi, suggested that we make a determined effort to keep inviting the many small, especially ethnic communities to our events. It is evident that this strategy has had some impact as all our events are all multi cultural gatherings.

We have been blessed to have worked hand in hand with Charismatic Renewal since the restart of the School in Adelaide 16 yrs ago and their support is invaluable to us both morally and financially, as our support is to them. We share some of our bigger events with CCR, Community of the Risen Lord as well as the Disciples of Jesus. We have been blessed to have worked with Couples for Christ, Maidens of the Lord as well as Divine Mercy Ministries.

In our Celebrate Emmanuel Concert in the Rundle Mall we have several communities who put on vibrant and evangelistic performances including Youth for Christ and the Syro Malabar community.

Our bi-monthly Charismatic Mass is a combined event with CCR and Disciples of Jesus.

It would be remiss not mention the great support we have received from Fr Peter Dunn who is perhaps the most loved and cherished Charismatic priest in Adelaide. In him we see the optimal charism of perseverance. We look at him with awe and wonder every time he steps on the altar to celebrate our Charismatic Mass and thank God for his unwavering commitment. His disabilities would send any of us into a retirement home to feel sorry for ourselves. Suffering from severe diabetes has left his eye sight so impaired that he is now classed as legally blind. Having suffered several strokes his balance is unstable and needs assistance to walk a short distance. With all this, and more not so obvious, he still preaches with gusto, with conviction, with wisdom and of course never with any notes. We all hang on to every word that comes out of his mouth.

Sharing of his work with St Teresa of Calcutta in many of his homilies is of great inspiration to many of us. His easy manner of describing the funny stories, the profound and the simply miraculous gives us all an insight into the humanity and holiness of Mother Teresa.



Continued page 3

Introducing Fr. Josy Ponnambal

By Carmen Sylvester

On the 30th August 2016 I met with Archbishop Philip Wilson to discuss among other things the possibility of appointing a Spiritual Director for the School in Adelaide. He was delighted with the idea and within a few days I was advised that Fr Josy Ponnambal, a very recent arrival in Adelaide from India, was now our Spiritual Director.

Fr Josy went to work immediately and after an initial meeting with me he also met every member of the team individually except for one who is enjoying a time of renewal on a pilgrimage.

In collaboration with the team Fr Josy has established a formation time for just the team on every 2nd Saturday of the month. To say the least, we are elated that Father is prepared to give so much of his time to our small team when he has a full ministry to deal with in the Adelaide Cathedral Parish. We are looking forward to break open the Word of God with him as well as celebrating the Mass and spending time sharing with each other and with Jesus in adoration.

It will be impossible for me to do justice to his story so I am going to let him introduce himself.

Born on May 31, 1969, in Kerala, India, the sixth of eight children I completed my preliminary education in my native language and feeling a vocation to the priesthood in my youth, attended St. Francis De Sales' Minor Seminary from 1984 to 1987. In 1987 I entered the novitiate of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales and professed a Religious on temporary vows and went on to acquire my higher education at Suvidya College and Bangalore University in Karnataka, India, from which I received my degree of Philosophy and Bachelor of Arts. Following a period of active service in the Minor Seminary as a Regent, I then studied theology at the St. Josephs' Pontifical Seminary, Aluva, Kerala and professed my final vows in 2004. Ordained to the Priesthood for the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales in 1996, I have served the Church as Pastor, Vocation Promoter, Preacher, Educator, Programme Coordinator,



Formator, Social Worker and Professional Counsellor. From 2011 to 2015 I had been serving as the Director of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council's (KCBC) Commissions for Social Harmony, Vigilance and Human Rights. I currently serve as the Programme Coordinator at the Centre.

Apart from Philosophy and Theology I have completed my M. Ph. in Counselling Psychology, MSW in Medical and Psychiatric Social Work with a Gold Medal (First Rank), M. Phil. in Psychiatric Social Work, MBA in Hospital Management and Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management (PGDHRM).

I look forward to celebrating Christ's presence in the daily situations of my life and sharing the Good News of God's love and mercy.

God is Good ... All the Time.

Psalm 133:1 . . . Continued from page 2.

Fr Peter Dunn was ordained a priest in 1973 in the Archdiocese of Adelaide but it would only be in 1979 when he felt the calling to go to work with Mother Teresa of Calcutta. As he says in his easy manner, the poor never entered into the picture. His desire was to meet this old woman who made such an impression on him even before he was ordained when he saw her on TV being interviewed by Malcolm Muggeridge.

Of course the poor would make a great impact on him during the 8 years he worked with Mother Teresa. During those 8 years he travelled and worked with her to the Bronx, New York and in Tijuana in Mexico as well as Calcutta. He describes her as a strong willed woman with great gentleness and compassion.

According to Fr Peter's mum who is a robust 93 years old, Mother Teresa had a great affection for this white haired priest from down under who was mischievous but likeable. Our sentiments as well.

Carmen Sylvester



LATEST NEWS

Fr. Brendan Lane has accepted to be chaplain to the Melbourne CSOE.

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Plans are being made for the Melbourne CSOE to return to the Philippines in 2017 to present several courses.

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Praise the Lord for His encouragement !!!

7 Young People In The Gospels By Bernadette Anusha

Hi everyone...it's good to have you reading this *Witness* magazine from the CSOE (The Catholic School of Evangelisation). The purpose of the CSOE existence is to form Catholics as true disciples of God and equip them (especially youths) for evangelisation.

Recently in October, a team from the CSOE held a 2-day retreat with the theme based on '7 Young People In The Gospels'. The main objective of this retreat is to educate young adults by the age of 14 and above in observing themselves as a follower of Christ.

It was basically one of the best moments for me as I personally experienced the presence of God in my daily life. On the first day we learned about 4 young people in the gospel and continued with the other 3 on the next day.

The speakers were all organised as they shared their knowledge and experience about these 7 young people from the gospels. They had encouraged many youths to participate in the activities such as 'The funeral procession', 'The Still' and many other interesting events that took place in those 2 days.

I would just like to share my personal experience from this wonderful retreat. In life, when we have the opportunity to choose, we should not only choose between the good or the bad... but instead choose between the less negative or harmful as one day the good and the bad will all

be bad in the future whereas the less negative will not destroy us compared to the harmful things. Besides, I also feel that we, as whole, can't change the world but instead we can change the world of one person with the courage and wisdom we receive from God.

I believe also that in the presence of God, he can always work

miracles even from the very little that we offer him. Last but not least, we should all enable ourselves to give our definite 'YES' despite all the difficulties that we have been facing. From the tomb of death, the young man was raised to announce the good news. Young people are those growing to maturity.

We will all recognise ourselves in the mirror of this group of young people and differentiate which of them shows up like a photograph and which of them shows up like an X-ray.



In the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, participants respond to Jesus' command: "I say to you, get up!"

Embracing God's Healing Mercy Weekend . . . By Carmen Sylvester

What a weekend it was !!! in more ways than one. Most importantly is that the obstacles and attacks that came against us fizzled into nothing when the Power of God showed itself.

We experienced anointed Praise and Worship, tears of joy, tears of repentance and healings of deep and long seated wounds.

Fr Matheus Wuwu from the Missionaries of God's Love was the agent but God did the big number on many of the 60 odd people present for our retreat on Saturday and the 75 on Sunday plus some 15 children.

It was not a good start with Father's flight cancelled the night before because of hailstorms in Adelaide and delayed an hour on the morning of the first day for reasons unknown. With the Christmas Pageant blocking all roads around Adelaide city it was a slow journey from the airport to the retreat centre. When Father eventually arrived and started his presentation 1 ½ hrs late we all knew it was where we had to be.

Embracing God's Healing Mercy was the Theme of the Retreat marking the end of the year of Mercy. Fr Wuwu commenced his Teaching by saying that Healing was at the centre of Jesus Ministry. It is actually a sign of God's love, manifest in Jesus. When Jesus declared his mission statement, he said the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him. The Gospel tells us also that after His Baptism he was filled with the Spirit. Through the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus restored lives, rescued people from brokenness and pain, cast out

devils and forgave sins. Fr Matheus reminded us that the same Spirit was given to the Disciples on Pentecost, and is given to us through baptism. And through this Spirit "we are the current of Grace". We are to imitate Jesus, and be that God's Mercy and compassion to others, and continue that mission that has been passed on to us. Charisms are not our gifts to keep to ourselves, but to bring Jesus to the hurting world around us. This is more pressing now than ever.

He also spoke about forgiveness. He said Forgiveness is the core of Christianity. Jesus forgave sins, up to his last breath, showing His love and Mercy. His dying on the cross was to reconcile us to God. And so we should forgive one another.

During the Retreat not only did we have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of reconciliation, we were also nourished by Holy Communion, and experienced God's Healing through Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and laying on of hands. During Adoration he invited all of us to come together in praising and worshipping the Lord. Through the power of praise God showered us with His Merciful love. People were healed and bondages were broken and went home with new hope and confidence to face "whatever challenges" knowing indeed we were not left orphans, God is with us. This is not the end of God's Mercy, but the renewal of his promise and faithfulness.

Just like Jesus, His Mercy is the same yesterday, today and forever.

WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE . . . By Sr. Faustina

The weekend of the course on the Seven Young People in the Gospels organised and presented by the Catholic School Of Evangelisation Australia was indeed an amazing experience for me and I am sure for the young people (youth) of St. Agatha's Parish, Cranbourne who were in attendance as well.

The course is really formative and faith deepening. It helps to promote a fuller and deeper understanding of the basic message of the Gospel.

The course helps to give the young people skills and confidence to proclaim the Gospel. And to be precise, the stories of The Seven Young People in the Gospels enlightened us all more about:



- The need to search for the treasure of having Jesus rather than attachment to material things.
- The need to make healthy decisions for ourselves and not to allow others to manipulate us into making unhealthy decisions.
- Offering Jesus the little we have since He can work miracles through anyone.
- Opening our hearts to Jesus at all times.
- Being aware of God's desire to win us to Himself and of His amazing Grace.
- Being proclaimers of the Good News of the Resurrection of Christ.

It was indeed a beautiful experience for us all and the youth of St. Agatha's Parish, Cranbourne.

THE JONAH COURSE

The Jonah course was ably delivered by Carlos Macias de Lara (the author) and Fr Giuseppe Antoci both from Sicily, at Holy Family Parish Hall, Mt Waverley on the 1st and 2nd of October, 2016. We were a group of extremely eager participants numbering 36 in all. In great excitement we came, with much happy anticipation, to learn and unpack the four profound and compact chapters of the Book of Jonah in which there are consistent themes and hidden depths.

Carlos gave his initial teaching using the story of a bamboo plant, which gradually, step by step became willing to be pruned, cut into pieces and chopped in half so as to become useful as a water channel, fashioned to irrigate a rice paddy and so to feed a village.

Similarly, God has to prune and change us, our lives, our plans, our desires and our habits, so we can become useful instruments in His hand; then our lives can bless others, His beloved and needy children. We can only bring the love of God to others, if we are made fit to do so. When we open ourselves with faith and trust in God, we allow Him to alter our patterns of thinking and behaviour



Author of Jonah course (pictured left) Carlos Macias de Lara with co-presenter Fr. Giuseppe Antoci

and heal us. This was a profoundly moving and indeed, challenging discourse from Carlos. Everyone was touched.

Deacon Malcolm Lock also delivered a powerful and arresting lecture explaining that pain and temptation are the dark nights of the soul, and that when we stop being prayerful, we are running away from God as Jonah did. We are not being what God wants us to be. He explained that we must acknowledge God as God in our lives, and to pray immediately upon experiencing pain, danger or suffering instead of praying as a last resort, as Jonah did in the belly of the whale. Don't leave

God until last!

PROPHECIES

On Sunday as the prophets spoke Spirit inspired words, the Lord shared with us how He rejoices over us, His people. He reminded us that He is personally with us all, even to the end of time, and He asked us to attune our ears to Him, to listen to His voice. Further, He spoke of the Jonah course we were undertaking and stated, "You are here to have a conversion." Then He went on to describe the unfolding of the teachings as 'a journey'. Finally, He spoke of extending great mercy to all of us and our hearts were uplifted.

Later in the day, the prophetic word was strong again with the Lord saying, "Rejoice O highly favoured ones, for it pleases Me to give you the Kingdom." He asked us to open up our hearts and receive, describing us as worthy to receive from God and His Christ.

To sum up the course in a few words *we need to convert every day and indeed even many times a day! The time of conversion is today! The time is now!*





Fr Giuseppe Antoci preaching in Italian and Angela Ricci translating in English

ANGELA'S TRANSLATION - A GIFT FOR THE CSOE

Angela translated Carlos' Spanish and then Fr Giuseppe's Italian without battering an eyelid and also without Google Translate! What a gift.

When asked what her experience of 'Jonah' had been she offered the following:

Participating in the 'Jonah' seminar was a complete privilege, where I experienced a completely awesome experience of God's presence, forgiveness and His

challenge to go out and hear His voice and His plan not only for myself but for the love of His people. I experienced God's love through Sandra and her amazing team, an absolute gift to me.

I was very humbled by the whole experience and I dare to say it is the cornerstone for the growth of the Church and would love to see the CSOE grow and grow and grow, in Jesus' Precious Name.

All my love Angela ♥♥♥

KAYE'S DYNAMIC DEBUT - ANOTHER GIFT FOR THE CSOE

When asked to help with the dynamics for the Jonah Course, I thought, too easy. Well, I think the Lord had other ideas. Most of the work was multiples of 50 so I was able to do a few each day as time permitted.

The swallowing whale was a different matter. It was a 2 metre by 2 metre 'whale' of a task. I must say the ideas were slow to evolve, with constant changes. I lost count of the number of times I took the Lord to task, for lack of inspiration. It was only when all was

completed and I sat back and looked at everything, feeling quite satisfied with the result, that I heard the Lord say, "We've done it" and we had.

Kaye Salm

Kaye (pictured right) didn't mention, a bamboo water feature, a castor oil tree, worms, a ship and crew, waves, multiple whales, Jonah, Pinocchio, King of Nineveh, a heap of sack cloth and ashes, not to overlook a herd of donkeys, etc, etc. Well done Kaye, thank you for exercising your gift of creativity.



SEMINARIAN EDWARD'S ATTENDANCE - 2 MORE GIFTS

The theme on the invitation attracted me. I was concerned about being allowed by the Superior of my congregation to attend the course. However, with little hesitation, my Superior approved for me to attend.

Interestingly, the two facilitators from Italy, Carlos Macias de Lara and Fr Giuseppe Antoci, were more charismatic than I thought they would be. Both of them delivered their inputs so enthusiastically that 'my Ghanaian charismatic spirit' was rekindled. The presence of the music ministry accompanying the talks with soul searching songs was immeasurable. Additionally, the various animations utilised to present the course made a lasting impact on me. Every one of us at the course was really moved to dance to the music, an action very common to Ghanaian worship, which I seriously missed in Australia. I was spiritually nourished by the music as well as by the performance of the musicians.

Touching moments of the talks

"God has more difficulty converting 1 evangelist that 120,000 people." This statement, the highlight of the course, had a great impact on me. The emphasis placed on the story of the prophet Jonah was that Jonah was unrepentant. For me placing Jonah's behaviour, rather than the king's and people of Nineveh's, at center stage were revealing to me. This was a 'port of call' for my own conversion since I am preparing to be a minister of God's message. What was particularly important to me was that after the 120,000 Ninevites showed remorse and were pardoned by God, Jonah himself remained hardened to God's compassionate act of mercy. In many ways, some religious leaders put up this same Jonah attitude. While God willingly awaits the sinner's return, to a compassionate reunion, many of us wish punishment for sinners, forgetting all are sinners standing in need of God's mercy.

God changes if people change from wrong habits to good ones. Pope Francis has through this year of mercy demonstrated the compassion of God, ready to relent, to grant forgiveness. Because I was charged to do something good for Jesus, I returned from the course charged with a sense of true inner conversion. Like Jonah, though I may be disappointed at what God's call means for me, I was encouraged by the course to remember "God renews the call, but does not change it to suit" my taste.

Edward Okletey Teye SVD

Through the generosity of a person who was unable to attend the course Edward's fee was covered. (Gift 1)

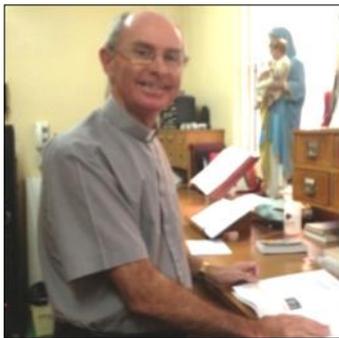
We had searched without success for an English speaking priest to hear the English Confessions. Edward invited Fr Larry Nemer, SVD, from his congregation and thankfully he was available. (Gift 2).

PHILIP - NEW LIFE - Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Chatswood

On the weekend of 15-16 October, 2016, the Catholic School of Evangelisation - Sydney conducted Philip - New Life at Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Chatswood. The purpose of the weekend was to be a Faith Formation experience for those who serve in Ministries in the Parish, helping them to truly be Missionary Disciples of Christ in the spirit of Pope Francis' *"Joy of the Gospel"*, giving each one a new energy and a joy in fulfilling their purpose through their Ministry in the Parish. The participants represented a significant number of Ministries in the Parish.

At the 9.30am Sunday Mass Fr Paul Finucane, P.P., welcomed the Catholic School of Evangelisation team and participants to the Parish and expressed that it was particularly wonderful to have the School of Evangelisation happening that weekend celebrating Laity Sunday, where the Parish acknowledges and encourages the enormous participation and involvement of all lay members of the Parish in worship, prayer, service and ministry. After Mass the Parish celebrated with a BBQ giving us an opportunity to meet with other Parishioners. 2 people were curious about the Course and joined us in the afternoon.

Lucy Grasso.



Extract from Parish Bulletin - By Fr Paul Finucane P.P.

Last weekend close to 60 people, most of them serving in various ministries in our parish attended the Catholic School of Evangelisation, Philip New Life program in Harrington Hall along with myself. It really helped us to take a fresh, deeper, more serious and solid look at our faith as Catholics and what it calls us to do and be in our Church, community and world. I know I found it profoundly moving and challenging in my life as a Christian and as your pastor to be all that I can be with God's gifts, support and presence in my life. It really helped us all to reflect on our sinfulness and shortcomings as well as our giftedness through the Holy Spirit to be able to do great things for the Lord and His people.

Although this sounds very serious, the course was very enjoyable, engaging and at times a lot of fun and humorous with surprises often happening. Many very down to earth and practical techniques were used to involve and engage us in what we were learning. For example, in one session the presenter dressed in royal robes with a kingly crown and we were all given crowns to wear as we reflected on how we often in our lives put ourselves first and forward as king in full control of our destiny when who should be wearing the crown, be first in our lives and be given control of our lives? Jesus of course.

My sincere thanks to all the Catholic School of Evangelisation team who spent much time in preparation, prayer and presenting the weekend. We will



Participants dancing



certainly have another component of the course in the future. Do not miss out if you did this time. Listen to those who were at the weekend when they want to share the experience with you.

PHILIP - NEW LIFE - Our Lady of Dolours Parish, Chatswood

We arrived at Chatswood on Saturday morning eager to experience the latest offering from “The Catholic School of Evangelisation” titled “Phillip – New Life”. We were familiar with the work and methodology of the School of Evangelisation, so we were excited and looking forward to this 2 day event. We were not disappointed.



The presenters used multimedia, and personal testimony as well as some very effective simple props to get the message across. And the message was that New Life begins with an encounter with Jesus.

There were six distinct steps leading us to a real encounter with Jesus - the Good News for today. One of the things I realised (yet again) is that I really need to let Jesus be the King of my life. This is not easy for me, because I like to be king of my life. I was not alone. We were each presented with a cardboard crown to represent our kingship. We wore these crowns during the sessions, and the highlight moment was when the Eucharist was revealed to us, and we all worshipped the true King and in a magnificently symbolic gesture we relinquished our

crowns and placed them at the feet of Jesus. It was a very moving and unforgettable experience.

This was not just an intellectual exercise, this was a journey of discovery and experiencing Jesus as a very real and personal friend, who loves and cares for us. It is difficult to love God, unless I first experience God’s love for me – and that is what I experienced over the weekend. God’s unfathomable love for me – sinful as I am.

My wife Halina had a very different encounter with Jesus, but no less profound.

Her story follows:

During most of the presentations, I found that I had tears running down my face. I was not sure why. I wasn’t upset or anything like that, but I knew that God was healing me of something deep inside. Something beyond my awareness.

I do know that by the end of the 2 days, I felt a sense of freedom. I became free to praise and worship God. Free of countless distractions which had oppressed me previously at prayer. Free to focus on God and be lifted by Him into His presence. Free to be filled with His love and surrounded with peace and joy.



Roman & Halina Pazniewski

“I heard the prompting from the Holy Spirit to die to self.....”

Firstly I wish to thank the CSOE Sydney Team for their faithfulness; the Chatswood Parish Hospitality Team for their generosity and Fr Paul Finucane, Parish Priest, for journeying with us during the Philip - New Life Course.

I came into the Course from a good place. Yet God, in His immeasurable faithfulness and graciousness wanted more for me: there was unspoken stuff to let go and give over to Him.

The course had interactive activities which I find are real channels of grace:

- * to draw ever closer to God;
- * learn more of the person of the Holy Spirit;
- * let go of stuff (for me unspoken fears which the Holy Spirit revealed there and then);
- * listen, understand and accept that God really loves me no matter what!

I heard the prompting from the Holy Spirit to die to self, die to ego! And that is only possible through the grace of God, and yielding to the leading of the Holy Spirit each time the self or ego rears its head. He broke through for me each time; I only followed His promptings.

What does new life look like to me? Looking ahead, not empty but filled with the presence of God - His companionship, His cheering me on, His love in much greater measure. It is God’s gift to me! Filled with excitement, not about big things but in the daily things. Filled with expectations of God’s goodness and faithfulness. Live life in the fullness of Christ Jesus day by day, from glory to glory. Always in God’s glory! Praise God for the majesty of His glory, and the glory of His Majesty!

Amy Tan

THE APOCALYPSE AND THE NEW EVANGELISATION

At Box Hill North - 11 & 12 November with Fr Donal McIlraith SSC



Participant insights

In Fr. Donal's introduction to his book *Everyone's Apocalypse*, he writes of the Apocalypse as a 'marvellous book about the Risen Jesus and the triumph of his love over sin, over all evil, and over all evil systems. In this book, Jesus is presented to us as the Bridegroom and all of us are invited to take part in the bridal reality, to take our place in the Church which is the Bride, now and for all eternity.' (p. 2)

With a very engaging and often very humorous style of presentation, Fr. Donal guided us through the structure of the text and decoded the strange symbols. He emphasized that to grasp the Apocalypse, we need to be steeped in the Old Testament because almost all the symbols had already been glimpsed by the Old Testament prophets and are found written up in the Old Testament.

I came away from Fr. Donal's two-day course, greatly encouraged and inspired by his deep love of Scripture. There were many beautiful and eye-opening insights shared with us but the most significant for me are crystallised in these two simple, but profound, facts:

- Rev.2:19 The Four Works are Love, Faith, Service and Endurance
- At the Eucharist, we are invited to the Marriage Banquet of the Risen Christ.

Fr. Donal had an amusing way of reminding us that we are vital as church community: At the start of most sessions, he would bring us together by humming the tune: Here comes the Bride!

I thoroughly enjoyed our two days with Fr. Donal McIlraith looking at The Apocalypse and the New Evangelisation. Father's faith, joy and infectious love for Jesus was what struck me immediately. I marvelled at his great intellect and the many years of faithful service to the Lord and His Church. A great witness.

Wow! What an amazing week-end of teaching on the Apocalypse by Father Donal. The depth of teaching and understanding of who the lamb is and who is the Bride. And how we need to learn and understand more of the teaching of Scripture. The more in depth we go into Scripture the more we learn, understand and allow the light of the Lamb to glow within and in us. Amen

I learned that the Apocalypse is a book about the resurrection of Jesus and the implications of this for humanity. The four most important responses required from me in return for God's great love are love, faith, service (works) and endurance. In order to maintain this response over my lifetime I must stay abiding in Jesus always no matter what the circumstances of my life, for without Him I can do nothing. I am called to live with others in the Church, inspired by those who have endured and make up the Communion of Saints. Repentance and forgiveness are available to me whenever I fail and grace through the sacraments provides much needed nourishment.

Father also emphasised Mary's role in redemption and how she is the perfect image of the Church.

I learned about the Jewish celebration of marriage which gave me a much better understanding of the scriptures relating to Mary and Joseph's marriage. I learned what many symbols contained in the book mean and how Jesus (the bridegroom) yearns to take His bride (the Church) to Himself.

The 2 days left me with a great yearning to study this book in much greater detail.

Love God. Love Jesus. Do his works, extend our love to the fullest, remove impurities from our soul, elevate our love = Jesus' love, we are ready to become Bride of Christ in the New City of Jerusalem, by grace of God. When we depart from this world, Jesus is there to receive our spirit and we will be in eternal joy with the Trinity. This life is our test and journey of purification.

The 7 messages to the 7 churches of Revelation: The Book divided into 2 parts.

7 perfect	6 imperfect	12 people of God
4 cosmic	4 elders	144 symbol of churches

(triangle) Bible, Tradition, Magisterium
Works: love, faith, service, endurance
Christ himself is the bridegroom.

What a grace-filled two days! So many new insights and revelations. Taking away the fear associated with some of the imagery in the Apocalypse, instead revealing the hidden beauty enclosed therein. With joy we can now all proclaim "come Lord, Jesus" Amen.

THE APOCALYPSE AND THE NEW EVANGELISATION

Participant insights continued . . .

I have learnt from these two days that the Book of the Apocalypse is a puzzle, full of paradoxes, with symbolism that draws on Old Testament scriptures and images. The parallel themes of Christ as Bridegroom and each person who conquers through works of love, faith, service and endurance as bride.

There is a pathway of love that every Christian must follow and when our love reaches perfection we will be/are united with Christ, the bridegroom. We experience this in the Eucharist when Christ abides in us and calls us to abide in him.

Listening to Father Donal has enriched my understanding of not just the Apocalypse but Scripture as well. His theological understanding of Catholic doctrine comes shining through. His anecdotes and wonderful sense of humour turned a weighty subject into light listening and fun. I will try to read 'Everyone's Apocalypse' on my own and use my notes to guide me.

I have never read anything about the Apocalypse nor wanted to because of often hearing that it was too difficult to read or understand. I had sometimes taken a peek inside the pages and read little bits and thought how strange it was and it certainly made no sense to me at all! Couple this with fear, which is the result of childhood memories of fire and brimstone, I have been reluctant to approach the book.

After spending two days listening to Fr Donal's approach to the book and the association to the final wedding banquet in heaven – the Bridal feast of the lamb – I am filled with joy and affirmation of the love and faith I have in God. Love, Faith, Service and Endurance are the four pillars of the book and completely affirmed the life I try to live. I hope to get to that Wedding Banquet!

Two days of being seated in heavenly places. I've understood the marriage of the lamb – from wife to bride – I look forward to quietly reading 'Everyone's Apocalypse' and going deeper. I loved the description of the Heavenly City – the Bride - Translucent Gold refined by Fire.

Allow 'LOVE TO CONQUER US' Book of Revelation comes alive with Fr Donal's presentation and explanation and how wonderful to hear that symbolism explained contained in the Book. It is beautiful and awesome – how marriage of the Bride and Bridegroom and the meaning of New Jerusalem brings me so much hope – that Heaven is being UNITED

WITH JESUS. What wonderful inspiring and beautiful lessons by Fr Donal. They should be recorded so more people could learn and hear.

Very beautiful course. I never knew the beauty contained in the Apocalypse. Now I see it in a new light. Now I understand the salvation the Apocalypse reveals. The beast, the dragon, forget these. Jesus is and will be the victor. Don't think of the beast, Satan. Think of wonderful Jesus. He is everything. All is from Him, and in Him. Love, faith, service and endurance. Do these and salvation will come your way.



This course has emphasized the need to search for the love of Jesus particularly in the Eucharist. I need to seek God's grace to carry out God's will as taught by the Catholic Church. Love for Jesus leads to love for others.

I learnt that we will be judged on our love: our works of faith, love, service and perseverance. After all, Jesus said "When I was hungry, you gave me to eat. When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink...." Etc. It was news to me that all who abide in the Spirit of love and service are the Bride of Christ. This teaches me to abide in the Holy Spirit of the loving God, for God is love, and He expects me to care for His other children. I know that I can be more caring about the corporal needs of others, especially those in my own family and community. I was delighted by the imagery of Jesus as the Bridegroom, my bridegroom. It showed me that I have a glorious destiny.

I stand in awe of the God given gift we have in the teachings of 'The Reciprocal love between Christ and the Church in the Apocalypse' by Rev. Donal McIlraith. I, after 52 years of marriage, will look at marriage with new eyes. So many songs – reflections, etc have taken on a different meaning especially the Eucharist. I need: 1. Love, 2. Faith, 3. Service, and 4. Persevere in all I do.

I came away from the two days of the Apocalypse realizing how completely wrong I was about my perceptions of this Book. I realized how ignorant I truly was, and where I had ideas of dragons, battles and hell, I came away with a new awareness of the true focus of the Apocalypse – Jesus' deep love for me and his longing to draw me to Himself completely, and become His bride. I have learnt that the 'works' he requires of me are 'love, faith, service and endurance'. Through His grace He enables me to become a conqueror. This has been truly an amazing Revelation! Thank you, Fr Donal, for such an awe-inspiring, rich unpacking of the Word of God which you have provided over these two wonderful days.

Celebrate Emmanuel 2016

Celebrate Emmanuel is in its 15th year and with perfect weather, enormous amount of talent, lots of fun and lots of people around to hear the true message of Christmas, who could ask for anything more?

Well, we would like to ask God to continue to enkindle the spark of joy that was evident on people’s faces as they heard young people sing their heart out for Jesus, or when you see a tear fall when the skit about Good and Evil hit the mark in some people’s heart. God was certainly among His people.



As always Santa made a big hit and no wonder. He had loads of gift bags to give away filled with Christian goodies and his helping elves gave away lollies by the basketful. It is always a sad relief to see it come to an end but the big rousing finale of God Bless Australia was certainly the way to finish, helping us leave the event on a high. Now to prepare for next year.

From the Adelaide Team
A Very Blessed Christmas Season



One of our show stoppers was none other than Rebecca Walker from Mount Waverley, Victoria, who made the trip with husband Darren and youngest son, Benjamin to come especially to sing at Celebrate Emmanuel. We are so pleased and so blessed that Rebecca sees the gift that God has given her as something to be shared and to bring joy to everyone who stopped to listen. Her rendition of The Prayer was magical as was ‘Mary did you know..?’ which is one of my very favourite songs. Rebecca also joined the choir for the Christmas Carols and seems to have a lot of fun interacting with the audience. We hope to welcome Rebecca again next year.



“Rebecca and family enjoying beautiful Adelaide Hills weather”

SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2017

4 th & 5 th Feb.	The Lord’s Hands	Waitara NSW	Joy Loau 0426 612 495
11 th —13 th March	‘John the Beloved’	Melbourne, Vic.	Rose Rendina 0411 650 339
March	Abraham	To be advised	Carmen 0419 144 872
18 th & 19 th Nov	7 Young People in the Gospel	To be advised	Carmen 0419 144 872
3 rd December	Celebrate Emmanuel Christmas Concert	Rundle Mall, Adelaide 12.00p.m to 3.00p.m	Carmen 0419 144 872

7 Young People in the Gospels Loyola College, Watsonia December 2016



L to R: 'Herodias', 'Herod' & the lion head of John the Baptist presented by 'Salome'



Sr Nelia Llanto, sjbp and Genevieve Osei



Brian of the Barrow



Jesus can change the direction of the crowd and the world of a person



Catholic School of Evangelisation
 9 Pindari Dr
 St Helena, Vic 3088
 Ph 03 9434 7553

THE WITNESS



THE LORD'S HANDS

9am - 4pm Saturday 4 February

9.30am - 4pm Sunday 5 February

HORNSBY CATHEDRAL PARISH, WAITARA

Please Register by 30 JAN with:
 Joy Loau: 9875 3889 or loaujoy@gmail.com



2017 Extra Activity Program for S.A.

Name of Event	Date(s)	Venue & Time
Faith on Fire Seminar Power of the Eucharist	18 th Feb, 6 th May , 19 th August	1A Stuart Road, Dulwich 10.00am to 3.00p.m
Lenten Weekend: Healing Seminar	8 th & 9 th April	1A Stuart Road, Dulwich 10.00am to 3.00p.m
Celebrate Emmanuel Fund Raising Dinner	29 th May	Slovenian Hall, Dudley Park, 6.30 start Contact Carmen for tickets
Pentecost Weekend	3 rd & 4 th June	1A Stuart Road, Dulwich 9am to 4.00p.m
Healing Weekend	30 th Sept & 1 st October	1A Stuart Road, Dulwich 10.00 am to 3.00p.m

Contact details: Carmen 0883392573 or 0419144872