



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

The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.
March 2022 Newsletter

“LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE”

(John 6:68)

These beautiful words came from Simon Peter in response to Jesus' question, *“What about you, do you want to go away too?”* They are words addressed to each one of us every morning and our behaviour each day contains our response. Jesus had just given His splendid teaching on the Eucharist and a great many of the Jews left, as His words were just too difficult to comprehend. Yet these same words are the reason why so many Christians from other faiths and some people of no previous faith come into the Catholic Church. They yearn to receive Jesus in the Eucharist when they see that the truth of His REAL presence correlates with the truth of His Word/s. *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* (John 1:14) *“For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink”* (John 6:55) The CSOE course on **THE EUCHARIST** teaches these truths clearly and invites participants to experience them. The Melbourne School is presenting this on Zoom over three weeks beginning March 23rd.



Under the excellent leadership of Maria and Alex Heath and team, with encouragement from their local Bishop and several priests, ‘Emmaus’, ‘James’, ‘Moses’, ‘Encounter’ (New Life), ‘Secrets of Paul’ and ‘7 Young People in the Gospel’ are being presented at various venues in the Diocese of Northampton, England. What a blessing!! We thank God for the work of the Holy Spirit there and ask that an Australian Bishop might soon be similarly inspired.

Last Saturday evening, March 12th, our family was bountifully blessed by the arrival of three beautiful babies (triplets). The two boys are Samuel Eden and Elias Solomon and the girl is

Indi Rose. My sincere thanks to those of you who prayed for them and parents Tess and Alex. Their birth has brought much joy into our extended family and reminded us all of God's unbounded love and mercy and of just how precious each and every human life is. It has also reminded me of my need to repent of the times I have forgotten this truth and not treated others as I should. During lent we are all called to deeper prayer, fasting and almsgiving, thus enabling our hearts to be open and thirsty for God's forgiveness and the gift of His Holy Spirit.

Thank you to all who continue to pray for the work of CSOE. May Our Dear Lord fill you to overflowing with His choicest Easter blessings.

Ann Serong



Psst... I'm Paul, I have a secret!

Discover how God used Paul's background & passion to spread the Gospel. A noon day encounter resulted in a radical re-set for the former Pharisee. Paul took off like an athlete running a marathon, it soon became an obstacle course and then required a relay team to reach the finishing line, where we will find...

THE SECRET OF PAUL

It will be revealed on ZOOM over 6 Tuesdays

19 & 26 April, 3, 10, 17, 24 May

7.30 - 9.30pm Aus EST

Book before Mon 18 April at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BYFZL>

Overseas participants use code: OVASEA

The Witness

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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

LITANY OF TRUST

By Sr Faustina Maria Pia, SV, Sisters of Life, NY, USA.

From the belief that I have to earn Your love.
Deliver me, Jesus
 From the fear that I am unlovable.
Deliver ...
 From the false security that I have what it takes.
Deliver ...
 From the fear that trusting You will leave me more Destitute.
Deliver ...
 From all suspicion of Your words and promises.
Deliver ...
 From the rebellion against childlike dependency on You.
Deliver ...
 From refusals and reluctances in accepting Your will.
Deliver ...
 From anxiety about the future.
Deliver ...
 From resentment or excessive preoccupation with the past.
Deliver ...
 From restless self-seeking in the present moment.
Deliver ...
 From disbelief in Your love and presence.
Deliver ...
 From the fear of being asked to give more than I have.
Deliver ...
 From the belief that my life has no meaning or worth.
Deliver ...
 From the fear of what love demands.
Deliver ...
 From discouragement.
Deliver ...
 That You are continually holding me, sustaining me,
 Loving me. **Jesus, I trust in You**
 That Your love goes deeper than my sins and
 Failings and transforms me. **Jesus ...**
 That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an
 Invitation to lean on You. **Jesus ...**
 That You are with me in my suffering. **Jesus ...**
 That my suffering, united to Your own, will bear
 Fruit in this life and the next. **Jesus ...**
 That You will not leave me orphan, that You are
 Present in Your Church. **Jesus ...**
 That Your plan is better than anything else. **Jesus ...**
 That You always hear me and in Your goodness
 Always respond to me. **Jesus ...**
 That You give me the grace to accept forgiveness
 And to forgive others. **Jesus ...**
 That You give me all the strength I need for what
 Is asked. **Jesus ...**
 That my life is a gift. **Jesus ...**
 That You will teach me to trust You.

Written by Sr Faustina Maria Pia, SV. Sisters of Life, NY, USA.

PHILIP NEW LIFE Course - PNG

..... By Maria Takai,



This is my privilege to thank you, the Evangelisation Team in Australia for helping us to grow more in our faith in God. May God continue to enrich you with more new approaches in your evangelisation. Thank you Fr. Adam for facilitating the course. May God bless you.

My testimony:
When I attend Philip New Life course I found out that God is Love. He loves abundantly. I understood that He does not count too much what I have, who I am, or what I do. He loves me just as I am.

Then comes the sin which originated in my tradition, my family, where I grew up. It had set some setbacks and I could not fully experience that love of God.

During the session, it is me that has to step out and say, "Lord I have sinned." I am sorry but I have to nail my sins on Your body on the cross to experience my redemption offered by You. I wrote all the setbacks on a piece of paper, took a nail and hammer and nailed them on the cross. Then I went for confession. I felt something just left me. I could feel free and some lightness in me.

Thank you Lord!



TESTIMONIES - LUKE'S GOSPEL - PHILIPPINES

January and February 2022

Sr Narci

It was a great day!

The Diocese of San Fernando, La Union will be always grateful for the generosity you have extended to us. I personally encountered Luke through you and hope to imbibe Luke's attitude of listening with his heart.

You have sacrificed your convenient time to ease our encounter with Luke by choosing Philippine time to conduct the sessions. While your methodology is very interesting, I have felt that the participants love the way you have handled the sessions; full of joy, enthusiasm and zeal. We have affirmative teachers today who have encouraged us to love the gospel and seek more God's deep message to us. The Lord will reward your benevolence!

Maree Buttler

Thankyou Sandra and your team. I very much enjoyed the three sessions of 'Meet Luke'. A very interesting approach to covering Luke's large gospel in three weeks. I think my favourite activity was acting out Luke the Reporter. My group had to interview the thief on the cross. There were some great interviews. It's all part of getting beneath the actual words and understanding more deeply the gospel. There are plenty of references still to explore in my own time that we didn't have time to cover in the three weeks. I'm inspired to continue on this journey of getting to know Luke's Jesus. In our Alpha connect group at the moment we are studying The Acts which links up beautifully with this course. Thank you again to all involved.

Susanne Sweeney

It was a great experience getting to know Luke, his Gospel and Luke's Jesus. It was a very rich experience, looking at Luke in detail and sharing examples from Scripture together. What really struck me was the quote, "**the perfection of God is His Mercy.**" That really made a deep impression on me. Be merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful (Lk 6:36). **This is how we can be perfect** as our Heavenly Father is perfect (Mt 5:48).

I really feel that these Scripture verses came alive for me, through learning more about Luke's merciful Jesus and His Gospel of universal salvation, especially for sinners.

Franca Wollensack

Luke:

A physician, artist and gentile
Who investigates heart stories
With a most compassionate style.

Luke's Gospel:

About Jesus who forgives and shows love
To sinners, women and others.

Very pleased is His Father above.

Luke's Jesus:

Jesus who cares for the poor
And is loving and merciful.
Has promised salvation to all.

See participants page 5.

TESTIMONIES – JAMES PNG

Ellen Simon, AUS



Wency and I both participated in the CSOE **James – Discerning** course run by Sandra Bishop and Emilia Sacchetta in Melbourne last November to December 2020. Just before the conclusion of the course, Sandra asked if I was willing to help Wency run the course in the Philippines. Not knowing a lot of what 'helping' would entail and when the course would take place, I agreed to help.

Early this year, Wency contacted me and asked if I was available and interested in helping her run the course. There were no second thoughts. My appointment calendar didn't have any prior bookings for the scheduled dates. I dare say that God made my Saturday evenings free so that I would be available to help Wency run the James – Discerning course.

So here I am – blessed to have had the opportunity to help Wency as she ran the sessions. As of writing this we have completed four sessions. I also acknowledge the support and guidance given by Sandra and Emilia during the preparation for the course.

I have met wonderful participants and have been blessed to be part of their journey in the James – Discerning course. I have been enriched by the deep insights shared by Wency and the participants in relation to the various topics.

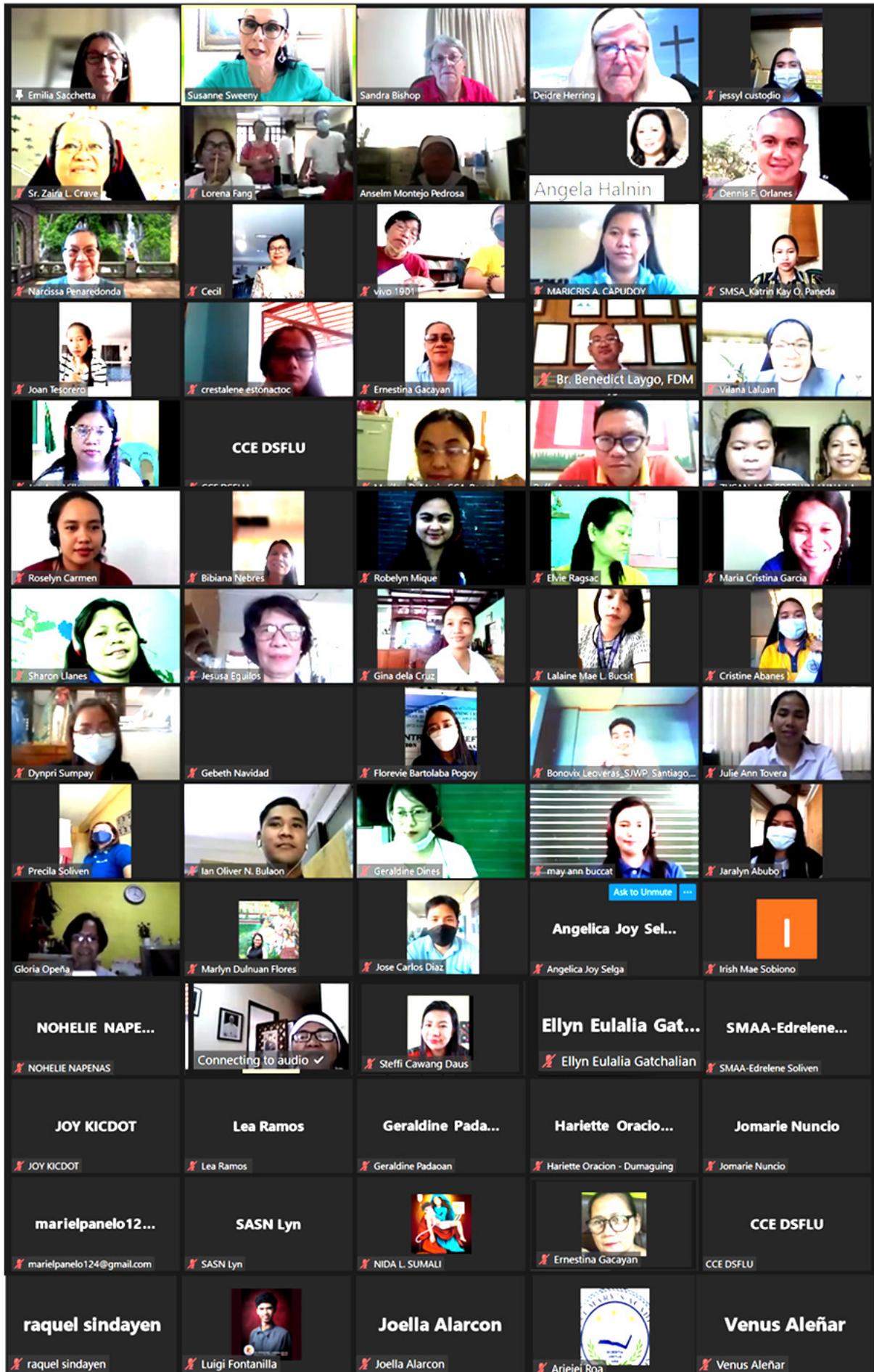
Thank you Wency, Sandra, Emilia and all the participants.

Wency Provideo, PNG



Myself and Ellen with full smiles, feeling so happy that God enabled us to share 'James' virtually to our fellow Filipinos from different walks of life (students, teachers, parents, Sisters and ordinary men and women) who generously shared their time and profound reflections during the sessions. Nothing could stop the Word of God from flourishing, not even Covid-19! Indeed, it's a wonderful encounter with the Lord through His Word and with each other which aids us towards spiritual maturity and growth.

LUKE'S GOSPEL - PARTICIPANTS, PHILIPPINES January and February 2022



Apologies to the many others who missed out on the screen shots

CSEO SPREADS TO UNITED KINGDOM

Last summer, my husband Alex and I got in touch with the Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia, because we were looking to launch a new School of Evangelisation. We had been trained in the courses 25 years earlier but we hadn't run them for a long time for various reasons. In prayer, we both sensed that the time was right to look into the possibility of using them again to form Catholics for mission. This coincided with a new Bishop being appointed for our Diocese who understands that the Church exists to evangelise, and setting up a new office within the Diocese called 'Mission Northampton'. We are both employed to work for Mission Northampton and my job is to train people for mission, so the courses are forming a key part of that strategy.

We have had a number of blessed meetings with the team in Australia and it has been a privilege to hear what the Lord is doing there and the fruit that is being borne through the courses. I was delighted to be able to take part in James and Emmaus online over the summer with the team too.

As a result, we ran our first

Emmaus Course in person last November. We had 28 people on the course and it was amazing to be running them again after so long. As we journeyed on the road to Emmaus with the participants, I was reminded how simple yet effective the courses are. We witnessed people being touched and transformed by the Word of God.

In early March, I took a team of people from that first Emmaus Course to help run another one in person in a different area of the Diocese. We had about 20 people and again, it was a really blessed weekend. One participant stood up at the end and said she had come with lots of questions about the Bible, but instead of having those questions answered, she had been reminded that the Bible is the Word of God and had fallen in love again with Jesus in the Word, a much greater gift! It was great to see people from the previous course move into areas of service too; this is really one of the best elements of these courses. We have another Emmaus course planned in July in another area of the Diocese.

Continued . . . P.7.

GOD THE FATHER

Where was God the Father
When the priest said Christ must die.
Where was God the Father
When the crowd shouted 'Crucify!'
Where was God the Father
When they nailed Him to the tree.
Where was God the Father
Who could have come and set Him free.

Where is God the Father
When I'm in agony and pain.
I cry to Him to intervene
And take away My shame.
Is it that He ignores me
Alone the burden I must bear.
Is it that He's so distant
Or He hasn't time to spare.

The tragedies that this life brings
The tears and the despair
Oh where is God the Father
When I call to Him in prayer.
Oh friend, He's not indifferent
To your anguish and your cry
It's just that we have preconceived
The way He makes reply.

We do not always recognise
The way in which He moves
To comfort and sustain us
And thus His love to prove.
Where is God the Father
He envelopes us each day
But only with the eyes of faith
Can we hope to know His way.

Robert Nixon



The Church Exists to Evangelise.

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

2 Tim. 2:2

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15

CSOE SPREADS TO UNITED KINGDOM

Continued from p.6 . . .

We are also three weeks into running James online. We have 40 participants, some from our Diocese, some from elsewhere in England, some from Ireland and finally even a couple of people from Singapore who join us at 3am their time... now that is commitment!!

Looking ahead to the summer we will be running a residential Moses course for those who are emerging as leaders and in the autumn we will begin the Secrets of Paul and offer that in person at various venues in the Diocese. We are also hoping to offer 7 Young People in the Gospels for a group of young adults in October. I am particularly looking forward to that one!

I really sense that through these courses, God is building an army of missionaries who are ready and willing to proclaim the Gospel to those who need to hear it. I am reminded of the beautiful words of Pope Francis that he spoke on the World day of Mission in 2019. This missionary mandate touches us personally:

“I am a mission, always.

You are a mission, always.

Every baptised man and woman is a mission.

People in love never stand still. They are drawn out of themselves; they are attracted and attract others in turn.

They give themselves to others and build relationships that are life-giving.

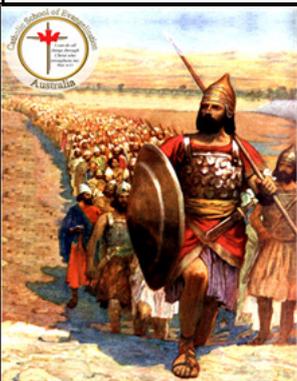
As far as God’s love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant. Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God’s love.”

I feel so privileged to able to help people to realise the truth of these words, embracing their call to be missionary and I am so grateful for the gift of the School of Evangelisation and all the help and support we have received in setting things up in our Diocese. These courses are really a gift for the Church at “such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

Maria Heath.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2022

23 rd & 30 th March, 6 th April	‘Eucharist – Source & Summit’	Zoom book at: https://www.trybooking.com/BXUAJ overseas participants use OVASEA
19 th & 26 th April, 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th May	‘Secret of Paul’	Zoom at: https://www.trybooking.com/BYFZL overseas participants use OVASEA



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.

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

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THE WITNESS

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

John 14 : 27



PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE



God of peace and justice who changes the hardest hearts and breaks the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to You.

Protect them in this time of peril, let them know not death, but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.