



# St Francis' Church Melbourne Blessed Sacrament Congregation



## BECOMING A NEW CHURCH

Newsletter  
May 2010

"Christ *has* died. Christ *is* risen. Both are true . . . Without truly believing in his death we can have no true belief in his resurrection . . . in the light of our confused faith we can learn to look at the world in all its confusion and struggle and sin, and see the signs of resurrection already at work there. We can look around at our community of faith, at our Church in all its confusion and struggle and sin, and see here the signs of the resurrection." So writes British Jesuit and psychologist Brendan Callaghan in a thoughtful essay entitled "On scandal and scandals" in the current edition of the online journal of the British Jesuits, *Thinking Faith* ([www.thinkingfaith.org](http://www.thinkingfaith.org) – well worth a visit).

The bulk of the essay explores "two aspects of what has been said in various media about clerical child sexual abuse: mandatory celibacy and a 'conspiracy of silence'". It moves to "a broader reflection on what has contributed to the Church finding itself in this place of tragedy, suffering, sin and failure" and concludes with a look to the future in the light of the resurrection. Space doesn't permit us to do justice to the whole article (go to the website and read it in full). Let's pick up what the author has to say about the future and muse on that in the spirit of the Easter season.

First a glance backwards: "This past Lent has been a real experience of the brokenness and sin of the Church, and attempts on the part of some bishops and cardinals to portray it all as a secular conspiracy have only compounded the sense of brokenness and sin felt by many good men and women in the Church. But what Easter tells us is that experiences of brokenness and sin are not the end of the story." Easter doesn't bypass or leap-frog over the pain and shame we feel as church: "The resurrection meets head-on all that the world can throw in the face of love . . . all that the world can do to leach away hope and courage and trust and joy. And our experience of these last months has reminded us that our church community . . . can be destructive of love, that we, too, can leach away hope and courage and trust and joy."

Just as "the first witnesses of the resurrection looked at the death of Jesus and the destruction of all in which they had placed their hope and their love", so "we are asked to look directly at the elements of death and destruction in our life as Church . . . The faces of this tragedy are always the faces of the hurt and betrayed children, and we must somehow find the courage neither to turn away from those faces nor to diminish what they show us of death and destruction." It is only by looking long and hard enough at the pain and

suffering in these faces that we can truly see the signs of resurrection and find hope for a new church: "Out of the wreck of a defensive, conformist, clerical culture, a new pattern of being Church is emerging. The cost has been tragic, and . . . [there is no place] for weighing that tragic cost against what can emerge by way of a renewed Church."

But it is the possibility of a renewed church with which Callaghan brings his essay to a close: ". . . it is in the presence of the resurrected One that we move into this period of Kairos, where by facing the brokenness and sin that are part of our story as Church, we can allow the Spirit of Jesus to lead us into a still deeper conversion as Church, and so recover the deeper and fuller story that tells us what it is to be the community of the followers of Jesus." In other words becoming a new church engages us with past, present and future. With the past, by recovering the deep and full story; with the present, by facing our brokenness and sin; with the future, by allowing the Spirit of Jesus to lead us. Reading the past truly and facing the present honestly are challenging enough, but imagining the future is the toughest task of all.

Last month I listed the seven dreams that Australian Jesuit theologian Gerald O'Collins has for the church (go to [www.stfrancismelbourne.org.au](http://www.stfrancismelbourne.org.au) for the April Newsletter). Some of these, such as married clergy, women deacons and biblically literate priests, are beyond the capacity of the baptised faithful to realise directly. But the rest involve us all. Every one of us can help renew the church by hearing the cry of the poor, fostering loving and faith-filled families, reaching out to alienated Catholics, and being converted to Jesus. This realisation exposes a trap we can easily fall into, the trap of thinking of the church as "them" rather than "us", of identifying the church with its institutional structures instead of with ourselves as the people of God. Of course the church's organisational systems are in dire need of reform; the auxiliary bishop of Canberra-Goulburn, Pat Power<sup>1</sup>, has recently called again for "a total systemic reform of Church structures", echoing Bishop Geoffrey Robinson's appeal in his 2007 book *Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church*. But this mustn't divert or excuse us from the challenge of being church ourselves now.

The phrase "being church" might bring to mind an image of people meeting in the parish church for Mass. This is certainly a core component of being church but it's not by any means the whole story. Very little of our time is spent

in a church building or even as a church community. Where we live out our lives is at home, at work, at play, and in the public domain. It's the day-to-day transactions in these arenas that form the "stuff" of our lives and to one degree or another give concrete form to our baptismal faith. Take home, for example. Every day in home after home there are countless explicit or implicit negotiations about power, sex, money, values, behaviours, goals, desires and needs. Husbands and wives, parents and children, in all sorts of permutations and combinations, are engaged in this endless dynamic. This is the raw material from which lives are forged, and the processing of this elemental stuff can demand immense amounts of energy.

How much of this interplay (or warfare) is consciously informed by the gospel is going to vary enormously from family to family, but let's at least assume that general Christian values inform the process. What complicates matters is that for the most part, the gospel has no clear direction to give. How should parents try ("try" being the operative word) to oversee their children's use of the internet? How should spouses sort out conflicting levels of sexual desire, especially from mid-life on? What a long litany of issues we could nominate here! So much of this stuff is ill-defined. Many decisions are inevitably made on the basis of a shifting combination of gospel faith, common sense, cultural norms, peer pressure, self-interest and other factors. Can it be otherwise? But this is all part of our call to "be church" and we are promised the wisdom and courage of the Holy Spirit to help us through.

The work-place is another field where operating out of baptismal faith can be a difficult challenge. How does an employee uphold values of integrity, trust, respect, collaboration and tolerance in work-places where there can be vicious power struggles, bullying, dishonesty, gossip, mutual dislike, disregard for safety, and a profit-at-all-costs mentality? It can be a tough task to "be church" in such an unsympathetic work environment, but to leave the gospel behind at the door is a cop-out. Work represents such a large part of most adult lives that to quarantine it from the influence of faith is to squib the task of true discipleship. As in the home, we have the wisdom and strength of the Spirit at our disposal if we so choose. That leaves leisure as another sphere of life to be informed by baptismal faith, along with others such as civic involvement, cultural pursuits, and community service.

My point, I suppose, is simple and obvious. Yes, the "church" needs reform. For Bishop Pat Power this means the church needs to be more human, more humble, less clerical, more inclusive and more open; it needs to find unity in diversity, to discover its whole tradition, and to truly reflect the person and values of Jesus. But the church is us, the people of God, the community of the baptized faithful, and we ourselves are constantly called to be truer disciples of Jesus Christ. For most of us, anyway, there's still plenty of room for the teaching of Jesus to shape how we behave at home, at work, at play and in the life of the broader community. The more we take this risk, the more renewed the church will be.

**Tom Knowles SSS**

<sup>1</sup><http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=20866>

## VALE TERRY HAMMOND SSS



*On Friday 9 April we bade farewell to Fr Terry Hammond SSS. Terry died at home of cancer on Easter Monday 5 April at the age of 83. Born in Maffra Vic on 2 March 1927, Terry joined the Congregation in Melbourne at the age of 21. He took vows at Bowral NSW on 19 March 1951 and was ordained at St Patrick's Cathedral on 18 January 1956. For nearly 50 years he served at St Francis' in Melbourne, at St Peter Julian's in Sydney, at the former novitiate in Bowral, at the former scholasticate in Lower Plenty, and then again at St Francis' (this time for over 20 years) until his retirement to Box Hill in 2003. Along the way he was entrusted with a variety of responsibilities: he directed the Eucharistic Fraternity, gave retreats, conducted convert classes, ministered reconciliation, took his share of hospital calls, and did an enormous amount of printing for St Francis' and the Province. He*

*celebrated his golden jubilee of religious profession in 2001 and of priesthood in 2006. Terry was known for his idiosyncratic sense of humour, his disdain for appearances, his love of nature, his curiosity about the world, his strong theological convictions, and his do-it-yourself resourcefulness. He lived and died as the one-off character he was: persistent, prayerful and poor. May he rest in peace.*

*(For more on Fr Terry go to [www.stfrancismelbourne.org.au](http://www.stfrancismelbourne.org.au))*

### A WEEKLY WAY OF THE CROSS

You are warmly invited to participate in an ecumenical Way of the Cross Walk each Friday at 10.00 am, beginning at St Francis' Church. For **booking**, please contact **Rev Peter Gador-White: 0417-425-188**.

### Pray 2010

**Pray 2010** is a grand congress on prayer being held by the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane from 7-10 July. With 40 keynote presentations and more than 300 prayer workshops it will explore how prayer gathers, opens, transforms and sends. For more information and for registration go to [www.pray2010.org.au](http://www.pray2010.org.au).

### FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMME

Anyone interested in the Catholic faith is welcome to come along to a discussion on  
**Sundays at 1.00 pm**  
in the St Francis' Pastoral Centre.

### AN E-BOOK BY FR FRANK O'DEA SSS

*Eucharist: The Basic Spirituality*  
With 30 Witness Stories  
Questions for Group Discussion



Available *free* online at: [theeucharist.wordpress.com](http://theeucharist.wordpress.com)  
(Be sure to type the 'e' twice)

### NATIONAL E-CONFERENCE

An e-Conference entitled *Mary - First Disciple* will be led by scripture scholar **Fr Frank Moloney SDB**. See it live over the Internet via a large screen in the **MacKillop Room at St Francis' Pastoral Centre** on **Tuesday 18 May 2010, 10:15am—3:15 pm**. A BYO lunch break will be at 12:15 pm—1:15 pm; tea and coffee will be available.

**Register** by email with **Fr Jo Dirks SSS**:  
[jdirks@blessedsacrament.com.au](mailto:jdirks@blessedsacrament.com.au)

### SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB (SIP)

Author **Vivienne Ulman** discusses her book:  
*Alzheimer's: A Love Story*  
Pumphouse Hotel 128 Nicholson St Fitzroy  
Wednesday 5 May 8.00 pm  
Meals available 6:00 pm—7:30 pm

### ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE FOR EVANGELISATION

A range of significant events has been arranged during May by this office. Check the website: [www.evangelisation.org](http://www.evangelisation.org) for information about these events. Bookmark the web address so that you can check what's happening each month!

### RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

The theme of Respect Life Sunday (May 2) is *Respecting Life, Respecting Nature: There Can Be No True Human Development Without Openness to Life*. [Tel. 9287 5587]

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Social Justice in the City Seminar  
**Wednesday 26 May 12:00 –1:00 pm**  
**St Francis' Pastoral Centre**  
**Danusia Kaska: Global AIDS Epidemic**  
(including Melbourne/Sydney)  
Enjoy a complimentary cuppa— all are welcome.  
Further information: **Paula: 9895-5800**

### 2010 KNOX PUBLIC LECTURE

**Rev Professor Gerald O'Collins sj AC**  
*'Jesus Our Priest: How can and should we describe the priesthood of Jesus himself?'*  
Wednesday 19th May 7:30 pm  
**Knox Room, Catholic Theological College**  
**278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne**  
Light refreshments provided afterwards.  
Bookings/info: **9412-3314** or email [ctc@ctc.edu.au](mailto:ctc@ctc.edu.au)  
**RSVP Friday 14 May.** (Street parking available.)

### ART AT ST FRANCIS' Wet Season

An exhibition of landscape paintings by **Susan Standley**  
Mon-Fri 10.00 am—5.00 pm  
Sun 10.00 am—3.00 pm  
**20 April - 20 May**



'Primeval Forces'

### THANK YOU!

Thanks again to all who worshipped at St Francis' during the Easter Triduum. The **Holy Thursday** collection for **Caritas Australia** to use in **Haiti** and **Chile** raised **\$5,736** and the **Good Friday** collection for the **Holy Places** in the **Holy Land** was **\$6,845**. Bless you for your great generosity!

### MEDITATION ON THE BREATH OF THE SPIRIT

Fr Gilbert SVD 1.00—4.00 pm Saturday 15 May  
Janssen Spirituality Centre 23 Woodvale Rd Boronia  
Tel 9762 6625 / gilbertcarlo@gmail.com

### NORTHERN TERRITORY INTERVENTION

Currently before Parliament is an amended version of the Racial Discrimination Act which does not allow Aboriginal people the means of appeal against compulsory acquisition of their land. A recent book: **This Is What We Said: Australian Aboriginal People Give Their Views on the Northern Territory Intervention** allows the voice of the Ampilatwatja, Bagot, Utopia and Yirrkala people to be heard and to argue for locally-based solutions.

Copies of this hard-cover book of 71 pages (including photographs) are only \$15 (plus a small postage fee). Order via email: [harrisme@bigpond.com](mailto:harrisme@bigpond.com) or write to: 'Concerned Australians', PO Box 281 East Melbourne VIC 8002



### PARISH DANCES

**8.00 pm Fri 28 May** (& last Friday every month)  
**Our Lady Help of Christians Hall**  
**49 Nicholson St (next Barkly St)**  
**East Brunswick**  
Bring own food/drink; tea/coffee provided; \$5 entry  
**Ring Maurice 9895 5266**  
*Learn to Dance: classes with a variety of music at 8.00 pm every Tuesday.*

### REGULAR MONTHLY MASSES

**Mass signed for the deaf: 10.00 am first Sunday (2 May)**  
**Tertiary Students Mass: 6.00 pm first Sunday (2 May)**  
**For people living with HIV/AIDS: 5.30 pm 2nd Tues (11 May)**  
**Filipino Mass: 2.30 pm second Sunday (9 May)**  
**Indonesian Mass: 2.45 pm third Sunday (16 May)**

# For your Diary

## May 2010 at St Francis'

- **Mass signed for the deaf:** 10.00 am Sunday 2 May
- **Tertiary Students' Mass:** 6.00 pm Sunday 2 May
- **Filipino Community Eucharist:** 2.30 pm Sunday 9 May
- **Mass for people living with HIV/Aids:** 5.30 pm Tuesday 11 May
- **Solemnity of the Ascension:** Sunday 16 May
- **Indonesian Community Mass:** 2.45 pm Sunday 16 May
- **Solemnity of Pentecost:** Sunday 23 May
- **Solemnity of Mary, Help of Christians:** Monday 24 May
- **Solemnity of the Trinity:** Sunday 30 May
- **Fr Ed's monthly reflection for May:** *Famished for God*
- **Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help & Eucharistic Benediction:** 12.30 pm Friday
- **Rosary:** 11.30 am Monday to Saturday in the Ladye Chapel
- **Sung MORNING PRAYER** of the Church: 8.30 am Monday to Friday
- **Sung EVENING PRAYER** of the Church: 6.00 pm Monday to Friday, 5.30 pm Sunday

### EUCCHARISTIC ASSOCIATES

**Saturday 29 May:** Retreat 10.00 am - 4.00pm  
 Venue: St Francis' Pastoral Centre (BYO lunch)

**Sunday 30 May:** Mass 1.30 pm  
 Venue: St Francis' Church  
**Contact person:** Melville Miranda on **9809 4316**

### SERVITIUM CHRISTI

(Eucharistic Secular Institute)  
 Next meeting: **Saturday 15 May at 2.00 pm**  
**St Francis' Pastoral Centre**  
**Contact:** Mary Williams on 9818 5375 or  
 Tina Lazzaro on 9432 4441

#### GOOD MORNING GOOD PEOPLE

*St Francis of Assisi - A Journey in  
Song with Peter Kearney and  
Anna Demetriou  
Come on the journey!  
Monday 17 May at 7:30 pm  
St Andrew's Catholic Church  
105 Greaves St North,  
Werribee*

*Weaving story, song and music  
to tell the life of St Francis in a  
refreshing new way.*

*\$10 per person includes a cuppa  
at interval.*

*Peter's CDs & Music available*

#### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

A wonderful opportunity for married couples to enrich their marriages. Volunteer couples and a Priest present the weekend. It is based around Catholic values, but you don't need to be Catholic to attend.

The next weekend is **25-27 June.**

Further information from **Peter & Erika Smith** on **9899-0824**, or email [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au)

Check the website: [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

#### WHITEFRIARS COLLEGE, DONVALE

50th Anniversary celebrations during 2010-2011

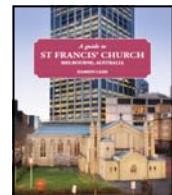
Check details of celebrations on the website:

[www.whitefriars.vic.edu.au](http://www.whitefriars.vic.edu.au)

Chapel blessing & opening 2 May

#### GUIDE TO ST FRANCIS' CHURCH

by Damien Cash



Learn about the many individual features of St Francis' Church in the new 40-page, full-colour guide available from St Francis' Pastoral Centre. Only \$5!