



http://acatholiclife.blogspot.com.au/2007_12_01_archive.html

The Encounter

December 2013

The Parish of Victor Harbor
St Augustine's Church, Victor Harbor
St Christopher's Church, Mt. Compass

"Personal evangelism"

When Bishop John Ford was recently visiting this region to meet with people from various parishes, he heard reports from each parish or pastoral district. From that he would realize that the churches need to grow. He has said this in the last Murray Anglican.

One thing he said that touches on this is personal evangelism. He didn't go into detail, but he obviously thinks this is important. In thinking about this, I would like to share a few thoughts for us to consider, around the word "sips".

S-shine, that is, shine the light of Jesus in our lives-words and actions and values and beliefs. This is not "preaching" at people, but is being Christian in their company-letting the light of Christ shine.

I-invite, that is, invite a person to something where other believers are present, e.g. a meal, a coffee morning, a bloke's bbq, a men's shed evening, a church service etc. In that way friendships can grow and the person can be in a "faith atmosphere".

P-pray, that is, pray for the person(s). Pray he/she can be open to the gospel, and will come to faith.

S-share, that is, share one's own experience, or understanding-as opportunity may come. This is done respectfully and gently.

Now in all the above we are conscious of our need to depend on the Lord. But as we seek to take our share in this personal evangelism we will grow. Let's reflect on the words of Jesus: "He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." And again, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples." John 15:5,7-8.

Bearing fruit proves us to be Christ's disciples. The New Living version puts that as "When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father." Today's English version says "This is how my Father's glory is shown: by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples."

Jesus says he who abides in him will bear much fruit — the fruit of the Spirit and the fruit of Christian service in winning others. To "abide" in Christ means to remain deeply attached to him and in continuous contact with him — and then we are useful. It's our contact with him that decides how fruitful we are. Obviously this contact is an up-to-date fellowship, not what we had, say, last year, or even last week! We continue to draw life from him.

Now I wonder how we feel about "personal evangelism"? If we take it to heart it will mean seeing it as part of being a Christian, and that it takes time and intention. Being honest, it may be easier for any of us to "do" other things, but if we keep close to the Lord then his Spirit will work through us — and his Spirit wants to bring people to Jesus.

Could we then reassess where we may "be at" in these things, and talk to the Lord about it?

Your brother in Christ, Alex.

Seeking Jesus

Loving and giving
the right way for living
the spirit of Christmas is here.

Hugging and laughter
and joy ever after
the happier time of the year.

Caring and sharing
and mistletoe daring
the birthday of Jesus is near.

Praying and singing
our praises we're bringing
to the babe whom we seek and revere.

Anstice Chiverton

Recently Andrew Jeffery came to St Monica's Fellowship and shared his knowledge about the geological background of our region. It seemed fitting to use the following reflection to introduce the afternoon. Cheryl brought along actual rocks, gravel, sand and water to illustrate the devotion she shared by Wendy Mayer.

St Monica's Fellowship recommences in February and we have already planned a lively program for the year. Come and join us if you can on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1.30pm.

Rocks in First

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." Matthew 7:24-25

Imagine an empty container. Firstly the container is filled with rocks. After the rocks are in, gravel is poured into the container and it runs down between the rocks, filling the crevices left by the larger stones. The container now appears really full, but a bucket of sand is produced. The sand can still run down into the tiny spaces left by the gravel. Surely it's full now, but no, finally a jug of water is poured over the container and the water still finds spaces to fill inside the container.

What does this teach us about managing our lives? Perhaps you might think that it says we can always fit more things into our schedule, no matter how busy we are. But that isn't true. There are times when we simply have to say 'no' to some requests, and the reason relates to the actual meaning of the container illustration.

What the container example is actually saying is that if we don't put the rocks in first, they won't fit at all. Gravel, sand and water can be added later, but if the rocks aren't the foundation, they won't fit at a later stage. It's quite obvious when we look at the container, but not so obvious in our lives.

So what are our rocks?

They are the things we need to have in place so we can build the rest of our lives on them. If we haven't provided time for all of them, we will find that they can't just be squeezed in, and without planning, some will almost certainly be squeezed out.

I suggest that the rocks or foundations of our lives must include at least the following:

Relationships When God made us in His own image, he made us with an inbuilt need to relate, firstly to Him, and then to other people. We can try to deny either or both of those needs, but we won't be at peace in ourselves until we give God the place He made for Himself in our lives.

When we neglect our relationships with others we risk becoming unhealthily self-centred.

Physical Welfare Our bodies are God's gift to us, and part of His creation. So just as we need to care for the rest of God's world, we have a responsibility to look after our bodies. That includes our food and drink; reasonable exercise and choosing a healthy lifestyle, within the restraints that are caused by our health, age and opportunities.

Mental Welfare What we feed and exercise our minds on is just as important as what we give our bodies. We can't expect to be able to think in a healthy, balanced manner if we live on a diet of mental 'junk food'. TV can be useful to unwind, but make sure you balance the lightweight with some solid mental food. The best source of this is from the Bible.

Work God made us to do good works which He prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

He knows that we need a purpose in our lives, and the satisfaction that achievement brings us. Let's make sure that the work we spend most time on, is work that will be pleasing to God.

Relaxation After His work of creating the world, God rested. He knows our limitations and He has given us His own example to show us how important it is to take time for rest and refreshment. Don't leave it out of your planning; it's not an optional extra.

Prayer *Father, thank you for your example to us that shows us how to live balanced lives. Please help us to put the important things, the rocks, in first, and not let them be pushed out by other things that seem more urgent. Amen.*

Wendy Mayer

<http://www.muaustralia.org.au/images/resources/education/Rocks>



Have you during your life been influenced by certain Christians?

That person was ordinary by the world's standards but later in life you realized how special that person was?

One of the three such people to me was an outstanding teacher, well into middle age, Miss Harris. War and the Plymouth Blitz meant that I attended three different Primary Schools — a country school of low standards, a small town school which was an improvement, and lastly Salisbury Road Primary School, Plymouth, which had an excellent Head Master and reputation.

In the forties/fifties passing important 11+ or Scholarship Exam led to a High School or Grammar School education (academic) —failing meant a "Modern Secondary" a lower standard.

To my mother and father my passing this was very important, so at 10½ years old I was boarded with an Aunt weekdays, going home to the village at weekends. There were only 9 months in which to attain a pass.

Miss Harris had the top class — I was placed in her class, being far behind the standard of the other children. The new school year started in early September, the exam was at the end of May, so there was a new intake, me included.

Miss Harris was in charge of 48 pupils and taught all subjects, English, Arithmetic, History, Geography, Nature Studies, Scripture and Sewing for the girls. During sewing — no talking, we listened to a story or poetry.

She had a presence. She was well respected, listened to and was obeyed by us all. She expected (and received) good manners, she was also a kindly disciplinarian. I think the day started with the "Lord's Prayer". Scripture lessons were interesting and I was fortunate enough to receive a prize, a book about Jesus life, which I am sure she donated.

She was dedicated to each child and expected our very best efforts. I think she knew the capabilities of each one. The day started with a mental arithmetic question right around the class which made you sit up and be alert.

For me, being behind, it was especially hard. At 10½ years old, homework took 2½ hours, English, Arithmetic problems, and 10 spellings every night. Just imagine Miss Harris marking 48 homework books plus day exercises! There was a spelling test every day.

The Scholarship exam came in May. I enjoyed it — a challenge. The morning was taken up with 14 questions (I completed 12). Big addition and subtraction, multiplication, fractions, decimals, long division, percentages and "problems", (areas, costing etc.)

In the afternoon the English paper consisted of précis, punctuation, comprehension, and a composition. Of 4, I chose "A bus ride around Plymouth". Lots of history! An intelligence test had been taken a few weeks before.

In July one morning, Mr. Curtis, the Headmaster, came flying down the stairs with the results in his hand. All 48 children had passed, 45 with "A" passes and 3 with "B" passes, no failures!

Apparently due to her expertise (and some work on my part) I had passed well enough to attend one of the two best girl's high schools in Plymouth. At the time I didn't realize what an opportunity this was, as it led to wide choices in a career later. Nursing at Bart's hospital London and later still midwifery — another story!

Miss Harris had a great impact on my life I realized later in life. She was a deep Christian lady, who practiced what she preached, and I am sure at the gates of heaven would be greeted with the words. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

P.S. I still have a lovely letter from her written in 1946 in the most beautiful copper plate hand writing!

Meg Skuce

Christmas Is About a Saviour:

Our world doesn't know. They think that Christmas is about gifts under a tree and a spirit of good cheer, with Christmas dinner and family around the table. But as good as all that may be, it isn't nearly as good as the Real Christmas.

The Real Christmas message is this: God has sent a Saviour for you, to save you from sin and to help you in this life; to lift your burdens and ease your fears. That's it! A Saviour who is Christ the *Lord*— God himself, with us!

The world is gripped by fear. But fear's hold, has been broken, for those who know Jesus as Lord and those who know the angel's words:

"Fear not ... for a Saviour is born to you — Christ the Lord!"

Isaiah 41:10

'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Ralph F. Wilson and Des Arthur

<http://www.joyfulheart.com/christmas/fear-not.htm>

Jack's Message.

On the 1st October, 2013 - my step brother's oldest child hit his head while jumping into the backyard pool at home in Brisbane. He spent some time at the bottom of the pool. His younger brother and sister tried to get him out of the water but were not able to.

His mother had just gone upstairs to answer the phone.

His mother and a neighbour were able to resuscitate him and he was transferred to Mater Children's hospital in Brisbane.

It was determined that he had hit his head and sustained a serious head injury before he hit the water.

With no improvement in his condition the breathing support was withdrawn on the 7th October and Jack passed away. He was 11 years old.

When she returned home his Mum found this on his computer. It was preparation for an oral presentation that he was to give at school. He attended a Christian school and both his parents are committed Christians. His father Ewan heads up an organisation called Motivational Media that prepares programs for High Schools.

His mother Janice read this at the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Jack Ewan Blair. 26th February 2002 - 7th October 2013.

Jack's Message to Us All

(Written by Jack Blair on the morning of his accident)

We are always being told God loves us no matter what, but it can sometimes be hard to believe that God would bother caring for us like this. When we are feeling depressed, down and we think life is just not worth living.

But in John 3:16 it talks about Agape Love, God's love for us. You might be thinking well what's the difference? The difference is that God's love is unconditional and our love is conditional and has strings attached, like if you love someone it's because they love you back and treat you as you wish to be treated. But if they hate you and make it public, treat you like a piece of dirt and reject you, you'll hate them back.

But God loved the people who crucified him. But he didn't love what they did. Same goes for us, he loves us dearly. But he hates our sin.

I liken His love to a mother's love, when she brings her baby home, she thinks it's beautiful and adores it. Even if it's the ugliest thing in the world. Like God, he even loves ugly Betty!

I can also liken him to a shepherd. If one sheep goes missing he will leave the flock and look for the one that is lost.

The parable of the prodigal son is another example of God's love. We continually turn our backs on God, and take all that he has done for us and given us for granted. But when we come back He welcomes us with open arms and runs to greet us.

We are made perfect and in God's image, you are loved and chosen by God, you have a purpose, you are holy and blameless because God died for you, God sees you and you are amazing!!!, you do not have to be afraid God will protect you, you don't need to not make mistakes you just need to recognise that you have made them and ask for forgiveness.

Those who become Christians become new people. They are not the same any more, their old life has gone. And there new life has begun!!!

Submitted by Judi Arthur.

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. God's strength gives you boldness to be His warrior. Ephesians 6:10-11

God's armor helps you stand and not fall down or fall back.

God's truth gives you clear direction and keeps you from confusion or misinformation.

God's breastplate gives protection to your heart to keep its intents pure and its affection undivided.

God's Gospel gives direction to your steps, keeps you moving in the right direction and in the pathway of peace.

God's shield of faith means that there is not an inch of you that is vulnerable to the attack of the enemy's lies, false accusations, deceptions, or schemes.

God's helmet protects your mind from the thinking of the world, from the pitfalls of human reason, and from the thoughts that would bring you into doubt and fear.

God's sword is the weapon that cuts through and penetrates deeper than every lie and falsehood that would mislead, or obscure the truth.

God's Spirit is your guarantee that the battle is the Lord's, that the victory is won, and that prayer is how you keep in constant communication with your reigning King of glory.

(Based on Ephesians 6)

The Children's Christmas

Slide gently down the fading years
to where it all began,
Right back into my mother's arms
and her fine handsome man.

Christmas in a family,
warm and loved, secure.
Cherished, safe but disciplined,
the memories endure.

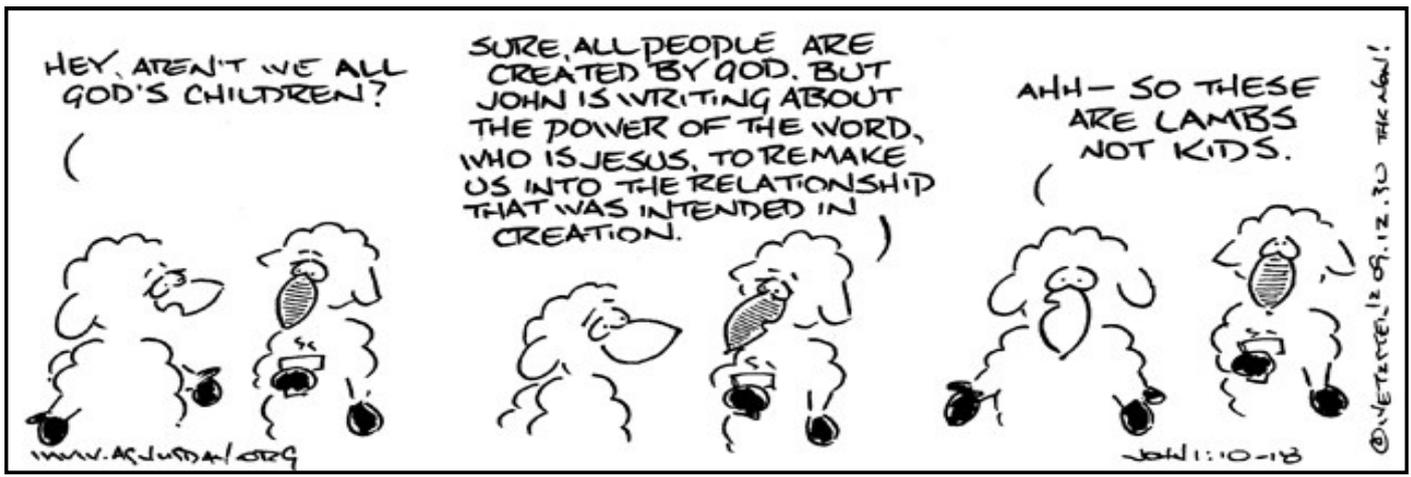
Uncles, aunts and Grandmamma
and all the children there;
Laughing, playing yuletide games,
the same ones every year.

The scent of green pine Christmas trees
and ivy round the wall.
The coloured 'decorations' up,
a hanging over all.

The taste of pud' and Mum's mince pies,
the farthings there-in hidden;
The holly, tinsel, bells and star,
reminding how we're bidden

Today, as once in distant times,
to celebrate the birth
Of our dear Saviour Jesus Christ
with children of the earth.

Anstice Chiverton



Milk or Meat:

The only way to grow healthy and strong is to eat and drink good food and fluid. A baby will be undernourished if they are not fed properly. They are given primarily, mother's milk, this has all the properties necessary not just to sustain life but to promote growth. However this by itself will not bring the child to maturity. As the baby grows, becoming an older child, growing into the teen years and on to adulthood, what is needed is solid food. As a teenager we would be ashamed to bring our friends home for dinner and only get a bottle of warm milk.

Paul tells us in - ***2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."***

We start out in the Christian life as it were like a new born baby. Remember Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, in ***John 3***. He was a grown man and no slouch. Jesus told him he had to be reborn.

From that point he needed to grow in relationship with Jesus. For us to grow in relationship with Jesus we need to be fed the Good Food of God's Word. This is done in various ways. The first way is to read the Bible for our-self; secondly talk to our new found friend, thirdly we seek out a "bible teaching Church", so, we can have fellowship with fellow believers.

Hebrews 10:25. "not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near"

This is for the purpose of growing in relationship and understanding of the Lord Jesus. Paul says to Timothy, ***2 Timothy 3:16. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.***

Nothing has changed for us today. We need to grow to maturity in Christ Jesus. Peter speaks of this in: ***1 Peter 2: 2 "like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,"***

To grow to maturity as a Christian we need to Read the scriptures. Read and learn to see one part of Scripture in context with other parts. Read and learn to love the Word. If we don't love the Word of God, can we say that 'we love Jesus'? For Jesus is God's word revealed to us.

Folks, those who are in Christ, are, ***"THE CHURCH", "GOD'S PEOPLE"***. Let us grow to maturity as the Body of Christ! Let us demand Steak rather than Milk! Let us with Paul say: ***Romans 1:16, 17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed...."***

Des Arthur

I am drinking from my saucer

I've never made a fortune
and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much,
I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way,
I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I haven't got a lot of riches,
and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me,
and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings,
and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong,
My faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke,
and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about
the tough rows that I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage,
when the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings,
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy,
to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Author: John Paul Moore

www.inspiringhots.net/movie/saucer.php

The Gathering:

Thousands of people gathered in the square of St. Peter's Basilica, awaiting the right coloured smoke from the Sistine Chapel. This smoke was to herald that a new pope had been elected. Just months earlier the world watched on as America chose a new President. Over in England, many watch for the flag to fly on Buckingham Palace, to announce the residency of Queen Elizabeth.

It was a striking observation just a few weeks ago on Remembrance Day to see just how many people came out to pay homage to the fallen in war. Many had to get up early and put themselves out for this occasion. People came representing all ages; political persuasions; varied religious beliefs and backgrounds; bigots; dogmatists; agnostics; atheists; folk of great as well as modest means. They came from far and near to the shrines of remembrance. Many come to these meetings religiously every year. To this and the ANZAC services many people come, offering respect and homage. This is right and good!

At these services prayers are offered, though they be written; sometimes songs are sung; sometimes speeches are given. It's a type of Church service really. The difference could be that Jesus is not the centre of attention. So to whom are the prayers offered?

We like to look forward to celebratory events. One day millions will gather before the throne of the living God. The purpose, to proclaim that "Jesus is Lord"! He is not being elected or voted on as the most popular, there will be no flag flown to declare His presence. There will be no written prayers or discussion as to what is right or wrong. We will not be introduced to Him; He will not be introduced to us. We will know Him, He will know us (or not).

For now all we have is what God has given for us to pay Him true respect and Worship: We have natural revelation, creation (The earth and all the beauty around us), *Psalm 19: The heavens are telling of the glory of God; their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.* Then there's the fact that we know there is a God, *Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."*

Then there is Specific Revelation - that which God has declared to us - Read *Hebrews 1*, God has spoken to us through His son. So there is no excuse, for us to say we didn't know. The signs are all around and in God's word (The Bible). One day He's coming back to take His' people to be with Him - do you know for sure that you want to worship Him forever?

Or are these shorter preludes of worship all that we look forward to?

To know God, is to follow Jesus!

Des Arthur

Original Poem of Love by Denise Haggerty to her dying father, now with the Lord.

"I am so blessed to have you for my father, to guide me throughout my life.
There is no one else I would rather, to have kept me out of strife.
I was so lucky to have a Dad like you.
You were definitely one of a kind, and now I just don't know what I'll do with-
out your guidance. I feel blind.
You didn't deserve to be ignored.
You didn't deserve to feel pain.
You only deserved to be adored.
Dad, your journey was not in vain,
You taught me to change my own car tyre, that was one thing I must know how to do!
And that KWIKASAIR jacket of yours I admired, well you handed that over too.
You taught Shaun to ride the lawnmower when he was only one!
Shaun never yelled 'go slower'; with his Poppy he had so much fun.
Mum was there, Shaun was there, I was there too. We said our goodbyes and
we comforted you.
We held your hand as you took your last breath. You were such a brave man
Dad, even in death.
You gave me so many reasons to be proud and you gave me so much love.
But Dad, what I'm trying to tell you now, these words just don't seem enough.
I don't want to say Goodbye to you, my precious, precious Dad.
I just want to hold on to the life that we once had.
I promised you Dad, I would look after Mum, and of that you can be sure, be-
cause every Thursday I'll still come-a-knocking at her door."
This poem is even more special because Alan and Flo adopted Denise at one
month old. Our Special Gift from Heaven.

Recent Entries from the Parish Register

Funerals:	Anstice Felicia Chiverton	20 th September, 2013
	Alan George Hounslow	18 th October, 2013
	Peter James Wherchon	10 th December, 2013 - in Mt. Compass Town Hall - Bruce Hicks officiated
Thanksgiving service	for Beverley Claire Daw	10 th December, 2013 in St. Augustine's Chapel.

Royal School of Church Music (R.S.C.M.)

International Summer School and Conference August 2013 - York, U.K.

Many from overseas countries, including my husband Tony and I, were amongst about 165 participants, including delegates, staff and presenters, who attended an intensive programme of church music and covering a range of related activities.

Venues for the ISSC included York, St. John University, for accommodation and meals, lecture rooms, studios and chapel, York Minster, Central Methodist Church, St. Wilfred's Catholic Church and Rievaulx and Ampleforth Abbeys.

The theme for the week, "From Generation to Generation," enabled participants to gain a better understanding of our place in God's family, and to be challenged to hand on our faith, particularly through the talents and skills given us, in Music. This gathering and this theme should make us celebrate the solidarity we share, if at times we are tempted to lose heart.

The opportunity to share, and possibly retain, or adopt new ideas for our own parishes was evident. As worship is integral to our lives as church musicians, it was fitting that it occupied a central place during the Summer School. We could not help but be enriched by the different services and music, which posed the challenge of tackling new forms of liturgy and musical styles.

We had many opportunities to prepare musically for each act of worship through rehearsals, many of which were in York Minster (awesome) and which were also used for new teaching elements delivered, through works prepared and sung, e.g. with organ, instrumental, acoustic music and 'a cappella', as well as conducting skills for musical directors. Plenary sessions and workshops were many and varied, while individual tuition e.g. in organ, conducting, starting a choir, (e.g. children or adults), administration and advertising, were also available.

The keynote address by Andrew Reid, President of RSCM, focused on the regeneration of music in our worship, through networking and paying attention to other instruments in helping to build up the Church in Faith. The idea is to offer a positive alternative in today's society in order to serve others in the wider community in which we live. Andrew, in his opening remarks said that "Our aim must be to let go and listen, to show love and compassion, and to offer the best resources as we know them today." RSCM therefore, needs to remain open to other approaches and share the vision of worship and pass on our musical knowledge as models.

By creating the next generation of choristers not being judgemental of younger members, and being confident and comfortable with our vision and commitment, through regularity of worship and our love of bringing new and younger people as fellow pilgrims with us, we have a role as mentors as we age, rather than questioning God's purpose, but instead, moving with the times.

Sessions included during the week, ranged from

- 1) Recruitment for children's choirs with parental support and to include people from all faiths.
- 2) Men and boy's choirs - and to vary the rehearsal format eg with treats, outings - a good idea for non-sporty students.
- 3) Publicity - grants, interviews (e.g. radio, T.V.), print media, photos etc. Use made of Social Media.
- 4) Organ - books available for pedal and manual bass e.g. "Complete Church Organ" - Daniel Moulton (RSCM)
- 5) Singing in Church, which creates community and uplifts people, bringing them together in the power of God's presence and His Holy Spirit.

The success of a choir's contribution is to have the music section well managed, i.e.

- plan ahead.
- meet with the Parish Priest
- have a tea/coffee after the service to interact between choir and congregation.
- inspire and stimulate others to join.
- visit other choirs/church services
- have variety in the music
- be positive with the choristers.

Other resources include "Songs for Life" and "Voice for Life", both RSCM publications.

There were delegates from Australia including Dr Ray Booth from the Archdiocese in Adelaide, SA and Chairman of RSCM, (SA branch), along with other representatives from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Although the days were long - 7.30am - 10pm, the overall experience was very rewarding and educational in terms of the on-going future and well-being of the Church, and the part played by its music.

Janet Sheehan



Pass it on

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:3NIV)

So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.(2 Thessalonians 2:15 NIV)

Sin, repentance and remorse

If we cannot repent, we are still in darkness. Without godly sorrow there can be no repentance. If there is no repentance there is no salvation.

People who don't care anymore and just go on sinning are in a very dangerous place. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and brings us to a place of repentance. It is only the person who knows forgiveness, can live in that continued repentance, knowing that forgiveness of the work of the cross where Christ died for our sins.

The sorrow of the world produces death. Remorse is: you can admit what you have done wrong, that you're sorry you've got caught, you even can say you're disgusted with yourself.

Repentance causes you to cry out to the Lord for forgiveness and cleansing.

God hears and will never turn away a repentant heart. God loved David, as he sinned a great sin; he then came to repentance through the revelation of God's word through the prophet Nathan. God called him a man after His own heart. As recorded in 2 Samuel 12:1-25.

Once we have been forgiven, let us be careful to live in repentance, as we walk by the Spirit, not gratifying the works of the flesh, being thoughts, words and deeds that do not glorify God. But display life in Jesus.

The wrong understanding of sin and law

Some think that after the cross they have no sin. Sin is not finished now, but condemnation is finished now, for those who are in Christ Jesus.

"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:54b-57)

The Law was unable to save us because of the weakness in our sinful nature but God gave His Son as a sacrifice for our sins, so that the just requirement of the Law would be fully satisfied for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

The Law given to us through Moses is not finished; the commandments are still relevant today. The teaching of the Old Testament is still important as it points us to Jesus. The Bible is all of God's revelation to us, it is His story!

The devil *is still* active now

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are." (1 Peter 5:8-9)

"We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one" (1 John 5:18)

"For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night." (Revelation 12:10b)

A new way of living in the Spirit read Romans 8

Through the Cross, we died to the power of the law which brings death, guilt, condemnation.

For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code. (Romans 7:5-6)

God's law reveals our sin

What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." (Romans 7:7 NIV)

"Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. (Romans 7:7 NLT)

But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. (Romans 7:12)

The law is good but sin in my sinful nature used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death and show us how terrible sin really is.

Struggling with sin

Paul did: "So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power

within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin." (Romans 7:14-25)

Martin Luther said "we are simultaneously sinners and saints"

The Apostle John said: "If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts." (1 John 1:8-10)

My Front Door, an illustration

On waking up one morning I went to greet the morning. I bent down to remove the door sock (which kept out draughts, flying insects, bugs, spiders, millipedes etc., hopefully!)

As I stood up again I saw a black line on the white door. I had to put my glasses on and a 4" long and $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick garden slug came into focus. It was the biggest slug I've ever seen. How did it get there on the inside of the clean white door? I was reminded of the sinful nature still on the inside of the person.

God's Holy love brought me joy and comfort when addressing some wrong understanding of law, sin and evil. When you are aware of your own sin and cry to God in repentance you are a holy person and know God's forgiveness. Jesus is the door back to the garden. We live in the penultimate, not the ultimate in glory, fully redeemed.

"And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)" (Romans 8:23-25)

This shows that Paul was groaning and other believers also. For further reference on future glory see Romans 8:18-30.

Even though we don't have sinless perfection the more we see we're not perfect we need not stop there but see how much we have been forgiven and loved.

Christine McLean
November 24th 2013

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Editor's Note.

Thank you to all who contribute. It is you that make this Edition what it is. I just arrange the pieces. I would encourage writers to continue to submit articles that would provide information about life in our parish and would spur one another on toward love and good deeds and encourage one another. These articles could be left at the church office, or

email to brentonmclean1@gmail.com

Brenton McLean, Editor