**From The President**

As we look at today's world, we may lament what we see and hear and can easily become despondent. The level of darkness we observe could lead us to say, 'I don't know where all this is going to end!' However, **the only reason we are able to recognize the darkness is because The Light has already come and we seek to walk in that Light.**

- Isaiah 9/2b “Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them the light has shone.”
- John 16/33 – “Take heart – I have overcome the world.”
- John 3/16 It is His world and He loves it and everyone in it.

At the last AGM, CCR Brisbane adopted the theme from John 4/34-35 which tells us that the harvest is ripe and ready. This same Scripture was quoted in Rome at the 50 year celebrations. It is accepted that now is a time of harvest so someone has done the planting and laborers are needed to bring in the harvest. **Because the light has already shone on the darkness, the task of bringing in the harvest has been made easy by Jesus in the power of the Spirit.**

- So, to what part of His field are we individually being called?
- What is the message of love we are being asked to deliver and where?
- What is the new path each of us is being called to walk?”

These are questions we individually have to answer and there will be plenty of challenges. It is His harvest, so **let us pray to the Lord of the harvest to give each of us the inspiration to discern the path we are to walk in the world in order to draw others into the Light and to fulfil His mission in our time and place.**

*Len Airey, President.*
Catholic Charismatic Renewal Brisbane operates Healing Prayer Centres at Northgate and Jindalee under the auspice of our Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Since the inception of this ministry in 2014, over 400 prayer appointments have been made for those seeking healing prayer.

The purpose of this ministry is to provide prayer for those seeking healing in physical, emotional and spiritual areas of their lives.

Judith MacNutt, of Christian Healing Ministries explains this, ‘Memories can either strengthen or weaken us. If we do not deal with painful memories properly, we become captive to them and their pain. God has the power to drain the poison, shame and crippling effects from our memories. He does not erase the memory, for it really did happen and is part of our past: He simply transforms it so that the memory loses its power to cripple us in the present’.

Jesus came to set the captives free (Isaiah 61:1) and through the power of the Holy Spirit, recipients are set free to recognize their true selves as God created them to be. In this process, they also recognize who they are as part of the body of Christ, the Church, and are enabled to come to the fullness of faith; this is a ministry of journeying with another person whereby God, in the power of his love and mercy releases an individual to understand who they are in Christ.

Many prayer recipients have witnessed that this ministry has been of great benefit to them.

The two witnesses included in this edition, ‘Testimony to Healing Prayer’ and ‘The Real Presence’ have been written by recipients who are grateful and wanting to give glory to God for the healing that they have received.

This ministry seeks to serve our Brisbane Archdiocese and is available by appointment only. To make an appointment for prayer:
Phone 0432 968 892
Email prayercentre@ccrbrisbane.org.au

There is no charge for an appointment but donations are accepted.

I invite you to ring and make an appointment today!

Every blessing,
Jenny McCormack (Coordinator of the CCR Healing Prayer Centres)
Testimony to Healing Prayer

I had been finding everyday life very difficult for a couple of years. During the day I was tired and fatigued, but when night came, I lay awake unable to sleep. I always felt too distracted to enjoy anything. I was easily frustrated and anxious, and often upset that I couldn’t be the wife and mother that I had imagined. Going to Mass and spending time at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament were helpful, but praying longer than a couple of sentences was impossible, as my mind was unable to focus on the prayer.

Eventually, the depression and confusion lifted slightly and I was able to reach out to health professionals, and they picked up my health drastically. However, I became impatient to feel myself again, so I booked into healing prayer through CCR Brisbane Healing Prayer Centres. I prepared myself for the appointment, praying to God that he would give me healing and help me to open my heart to be receptive to his message and power.

The healing prayer appointment was wonderful. God led us in the direction to listen and explore so that the healing was focused to where it was most needed.

I was stuck in the past. It was as though I had blinkers on to all the beauty around me.

I prayed a forgiveness prayer, asking God to forgive me, forgiving all the people who had hurt me in my life, and most of all, I chose to forgive myself. Then God revealed that He wanted to show me how He sees me. So I closed my eyes and waited. The vision was so beautiful that it made me smile. Then the Holy Spirit healed me. My body was lighter and I felt that I was almost floating.

Now, my mind feels clearer and I have so much more energy. Everyday tasks are easier and more enjoyable. I feel like myself again. Through the healing prayer, God washed away my guilt and hurt from the past. As new worries arise and get stuck in my head, I pray an adapted version of the forgiveness prayer and I remember the vision that the Lord sent.

Through the healing prayer ministry, God showed me that I don’t need to be ‘perfect’; God absolved me of that requirement when He laid down His life through His Son.

I think that I always knew that God loved me - but now I FEEL it. It’s like my faith has moved from my head to my heart. Jesus is so close to us and He wants goodness for us. His mercy for us is overflowing and He wants us to receive it!

THE REAL PRESENCE

After a number of weeks being unable to barely walk and in constant pain (due to cancer) I was getting pretty fed up. I felt like my prayers weren’t being heard, I was weary, scared, desperate but this particular Sunday was feeling annoyed even disappointed and a bit angry.

After all, I was keeping my prayers going, trusting in The Lord and waiting for a miracle, but nothing was happening....of course the old enemy of doubt creeps in, along with his mate despair!

So there I was at mass...it was a hot day, I was in pain, sitting throughout mass, due to not being able to stand from the cancer...I even had a walking stick! I wasn’t really paying all that much attention to be honest....just moaning to myself about my misery!

But then when the time came where we say “We lift up our hearts to Lord”.....Well all of a sudden I had this overwhelming feeling....."You’re here Jesus, You’re right here now,” I just felt it and said, “I’m in your presence - I cannot not be healed.” I was almost at tears realizing my Lord was here, right now. I can’t explain the amazing feeling of His presence...I could feel Him looking at me! I then had heat go down through my legs to my toes....a warming feeling like hot water being poured slowly over me! I thought, “I’m being healed, it’s My Lord, it’s My Lord.”

Well, I walked out of church, better than I had gone in and went to Coles to do shopping with my husband.....no walking stick and no pain - we couldn’t believe what was happening. We were rejoicing! This happened on Epiphany Sunday! The Lord told my husband in mass - that the Holy Spirit is in everything.....and to look for Him in me! No darkness can live where the Holy Spirit is!

The Lord is there at every mass, we must remember He’s there, the real presence! Next time you go to mass, remember He’s there, He really is! Maybe you will feel Him too...He’s waiting to pour out gifts to you. Believe, believe, believe! Miracles happen to those who believe in them! Praise The Lord!
My name is Betty Graver and I am looking to find someone to assist me in the raising of funds and supplying aid to this Charity.

St Teresa Home for Orphans is in Janneram, Adilabad, India. There are approximately 75 children in the home ranging ages of 3 years to 13 years. They are the poorest of poor and Jesus truly loves them. Over the years, God, in His generosity, has enabled me to send much needed financial assistance, some of which was so charitably donated.

I'm having a stall to raise funds at St Patrick's Church, 24 Tobruk St, Beenleigh After the 6pm Mass Sat 21st April. Also 7am & 9am Mass Sun 22nd April.

In addition to this, I am hoping to visit the Children's Home in India in Sept. 2018, however I am 84 years old and I need someone to travel with me. Are you that someone.......?

PLEASE PRAY for the Lord’s work and continued success of aiding this charity.

CAN YOU HELP???
You can contact me at PO Box 2075 Beenleigh, QLD, Australia. 4207 Mobile: 0439 791 133

C.C.R. BARDON OUTREACH

St. Mary Magdalene’s Church, Cecil Road, Bardon
PRAYER MEETING EVERY FRI. at 7:45PM FOR 8:00PM START
1st Friday – Healing Eucharist
2nd Friday – Praise, Worship & Prayer Meeting
3rd Friday – Prayer Meeting with Benediction
4th & 5th Fridays – Praise/Worship/Prayer Mtg.

PRAYER TEAMS AVAILABLE EACH FRIDAY
Explanation Talks given as requested. Regular “New Life in God’s Spirit” SEMINARS.
“This Promise is for You” SEMINARS

HEALING RETREAT DAYS AS REQUESTED
HOSTING VISITING SPEAKERS

Everyone is very welcome!

For more details, please contact Miriam
secretary@ccrbrisbane.org.au

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress…”
JAMES 1:27
From Sr. Carmel pvbm.

How is Lent going for you? Remember that the word “Lent” means “Spring” so what do we associate with Spring?

For me, it is like that fresh feeling we have when we are not all rugged up against the cold and can move more easily; when the freedom of movement is something to be used and enjoyed.

So what has this to do with Lent?

First of all it is about shedding all the extra weight of all that wraps me up in myself. More easily said than done!

You know, I really do want to listen to Jesus - but there are all those other things that I can hang on to; those other things that can take all my time and energy so that taking time to listen to Jesus and to follow his suggestions just doesn’t really get a look in.

Not that it is even about following suggestions as much as stopping all the activity - important and all as it might be – and just being still with the Lord and enjoying his company.

There is that haunting verse in John’s Gospel where Pilate asks, “Shall I crucify your King?” They answer back, “We have no king but Caesar.” (Jn 19:15-16)

So who is my king? Who or what takes my first choice? What do I prefer to do rather than choose to deepen my relationship with Jesus? How well do I know Him? Do I really know Him? Or do I just know about Him? To be honest, is He is really just there on the sidelines?

Lord, please keep calling to me.
Show me what those things or people are that keep me wrapped up in my own will rather than responding to Your love.
Help me to choose You above all other attractions, whims and wishes.
I love You, Jesus, my love above all things.
I repent with my whole heart for having offended You.
Never permit me to separate myself from You again.
Grant that I may love You always, and then do with me what You will.

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In recent books, Abshp. Christopher Prowse and Fr. Jeffrey Kirby present different perspectives on prayer. Abshp. Prowse, in a small beautifully illustrated book, models a process for meditating on certain “silent moments” in our experiences. By coming into an inner stillness he encourages readers to listen with the heart to the Holy spirit deep within. Each meditation given by Abshp. Prowse illustrates an authentic experience from his life or his pastoral ministry. The characteristics of prayer as stated by St Therese are evident in the meditative experiences described by Abshp. Prowse.

Prayer in times of silence is not a human invention, but for the baptized it is an intimate response to God in faith and trust. The Holy spirit’s presence of love and mercy deep within is a Presence which evokes “silent listening to God.” As we remain in attentive stillness, which the Abshp. describes as “silent listening,” the Holy Spirit draws us into moments of prayerful encounter with Jesus.” Often times we may respond with expressions of gratitude and spontaneous joy and praise as our hearts are uplifted. “In such moments, there can be inner union with Jesus,” Abshp. Prowse states, “and a sense of deep inner peace.” He invites us, therefore, to “befriend the silences in our lives,” as precious opportunities for enriching our relationship with God “by developing a deeper prayer life.”

Some of the silences he explores, are those of nature; the ageing years; the stillness of bedside waiting; prayer and ritual in Church liturgy; and visits to prisoners. Abshp. Prowse writes in a conversational genre where his deep experiences of prayer are transparent and engage the reader immediately.

Fr. Kirby has worked often with young adults and written books on living the beatitudes and also on mercy and salvation history. His aim in “Lord, Teach Us to Pray” is to guide the reader through Catholic teaching on the spiritual life and to indicate the importance of prayer as a pathway to strengthening the interior life. He draws on life experiences to support and give clarity to his teachings and constantly justifies his explanations using Scripture, Church tradition and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Shortly after offering the first Mass after his ordination he reflected on the request made by Jesus’ disciples, “Lord Teach us to Pray.” (Luke 11:1) He concluded that teaching was necessary on the connection between discipleship and commitment to prayer. His material is catechetical in its focus and presented inn three parts.

In Part One, he teaches the importance of Christian baptism and the obligation of the baptized to come to understand the identity of Jesus as Lord. Through baptism, we are called into discipleship through prayer, the Church and the Christian community.

In Part Two, Fr. Kirby points to conversion of life and growth in virtue, as determinants in the life of a Christian disciple as he discusses the need for the disciple to model their life on the teachings of Jesus.

Perseverance in prayer, he insists, is vital to growth in relationship with Jesus.

In Part Three, “To Pray” importantly focuses on several aspects of prayer and includes teachings on the importance of the Eucharist and the Christian community. The different ways of praying that he describes show how the human spirit at prayer captures movements identified by St. Therese.

Prayer and its place in building relationship with God is the common theme of the two books. Both authors also draw attention to the necessity of quiet time set aside for prayer and silent reflection.

Available from St Paul’s book Centre, Elizabeth St., Brisbane.

Barbara Flynn
Important Dates 2018

MARCH

28  Southern Region Mass 6.45pm
    St Bernard’s Church,
    Upper Mt Gravatt

APRIL

1    EASTER SUNDAY
13   Our Lady of Fatima Devotion 7pm
    St. Paul’s Church (Sunnybank PG)
    Woodridge
25   ANZAC Day
    Southern Region Mass 6.45pm
    St Bernard’s Church,
    Upper Mt Gravatt

MAY

13   Our Lady of Fatima Devotion 7pm
    St. Paul’s Church (Sunnybank PG)
    Woodridge
20   Pentecost Celebration with
    Peter Pellicaan 7.30pm
    St Mary Magdalene’s Church,
    Cecil Rd. Bardon
23   Southern Region Mass 6.45pm
    St Bernard’s Church,
    Upper Mt Gravatt

REGULAR MONTHLY GROUP MEETINGS

CBD (Central Business District)
Monthly Prayer Gathering
St. Stephen’s Cathedral
1st Wednesday of each month
10.45am to 12.15pm
(after 10am mass)
Ph Maureen: 0403002199

Our Lady Of Fatima Devotion
St Paul’s Woodridge
(Sunnybank Prayer Group)
Meets on the 13th of each month.

Our Lady of Lourdes
Prayer Group – Sunnybank
SPANISH – Every Saturday 3pm to 5.30pm
ENGLISH – Every 1st & 3rd Saturday
1.30pm to 3pm

Southern Region Mass
St Bernard’s Church
Upper Mt Gravatt 6.45pm
4th Wednesday of each month.

“I’m praying not only for them but also for those who will believe in Me because of them and their witness about Me. The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind—Just as you, Father, are in Me and I in You, so they might be one heart and mind with Us. Then the world might believe that You, in fact, sent Me. The same glory You gave Me, I gave them, so they’ll be as unified and together as We are—I in them and You in Me. Then they’ll be mature in this oneness, and give the godless world evidence that You’ve sent Me and loved them in the same way You’ve loved Me.”
John 17:23
(The Message Bible)
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Thank you for your prayers and support.

CCR Brisbane Executive

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