

**"I must  
proclaim the  
good news  
of the  
kingdom  
of God"**

# Good News

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal  
serving the Church**



**The newsletter of the  
Catholic Charismatic Renewal.  
Melbourne, Australia.  
[www.ccr.org.au](http://www.ccr.org.au)**

## Amazing love produces amazing forgiveness



**Farid and his wife were leaders in the Christchurch mosque for 20 years. She was murdered by the terrorists who attacked the worshippers on 15 March 2019. These are some of his words at the national remembrance ceremony.**

People ask me why did you forgive someone who has killed your beloved wife?

First, I have a faith. I believe in Allah, and Allah says if we forgive one another, he loves me, he loves us.

Also, I don't want to have a heart that is boiling like a volcano. A volcano has anger, fury, rage; it doesn't have peace. It has hatred; it burns itself within, and it burns the surroundings. I don't want to have a heart like this and I believe no one does.

I want a heart that is full of love and care and full of mercy and will forgive lavishly, because this heart doesn't want any more life to be lost... doesn't like the pain I have gone through, that any human being should go through. That's why I have chosen peace, love and I have forgiven.

People have asked me, why do you love him as a human brother? And the answer to this is... we are one single family.

We are human brothers and sisters. How can I hate my human brother? I don't agree with what he has done... probably he has misunderstood the whole thing; probably he has gone through suffering in his life, some traumatic thing has happened and he could not process his suffering in the right

way. I don't support his action, but I cannot deny he is my human brother. Each human being is my brother or sister. This is what Allah taught. I cannot hate him. I cannot hate anyone.

I would like to say a couple of words for humanity. We all want peace. We say that we want peace. But we have to start from somewhere. We have to start cleaning our own heart first.

We have to change our attitude. If our heart is full of love then peace will start from here. Each one of us has responsibility from wherever we are to at least start from our heart.

We have to change our attitude. Our attitude should be that we are one family, regardless of faith, religion, culture and language.

In the garden there are different types of flowers, but together they make a beautiful garden. We must be like this. I may be a different culture, you are a different culture, I'm a different religion, you're a different religion, but together we are one garden.

May Allah guide us towards peace, safety and security, and may Allah make New Zealand peaceful and the whole world peaceful.



# ACROSS MY DESK

By LENYCE WILLASON

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The deadline for the next issue of *Good News* is  
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## ***'The rush of violent wind'*** (Act 2:2)

Have you ever stood out on one of those violently windy  
days and asked the Holy Spirit, "was that what the first  
Pentecost was like?" I have and have stood silently  
remembering the first time I encountered the Holy Spirit.

It was at a Leaders conference held in Canberra and I was with many  
others in a praise and worship session when I felt a strong wind blowing  
all around me. I turned around asking, "who turned the fans on?" My  
companions told me no one had (it being the middle of winter!) and  
to turn back as it was the Holy Spirit! That memory has never left me  
consequently, I often stand in the strong wind to recall the event praying  
that every person could experience the Holy Spirit.

In his Pentecost homily (2018) Pope Francis spoke of the "rush of  
violent wind" stating that it is an image that suggests change and force.  
In focusing on the readings of the day our Pope spoke of the way in  
which the timid hearts of the apostles were transformed from timid  
men "huddled behind closed doors" to bold men who "bear witness to  
Jesus". (Jn 15:27)

The Holy Spirit is the power of God and the "giver of life". How good  
would it be for each of us to feel this type of jolt every day! The Holy  
Spirit is the helper that Jesus promised us, and he can (and has)  
penetrated many unimaginable situations to bring peaceful resolutions.  
What annoys me most is the insistence in some areas of the Church  
that the Holy Spirit came once to breath life into the beginnings of the  
church. The Acts of the Apostles reveal that not to be true. I have heard  
it said that this book of the bible should be called "the actions of the Holy  
Spirit" and each person who has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit  
could probably add new chapters.

The Church was birthed by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and  
we still need His spiritual energy and supernatural power today, in fact,  
what is needed is a mighty revival. Are you excited or concerned about  
the concept of revival? What is your own understanding of the word  
'revival'? My understanding of 'revival' is taken from the Hebrew word  
which contains the idea of God bending down to the dying embers of a  
fire and breathing into them till they burst into flame. In true revival the  
outpouring of God's spirit is so powerful, extraordinary and awesome  
that whole communities are affected, and the Spirit rests upon the  
people for months, if not years. True revival has three features: a  
palpable sense of God's presence, a deep desire to be rid of all sin and  
a powerful impact on the outside community<sup>1</sup>. One objection to revival  
is that because the Spirit came in power on the day of Pentecost and  
has been at work in the Church since, there is no need to pray for a  
repetition of those events. Those who hold this view somehow miss  
how the Spirit came upon people with tremendous power, not only at  
Pentecost but subsequently also. The lives of the saints reveal this.

How desperately we need to heed the words from Scripture... "if my  
people would humble themselves and pray and seek my face... then I will  
hear from heaven..." (2 Chron 7: 11-22). Let us begin by humbly confessing  
that even with all our cutting-edge technology and techniques we are  
powerless to produce revival on our own, and unless God hears from  
heaven it will not happen.

*Gracious and loving heavenly Father, breathe on the embers of your  
Church this day – myself included – so that out of the ashes comes a  
new and living flame. This I ask in Jesus' loving name. Amen.*

<sup>1</sup>Every Day With Jesus – Selwyn Hughes Jan/Feb 2019. Used with permission.

# GIFTS OF TONGUES AND REVELATION

By BAN WEE



Recently in Melbourne ICCRS launched the Charism School. We were privileged to experience excellent teachings from Deacon Christof Hemberger from Germany and Ann Brereton from Australia. I have selected two of these Charisms to expand on.

## Gift of Tongues

Christof Hemberger started his talk by stressing **that the gift of tongues is the door opener for the other gifts**. John Vaughan-Neil defined tongues as “a very powerful form of prayer in which you allow the Holy Spirit to pray aloud in you.” Dr Heinrich C. Rust defined tongues (glossolalia) as “the gift to communicate before and with God in a language being given by the Holy Spirit that someone has not learned.” This gift uses the normal voice but is given by the Holy Spirit in a language that the person has not learnt. It is the Holy Spirit doing it not the person.

No two persons pray in tongues the same way. Some people may have the erroneous idea that by copying others they may get the same anointing as others. This is not so as it is the Spirit that is speaking through us and our intellect is not involved. We don't need to understand what we say when we pray in tongues. In rare occasions we may be given the interpretation of what has been said in tongues. Sometimes somebody else understands what the other person is praying. This is a special gift from the Lord. Other times the person may be praying in a known language but this is not the normal for that person.

Christof told the story of a woman hindered by the guards from entering Palestine by talking to her in Arabic. She thought she would do the same and speak back in a foreign tongue. She started answering them in tongues. Then they let her go through. They told her subsequently that she was speaking in their Arabic dialect so she was one of them. In this situation she had only to open her mouth and let the Spirit speak through her.

Tongues does not displace praying in our own native language nor does it render it second rate. Praying in tongues does not mean all the other form of prayer is less worthy. It is a gift that supplements us and comes to its own when our ordinary language fails us. Christof said he usually starts praying in tongues when he does not know what to pray for. It helps to express what is in our heart. Praying in tongues is not an ecstatic experience as the Holy Spirit does not take control over our speech or force us to do something we do not want to do. We are always in control.

It is one of the three normal gifts associated with believers mentioned by Jesus in *Mk 16:17-18*. In *Acts 2* the disciples spoke in foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech during Pentecost - the gift of tongues is the first gift. Exercising the gift of tongues must be the norm for the early Christians as the bible mentions tongues many times. Unlike the other gifts, this is the only gift available to anyone who asks for it.

The purpose of the gift of tongues is to build up the Kingdom of God. This gift can be used in the prayer of praise, joy and exaltation. It allows the Holy Spirit to express what is in our hearts and goes beyond human words. The fruit of praying in tongues is the building of our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to strengthen our faith. Praying in tongues can refresh us and build us up. It is also a prayer of petition and intercession especially when we do not know the actual situation or needs. The Spirit knows what He is praying for. It is also a weapon against temptation and for spiritual warfare. Tongues opens our heart to God's word, giving new understanding. Gift of tongues is the key to open up the power in other gifts. This is the only gift that is permanent.

We open ourselves to this gift by asking the Holy Spirit to help us to yield our voices to Him and then allow him to pray in us. Expect something to happen when we wait silently, in the quietness of our heart, for the Holy Spirit to respond. Christof said, “When prompted, speak out! As and when you feel a physical urging by the Holy Spirit to speak out, just do so. Just surrender your speech to Him, allowing your tongue and your lips to move and making sound with your voice.” Some people do not pray in tongues because they have the wrong idea of needing to wait for something to overcome them. You need to start saying something aloud and then let the Holy Spirit lead you on how and what to pray for.. When praying over people for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Christof suggested that we should include a prayer for the outpouring of the gift of tongues.

What to do if nothing happens? First of all it is not your fault. Maybe something is blocking you so ask the Holy Spirit to show what is hindering you from being used by Him. When praying in tongues, focus on the Lord and not what you are saying. Do not compare your tongues with others. If you are uncertain of your tongues, pray with a leader to get confirmation of its authenticity. Pray regularly in tongues, and use the gift in every situation.

There are 3 ways on how to pray in tongues.

1. Glossolalia –usual way when someone speaking and praying in tongues in a language he does not know but mainly given for praise, intercession and edification.
2. There is also xenoglossia – someone speaking in a language he does not know but being understood by another person in a known language mainly given for the evangelization and conversion of people.
3. If someone is prophesying to a group in a language he does not know or understand – then there is a need to wait for an interpretation. Interpretation is normally the result of a prompting. When we are learning to use the gifts, if there are more than one interpretation given, we determine the right interpretation by looking at the fruit.

## Gifts of Revelation/Inspiration

This talk by Christof is a general introduction to the gifts of revelation and inspiration which are sometimes called prophetic gifts.

**Continued on pages 7,8 and 11**



*“If you are  
not willing  
to be the fool,  
you are  
ready to be  
the tool!”*



Catherine Cavanagh

# ICCRS Charism School

## 27-31 March 2019

By CATHERINE CAVANAGH

This first Charism School was held at the offices of the Melbourne Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR). The leaders for the weekend were Deacon Christof Hemberger from Germany, who is the current vice-present of ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services) and Ann Brereton who is an ICCRS Council member representing Australia/Oceania.

Deacon Christof Hemberger began by explaining that in the Acts of the Apostles and in the lives of those touched by God on the Duchesne weekend in 1967 we see charisms in operation. All of them received charisms when they were baptised in the Holy Spirit. Despite these gifts to the Church from our generous God always being present since the beginning and throughout the history of the Church (we see lots of evidence in the lives of the Saints) there is little official teaching on the subject, and only a few mentions in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

What is new in our day is the emphasis of the charisms being for the whole church, and for public ministry. As a church during the last century we have been rediscovering the charisms. They are freely given gifts by God that cannot be paid for or earned. They are God working in us, e.g. He is the healer. We are only the instruments He uses.

They are not a measure of holiness; they are given to every Christian, and are to be eagerly desired. They are given by the Holy Spirit for the building up of the church, and as aids for the purpose of evangelization. The gifts are of great variety and need to be discerned and co-ordinated, and not blocked by leadership. The gifts are always for service to the others, and go hand in hand with the proclamation of the Gospel.

The hierarchical and charismatic gifts are part of the Church and we need both types of gifts working together. The letter *Iuvenescit Ecclesia* to the Bishops of the Catholic Church regarding the Relationship Between Hierarchical and Charismatic Gifts in the Life and the Mission of the Church: (See [http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc\\_con\\_cfaith\\_doc\\_2016051](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_2016051))

The fruits of the charisms of the Holy Spirit, *Gal 5:22-23*, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness etc are a package deal. When the charisms are used you don't just see one fruit e.g. joy, but you see them all. The fruits are the consequence of the Holy Spirit living and moving in us, and they are far more than emotions and something we should see growing and developing. We cannot create these fruits by ourselves, only the Holy Spirit can.

Charisms are not natural gifts like writing, listening, painting etc. Charisms may build upon these natural talents, but they are not the same. The sanctifying gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in *Isaiah 11* (wisdom, understanding, courage etc) are given at baptism and confirmation to every Christian. They are not charisms, but they are gifts given for the purpose of growth in holiness.

The charisms fall into 4 broad categories:

- **Gifts of inspiration/revelation:** Tongues, Discernment of spirits, Prophecy, Dreams and Visions, Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Interpretation of Tongues, Inspired Songs, Reading of Hearts
- **Gifts of ministry:** Service/Helps, Teaching, Exhortation, Leadership, Administration, Mercy, Apostleship Hospitality, Intercession, Contributing/Generosity, Evangelisation, Preaching
- **Gifts of power:** Faith, Healing, Miracles, Exorcism/Deliverance
- **Other gifts** (celibacy, voluntary poverty, martyrdom)

We are encouraged to be open at all times for the Holy Spirit to activate any charism He wants. Let Him use whichever human instrument He chooses for the task of grace in another person's life that is required. It is the Holy Spirit who works in us, and He has all the charisms. We need to pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit again and again. We never own a charism, ever. We may see patterns of the Holy Spirit using particular

charisms in us regularly, but we never know when it is the will of God for the Holy Spirit to use this charism in us next time. Leaders have the duty and responsibility to help people mature in the charisms.

### Co-operating with the Charisms

Deacon Christof Hemberger quoted from the *Catechism*: CCC 799: Charisms are given to build up the Church and meet the needs of the people. He explained that the use of the charisms is not an obligation but a duty. Having right attitudes is important:

- Depend fully on God. Do not be ashamed
- Remember it is God moving in and through you
- The charisms are to give glory to God, not to ourselves, not even a teeny bit
- Be open to growing in maturity in the use of the charisms
- Be ready to be the 'fool of the day'
- Be both humble and courageous/brave
- Do not say, I am too young, too inexperienced, too old, too...
- Pray, 'Here I am Lord, use me, I am your servant'

Examine your motives. If we are honest, we would admit that 'just a tiny bit of the glory would be very nice'. He is the Lord, we are the servants. Have the courage to pray, 'May Your Will be done in heaven, on earth and in my life'.

Even those who have been used by God in this way for decades know that they still have much to learn, we always have more to learn, we will never know everything about them. If you are not willing to be the fool, you will not be ready to be the tool.

Sometimes the message God instructs us to give is uncomfortable e.g. Jonah called to preach repentance to Nineveh, but we must trust the Holy Spirit and be obedient. The soil of our lives must be good for the charisms to work properly. This means reading the Word of God/Bible, listening to God in prayer, being in community with other Christians, having an outward evangelical focus, and a trusted source of mentorship/advice. We don't need to be perfect to be used by God, just available to Him. God equips those He calls.

Things that limit the Holy Spirit:

- Misconceptions about God
- Not being open to God acting in new ways
- Disobedience to what He has asked us to do
- When our focus is on mind thoughts or emotions and not on Him
- Neglecting to make opportunities for prayer ministry to others.

Charisms need to be -

- **received** – pray for something to happen, ask for it, you don't have to wait for an expert
- **recognised** – don't wait for an official letter from heaven,

recognition won't come that way

- **trained** – be open to grow in head and heart knowledge, through experience and conversation
- **used** – this is the most important
- **confirmed** – encourage those whose use of a charism touched you, this recognition and encouragement of charisms in individuals can be done by prayer groups and communities as well.

Ann Brereton taught on the instructions Jesus gave when sending out the 72 disciples (*Luke 10: 1-10*). She urged us to ask the Lord to send labourers into His harvest. The 72 are sent out, and they minister as they go. They were not sent out to go home and sit on a rock and wait for people to come to them. We have to both move and do. Are you willing to be a labourer?

Go in pairs. You need to be connected in some way to someone else or to a community. Be wary, it won't be a picnic and it will often be uncomfortable. No extra provisions. Don't be burdened by any lack of qualifications you feel. Extend your blessings - share the Holy Spirit within you with others. Be content to share the Word of God where you are received and/or planted. When generosity is offered, accept it, say thank you and don't be fussy. Heal the sick.

Your message is that the kingdom of God has come near, it is here. People need to see, hear and experience it.

Things that will help:

- Daily Scripture
- Time with Him
- Reflecting upon the humility of Jesus
- Surrender to the Holy Spirit

All daily interactions with others can be opportunities to use and live the charisms. 'Lord, use me today, please'.

Common obstacles:

- Lack of knowledge and/or experience
- Is it really God? How do I know, how do I discern? Try, and see if the fruit is good
- Fear of making mistakes and being wrong
- We will not be perfect from day one. Start small and with friends. Often we learn more from our mistakes than from anything else
- Fear of rejection and negative reactions from others. This is very normal. Knowing who the Lord is and knowing our identity as loved sons and daughters of God is the best way to counteract these fears

All in attendance were challenged - When someone asks you; 'Who are you?' Do you answer with your occupation? Or do you answer with your name? And do you add something personal about yourself?

Attributed to Nelson Mandela, but actually by Marianne Williamson: 'Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

**Continued on page 10**

Dear past reiki student,

It has been a while since I attuned you to reiki. After practising for 20 years, I have had a deep revelation about reiki, and no longer practice, receive or believe it to be of healing benefit. Since I taught you reiki and attuned you, in the mistaken belief that it was a true, God-given healing modality, I feel great responsibility. I am sharing with you my personal experience, in the hope that you pray for the truth to be revealed to you about reiki, and make your own informed choice.

I was devoted to reiki and devastated when I discovered that it is not the essence of what I believed it was. I had passed it on and shared it with many people and raised my children surrounded with its energy, believing it to be full of love and light. The hidden truth I have discovered is that Reiki is not from God. It is NOT God's energy. Reiki opens you up to other "energies" that you cannot discern or possibly protect yourself from, **no matter what manner of protection you use**. In using reiki you have opened a portal for "energy beings" to come and go as they wish. The only protection from this is by Jesus' name.

As you know, Reiki was originally discovered by Mikao Usui when he began a quest to discover how Jesus healed. Jesus is God, not a mere man that received powers from the "universe". Usui may have found the method, but he lost the power and truth by assuming the method could be uprooted from its unique source; Jesus.

The healing power of laying on of hands comes from God, and to wield it and channel it without honouring its creator, Jesus is akin to stealing electricity from a transmitter thinking we have the right and ability to hold it. We even believe we are pure enough to have it flow untainted through us. The biggest lie about reiki though is equating universal life force to the creative force of God's energy, without honouring God in any way. There is no prayer of acknowledgement, of asking or thanking or humbling to Jesus for making his creative life force available to us. And why? Because reiki is not from God. We cannot wield God's creative life force as a healing energy without His almighty power and grace. And why would he bestow this gift on us to use when we don't even name him as the source? Cutting off the method like this from the divine being it was living within is an act of spiritual defiance of the holy one, whether ignorant of his reality or not. This is the defiance which is inherent in Reiki, and spiritual defiance is a dark domain to enter into.

Reiki is an occult healing modality full of symbols, drawing in numerous energies, and certainly not governed or protected by God. The names of the symbols are the names of spirits. The master symbol, which is part of the attunement process is called Dai Ko Myo, which means bright shining one. The same description is used in the bible to describe Lucifer. The symbols drawn around you in the attunement process and which you would have been taught in reiki 2, I now understand to be spells invoking spirits. Any practice like reiki, where you must be initiated

or activated into methods cut off from Jesus, is being led to accept occult powers from Lucifer, not from God. "And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray." (Matthew 24:11 ESV)

I'm so sorry I attuned you to this. I was deceived myself and unknowingly shared with you what I believed was a beautiful healing modality. Now I know that it is a false deception and can lead you down a path of darkness disguised as light. **There is no true healing that can come from reiki**. It gives permission for unknown energies to pretend they are of healing purpose but who in fact are the opposite. (Jn 10:1 ESV)

In the bible that thief is Satan, who gives you your hearts' carnal desires so that you can hold power without following God, and reduces God to an energy or source instead of our Creator. Reiki connects you to numerous spiritual beings, who are none other than demons; fallen angels. Reiki opens spiritual doorways in your life serving other gods and leading you far away from your Creator God and Jesus. Jesus did not heal in this way. Jesus healed because he was fully man, and fully God, and always drew upon his deep connection to God the Father.

It is God and God alone who heals. The power is never ours to be had without giving glory to Jesus, just as he never used it without giving glory to God. And Jesus healed out of divine love, not just medical urgency which is a kind of materialism. He healed in order not just to demonstrate love, but to enable people to see and hear that even more important than health was to be spiritually connected and in relationship with the source of love, the one true God. Love is the goal, not health. (John 14:12-13, 15 ESV)

For me, since renouncing reiki and all other new age practices, I have become a Christian. Not in the sense that you think you know. I thought I knew what being a Christian meant before as well, as I had grown up in Catholicism, but really, it doesn't even skim the surface. Compared to the old conservative Christian ideology, true Christianity has the depth of knowledge and relationship with God that is only possible to experience through a rich, deep and supernatural relationship with Jesus. Our God is a supernatural God and reigns supreme above all others through all realms. No other self-proclaiming god has made himself manifest and walked as human, and sent out his Holy Spirit amongst his believers as a comforter, advocate, intercessor, counsellor and strengthener.

The promises and hopes of healing in reiki, and energy healing, are false and deceptive and cannot compare to the richness, power and grace given through true healing based on the true promises of Jesus, the highest of the high in the heavenly realms. There is no greater power, love, mercy or healing that can be experienced and shared except through the name and grace of Jesus. Laying on of hands through the power of prayer, in Jesus name is beautiful, compassionate and full of love and grace. Shared in unity with the Holy Spirit through the intent of Thy will be done, laying on of hands in Jesus



name, gives glory to God. True miracles are possible. See *Philippians 2:9 ESV*)

Reiki is like a counterfeit dollar pretending it is true currency. It can never be because it's only a pretender; darkness masquerading as light. In some ways reiki is no worse than the empty religion that reduces God to simple formulas about guilt and some sort of insurance policy for after you die. But the teaching of Jesus, and the wisdom of God conveyed in the Bible, depicts a profound world of spiritual depth, and a profound conflict in the spiritual realms between God and 'the adversary'. There is a fabulous book called "The Unseen Realm" by Michael Heiser, that explores spiritual hierarchy and what's playing out behind the scenes. *"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."* (2 Corinthians 11:14 ESV)

Only through Jesus is there freedom from the deception of new age false light practices, and the rabbit hole of self healing and endless quest of enlightenment. Jesus is the Light of the world. Prayer in Jesus' name connects us to the strongest supernatural force in the universe. There is nothing that comes close. Reiki distant healing is like a false and flimsy house of cards with no sound basis. No matter how purposeful and positive your intent is in sending distant healing to your loved ones, it can do no good. A prayer in Jesus mighty name will call on the most powerful force in the universe; our God and creator. His name is no mere symbol with power, like a tool or appliance from Bunnings to plug in and 'see what this baby can do'. His Name is his being – the only true 'I am'. Why choose any lesser beings to play with?

In the last two years, more and more new age devotees have had a personal experience with Christ and renounced their former practices. There is a Facebook page From New Age to Christianity, and YouTube has many testimonies from ex Newagers, including high profile leaders such as Doreen Virtue and Steven Bancarz. I encourage you to take a look with an open mind. Pray about it. Ask Jesus to reveal the truth to you. Take an honest inventory of your life since doing reiki and discern if it's truly brought you peace.

I feel concern not to judge you but to honour my connection with you and make amends by sharing this, I am happy to meet or chat with you if you would like to. Once again, I'm so sorry for my part in bringing reiki to you. If you want guidance on how to renounce reiki, please let me know, at any time, even if it's months or years from now.

I pray for your peace, wellbeing and restoration of spirit. God bless you all on your journeys.

*"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."* (John 10:27-30 ESV)

Lisa

### **Continued from page 3**

These gifts include Prophecy, the Word of Knowledge, Wisdom and Discernment but there are others including gift of reading of the heart.

**Prophecy** – God reveals the consequences in a certain situation. God speaks of something that is not yet here. He either promises or speaks about what might come. It usually starts with "I am going to..." It is an encouragement to do something or think/pray about something because God reveals what is coming. This is not fortune telling. God is not doing this for us to know the future but God is getting us prepared for something that is to come.

**Word of knowledge** – a picture, bible verse, thoughts, etc that just fit into a particular situation or they are the answer to a question or show the next step to be done. Often those words are confirmation or encouragement to do something. Sometimes they are also insights into the past, present or future that we don't or can't know. Sometimes the word of knowledge is a feeling inside us. God sometimes gives us pictures or word of knowledge in order to help us to understand his will in that situation for a person.

**Wisdom** is an insight on how to solve a certain problem, how to answer a certain question, how to meet a certain need and how to pray for a certain problem in the will of God. Out of our human knowledge we do not know what is right or wrong in a particular situation. Here we can ask for wisdom to help us to decide what is right, help us to do the right things and help us to react the right way.

**Discernment** is all about understanding the motive, understanding whether it is right or wrong, whether it is from me or not from me and whether it is from the devil or not from the devil.

After Pentecost prophecy became a service to the body of Christ. God is a God of love and compassion and wants to reveal his will to us. He wants to be in relationship with us so that He can reveal His will and plan for us every day, step by step. God wants to pass on aid and direction and comfort for situations we are in. God wants to share His knowledge and nature. Sometimes God speaks directly even to uncomfortable situations but his speech is always encouraging. Everyone is called to hear and understand the will of God. The charism of prophecy or those charisms of revelation are given to some according to the will of God. Prophets are God's way on how to lead his people and they cannot use their gifts without the Holy Spirit. Charisms are given for the sake of the body of Christ. The people exercise these charisms because God is using them in a certain situation to serve the others, to help the others to understand and to receive God's love, encouragement and direction.

The first step or task of the prophet is to be open to receive God's revelations.

### **Continued on page 8**

# WHEN STORMS COME

By ALEX HEATH



Although the Bible contains many comforting promises, if we are honest, we can also recognise some pretty challenging ones. One of these promises is that, as followers of Jesus, we will have to face troubles.

Of course, everyone has troubles, whether they believe in God or not. However, we will face particular challenges because of our decision to follow Jesus, as he tells us: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (*John 16:33*)

So it is clearly not so much a question of IF we will face troubles but rather WHEN. Simply put - storms will come.

## Sleeping Soundly In A Storm

Some time ago, dealing with a number of life's storms, I reflected on the story of Jesus calming the storm (*Mark 4:35-41*). It struck me that it must have been quite a storm.

Many of Jesus' followers were fishermen, used to sailing in difficult and dangerous conditions, yet these seasoned men of the sea were frightened for their lives. So this was not just a bit of bad weather, but a violent storm-and there was a very real danger they would sink. Significantly, whilst the fishermen panic, Jesus, the carpenter, sleeps soundly on a cushion!

Meditating on this scene, I asked myself: As I face my storms, who am I more like? The fearful disciples, or Jesus, who was so full of trust in his Father's care that he was sleeping on a cushion? I had to admit I was responding like the disciples. The Word of God revealed to me how little faith I had in the midst of my storms.

## "Rest In Me"

I asked the Lord for his forgiveness and a deeper trust. I realised that I desired to rest next to Jesus on that cushion. At that moment, in the depths of my heart, I had a sense of these words: 'Rest in me.' The Lord was inviting me not to rest next to him, but rather to rest in him-to share in his own peace and trust.

I remembered how often both the Scriptures, especially St Paul, and the Catechism, describe the Christian life as life 'in Christ'. As I spent time learning to rest in him, peace began to flow in my heart. Eventually Jesus says "Quiet! Be still!" and calms the storm, responding compassionately to his friends' frightened appeals, who experienced what is described in *Psalms 107*: "The waves... mounted up to the heavens; in their peril their courage melted away... they were at their wits' end. They cried out to the Lord and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper... They were glad when it grew calm."

## Remain In The Gift Of His Peace

God will not allow our storms to last forever: "After you have suffered a little while, God will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." (*1 Peter 5:10*).

What amazing promises!

My own storms did eventually pass. Since then, though, new ones have come and gone again. I realise it is only a matter of time before new storms and fresh challenges come. I also know that Jesus is inviting me, like him, to be at peace in the midst of the storm, and that I can only do this by resting in him.

The Lord was, and is, bringing me to a place where I am able, by his grace, to remain in the gift of his peace-whether or not I am experiencing storms.

"The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (*Philippians 4:5-7*)

*Used with permission Good News UK.*

*Image: Flickr*

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If the prophet is not open, God will not speak through the prophet but if the prophet is open and listens, God will speak through a word, an impression or an inspiration.

After the prophet receives something, he must carry out a second step which is the interpretation. It is nonsense for the prophet to speak out every word he hears at this step without checking what the Lord actually wants to be said. Sometimes the prophet has the task to interpret; sometimes the addressee (recipient) has the task to interpret. The prophet and the recipient of the prophecy must be careful and pray always for the right interpretation. It is not helpful if the prophet just speaks out the words like a machine gun. The prophet should speak out the word and also speak out what he thinks it means (the interpretation.) If the prophet didn't hear anything then he should not share his human interpretation. If the word is for you and if you didn't receive the interpretation from the prophet then pray for the interpretation at that moment.

The third step for the prophet, is to determine the recipients for this prophetic impulse. If in a meeting, the prophet should ask the Lord "Is this for one person or for all?" If it is for one person then the prophet should not speak out the prophecy but wait for the next break and go to this person saying, "I think the Lord said something to me and I am going to share with you." If it is for all the prophet should wait for the right moment to speak it out. Sometimes in prayer meetings people just share prophetic impulses straightaway without waiting for the right time.

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**UPCOMING EVENT**

C E L E B R A T E  
**P E N T E C O S T**



T H E G I F T O F T H E H O L Y S P I R I T

A C T S 2 : 3 4

**Saturday 8 June**

**CCR Centre 101 Holden St North Fitzroy**

**3 pm Adoration and Intercession**

**5.30pm Pizza, Refreshments and Fellowship**

**7-9pm Praise, Worship, Vigil Prayers and Healing Prayers  
Families welcome**



# BENEATH THE SHINY FOLIAGE

By DINA MANANQUIL-DELFINO



We have a row of lily pilli shrubs in our front yard. Their ever-green cascade of healthy looking and shiny foliage with flushes of pink new growth and white to maroon edible berries make them excellent screens, windbreaks or garden ornamentals.

One day as I embarked on pruning them, I happen to look into the inside of the shrubs. I was shocked to see hundreds of dead twigs, branches and dried leaves. My attempt at tidying them for one day became a back-breaking task of two weeks, having to drag my husband to the job. As I was removing all dead sticks, I thought of my personal growth. There were a few lessons from my lilly pillies. First, there are things fast becoming dead wood – aims, aspirations, ambitions, activities that are no longer life-giving. Why am I still hanging on to them, much like those life-less branches? Even in ministry work, there are areas that are no longer bearing fruit. I need to pray for fresh infilling from the Holy Spirit. If I have been doing the same role for many years, I need to ask myself - am I afraid to break new ground? Have I become too comfortable, attached, obsessed or untrusting of others to take over or too scared to take on new assignments from the Lord?

The other insight God gave me is the reality of mental illness called depression. Many of us have delightful foliage, bright and waxy externals, and our facades can make us hide this reality so cleverly. From the outside, no one knows how we are really feeling inside. When a family member took her life 10 months ago, after years of being depressed, it shook us up. The loss incurred by this premature death has left a tragic impact on those who love her.

Depression is a serious medical illness. It's more than just a feeling of being sad or "blue" for a few days. About 15 million Americans a year struggle with depression, an illness that comes in many forms - from major depression and seasonal affective disorder to bipolar disorder. In Australia, 3 million people are living with depression or anxiety (ABS 2008). Depression is an illness that interferes with concentration, motivation and everyday functioning. Because of its complexity, a full understanding of depression has been elusive. Everyone experiences an occasional blue mood; depression is a more pervasive experience of repetitive negative rumination, bleak outlook, and lack of energy. It is not a sign of personal weakness or a condition that can be willed or wished away. People with depression cannot merely "pull themselves together" and get better. (<https://medlineplus.gov/depression.html>)

It is such a complex issue. The medical world claims that even in the most severe cases, depression is said to be highly treatable. Yet, we hear of both ordinary people and celebrities succumbing to suicide, triggered by depression. But there are amazing stories of people who survived both and later on achieving great success in the midst of their adversity and have become powerful witnesses.

When in year 2000, I experienced this "dark night of the soul", and I could have been showing symptoms of depression myself then, I sought the aid of St. Therese of Lisieux. This holy woman experienced many of the risk factors for depression and struggled with symptoms of the illness itself. At the age of ten Therese suffered what appeared to be a nervous breakdown. At twelve she became scrupulous, a mental health concern believed to be symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder.

St. Therese of Lisieux, Doctor of the Church, describes herself as having extreme doubts of God's existence. The important thing here is that St. Therese stubbornly held on to her faith. She did this not because of health, good spirits, comforting assurances, miraculous healings, or religious experiences but by the tenacity of her choice to believe. She writes: *"While I do not have the joy of faith, I am trying to carry out its works at least. I believe that I have made more acts of faith in this past year than all through my whole life."* Depression, nervous breakdown, suicidal thoughts, scruples, and doubts did not define St. Therese of Lisieux. It need not define us. We are more than our illnesses. Thanks be to God! (<http://healthycatholics.com/>)

When I have clients going through depression I suggest to them to seek the intercession of this saint. Only those who experience it can genuinely relate. My lilly pillies also taught me not to take any day and any person for granted and assume that life is glowing for somebody next to me. "Are you okay?" is a question I can ask sincerely, frequently, and if the person is not okay, to make an effort to listen with love and non-judgement. I might only be contributing a tiny drop in the ocean - helping someone survive the black clouds for a day, until a new day dawns. One evening, a young student entered the shopping centre, her eyes red. She was distraught and crying as she sat beside me at a nearby couch. I took the courage to ask, if she was okay, and then she smiled bravely and said a quiet yes. I knew she did not want to confide so instead I offered a silent prayer for her and claimed God's tender mercy in His word: "But you, LORD, are a shield around her, her glory, the One who lifts her head high." (Psalm 3:3)

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Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people will not feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone and as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.' Humility is allowing everyone to be his or her own story instead of a character in my story.

# A WORD... FROM MIRIAM

By MIRIAM MARKIS



I like hearing and reading stories of conversions to the faith in Christ Jesus. I'm always particularly awed by the diversity of ways that people from every nation, ethnicity and diverse religious persuasions come to believe that Jesus is Lord and who then make the leap of faith to follow Him and become practising Christians.

Then there are those of other Christian denominations who are already professed believers, who the Lord calls to a deeper communion with him into the Catholic Church. It seems the Lord never gives up, does He!

In many of the stories of conversion there are struggles recounted which makes exciting and fascinating reading as it reveals insights into the mindsets of people. It also portrays the rich diversity of ways that the Holy Spirit ever so gently prompts and nudges a person to take the next step on the pathway to following Him. It takes a great deal of trust to let go of a former belief or pattern of thinking. In some cases, people have lost families, left loving communities, churches and/or countries to follow Jesus. Their yearning and hunger for truth reminds me of the line in Song of Solomon 3:1 *"On my bed night after night I sought him Whom my soul loves;"* and it is sometimes all consuming.

Truth is something we know is unshakeable and invites us to trust in Jesus and His invitation to journey with Him and towards Him. Most converts in taking a leap of faith have decided to trust totally in the Lord Jesus. Trust is a word that I confess I don't often explore simply because I think I do trust God because I'm already a believer! However, I was challenged whilst listening to a meditative prayer on Easter Monday that was reflecting on trust. When the question was posed about personal trust about someone or something that I might be holding back from God, I balked and had to admit that I didn't quite trust as fully as I thought I did. Thankfully I was able to come to the decision to hand it all over to the Lord. Not without a sigh of relief, I might add! Often, we can carry the burden of lack of full and complete trust in the Lord without realizing it.

Does that ring true for you too? The scriptures tell us to *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding'* (Prov 3:5). This has taught me a great lesson, i.e we're all in need of conversion constantly whether it's in big leaps of faith and trust or in small steps of faith and trust. We can never take things for granted. The Holy Spirit is always at working nudging, prompting and calling us to complete and total surrender. Most converts have such an unshakeable faith and trust in the Lord and are prepared for anything as they continue their journeys. Perhaps you might like to pause and reflect on whether you might be holding back from trusting the Lord. Where are you on your journey? Is there anything you need to surrender *"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us"* (Eph 3:20).

## Continued from page 8

There are also some words the prophet receives that are not meant to be spoken out because the prophet has the task to intercede. God might show something will happen to someone and the prophet's task is to intercede for that person and not to tell that person. If the prophet is not really experienced or not very, very sure or is at a public event he should adhere to some rules like don't speak about weddings, funerals or something similar. We all make mistakes in listening to the Lord, in interpreting what we are to say and what it means. Hence avoid saying, "Thus says the Lord..." The mistake can also be in the timing of when we speak it out. So it is very important that the prophet learns his business, learns how to share what he has to share. This shall be done in wisdom and in the right order, in the right attitude, in humility, in obedience by using a self-examination process. As part of the discernment process, a prophet should work together with others. Discernment is also a process of the body of Christ. And the prophet has to see what is his role and the role of others.

Putting it into action is not only the task of the prophet but also that of the leaders. Leaders should decide how to react to a prophecy so that the people don't miss the chance to respond and it may involve interrupting the programme. Any person feels touched by a prophecy should write it down for discernment later. If a prophecy comes to be fulfilled later the recipient should tell the prophet. The prophet is always under the authority of the leader. If the words are for a group of people, then the prophet should get permission to speak. But in the case of a prayer meeting it might be obvious when it can be spoken. The more public or more private the word is, the prophet needs to discern when to speak. Maybe it is part of the discernment process to consult the leaders and ask when and how to speak. In some situations there are rules on how prophecy shall be given and we need to obey those rules because the prophet is under the leadership. The job of the leader is to make space for the prophet and not to control the prophetic. Often leaders are faced with immature prophecy (not false prophecy) because of immature interpretation.

Do not be dazzled by the obvious anointing of a prophet. God might use him in this gift but it does not discharge you from the duty to discern. The greatest prophets Christof knows are very humble men and women. They usually don't give a prophecy without asking for permission, and they usually don't say, "Thus says the Lord and do what I said." They always help you to understand the will of the Lord. They are very open to correction too.

## Can't make it to a Healing Prayer Centre during the week?

**Saturdays 22 June, 28 September & 30 November**  
You are welcome to come to the Open House Healing Ministry Day. **9.30am - 2pm** at the CCR Centre.



## MARK YOUR DIARIES...

### Renewal Day

An opportunity for fellowship with others and growth through teachings.

**Saturday 10 August 2019**

**Venue:** Hall at St Brigid's Church, 378 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy

**Special guest:** Dr James Maloney, gifted with the charism of healing, who will teach on healing and pray with those present.

Saturday 16 November will be the final Renewal Day for 2019.

### Ladies Day

Thursday 11 July 2019

**Venue:** CCR Centre, 101 Holden Street, North Fitzroy

**Guest speaker:** Dannielle Cherri **Time:** 10.00am – 3.00pm

### Pentecost Vigil

Saturday 8 June 2019

**Join us to welcome a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.**

**3.00pm** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Intercession

**5.30pm** Pizza, refreshments and fellowship

**7.00pm – 9.00pm** Praise and Worship, Vigil Prayers, Prayers for healing.

All welcome.

CHARISMATIC MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Third Sunday	12 Noon	St Benedict's, Burwood
HEALING MASSES	TIME	VENUE
Each Sunday	7.00pm	Holy Family, Doveton (Ministry after)
First Saturday	2.30pm – 5.00pm Adoration followed by Healing Mass	St Peter's, 38 Guinane Ave, Hoppers Crossing
First Sunday	2.30pm	St Peter Chanel, Deer Park
	3.00pm Praise & Worship, 3.30pm Mass	St Christopher's Parish, 5 Doon Ave, Glen Waverley
	5.00pm	St Benedicts, Burwood. Prayer Ministry after Mass, Praise Rally at 7.00pm
	5.30pm Praise, Worship, Adoration 6.00pm Mass, followed by Prayer Ministry	St Marks, Fawkner
First Monday	7.00pm Praise, 7.30pm Mass	St Joseph's, Springvale Phone 9547 9557
First Friday	8.00pm	St Anthony's, Glenhuntly Cnr Neerim Road & Grange Road, Glenhuntly
	8.15pm	St Peter's, Clayton
Third Wednesday	7.30pm	St Mary's, Castlemaine
Third Thursday	7.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry St, Eltham
Third Friday	7.00pm	707 Holy Cross Parish, Caulfield South. Mass, Adoration and devotions to the Holy Cross
Third Sunday	5.30pm	St Francis Xavier, Frankston
	5.30pm Praise, 6.00pm Mass	Good Samaritan Chapel, 1-29 Southern Cross Drive, Roxburgh Park
Fourth Tuesday	10.00am	St Joseph's, Chelsea

**St Peter's, East Bentleigh - Healing Masses:** Mondays 17 June, 18 November at 8.00pm. Celebrant for both masses will be Fr. Wahid