

Pope Francis

on Living the EUCHARIST



Pat Kennedy has been tracking the teaching of Pope Francis since he was elected in 2013, and chooses some of his thoughts for us to meditate on.

How do we live the Eucharist? Is it a place to meet others or is it a celebration just for me or for us? Christ loved to celebrate and eat with his friends - is it like that for me at the Eucharist? Are they brothers and sisters for me, do I rejoice with them, weep with them? Do we love as Jesus witnesses for us in the Eucharist? When I see the problems in the world, in my neighbourhood, do I take them to the Eucharist, do I ask myself how I can help or come close to understanding or helping- or am I indifferent?

Do we gossip about what people are doing or wearing or do we feel the grace of being forgiven and do we grace that to others? Do we ask why we should go to church with those who are habitual sinners? Remember Eucharist is not for those who believe or even feel themselves to be better than others, no we go because we recognize our need of being received and given life through the mercy of God. If we do not feel ourselves as sinners or in need of mercy, it is better that we do not go to Mass.

The "I confess" is not just a "pro forma" it is a true act of penance. This is how Mass begins. The Last Supper took place on the night Jesus was betrayed, we must not forget that. We go to church humbly as sinners and as sinners the Lord reconciles us. The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.

The Eucharist is not something we do, it is not our commemoration- no- it is the action of Christ. It is He who acts. He who makes himself present, and gather us and feeds us with His life and Word. We will go with joy to the House of the Lord, the Sacrament of the Eucharist is not a "magic rite," but rather an encounter with Jesus, who is our constant companion in life.



The Lord makes a gift of Himself to us. He shares our journey. He becomes real food that sustains our life, even when times are tough. The Lord in the Eucharist calls us to follow His path of service, sharing and giving what little we have, what little we are, and this because of the power of God transforms our poverty into the wealth of love. **(All above quotes from Catechesis on the Eucharist, 12th Feb 2014)**

Our Mission flows from this. If it doesn't lead to an encounter with Christ, it risks bringing no nourishment to our heart or life. Every community needs coherence between liturgy and life. **(12th Dec 2013)**

REFLECTION : When Jesus said "This is my body" he wasn't just talking about the bread and wine. He was talking about Himself, given in love and friendship. He was talking about those present as belonging to Him, representing Him. And he was talking about the life He was to give. This is the greatest gift anyone can give - to give one's life for another. And each time we come to the Eucharist and the bread and wine are transformed into Jesus, then we too, as His visible body on earth, are called to be transformed. "*Ite Missa Est*" - It is not surprising that the ending of the Mass gives the whole Mass its name. We are fed to go and do likewise. Each time we attend Mass and remember, we are then re-membered into Christ and His body. We who have been redeemed are resurrected from our past lives into new life. The grace of the Eucharist, graces us to signify what the sacrament itself is a sign of. God gifting Himself to us, transforming and enabling us, as Karl Rahner says "to become more than I ever dreamed possible." Bread for the world. This is the mission Francis talks about and is a life's journey. We now can perhaps ask ourselves the following questions.

- Am I on the journey?
- Do I live the Eucharist as community or anonymously?
- Am I allowing the Lord to transform me?
- What changes need to take place in me?
- What do I need to do?
- What do I need from God and my community?

Developing the Church's understanding of the Charisms

Michelle Moran reports

Last April (3rd-6th) the ICCRS Theological Commission called together a small group of theologians and practitioners from round the world, to reflect on the deliverance ministry. Representatives from England included Damian Stayne, Myles Dempsey, Archbishop Kevin McDonald, Fr Jim McManus and me (ICCRS president). Dr Mary Healy, the chairperson, looked at the general context of the deliverance ministry in the world today. She highlighted that even among clergy there are some people who are still reluctant to believe in the reality of the devil. Conversely there are others in the CCR who have a tendency to over emphasize the devil and his power.

Participants from each continent shared their particular perspectives. Whilst there were some obvious cultural variations, there was a marked similarity in what was shared, highlighting the need for this ministry to grow and develop and for people to receive adequate training and supervision. An exorcist from the Rome diocese shared how the deliverance ministry had developed in the early Church and presented the current Church position. including the difference between exorcism and deliverance. Damian Stayne shared from his own experience about the role of lay people in this ministry and Neal Lozano, from the USA, the founder of the "Unbound" ministry spoke about the deliverance and inner healing.

The group agreed on the main topics that should form the basis of a future publication, and a couple of people from the Theological commission were delegated to work on a draft text, which will be discussed at a future international colloquium.



The Other Half



Sue Whitehead

A friend was talking about his favourite film – Les Miserables. He had seen the stage show quite a few times and he wasn't sure that the film would be as exciting (for him) so hesitated before going to the cinema but he wasn't disappointed. He saw it with all the latest cinema assets – wonderful sound and a huge screen. Recently it was released on DVD and he didn't hesitate to buy it as he could enjoy watching it while ironing – his words not mine. He was very disappointed as watching the story unfold on a small screen made him think he was missing out on the details – they could easily be overlooked. He knew the story so well that details missed were quite irritating.

Big contrast for me – I love watching films on the TV (when I'm ironing!) and really enjoy the compactness of the picture. I find the huge cinema screens overpowering and as I need to move my head from side to side to see everything, I usually come out exhausted! Maybe I should sit further back - in the back row! Possibly I just like to see the general story unfold and, as long as I get the gist of it I'm not too worried about the smaller contributions.

This is certainly in contrast to the way I live my life. Whenever we are organising something (preparing the story!) every detail is important. So many things contribute to getting things right. So many other people are involved in decisions and actions. It is really important to have a plan, to avoid mistakes and provide the final result for other people's benefit. Even day to day living has to have a planned scenario which is, sometimes, necessary for sanity!

I'm happy that God is watching everything "on the big screen". I am so pleased that I can trust him to have attended to all the details. I am so glad that He has already prepared what I should do –

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

I will continue to try and listen to His promptings and I know that they will facilitate my own plans. He is so good – He even has a plan when we get it wrong and He needs to do some damage limitation! How great is our God!

I'll continue to enjoy my small screen watching – and also my occasional big screen viewings. God bless you as you too absorb the story we are living – walking in God's plan.

© Sue Whitehead

Renewed in the Holy Spirit

by Fr Paul Sciberras



Fr Paul Sciberras, who is head of Department of Sacred Scripture, Hebrew and Greek, at the university of Malta, shares how through a recent Life in the Spirit seminars run by a ladies' prayer group in Malta the meaning of his priesthood and his understanding of the word of God have been brought alive in a new way.

On July 8, twenty-six years ago, I was ordained priest, and I began the extremely intensive training in the biblical languages and exegesis at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. The particular training I received there was precisely not to trust anything in the world, not to accept any statement about the Bible if not hermetically grounded in the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek Bible texts. Everything, but everything, had to be dissected and filtered and scanned with the extra-fine toothcombs of Historical-Critical Methods, and a myriad of other approaches. Everything had to go through the mind. Everything had to be analysed and reanalysed and double checked, and rechecked again, for good measure! Even myself! As I began lecturing at university and giving talks here and there, I began to see that this was not satisfying me. This was not it!

Last January I received an invitation for the Life in the Spirit seminars. It was something for which I had been waiting for a long time. The invitation was sent by the Delegate for the Clergy and the Seminars had the blessing of the Archbishop. The Seminars were going to be organised and led by a Catholic Charismatic Group of women. On the 18th February 2014, we received the Baptism in the Spirit.

Baptism in the Spirit is SURRENDER. But the feeling inside me "This is going to tear me apart!"

Personally, I feel that the one word that sums it all up about Baptism in the Spirit is SURRENDER. But the feeling inside me was: "This is going to tear me apart!" Surrender! How could anyone even think that this is possible for an analytical mind such as mine! Cardinal Josef Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation of Faith, on the day of the canonisation of Josè Maria Escrivà, Founder of the Opus Dei Movement, defined holiness in these terms: "To be holy does not mean being superior to others; the saint can be very weak, with many mistakes in his life. Holiness is this profound contact with God, becoming a friend of God: it is letting the Other work, the Only One who can really make the

FIRST LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS FOR PRIESTS IN MALTA

The "Praise the Name of Jesus" prayer group, which has been going for 27 years, meets on Thursday mornings at the parish centre Our Lady Immaculate in Ta'I-Ibragg near St Julian's. They had been receiving many prophetic words over the years to pray for priests and more recently, had felt prompted to organise Life in the Spirit seminars for them. The late Bishop Joe Grech, who worked in Australia, was a great supporter and when he came home to Malta on holiday, the group would often invite priests to come and listen to him speak and he would pray with them. Bishop Joe backed the idea of doing the seminars and discussed it with Bishop Annetto Depasquale who was the Vicar General. Bishop Depasquale had a long and painful struggle with the CCR. From very strong reservations, he moved to tolerance and he came to recognise the spirit of obedience and love for the Church in the group. This resulted in a much warmer relationship with the Renewal.

We felt it was the end of all our hopes



Dr John Bonnici Mallia

After several invitations, he agreed to follow the Seminars as an observer, allowing Dr John Bonnici Mallia, the founder of the Maranatha community, to pray over him. This was a turning point. When Bishop Joe spoke to him about the seminars he agreed and arrangements were made to hold them the following year. Unfortunately before the seminars could take place, Bishop Joe died suddenly, followed by Bishop Depasquale, a few months later. One member of the group commented, "We felt it was the end of all our hopes." The group continued to pray and hope.

The Bishop said "yes"!

Every year the group invites the Archbishop of Malta to attend their Pentecost prayer meeting. This had been going on for at least seven years. Anna, one of the leaders of the group taking advantage of his presence, boldly suggested to

world both good and happy." So, letting go and giving more and more space to Jesus!

Fundamentally, I have always wanted to be holy! I want to be holy! I want to be a good priest! I want to be a holy priest; yes, I want it! It's not worth it otherwise. So it has to be like that. Even if it was going to tear me asunder! Surrendering! But then, isn't it supposed to be like that all our life? What do we really mean when we say we are priests in persona Christi capitis? What do we really mean

him that it might be a good thing for the priests to do the Life in the Spirit seminars. To her surprise he said yes and told her to ring him at the Curia to discuss it. She was then passed on to the Delegate for the Clergy who was ready to give his full assistance. The ladies' expectation had been to hand the project over to the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Malta, but to their surprise the priest in charge insisted that the women run the programme and do everything themselves. Ingrid remembers "We were in shock. The idea of us preaching to priests and praying over them! We didn't feel adequate". After a meeting with other high ranking priests, who all insisted that the women should make no changes to the programme, it was clear that the priests wished to be treated like any other participant.

Personal invitations were sent out to each priest

Personal invitations were sent out to each priest with an endorsement and recommendation from the Delegate for the Clergy, encouraging them to attend as well as a testimony of a priest, whose life had been changed by baptism in the Holy Spirit. To protect the privacy of the priests, it was decided that only the cell group leaders and musicians and speakers would be with the priests, while the rest of the prayer group would intercede for them in the chapel. The women cooked a meal before each seminar and this served as a time of fellowship.

It was much more than we could have possible expected

Ingrid concluded, "It was all such a blessing. The Lord was ministering to them directly through us in everything we did – the prayer, the music, the food as well as the talks. When we put our hands on their heads and prayed with them at the praying over session it was clear that they had received the gifts of tongues. It was much more than we could have possible expected."

Thirty-three priests attended the six weeks course, including many high ranking members of the clergy in the diocese, so it will be interesting what effect this might have in the life of the church in Malta in the years to come. Let's pray for them and the brave and persevering women who had the love to keep going for all these years and saw their dream come to pass.

when we say we are alter Christus as ordained priests? What was that "Here I am", and the four-times "Yes, I will, I will, I will, I will with the help of God" we promised at our ordination? What do we pray when we say the Our Father at Mass, at Lauds and Vespers: "Our Father, your Kingdom come, your will be done ..." if not your kingship come, your action and workings in us?

After Baptism in the Spirit, I began surrendering to the Holy Spirit and Mass has become a heavenly experience. The peace! The joy! After Consecration, I can now kneel in adoration and pray earnestly: "My Lord and my God!" Surrendering, I began daring to pray with others. Now it's not difficult anymore to stop and pray. I don't ask "what shall I say? What is there to say?" I just pray ... and it's always beautiful, sometimes even in tongues!

The Bible much more personal

One of the Courses I teach at university is Biblical Inspiration and Interpretation. It's trying to hammer it into the heads and hearts of my students that the Bible is inspired by God; that it has the Holy Spirit as its author, with man as co-author. But what does it mean that the Holy Spirit has written the Bible? Now another different quest is taking place: not only how does the Holy Spirit inspire the Bible, breathe his power into the Bible, but how does the Bible breathe God back to me/us? Now it is more complete, it makes much more sense, and makes the Bible much more personal!

Bible scholarship and ministry in the diocese, at the university, and in the parishes is my way of obedience to the Church in the person and will of my bishop. Bathing this charism in the Spirit of the Church and for the Church has always meant the world to me. Now it comes much more from the heart and makes much more sense; I feel it's becoming more wisdom and knowledge, besides information and scholarship. Prior to this, prayer sessions with the Bible were becoming a nightmare: I couldn't use the Bible anymore for my prayer. They had become alternative exegesis sessions! The Liturgy of the Hours for a long time had been a heavy burden to me. I still remained faithful in this service of praying with and for the Church, but I didn't want to be praying the breviary and end up questioning the translation made or the mistaken literary structure given to this or that psalm!

My faith has become much more alive

Now I am really enjoying my quiet time in the form of Lectio Divina. My faith has become much more alive; a relationship! My ministry, especially Mass and Confessions, have been revamped. Healing prayers are now becoming more frequent. I have been praying for the sick at Mass for some years now, but after 18 February it became meaningful and full of faith. One other prompting from the Spirit as a result of Baptism in the Spirit is encouragement. Touching people in their hearts, to be able to get up on their two feet and believe in the power of God in their lives! And finally – I consider it the catalyst of all that I am going through – the joy; the deep-seated joy where I feel so much at peace, so much! Even to my own surprise! Surrendering to the Spirit of Jesus! Yes, it's possible! It's very good for me! It's the only way!

CCFLC

This autumn the Sion Community, in conjunction with the English NSC, once again plans to host the Catholic Charismatic Leadership Formation Course. Below we hear from those involved both as organisers and participants more about it and how it has helped them in their spiritual formation.

ALICE HALL, who organised the first course in the UK comments "I attended one of the first Leadership Training schools in Rome, which were organised by ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services). These were the inspiration of Oreste Persare, the ICCRS director, who was responding to the pope's call to the movements for lay formation. The two of us from England (myself and Neil Hughes), who had attended felt we had a responsibility to pass on the formation we had received to others involved in the CCR in the UK. A big question was how we might be able to get the time with people that would be needed to cover the material we had received over a three week course. The idea for the structure of the course came from a COMPASS course I had attended at Worth Abbey which was a weekend a month over a year and it seemed to be a manageable commitment for people. We took the content from the topics we had covered in Rome and found speakers we knew could teach the material. Thus the course came together well with the support of both the NSC and Sion Community.

For the first few years the majority of the participants were younger leaders (or potential leaders as we advertised it for) but we always hoped for there to be a breadth of age range as a major benefit for us in Rome had been the interaction with leaders of all ages and the natural mentoring that that enabled. A major aspect of the ICCRS course was the opportunity to visit the different pontifical offices in Rome and understand more clearly both the structure of the Church and its universality. This is why the course now includes an optional weekend in Rome where we see some of the major sites and also visit some of the

Vatican offices.

NICK WELLS, who is one of the current leadership team for the course, and a past participant of the CCFLC, shares his experiences. "I attended CCLFC in 2008 and loved it. In subsequent years, I have been helping to organise and support the course. The course is for all ages, old and young, and it is intended to be a safe and encouraging environment for participants to experiment with, share, grow and develop the leadership gifts that they may be seeking to grow in. For example, I was on the core team for the Brighton Celebrate weekends and I was helping to organise home groups within the parish but I was not confident about 'being charismatic' outside of the seemingly-small close-knit community of Charismatic Renewal. The course very much helped build my confidence about the important role that CCR has to play in the Church and consequently helped me to be more confident in the organisational and leadership activities that I was involved with.

"We see an urgent need for powerful proclamation and solid, in-depth Christian formation. There is so much need today for mature Christian personalities, conscious of their baptismal identity, of their vocation and mission in the Church and in the world! There is a great need for living Christian communities! And here are the Movements and the New Ecclesial communities: they are the response, given by the Holy Spirit, to this critical challenge at the end of the millennium. You are this providential response"

Pope John Paul II, Pentecost 1998

The course takes the form of 7 residential weekends, each separated by about one month, which are normally held at the SION community house (SENT) in Brentwood. During the weekend there will typically be five talks from an international-class speaker who will also be staying at SENT for the weekend. It is a completely different and more intimate experience listening to a speaker in a group of

20 or so compared with listening to the same speaker at a big conference. Topics covered on the weekends include subjects such as discipleship, the theology of baptism in the Holy Spirit, the history of CCR within the Church, practical leadership skills, and mission and evangelisation. There are also practical teaching and training sessions, such as being given the opportunity to lead worship and to move in the prophetic.

As well as input from a guest speaker, there are small groups for bible study and for sharing – allowing the participants to network and share their spiritual journey during the year. There are also wonderful opportunities for praying together and attending (charismatic) Mass together each day.

HELEN SOLOMON The CCLFC has been a transforming experience for me. Through this course, I have experienced personal spiritual growth. For example, I have experienced a deeper desire for prayer and scripture. I have also learnt a lot from the teaching and I have been challenged to walk in obedience so that I can follow Jesus and step into the role of Christian leadership. One of the most memorable moments was when I arrived one CCLFC weekend quite depressed and stressed. I had decided not to attend that weekend, but my sister, who was also on the course encouraged me to change my mind. That weekend it was Derek Williams who taught and ministered to us. By the end of the weekend, the teaching, ministry and the encouragement I received, deepened my faith and restored joy and peace into my heart. Finally by getting to know the people on my course, I have made a new circle of friends who encourage my walk with Christ.

EDNA SOLOMON I began CCFLC rather sceptical about whether or not the course was for me. I felt that leadership was perhaps not for me. I was glad to find out that I was not the only one who felt this way. However, over the duration of the CCFLC, I have found that I am more open to the Lord. I have grown in knowledge of the Lord, participated in uplifting prayer sessions, mingled with inspiring leaders of the Church and made great friends. I feel that my being on the course has been very worthwhile and I thank God for the opportunity to participate in it.

KARISHMA CHARLWOOD I first heard about the course from a friend. I immediately felt that it was what I really needed to do for my own development in order to be more effective in my ministry as a group leader. However, given my circumstances as a mum of a young family, I thought it would not be possible for me to attend at this time. I nevertheless offered it in prayer and it became clear that God was giving me the opportunity sooner than I expected. I was very excited but apprehensive as to whether I would be suitable for the course and how my family would cope without me for several weekends. But from the first weekend I was so glad I had made it. Everyone was so chatty and friendly that I felt very much at home. The speakers and teachers were amazing, very knowledgeable and seemed to be talking to me on exactly the subjects that I needed to hear about. It was affirming of my role as group leader and at the same time, it was interesting to hear

from the experience of the others. It was challenging as well as encouraging. I have been feeling more confident as the weeks go by and able to stay focussed on God's calling in my life. The opportunity to step up sometimes to lead the morning praise or run the sharing groups has also enabled me to grow and to learn to operate more effectively in the Spirit and rely less on my own strength. CCLFC offers a safe environment to make mistakes and learn, in a very loving way.

JONES BEDIAKO As a lay man feeling called to work for the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church, I thought of having some sort of training that would enable me do this appropriately in the field where I am, and thanks be to God who always calls and equips, CCLFC brought humble and anointed servants of God, known worldwide with their experiences, into my life. The quality of teaching and the fellowship I had on the course makes me long for more of God and do more for God. CCLFC to me is like a place where you are tempted to say Peter's words at the mountain of Transfiguration, *"let us build tents... and stay forever"*. I thank God for his providence. I thank the stewards of Sion Community for their immense love and care.

ANNE BAILEY I am learning a lot and linking it to all my leadership responsibilities in the parish RCIA group, my participation in the parish charismatic prayer group and to my work on parish missions and am growing in confidence in all these areas.

ANN BEVAN "This course has been a real blessing for me. Each weekend has helped me grow in the understanding of the charisms of the Holy Spirit, to grow in fellowship and love for the other participants and understand more about how to serve the Lord in my everyday life".

NIRU FERNANDO I now have a greater awareness of what God has called me to do. I have learnt that my faithfulness and responsibility to discipleship impacts not just the group I belong to, but the whole Church and the importance of living a Christ centred life empowered by the Holy Spirit. I now have a new boldness and fearlessness in praying for people. It has also been a great blessing to be surrounded by people who are so hungry for the Lord, which is a great encouragement.



Next year's course will probably be starting in the Autumn. Those interested should contact Karen Shurety, SION Community (karen@sionyouth.org.uk).



You are beloved

Fr Chris Thomas encourages us to see ourselves as God sees us and not through the prism of our weakness and sins.

Many years ago before it was as popular as it is today I researched my family history. My mum and dad were dead and I wanted to know where we came from. I think I was probably struggling to find my identity now that my parents had gone. To some degree it helped. At least I knew our background and what in my family history had made me who I was. I discovered that in our family there had been lots of mental health issues. Because of that I found that I began to say things like 'well I got off lightly with a bit of depression'. What else could I have expected with the sort of background and family history I had? I eventually realised that while all that was true, and mattered, I could not stay there constrained by all I had discovered. I was more than my history.

People don't have any real sense of identity

I was listening recently to a young man who said that the biggest crisis in the world today amongst young people, but I don't think it's limited to age, is that people don't have any real sense of identity. He used two fictional characters from the world of film to illustrate the point - James Bond who had a very clear sense of his own identity and Jason Bourne from 'The Bourne Identity' who is struggling to discover himself. He said that today most people are like Jason Bourne. We don't know who we are. If you can have a favourite Gospel I would say that mine is Luke's. I think it's probably because I'm a story teller and Luke more than any of the other evangelists tells stories and has Jesus telling stories. Just after Jesus has Peter put out his nets for a catch in chapter four of the Gospel, Peter says to Jesus 'Leave me Lord I'm a sinful man'. He knew that he was a mess. He knew his weakness and his sin and so his first response to Jesus was to back off. He felt he was not good enough, able enough or even worthy enough.

The whole mission of Jesus was to help us see with different eyes

Peter makes the same mistake that I think we all do. He doesn't really know the truth of who he is. Most of us listen to the voice

within that is programmed through the events of our lives to tell us that we are not good enough. And we believe it. Thank God that we are always more than what has been in our families and we are not defined by the mess of our lives and the sin and the shame that dog us. We do not have to be held in the shackles of our poor self-image and the feelings we have of not being good enough and worthy enough, because that is not how God sees us. I often think to myself the whole mission of Jesus was to help us see with different eyes. That is what biblical repentance is all about and that primarily starts with recognising who we are in God's sight. You are a child of God. You are Son. You are Daughter. You have a dignity and a value and a worthiness that has nothing to do with you but which is the gifting of God. That's our identity.



What Jesus does by saying to Simon 'I will make you into a fisher of people' is to move him away from that preoccupation with his own sinfulness and his Uriah Heap attitude towards himself, and to let him see that he is more, and that God is more than he has ever imagined.

I discovered that I was more than I had ever imagined. I was a child of God

The biggest conversion experience in my life was when I realised at a gut level that I was a child of God. I discovered that I was more than I had ever imagined. I began to understand that I was of immense value and that my life was worth something. I realised that my over preoccupation with my poor self image was choking the life out of me. I decided instead to begin to believe what the Scriptures told me about myself and as time went on my whole understanding of life, the world and others, began to change. Know who you are in the sight of God. Let God tell you who you are and pray each day that you will be set free from anything that stops you knowing that you are beloved.



Fr. Chris Thomas heads up the Irenaeus Project. He is a member of the Emmaus Family of Prayer.

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BROKEN LIVES MADE NEW

Pastor Clyde Thomas and his wife Rebekah are pioneering the Victory Church Pontypridd and are also assistant pastors at The Victory Church Cwmbran campus. The Victory Church in Wales is experiencing a wonderful time of revival and transformation. Pastor Clyde shares his personal testimony, how his own life was completely transformed by the Power of the Holy Spirit. He quotes: "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got." In this talk he will encourage you to let God be the God of miracles and transformation. This teaching is a real encouragement for people dealing with addictions of any kinds.

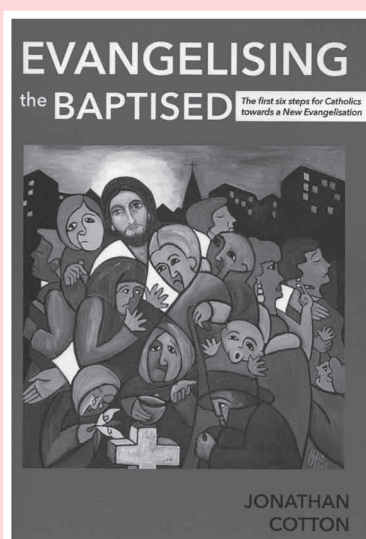


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Evangelising the Baptised...

The First Six Steps Towards a New Evangelisation

by Jonathan Cotton (images by Yvonne Bell)

Fr Jonathan Cotton has been perfecting this method of evangelisation since his time with the Nottingham Pilgrim Community. Some Catholics may ask what exactly is an evangelist? The simple answer is, a person who witnesses to their faith by the way they live, and one who is willing to share their faith with others. Evangelising the Baptised (the first six steps for Catholics towards a New Evangelisation) is both a call to be an evangelist and a means of our own evangelisation. This book can be read individually or used with a group and it comes with a free CD of resources.

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Rachel's Vineyard

Healing the trauma of abortion, one weekend at a time

Pam Nelson shares how going on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat helped her to come to terms with an abortion she had in her earlier life and the healing she experienced as a result.

I would like to share my story in the hope that it may help and inspire people who are hurting from the trauma of abortion. I was 18 when I found out that I was pregnant. I was in such a crisis at that time in my life and felt that my only choice was abortion and so made the necessary arrangements. I pushed the experience of the abortion deep inside. When I was 21, I suffered from Peritonitis (burst appendix) which was to affect me for the rest of my life.

When I was 29 years old I met and fell in love with a lovely man who later became my husband. I shared my abortion experience with him and he was very loving and understanding, so it was not long before we wanted to start a family. Time went by and nothing happened, I was becoming anxious and concerned and so I went to see the doctor who sent me for tests. It turned out that the peritonitis had badly affected my fallopian tubes and I was told that I would never be able to have children. At that moment my world fell apart, the abortion that I had 14 years earlier hit me like a ton of bricks. What had I done! The feelings of guilt, shame, anger and despair overwhelmed me and no matter what I did, I always felt the same. I found the courage to go to confession. The priest was very kind and gave me absolution, but I did not believe that God loved me. I still could not forgive myself and so continued to carry all the shame and guilt. My cousins were starting to have families of their own and it was so sad for me when I would see their babies, and the reality of what I had done all those years ago really hit me.

I did not believe that God loved me and still could not forgive myself

Many years passed, and I eventually joined a Charismatic prayer group. They invited me to attend a New Dawn Conference at Walsingham. During the week, I went for prayer. I did not mention the abortion, but the lady praying for me said that I had cried a fountain of tears and it was time to stop! Another good

friend suggested I attend a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. At first I said no, but later was introduced to a lady who runs Rachel's Vineyard retreats in Ireland (who is also post abortive). She had a joy and peace about her which I knew I didn't, so having talked to her decided to go to Ireland for the retreat.

The weekend changed my life. For the first time I was able to share my experience in a caring, non-judgemental environment with other people who were suffering the same as me. During the weekend we read many different scriptures and then meditated on them. We had the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Mass. After this wonderful retreat, I had the realisation that Jesus loves me 'warts and all'. The morning after the retreat, I was doing my hair, looking in the mirror, I realised I had blue eyes. I shouted to my husband to

come upstairs and I said to him, 'Look! my eyes are blue. He looked at me in amazement and said 'You've always had blue eyes'. In the past I had always seen grey eyes. Jesus had lifted a huge burden off me and now there is a freedom – all the fear has vanished.

So many people hurting from the pain of abortion

I knew I could not keep this experience to myself especially when I felt that there may be so many other people hurting from the pain of abortion and so discussed the idea of starting a Rachel's Vineyard in the South East.

With the support of so many people, Rachel's Vineyard recently held the first retreat in Kent. It was a weekend filled with many blessings. People came with so much profound hurt and conflicting emotions which they felt they could safely allow to surface and discuss with the group.

Jesus comes into every situation bringing healing to broken hearts and restoring wholeness, as one person quoted after their retreat. 'God is love and you have put love back in the part of my heart and soul that I thought I'd lost forever'. Praised be God forever!

Another retreat is planned for this autumn. If you would like to know more about Rachel's Vineyard, call Pam 0785-1331816



“Charismatic Kenny”

Danny Firth, the founder of the Wednesday Word, remembers Fr Tom Kenny, the dynamic Yorkshire priest and former member of the English NSC, who died on 26th April 2014 aged 84.

Sometimes you can meet someone who touches your life in such a special way that you will be eternally grateful. It is with a sense of great privilege that I can say I knew Fr Tom Kenny. I will miss my good friend. At various points in the past seventeen years, (since returning to the Church), Fr Tom was very much part of my life – a presence and an influence which I valued, and still value, greatly.

He was born on 19th March 1930 in Shipley, the son of a market trader. After leaving St Bede's Grammar School, Bradford he entered the seminary at Ushaw and was ordained on 24th July 1954. Fr Tom was an enthusiastic and proficient golfer, a more than competent cook, and a talented amateur photographer. With Father Tom (affectionately known as 'Charismatic Kenny'), what you saw was what you got: a man of passion, with the Holy Spirit fully alive in him. He was 'a man on mission'.

Action Man!

Fr Tom was a determined enthusiast. He was a very strong character who would always speak his mind. He was not someone for 'half measures' and did not "play at" evangelization. He went for it 100%. He didn't "go through the motions". When people needed his personal and pastoral help Fr Tom was an Action Man! If you needed help or healing – he was the man to go to, and many did! He was "in there" with his anointing oil, prayers, wise counsel, advocacy, and his influence. Fr Tom's main focus was community, as he often pointed out. He was very welcoming and hospitality was one of his strong points. He was also a great intercessor and always held the Parish and all he knew before the Lord in prayer. He was a great teacher and had the ability to make the Mass come alive, and to make his parishioners really feel part of the church family.

In his later years, Fr Tom suffered from ill-health and was in almost constant pain. All who knew him admired his courage and good humour in the face of his suffering. He was a great

example to us all. The wonderful patience and wisdom given to him throughout this time was shared with me and so many others in a new gentleness. Despite his illness and the fact that, in 2008, he was technically "retired" (not a term with which he was comfortable), he never complained. Far from it, he practiced what he preached and praised God in all things. He even turned his presbytery into a mini church and celebrated Mass in his dining room, most days, inviting the elderly and sick in the parish. He loved being a priest and served God faithfully to the end.

Fr Tom Kenny was a bluff, blunt, tell-it-how-it-is, Yorkshireman, (he'd be the first to admit that), who inspired others with his unshakeable faith in Jesus Christ. Looking back his role in my life has been pivotal. It was Fr Tom who visited and anointed me when I was sick (and a lapsed catholic at that time). It was Fr Tom who gave me a bible and helped me to develop a personal relationship with Christ through encountering him in the gospels (which radically changed my life and that of my family).



Fr Tom Kenny with the Firth family

It was Fr Tom who brought me into the Church and spent many hours discussing the faith/Church with me, helping me to appreciate the richness and joy of the Catholic faith. It was Fr Tom who baptised my daughter and then, within the year, supported our family in so many ways to cope with her death. It was Fr Tom who joined us for Christmas Day dinner each year and, much to my frustration, always beat me in the 'general knowledge' after-dinner games. It was Fr Tom who had a 24/7 'open door' policy – always welcoming, ready to bless direct and guide.

It wasn't just me he helped. He was known for his generosity and helping out those in need, especially many young families in the parish.

Fr Tom's death occurred just three months short of what would have been his diamond jubilee of

priesthood. Throughout his time, Fr Tom challenged us with a constant question, and it is with this question that I will end this tribute to my much loved friend; a man who left this world a much better place for having been in it **"Who have you spoken to about Jesus today?"**

May Tom rest in peace and rise in glory.

Celebrate North West

Andy Drozdziak reports on one of the 11 Celebrate Weekends that are taking place round the country this year.



I would like to share my experience of Celebrate North West 2014. I am a 36 year old father of three. My wife and I came from the North East to renew our faith and to help our children grow in their own faith. The reality of our parish life at the present time is that there is very little relevant teaching, and very little provided for our children to help them become more effective disciples of Jesus. Speaking personally, the welcome of a loving, joyful Christian community helped me greatly as I became a follower of the Lord. I recognised the same loving and joyful presence at Celebrate North West. This was evident from the start. The praise and worship was beautifully led by Tony Wadley and his team. Being sensitive to those attending for the first time, they truly led us into the courts of praise. I was equally challenged and blessed throughout the weekend. For example, during the prophecy workshop I attended, led by Lloyd Gordon on "Jesus, the treasure hunter", I recognised how little I truly listen to God's voice. As Lloyd encouraged us to listen to the promptings of the Spirit, it was clear how Jesus shares the pain that we carry, and wants to bring life, forgiveness and healing to his hurting people through us.

"Burn down the church!" Lloyd proclaimed, in an attempt to help us recognise the importance of using God's gifts outside the church environment. He emphasised the importance of bringing God's hope to those on the margins, those left out and those who would not come to church. This was a great challenge to me, as I recognised the importance of sharing the blessing I have received myself. As those in the workshop ministered to each other, with many receiving specific words and healings, I encountered, once again, the God who is always looking to give us life, the God of the present moment: Jesus, the hope of the world.

Each of my three children, aged 2, 6 and 8, had a powerful experience of God's love and joy, as they participated in their

own sessions. In my view, one of the strengths of Celebrate is the emphasis upon providing young people with Spirit-filled liturgy and engaging activities which help build their faith. I am grateful to the youth team, who worked tirelessly to provide these foundation blocks for their faith. A sign I saw in the school itself seemed to encapsulate the Celebrate approach towards children: "Children are not containers to be filled, but lamps to be lit." I enjoyed spending time in the crèche with my two year old daughter, Francesca. The space was ample, and I was able to listen to the talks. I was inspired by Dennis Wrigley's words of hope about good news in the midst of the darkness we hear. I was challenged to seek the good news, to pray and be expectant that God does, and

**"Children are
not containers
to be filled, but
lamps to be lit."**

will, act. "Without prayer, there can be no advancement", Dennis proclaimed. This has inspired me to a fresh commitment to daily prayer. Dennis also exhorted us to bear the pain of the world, like Jesus; to find where the wound is, where the sin is, and to usher in the light that shines in the darkness, the light that darkness cannot master. "We don't let any obstacle get in the way...there is a new experience of what the Lord wants to do in us and for us!" These words from Fr Ged Kelly can act both as a warning and an impetus in my

walk with God. Will I see the weekend through rose-tinted glasses, a mountain-top experience which I refer back to, but which will not really impact my "real life" back home? Or will I apply that which I have experienced and heard in real ways, so that I can grow in faith, become a better person and help build the Kingdom of God in my family, church, workplace and community? Will I rely on the Spirit of God, become a praying person and let God be God for me and others?

I hope and pray that I will do the latter. Celebrate was such an encouragement, a blessing and a message from the Lord to continue to follow him. I thank God for Chris and Martina Power and their team, and for those who led sessions, workshops, praise and worship. I must also mention the venue, All Hallows College. The ethos of the school was a valuable help in allowing the message to filter through to us. The presence of the staff members was a real blessing. My job is now to let the message come alive in my own life, and proclaim that Jesus is alive for each person I meet.

See "Coming Events" page 21 for a list of Celebrate Weekends coming up.

DIOCESAN SERVICE TEAM WEEKEND

A New Wave of the Spirit coming?

There was a sense of excitement at the weekend organised by the English National Service Committee for members of Diocesan Service Teams, which took place 17th-18th May 2014 at the Britannia Hotel Coventry, in the shadow of the famous Coventry Cathedral. About 50 people from all over the country took part. There was definitely a sense that something new was on the horizon. Maria Heath, from the Northampton DST said that their DST had decided twice to hold off running a Day of Renewal, because they felt it wasn't the right time. Instead they felt they needed to listen to the Lord, because they sensed a tsunami of the Spirit was about to break and they needed to be attentive to what God wanted them to do. To help them stay attuned to the Spirit the team had committed to praying in tongues for 15 minutes a day. There was also encouraging feedback from people working together on joint projects with other Christian denominations, particularly in the Telford area in the North-West

Ros Powell gave a dynamic presentation on prophetic intercession and encouraged those present to begin to pray in this way. Several people stepped forward to try this. Espe and Chris Moran, who run the Network of Intercession for the CCR also spoke about their work and the importance of intercession at this time. They too felt something was on

the horizon. Pat Kennedy, our Goodnews regular columnist, gave a presentation on some of the powerful words of Pope Francis and the direction he is giving the Church and the implications for CCR. Michelle Moran, the chairperson of the English NSC, who is also the president of ICCRS, the Vatican link organisation with the CCR worldwide, unpacked some of the themes of the recent ICCRS document on Baptism of the Holy Spirit. She also shared about Pope Francis' call to harmony in the Church and its implication of unity in diversity for the CCR. Music was provided by the Sion Community Youth which is based nearby.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS AT OSCOTT SEMINARY

Two thirds of the seminarians at Oscott seminary in Birmingham followed the Life in the Spirit seminars during Lent this year. The seminars, which were the initiative of the new rector Fr David Oakley, were voluntary and took place on Sunday evenings. Numbers fluctuated but about 50% of the seminarians completed the course. The praying over session led into a silent retreat beginning on Palm Sunday. Among the speakers were Michelle Moran, Charles Whitehead and David Payne. Many of the seminarians were touched and in the next issue there will be a full report with testimonies of what the Holy Spirit is doing there.

PARISH EVANGELISATION CELLS UPDATE

A group from Holy Innocents' parish, Orpington, Kent, as well as others from England, attended this year's international workshop on the parish evangelisation cells hosted by St Eustorgio's parish in Milan 2nd-5th June. Among them was Bob Skudder and his wife Cecilia. Bob had attended the first exploratory trip made by Holy Innocents' to St Eustorgio's two years ago. He had only gone then to help his wife, who had hurt her arm. He was so touched by what he saw, however, that he began his own spiritual journey. This culminated in him being received into the Catholic Church this Easter, and him giving his witness in Milan at this year's international gathering.

Holy Innocents' parish in Orpington has spent the last two years gradually preparing for the launch of the parish evangelisation cells in their parish. To help facilitate this and as part of their vision for the parish, a co-responsibility group has been created, to help the parish priest, Fr Victor Vella, to run the parish, as well as an executive team of parishioners to lead the cells.

In May this year Fr Victor visited St Edward's in Florida where he met Fr Michael Eivers, the priest responsible for bringing the parish evangelisation cell format into the Roman Catholic Church. Fr Michael stressed to Fr Victor the importance of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Life in the Spirit Seminars and the parish evangelisation cells, as the three essential pillars to keep a parish vibrant. Holy Innocents' have ordered a special

tabernacle from Italy for the adoration chapel that they have set up. The parish evangelisation cells were officially launched in the parish on 29th June 2014, the feast of St Peter and Paul with four cells. Fr Victor commented, "we have been moving slowly because there has been so much to do to train and prepare the leaders and to create the necessary infrastructure for the cells to succeed. This is not just another small group system, but a new way of doing parish."

The parish is starting with four cells. One of Bob Skudder's main roles will be to act as technician for the recording and distribution of the fortnightly teaching talks done by Fr Victor for the cells. Anne Scripture, well known in the CCR in the South East of England for her music ministry has been appointed to be in charge of formation and prayer in the parish. Fr Victor says he is delighted by the support he has received from the parishioners involved in the parish cells and their commitment and gifts. Deacon Roger Evans from a nearby parish is helping to run the administration of the evangelisation cells.

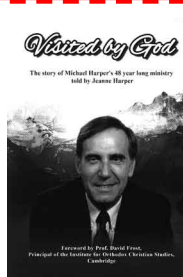
For further details contact Anne Scripture, PEC, Holy Innocents' Church, Strickland Way, Orpington, BR6 9UE tel 01689 817 537 or email pec @ holyinnocents.org.uk

Several parishes in the UK are also in the process of exploring the parish evangelisation cells including St Patrick's, Soho Square, London, St Peter's, Rushden, Northants, and St Joseph's, Shirebrook, Nottingham diocese.



LALITH PEREIRA IN UK THIS SUMMER

Lalith Pereira, the founder of the Community of the Risen Lord, Sri Lanka, will be speaking for the first time at the New Dawn Conference in Walsingham. As well as leading the Baptism in the Spirit session on the first evening he will be running daily workshops leading people into contemplation and a deeper intimacy with Christ, which he feels is a great need in the Church. Following this he will also be a speaker at the Birmingham conference. His community in London have also organised several meetings in London (See Coming Events page 19).



'Visited by God' – a history of the remarkable movement of the Holy Spirit world-wide - spanning six decades beginning with God's call in 1962 to Michael Harper to work for unity in all the churches. 'This is an unique account of Michael's amazing and enduring influence on Renewal and Ecumenism in every part of the world-wide Church.' Charles Whitehead, ex Chairman of the English NSC.

*The book is Obtainable through Amazon
ISBN 978-1-872897-15-8*



NEW DIRECTORS FOR THE CATHOLIC BIBLE SCHOOL

David and Sarah Beresford, formerly of the Sion Community, have been appointed as the new directors of the Catholic Bible School, near Chichester. The Catholic Bible School, which was the inspiration of Joan Le Morvan and her husband Michael was opened in 1988 running courses and pilgrimages from Nutbourne House, a converted farmhouse. After Joan and Michael retired, Geoff and Gina Poulter, took over and developed and expanded the work, and were responsible for buying and converting a nearby chapel and turning it into a fully equipped conference centre. David and Sarah are now excited to be taking over the helm. For a full list of courses and retreats tel 01243 371766 or see www.catholic-bible-school.org

CONGRATULATIONS & THANKSGIVING Birthdays and Anniversaries



Eileen O'Kane, member of the English NSC, Goodnews editorial board and great champion of the CCR celebrated her 70th birthday in April.



Archbishop Kevin McDonald, Liaison bishop between the CCR and the Bishops' Conference who celebrated his 40th Anniversary to the priesthood with a special Mass at Brentwood Cathedral on 20th July.



RAISING FUNDS FOR CREW TRUST!

Thank you to Bernice Chan, from Holy Innocents, Orpington Kent, who took part in the BUPA London 10 km run on 25th May, finishing with a personal best of 1h 30m and raising £300 for CREW Trust!

DAY OF RENEWAL ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

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Tel: 01892 542 245

RETREAT IN TUSCANY WITH FR PAT COLLINS THIS AUTUMN



Anna Querci, a former Goodnews volunteer, who returned to Italy a couple of years ago, is keeping up her contacts with the CCR here. This past year she has organised two weekend retreats in English and Italian at her family's beautiful vineyard, Villa Bellaria, in Tuscany, led by Fr Pat Collins CM, the dynamic speaker and retreat giver from Ireland. She has persuaded Fr Pat to return again this autumn (10th-12th October) to lead another retreat on the theme of "Self Esteem". The retreat is followed by a day for priests on "Coping with stress and burnout" on 13th October. With beautiful countryside, wonderful food and Fr Pat's inspired preaching and wisdom this sounds like a spiritual treat not to be missed. For further details contact [anmor47 @ yahoo.it](mailto:anmor47@yahoo.it)

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At the Service of the New Evangelisation

***“Pray, that the Lord’s message may
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