

The Eyrie

St John's Catholic Parish Heidelberg



Rejoice and Be Glad!

Jan McAffrey

In Pope Francis' letter, 'Gaudete et Exsultate', to his people, the people of the Church, we are exhorted to be holy in ways appropriate to our times. We are encouraged to explore our own way of being truly holy as best we can.

There are many around us whom we can consider to be holy, not only those canonised, but our neighbours, family, friends and all those who reflect God's presence to us no matter their faith but rather their belief in God and his mercy and their actions of love and charity.

To be holy we are encouraged to know, understand and live our own special gifts and blessings in the best way we can, to be the best mother, grandmother, worker, student or even golfer that I can be, sharing genuine love with all those with whom we come in contact. Being holy is living love through the little things, the small gestures, the ordinary things and by accepting life's challenges with love. To enable this holiness through being the best person we can be we need quiet time to reflect, meditate and be with Jesus is very special and beneficial.

By listening to the words of Jesus and reflecting on his life, we can learn much about holiness. The Beatitudes especially give us guidance in our



quest to holiness – by living a 'plain and austere' life like those most in need, by being meek and humble accepting the faults and weaknesses of others rather than becoming cross and impatient, by sharing the suffering of others and being willing to help them. As St Paul said, 'weep with those who weep'. Further in our own way to stand up, and actively seek justice, for the poor, weak, disadvantaged and most vulnerable. In today's terms to work for social justice for all. To forgive, help, serve and be giving to all others in whatever way we are able. Holiness involves being a peacemaker by being serene in manner, creative, and sensitive to the needs and beliefs of

others, and by avoiding gossip.

While encouraging us to pray and receive the sacraments, Pope Francis encourages us to persevere through life's challenges, to be patient in our fast paced world, to be faithful to God and to others. Rather than being anxious, we are reminded to put our faith in God and His peace believing in his power and strength.

Instead of being timid and morose, it is suggested we be joyful, positive and hopeful. St Paul tells us to 'Rejoice in the Lord always'. Jesus also tells us not to be afraid but to be free, enthusiastic and compassionate in our love of God and others.

As well, we are asked to live as part of community in family, in parish, sharing the ordinary things of life paying attention to small details, sharing love and caring for each other.

In summary, let us be our best selves, love and care for others, be compassionate and understanding, love God, be patient and joyful, be positive, and contribute as best we can to community.

Judith Weir

Principal, Our Lady of Mercy College Heidelberg

Dear members of the St John's Parish Community,

"There are three things the poor prize more highly than gold, tho' they cost the donor nothing; among these are the kind word, the gentle, compassionate look and the patient hearing of their sorrows."

Catherine McAuley

This quote from Catherine McAuley, is one I have used often this year because I think it speaks so well to the importance of relationship. It also challenges us to look to all forms of poverty that exist within our world. This quote assumes that help will be delivered in some kind of relationship.

Forming new relationships has been a strong theme for me this year as I get to know the staff, students, parents and broader community of OLMC. When I was appointed Principal of Our Lady of Mercy College I knew that I was going to lead a wonderful school. I didn't realise that I was going to be joining such a wonderful community beyond the walls of the school. This year, for me, has been characterised by warm welcomes and a wonderful sense of belonging. I have been overwhelmed by the way in which so many of the groups that work with us, have been so gracious. People from the Parish of St John's, the Exodus community and our local primary schools have gone out of their way to extend a hand of welcome and I am grateful to everyone.



Earlier this year I spent time in Dublin where I had the opportunity to work with other leaders from ministries of the Sisters of Mercy in health, welfare and education here in Australia. A group of 27 spent time in Catherine McAuley's house in Baggot Street; the one she built to provide education, care and support for children and young women. This house is where the story of the Sisters of Mercy began. What a privilege it was to spend time in this house, to reacquire myself with

Catherine, her story and her legacy. This time was one of reflection and it gave me the chance to think about relationships and their significance in education. I was also privileged to reacquire myself with how important education can be for those seeking freedom. The Sisters of Mercy were known as the "walking sisters" because they went out to work with the poor. They built relationships

with the poor in order to help them.

Every day, the students at OLMC are engaged in the formation of new relationships as part of the learning journey. They might work in a group with girls that they don't know very well or they might be involved in the Peer Support program where they mentor a group of younger students. Each year they meet new teachers. Without these relationships their learning would be hindered. The forming of new relationships is a key to being able to be part of the world. Paying attention to the people around us and their needs makes us a strong community.

The girls at OLMC have, so far this year, had the chance to work with students from South Africa, France and Japan and some will, at the end of this year, work with colleagues in Italy. They have also supported refugees, the homeless, women who are in need of care and protection and various groups in and around Heidelberg. Each time the girls began their work with a conversation, a smile and a willingness to be involved. They built relationships and in doing so provided support.

So often there is talk about young people always being on their phones and much is written about their inability to participate in relationships. This is not what I have seen or experienced this year. I have been heartened by the way in which the students have embraced every opportunity to offer a smile, a warm welcome, a compassionate look or a sympathetic ear to so many.

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this Land, the Wurundjeri people and of Elders past and present, on which our church and school stand. The St John's community joins together in solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, working for justice and reconciliation.

Adele Boyle

St John's Altar Server

On the 1st of August 2018, I was invited to attend the Liturgical Reception and Solemn Mass for Archbishop Peter A Comensoli because I do altar serving at Genazzano FCJ College.

Three other Genazzano students attended the reception and Mass too, as well as Genazzano's principal, Ms. Karen Jebb and the Liturgy and Social Justice coordinator, Mrs. Helena Goldsmith.

The mass started off with about 200 Victorian priests and about 20 Australian bishops walking in through the front Cathedral doors. At the beginning of the Mass, the Apostolic Nuncio of Australia read out the Letter of Appointment.

It was incredible how many people attended, and how so many people of many ethnicities and ages came together to celebrate a new Archbishop.

I was amazed at how many chalices could fit on one altar! There could have easily been more than 20, so I was very impressed how swiftly the altar servers, priests, bishops and deacons could move the chalices to different places. As many people were at the back of the Cathedral or even outside, there were many screens showing what was happening at the front of the Cathedral.

The sound of the music was incredible because of the Cathedral's fantastic acoustics and high ceilings.

After the Liturgical Reception and Solemn Mass for Archbishop Comensoli, there



was an enormous celebration outside in the Cathedral grounds. It was impressive how many people wanted to meet the new Archbishop, and how many people wanted to take "selfies" with him! It was like people thought of him as a rock star!

I was very lucky to meet and speak to the Archbishop myself, and at the time my Confirmation was just two weeks away, so we asked him whether he was to be doing it. I was very lucky to have my Confirmation celebrated by him. He asked my name and my Confirmation name, St Clare. I was extremely grateful to him, as he gave me a special blessing for my Confirmation, placing his hand on my head and praying for St Clare to protect me.

I couldn't believe that I was blessed by the Archbishop, just a few minutes after he became it. During the homily, he shared wonderful words about how the Church is not just a building, not just where people gather but a place where everyone is equal and where all people can all be rejoiced and celebrated.

It was a fantastic evening, and I'm sure I'll remember it for years to come.

The Most Reverend Denis Hart Archbishop Emeritus Melbourne Archdiocese

Father Ted shared some insights into his friend, Denis Hart, who recently retired as Archbishop of Melbourne.

The friendship of The Most Reverend Denis Hart, Archbishop Emeritus of the Melbourne Archdiocese and Father Ted goes back 51 years when they met for the first time, as seminarians, on March 1st, 1960. They studied together for the priesthood at Corpus Christi Seminary Werribee, for eight years. Father Ted and Archbishop Hart played in the football team who mainly played against themselves but occasionally played teams of seminarians from dioceses around Australia. Father Ted noted that the Archbishop was not a skilled footballer and did not think he would mind him saying that!

Following the seminary years Father Ted and Archbishop Hart played golf each week for four years and still keep in touch at Corpus Christi Seminary Year Reunions. Unfortunately, golf went by the wayside as the duties of his office became greater.

Father Ted identified loyalty, concern for other's wellbeing and organisation as qualities of the Archbishop. When Father Ted was in hospital a few years ago his friend of 51 years visited him.

In his role as archbishop, Father Ted noted that Denis Hart was full of admiration for the people - laity and clergy alike - and the good work they performed in the parishes. When a priest decided to leave the priesthood he would personally visit them and through his work on a committee would liaise with him to set up their life outside the priesthood.

Archbishop Hart is looking forward to living privately, helping out in the parishes and maybe taking up golf again!

Robyn Laurie

St John's parishioner and parent

Five years ago this July, the Laurie-Boyle family moved to Alphington, but decided to join St John's Parish, where Robyn's Mum, Lesley (née Edgar), attended primary school and later, Our Lady of Mercy College in the 1930s. Last year, Adele Boyle made her First Holy Communion with the St John's Community, under the beloved and "hi-5" guidance of Father Mario; 2017 probably commemorated the 80th anniversary since Lesley made her First Holy Communion with previous generations of St John's parishioners.

Lesley made a Catholic pilgrimage to Europe and Ireland in 1951, with her mother and sisters. Her diary was subsequently published in the Catholic newspaper of the day, "The Tribune". She described meeting the parents and brother of Francisco and Jacinta de Jesus Marto, and the sister of Lucia dos Santos, the Blessed children who witnessed the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. The St John's community shows devotion to Our Lady of Fatima by circulating her statue through our homes. Lesley also visited the home of St Maria Goretti, who was only newly canonised (1950), and whose Holy Relics lie under the altar of our historic church.

But the tentacles and connections continue to reach out even today in extraordinary ways. Little Amelia Boyle was blessed in the St John's Prep Class of 2014 to have two great Grade 6 buddies: Myf Halse and Mia Toscano. Adele and Amelia now attend Genazzano FCJ

College, but are further blessed to see friends from current and previous parishes. One of the St John's most well known families provides Mr Adrian Daly as a popular teacher. Until recently, we also had the smiling face of Mr Julian Caddy patrolling the grounds. And sometimes, we are lucky enough to have school masses celebrated by Julian's brother in law, and Bernadette Reed's brother, Fr Brendan Reed, from Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Deepdene. Mrs Natalie van der Sluys, known to us from our previous Parish, Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale, provides Adele with great pastoral guidance in Altar Serving Club.

The week we moved, five years ago, poor Tim developed another infection, and was admitted to the Austin Hospital. Fr Ted anointed him! And then, the ever sharp minded Fr Ted recognised him the next week in the Church garden after Sunday Mass! Well, poor Ted had a heart attack after that, but with God's grace, The Austin Hospital medical staff saved his life. Ted's anointing of Tim must have also agreed with The Almighty, because two years later, The Austin medical staff saved Tim's life with an Australian first – a double organ transplant.

This last week of June, we had our first family vacation, in Broome, WA, with Tim healthy and free of intravenous catheters, such that he could actually swim with the girls for the first time in their lives! Genazzano FCJ College runs a Kimberley Exchange Program for a selected four,



socially conscious, Year 10 students, with indigenous girls from St Mary's College in Broome. And so who do you think we bumped into in the Broome Woolworths Supermarket? None other, than Myf Halse, a St John's alumna, and Amelia's gorgeous Prep Buddy!

It's clear that the community of St John's, embracing Jesus' open arms, is successful in spreading its welcoming spirit and forming complex, nurturing networks, across generations, communities and continents.

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Collective Responsibility: Making our Church what Christ intended in the World of Today

An opportunity for all Catholics to share collective responsibility towards making our Church what it needs to be in today's world

Pope Francis has approved a plan by the Bishops of Australia to conduct a Plenary (or Synod), in the years 2020-2021. A Plenary is the highest level of authority in the Australian Catholic Church for addressing important issues locally and implementing changes. Decisions of the Plenary based on extensive engagement with all Catholics may require some papal ratification. Given that the Church comprises all the people of God together (bishops, priests, religious and lay people alike) the period of time leading up to the Plenary brings a unique opportunity for all Catholics together to decide how we should 'renew' our Church in today's world, and make it what Christ calls us to be. Such renewal will only succeed with the collective engagement of all Catholics in this process.

The Church is called to renew itself in every age and given the current rate of Church decline in a rapidly changing Western world since Vatican II such a review is long overdue. The last time a Plenary Council was held in Australia was over eighty years ago. At that time our bishops were advised to *"take care that provision is made for the pastoral needs of the people of God...and to decide what seems opportune for the increase of the faith and the organization of common pastoral actions"* A Plenary Council has legislative capacity that will be applicable to the Church in Australia.

The Plenary is in part a response to the Royal Commission on institutional response to child sexual abuse, however it goes beyond to the very nature of the Church in today's world and Australian

society, providing the opportunity for collective discernment by *all the people of God*, towards making what Christ clearly calls us to make it today. We have been promised that such discernment, the *'sensus fidei fidelium'*, will be guided by the Holy Spirit. As exemplified in the recent *'Family Synod'* everyone will be invited and encouraged to participate in the process, openly and honestly, respectfully expressing whatever we think our Church is called by Christ to be.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge has likened the 2020 Plenary Council to the biblical pilgrimage of Abraham, requiring us to leave some things behind, having the courage to let some things go and imagine new ways, allowing ourselves to be led by a God who dislocates. He has said that the journey to the Plenary Council must be the work of the Holy Spirit, it must be an act of faith which is why preparations for the 2020 Plenary Council will commence with special prayer started last Pentecost, followed by listening, discernment, and decisions. He says: *"We are going through a time of profound cultural changes, not only in society but also in the Church. I think we have to accept the fact that Christianity - in the sense of Christianity as the common religion - is over. How do we respond to this situation?"*

This process seeks views from ALL of the 'people of God' in Australia, you and I, expressed openly and honestly, with respect and under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit. How do we see the Church today? What should the

Church look like after the 2020 Plenary? How can we get there?

At the same time who are these People of God? They are Catholics of widely varying degrees of faith, including infrequently practising and lapsed Catholics. They are Catholics who expect more of our imperfect Church than simply endeavouring to serve yesterday's world and yesterday's faithful, but an inclusive Church that is also true and close to Christ's teachings and example in today's world.

If ever there was need in today's challenging world for goodness, honesty, social justice and integrity it is now and Pope Francis, among a few others, is boldly pursuing this around the world. As far as the 2020 Plenary is concerned the period immediately ahead is intended as a time of 'engaged reckoning' for the Catholic Church in Australia.

History shows it's far easier to talk about change than introduce it. However whilst of course there remains a very great deal of faithful goodness in the Church and religious orders, where there is need to let go of institutional constraints that have become un-Christ-like, harmful and contrary to God's loving and merciful inclusiveness there is urgent need now for honesty and humility together with prayerful discernment on how to renew. That is basically the essence of the two year period preceding the 2020 Plenary.

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100 Days of Prep

What a pleasure it was to visit the Prep classes, when the Preps had the inaugural 100 Days of School Celebration! The students all came dressed up as their favourite number or as a 100 year old! The Preps enjoyed a celebratory morning tea with their Year Six buddies and took part in a number of 100 related activities, including making fruit loop necklaces, making fairy bread with hundreds and thousands, taking part in an exercise station of 100 exercises, building a tower of 100 cups and much more!



Term 3 Report

Mrs Maureen Stella

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of Term Three and what an exciting term this has been. It continues to be a great privilege to be part of such a vibrant school and parish community. St John's school prides itself on providing a learning community that is inclusive and personalised. We value the trust that parents place in us to provide a high standard

of education. Watching our students grow and develop in their faith, as they strive to live out our new school vision: “**An inclusive Catholic community, fostering a commitment to faith and nurturing a love of learning**” is indeed a great privilege for us all here at St John's.



It is with excitement that we have introduced a Student Representative Council (SRC) at our school this semester. This is in alignment with *Child Safe Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children. Schools, in partnership with families, will ensure children and young people are engaged and active participants in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on their safety (CECV 2016).*

The introduction of the SRC will provide an opportunity for students throughout our school, to express views and become part of the decision making process with regard to issues that affect the students. The SRC provides a clear process for student voice and empowerment and importantly it is also an authentic opportunity for students at all levels, Prep-Year 6, to develop and refine leadership skills.

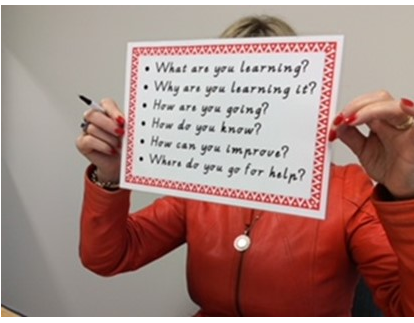
Parent Engagement in the Learning-Guided Learning Walks

A new learning initiative that we are trialling with parents this term is “Guided Learning Walks”. The focus of the structured walk is students and their learning and it is another opportunity to build, improve and strengthen Parent Engagement. The purpose is to give parents an opportunity to see what the “real” learning looks like and to learn more

about learning in action. This trial session and the feedback from these parents will provide us with information as to the effectiveness of this strategy and the possibility of continuing with these Guided Learning Walks into the future.

Class Masses

Our Class Masses have been well attended by our students' families. The recent Year 1D Class Mass had over 21 parents and grandparents present and Fr Mario's homily about "The Good Samaritan" was relevant to the students, as he adapted it to their level of understanding. The students' singing enhanced their liturgical understandings of the theme of the Mass.



Sacrament of Confirmation

On Sunday 12th August our Year Six students from the parish and school celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Patrick's Cathedral led by our new Archbishop, His Grace Peter A Comensoli. The Archbishop spoke with the students about the next step in

their faith journey; that Confirmation marks the continuation of the journey first begun at Baptism and that during Confirmation, candidates receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and are strengthened in their faith. It was a very special day in the lives of our students and their families.



Max Chester OAM

1933 - 2018

A large number of mourners attended the Memorial Service at Mary Immaculate Church in Ivanhoe for the renowned architect and St John's parishioner, Max Chester.

Max was born on 28 February 1933 to David and Rose Chester, the youngest of three children. His father died when Max was two years old, leaving his mother to work in factories to give him and his two sisters an education. At 14 Max worked at the Victoria Market to help his mother pay the bills and put food on the table.

In his early years, the family lived near Melbourne University and Max attended University High School. He had always dreamed of being an architect but that seemed only for the privileged.

He recalled vividly his Sergeant pulling him out of line during National Service at Puckapunyal to notify him that he had received a Commonwealth Government Scholarship to study Architecture at Melbourne University.

The University brought about a dramatic change in his life and outlook, an opportunity rich in colour and lifetime involvement. His association with the university continued up until his death, lecturing graduating students.

More recently, he worked with the Centre for Islamic studies, which established a Committee under his Chairmanship to equip young people of the Islamic Faith, with skills to integrate them into the wider community and the Australian way of life.

It was shortly after graduating that he met Elaine Turner from Warrnambool. He saw her on a tram, and after getting off, asked her on a date. Despite an initial knock-back, Max persisted and was eventually successful.

Max married Elaine in 1961 and took her to Eaglemont Hill promising her that one day they would live there. It was a special place to Max as it was sub divided by Walter Burley Griffin about whom he had written his University Thesis.

Max converted to Catholicism and so began his lifelong association with the church and catholic education.

Four years after graduation, when the Architectural firm he was working for folded, he started his own practice. It was not always easy. Sometimes Max had only weeks' work left. When a job finally came in, the family would celebrate by going to their favourite 'Genevieve Restaurant' in



You can shed tears that he is gone
Or you can smile because he has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that
he will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all
that he has left
Your heart can be empty because you
can't see him
Or you can be full of the love that you
shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow
and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow
because of yesterday
You can remember him and only that
he is gone
Or you can cherish his memory and let
it live on
You can cry and close your mind, be
empty and turn your back
Or you can do what he would want:
Smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

Written by David Harkins and read at Max's funeral
by his daughter Leigh Morrison.

Faraday St Carlton next to the old theatre
for an Italian meal.

The architectural practice was mostly
focused on Schools, Homes for the Elderly
and Churches. He designed some 200
Catholic school projects, nine Catholic
Churches and four Mosques. His work
also included major hotels and several
war memorials.

Much of his early work was in the
developing of the western suburbs of
Melbourne, helping many new migrants to
our country. Max often travelled overseas
in his early days, to gain a wider
knowledge for his designs. He was the
first architect to bring 'open plan' schools
to Australia.

From his earliest days, Max was involved
in community affairs. He was Vice
President of the Melbourne Junior
Chamber of Commerce in 1963, then in
1968 joined Rotary which would remain
his great community passion. He received
a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1997, and held
every office including President of the
Heidelberg Club.

This year was his 50th year in Rotary
where he met some lifelong friends, such
as local publican Tom Payne.

Max Chester was a councillor at the City
of Heidelberg, the honorary architect for
the Fitzroy Football Club, a member of the
Commonwealth Schools Commission, and
a member of the Heritage Council of
Victoria, amongst many other roles.

In 2000 Max received an Order of
Australia Medal for services to Rotary,
Architecture and Education, and was the
secretary of the Order of Australia Victoria
Branch for some four years. He was proud
to have nominated some 36 successful
candidates for Order of Australia awards –
everything from school principals to test
cricketers, professors, ministers of religion
and even a publican.

It was fitting that Max should spend his
last days at the Olivia Newton John
Centre at the Austin Hospital, as he was
on the Board of the Hospital from 1968 to
1982 and made a Life Governor in 1970.

Max was also involved in politics, being a
member of the Liberal Party since 1968.
His committee organised the election of
his good friend, the late Vin Heffernan -
subsequently Minister for Small Business
– to the seat of Ivanhoe.

Max's outside interests included military
history, visiting many of Australia's
overseas memorials, classical music,
reading, and up until he was hospitalised
– running every day of his life with his
beloved Golden Retriever "Alex" in the
beautiful parks of Heidelberg.

Max is survived by his wife, Elaine, and
three children, Craig, an Architect,
Matthew, a Pharmacist in Ballarat, and
Leigh, a teacher in Ivanhoe; and four
grandchildren.

The A Team

Austin Mass Volunteers

Volunteers from St Johns have been visiting patients and supporting a monthly Mass at the Austin Hospital for many years. I have been a volunteer for the past seven years and find it a truly rewarding and humbling experience.

Most of us have busy lives and many commitments and demands on our time. I am no different. The monthly Austin Mass is a two hour commitment once a month, which is easily achievable and what I receive from it is certainly worth that commitment.

It is an honour to support patients at their most vulnerable, where a simple smile, conversation and sharing of the Mass is of great value to them in their hour of need. A change of scenery from their room, and the opportunity to receive Communion from Fr Mario is so greatly appreciated by the patients. Volunteers also offer communion to those patients unable to make it to Mass on the Sunday.

Aside from the monthly volunteering experience, what has developed is a wonderful friendship group, affectionately known as 'The A Team'; a group bound by our faith and friendship. We share coffee after the Austin Mass, and often seek each other out after Mass (usually 8.30am on Sunday), to head out to a



local café for coffee. Recently we shared a fabulous night out at the Four Leaves Café, with a French/Christmas in July theme, complete with Kris Kringle gifts generously organised by 'Santa'.

I always thought volunteering would only be part of my life when I worked part time, or retired. I feel blessed to be able to have the opportunity to support the patients at the Austin, and doubly blessed to be part of The A Team!

The A Team
welcomes new
members to this
important ministry.

Please contact the Parish
Office on 9457 1066.

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Whilst we may have already collected thoughts, there is much to be reminded of and be guided by during the period ahead. This includes statements from the Church, from the 2020 Plenary committee, from The Royal Commission

into institutional response to Child Sexual abuse, from the Truth Justice and healing Commission, from an Open Letter to the bishops of Australia from 4,000 Catholics, comments from various Australian Catholic renewal groups, and exhortations from Pope Francis. These are being assembled for convenient reference. Meanwhile the website of the

2020 Plenary Committee is now operational and available at <http://plenary.council.catholic.org.au/>. Of all these resources the major resource will be our collective discernment over the period ahead, guided by the Holy Spirit. The 2020 Plenary Committee succinctly describes the process as "Listening to God by listening to one another".


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Why choose the name Francis?

Brian and Kate Garrone

Do you remember where you were on the morning that Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Pope Francis?

I was in Adelaide getting up early to catch a flight back home to Melbourne after a busy couple of days visiting schools in South Australia. It was about 4am and I flicked on the TV as I got ready.

Every station was displaying the *Breaking News* tag. We had a new Pope. And his name was Francis.

Francis. Francis.

A name for a Pope that we were not familiar with. There had been Pauls and Johns and Pius' and Innocents...but never a Francis.

Something told me in my gut (and heart) that he was going to be someone special.

Within days, he had begun to capture the imagination of the world. Who can forget that he rang his newsagent to cancel the paper, paid his bill at the Hotel and travelled in the minibus with others?

Three days after Jorge Berolio became Pope Francis, he held a press conference for the world's media and began to tell the story of why he chose the name Francis:

“ Some people wanted to know why the Bishop of Rome wished to be called Francis. Some thought of Francis Xavier, Francis De Sales, and also Francis of Assisi. I will tell you the story. During the election, I was seated next to the Archbishop Emeritus of São Paulo and Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for the Clergy, Cardinal Claudio Hummes: a good friend, a good friend! When things were looking dangerous, he encouraged me. And when the votes reached two thirds, there was the usual applause, because the Pope had been elected. And he gave me a hug and a kiss, and said: “Don't forget the poor!” And those words came to me: the poor, the poor. Then, right away, thinking of the poor, I thought of Francis of Assisi. Then I thought of all the wars, as the votes were still being counted, till the end. Francis is also the man of peace. That is how the name came into my heart: Francis of Assisi. For me, he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation; these days we do not have a very good relationship with creation, do we? He is the man who gives us this spirit of peace, the poor man ... How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor!

”



Choosing the name Francis wasn't just an affirmation of a holy and generous man who lived 500 years ago, but a call to action today to ensure that our world is the place of God's dream.

Five years on this courageous choice of Jorge Berolio is as relevant now as ever....Don't forget the poor!

As the parish of St John's we are invited to also "choose the name of Francis" and make this dream of Jesus a reality in our lives and communities.

Listen and watch Pope Francis tell this story:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2XiT76tgCo

Fr Mario

Parish Priest, St John's Heidelberg

In this article I am going to share what makes me tick!

I see myself as sitting at a unique intersection of a large number of cultures and experiences; this multitude of influences makes me who I am today and as each day rolls by this intersection becomes more complex. I am shaped daily by my relationships and experiences and, in a way, the intersection moves forward to another point.

At the very basis of these experiences is the fact that I am a human person. This reality gives me a language and a physical presence that acts as an interface through which I engage with the world around me and with the women, men and children I encounter every day. I grow constantly through my interaction with nature and especially through the many friends that surround and support me.

As a human person I participate in a number of cultures. I grew up in the small and beautiful island of Malta (no, I am not biased in any way!). Every time I go to the beach and relax listening to the waves lapping on the beach, and smell the beautiful smell of the sea, I know that deep down I am still very much Maltese at heart. In Malta you can never be further than twenty minutes' drive from the sea! I often still catch myself

thinking that summer is in June! Different human cultures enrich me with different experiences, and I am grateful that I have had the advantage of briefly passing through a number of cultures, each with their gifts.

As a human person I am invited to take a position in relationship to the Supreme Being. Some choose to bypass the question and declare themselves agnostic; others deny the existence of any Supreme Being; I choose to believe in a God that is a Trinity of persons. As a child I was baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit and I continue to journey in faith towards this divine being.

After the human culture I participate in, my faith is the next most important thing for me. This faith leads me to participate in a particular Church that identifies itself as Roman Catholic. This obviously brings with it another layer of culture that informs me about how to relate with other members in the Church and with people who do not participate in the same faith. I believe that my faith leads me to reach out to others around me, regardless of culture, religious background or any other difference; I can only be a Christian because I am human and hence can relate to other humans around me.

As a human person and as a baptised Christian I feel invited to be of service in the world around me. I am aware of a variety of ways how I could have lived my service; I chose to do this as a celibate priest and a missionary. I can only be a celibate missionary priest because I belong to a community of faith and hence my humanity and my Christian faith are far more basic for me than the role I play in the community. These three basic realities cannot be separated from each other and each one informs the other in my relationships.

As a missionary I strive to be open to listen carefully to the word of God in my life and in the life of the community, and do my best to witness to the good news in each of my works and my relationships.

Living at the crossroads of so many different cultural influences is not always easy. I am aware that there are no written answers and at each stage of my life I need to continue listening carefully to messages that arise from the different layers that constitute me and each time try to come up with an answer that is sincere and respectful to who I am.

All this makes life very exciting as I continue to journey on, reaching out and relating to the many people I engage with in my life.



UPCOMING EVENTS

13th and 14th October

Communion Candidates presented at
6pm and 10:30am masses.

18th & 25th October and 1st
November

Parish Seminars.

Saturday 10th November

First Holy Communion at 11am.

Saturday 24th November

Serve the Servers Movie Night after 6pm
mass.

Thursday 29th November

Mass of the Anointing of the Sick at
9:15am and 11:30am.

Friday 7th December

St John's Feast Day celebrated by
primary school students.

Wednesday 12th December

Parish Carols Night. 6pm BYO picnic
followed by 7pm Carols. All welcome.

The Eyrie

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YOUR FEEDBACK WELCOME

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The views, thoughts and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and should not be interpreted as theology or moral and ethical teaching.