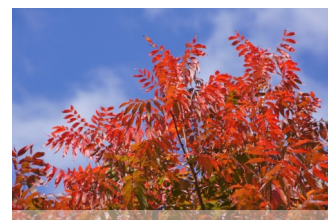




COMMUNITY OF THE HOLY NAME



**Autumn 2019
Newsletter**

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We find the latest news from ACARLA, who held their annual meeting in February.

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Community of the Holy Name

We are a Community of Anglican Sisters who have been living, praying and ministering in Melbourne for more than 125 years. Nowadays, our main ministry is hospitality, offering a place of spiritual renewal and refreshment.

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ACARLA meeting 2019

ACARLA (Advisory Council for Anglican Religious Life in Australia) met at the Spirituality Centre in February. ACARLA is the voice for Anglican Religious in Australia, facilitating communication with the Church leadership and encouraging the promotion of the Religious Life to the wider Anglican community.

The Leaders of the Religious Communities meet by themselves on the first day, for a time of fellowship and sharing and the other members of the Advisory Council join for the next two days. It is always a very happy time to get together, hear what's happening around Australia and the latest news from overseas Communities.

The leaders welcomed a new member, Sr Elisa Helen from the Community of the Sisters of the Church. Sr Elisa has replaced Sr Linda Mary as the Australian Provincial for CSC. Each Community gives a report of events throughout the previous year.

Br Gregory SSM (Society of the Sacred Mission) shared reflections with the leaders from his time in England. (See page 3.)

They discussed ways of promoting Religious Life. On Tuesday 12th, they joined the Choral Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral to celebrate Religious Life in Australia. The service had been advertised in the TMA but not many people were in attendance on the day. Community Leaders were responsible for the Readings and Prayers of Intercessions, and various leaflets were made available in the Cathedral during the following week. After the service, they shared a lovely time of fellowship over a delicious meal.

They have been invited to the next General Synod, in May/June 2020 at Maroochydore in Queensland. This is a good opportunity to raise awareness that Religious Life is an inherent part of the normal life of the Church. Representatives from the Communities will be available for clergy to speak to and to attend the prayer times and services.

During the year, Sr Carol CHN talked to a group of Theological students during their Year of Discernment, on the option of the Religious Life as a potential calling in their lives.

To find out more about ACARLA, visit our website at
www.anglicanconsecratedlife.org



LEFT: Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral.
From left to right: Br Steve CT, Sr Elisa Helen CSC, Sr Valmai CHN; Sr Sandra CSCSB, Sr Gillian SSA, the Revd Marilyn Hope



RIGHT: Sr Juliana SI enjoys a prawn

Dear friends,

Welcome to 2019.

I am sure we are all pleased that there is some cooler weather on the way following one of the hottest summers we have had for some time.



It seems no time since I wrote the last letter but Christmas has gone and Lent is upon us. I hope you had some time to relax during the holiday season. We did not have a happy start to 2019 when Sr. Jean died on 1st February following an accidental fall from her wheelchair and spending some days in the Alfred Hospital. She is sorely missed by us all especially those Associates and Cursillo friends who had known her for many years. Jean was a very strong lady, having to wait 30 years to be accepted into the Community due to her physical problems; however, she had much to offer in her 26 years as a professed sister. There is an article on her life in this newsletter.

Lent is a time of travelling with our Lord on his final journey to his crucifixion and then sharing in the joy of his Resurrection. It is a time for us to be aware of our own human journey. I am sure you are all involved in Lenten Studies. The sisters had a Lent Quiet Day led by Father Stuart Blackler and he focused us on The Language of Silence. One of his introductory thoughts was a quote from Desmond Tutu, "We are too scared to experience the stillness which will let us know our intrinsic worth." How often do we rather than sitting, driving or working in silence need to have to chatter, listen to the radio or have the television going? Silence doesn't always require sitting still but when in silence it allows our inner self and thoughts to come to the surface which sometimes we don't want to face. Silence also

allows us to spend time in relationship with God. Stuart looked at the silence of Mary (she pondered these things in her heart), the silence of the Pharisees, the silence of Peter, the silence of Jesus and the silence of Calvary. It has given us much to ponder on during Lent. I hope you may also find it a helpful exercise when following Jesus' journey.

Our first group in the Spirituality Centre this year was the pre-Ordination Retreat for those being ordained as Deacons. This was followed by ACARLA which is the governing body of the Australian Anglican Religious Life and then the first Living Well Group which trains people as Spiritual Directors. We have also had a number of individual guests staying both in the house and the Hermitage, and it is only March. So, I think I can say that our new vision for the Centre is certainly showing fruit.

While Brothers Wayne and Jeffrey were with us for the ACARLA Meeting they heard that there were fires in Tabulam, where they have their hermitages on a large property. When they returned home they found their property was burnt although they were able to save the stock and the buildings.

Michelle is living with us as an Alongsider for three months. An Alongsider lives with the sisters and partakes in the life of the Community. She has a sister appointed to mentor her during her stay. This is not just for women who may be considering a call to Religious Life but is open to anyone who feels they would like to experience the life of the sisters.

May you have a very blessed Lent and a joyous Easter

Blessings

Carol CHN

Reflection on Religious Life in England

By Brother Gregory, SSM

Br Gregory SSM stayed mostly at St Antony's Priory in Durham, in the north, and a few months at the mother house of SSM, St Michael's Priory in Willem, just north of London.

From the windows of his cottage at St Antony's he could gaze across the valley to the historic Durham Cathedral, less than a kilometre away.



Durham Cathedral

He joined in the daily rhythm of the cathedral, attending evensong and the Eucharist, as well as volunteering there once a week. He was impressed with the way the cathedral seemed to be part of everyday life for the locals, whether or not they even professed Christianity. School groups came on educational visits, young families enjoyed picnics in the grounds and many people visited simply for a

quiet time of prayer.

Br Gregory realised that the people of Britain are looking at the same issues as ourselves. Religious Communities are ageing and wondering where the new charism is emerging, how they can stay relevant in today's society. There seemed to be more awareness of the Religious or Consecrated Life in England than in Australia but, in Anglican circles worldwide, there is a general ignorance.

Although there is enthusiasm for Archbishop Justin Welby's young St Anselm's Community, there is no apparent connection from this temporary monastic experience to an ongoing commitment to Religious Life. He wondered whether the so-called New Monasticism is the answer or is it seeking to go backward to some perceived golden age, rather than going forward in our modern age?

During his time in England, it seemed to Br Gregory that society itself was enmeshed in the church. Perhaps this is the result of many centuries of history and historic buildings across the country? Or perhaps it reveals something deeper, the craving of people to understand how they fit in this world and how they can learn to know God?

Prayer for the Religious Life

Lord Jesus Christ
in your great love you draw all people to yourself,
and in your wisdom you call us to your service.
We pray at this time you will kindle
in the hearts of men and women,
the desire to follow you in the Religious Life.
Give to those whom you call,
grace to accept their vocation
readily and thankfully,
to make the whole-hearted surrender
which you ask of them,
and for love of you, to persevere to the end.
This we ask in your name.
Amen.

Prayer by the Little Brothers of Francis

Little Brothers of Francis have published this 'Prayer for the Religious Life' which you might like to pray with us, so that our way of life is constantly renewed and reinvigorated, bringing the message of the Gospel, as we support and pray for the Church in Australia.



THE JOURNEY OF AN OBLATE

Since becoming involved with the Community of the Holy Name, I have developed a passion for the spiritual, contemplative journey of faith.

As a young child, I recall having an innocent but definite faith, from occasional Sunday School attendances and listening to bible stories at school. Encountering darkness and despair as a youth, I became bitter and disillusioned, lapsing into agnosticism then atheism. Following a moving spiritual encounter in 1998, I became a committed Christian. Since then, I have always loved and been committed to prayer, although I have certainly experienced barren periods when I have wondered if I'm 'doing it right' or expressing myself properly or being 'holy enough'.

From 2008, while studying and training for Baptist ministry, I grew in my knowledge and understanding of the bible and theology and served in various ministries, mostly with children, youth, families and women. When I suddenly became disabled in 2012, I rapidly declined until I lived in a wheelchair for some time. There were a succession of hospital stays, rehabilitation and various types of prayer for healing. I was like a nestling who had stumbled out of the safety of its nest.

I entered into a new development in my faith, seeking closer spiritual union with God. I contacted CHN in early 2015, seeking 'better spiritual rhythms in my life'. Sister Valmai helped me to adopt these and also to learn how to 'sit lightly' with problems and issues, waiting on God. I found peace and refreshment on retreat there and was deeply nourished by the prayerful presence of the Sisters. I am well acquainted with the darkness, pain and hopelessness that comes with disability and chronic illness but my health has now improved significantly and I can see that this valley of despair has led me to a closer and deeper relationship with the divine.



*American robin in nest with chick and worm,
Wikimedia*

Prayer is essential for relationship with anyone. I am incredibly and wonderfully blessed to be a child of God and I desire to know him better. I love to learn different ways of praying, of connecting with God. It has been a tremendous spiritual blessing to pray the Offices with the CHN Sisters, pray an Office daily on my own and learn new ways of prayer and silence at the Oblates' Quiet Days and annual retreats.

I became an Oblate Enquirer in October 2015, Oblate Probationer in 2016, then Oblate in 2018. During that time, Sister Elizabeth Gwen has been my spiritual mentor, guiding me through an extraordinary personal journey. I have learnt so much, about being a Christian as opposed to doing Christianity, bringing regular spiritual practices into everyday living. I have learnt to reflect upon life's challenges and experiences, recognising God's presence in every part of life. To be an Oblate is a blessing, a contemplative life in partnership with the CHN Sisters and in fellowship with the men and women who comprise the CHN Oblates and the CHN Associates.

Liz Johnstone

DIARY DATES



Please remember the Lent Quiet Day for the Oblates is on 30th March.

10am - 3:30 pm. BYO Lunch. Our conductor will be the Reverend Dr. Garry Deverell, Vicar of St. Agnes' Black Rock

The next event for Associates is our Lent Quiet Day on 6th April, from 10 am to 3.30 pm. Our leader is Bishop Kate Prowd and we are extremely fortunate that she has made time in her busy schedule to do this for us. N.B. this is the one occasion in the year when you need to bring your own lunch. Although booking is not essential for catering purposes, we would still appreciate knowing if you are coming.

On 1st June we have our Combined Oblates/Associates meeting, beginning with the Midday Office at 12.45 pm. Our speaker is the Archbishop's wife, Mrs Joy Freier, who will both inform and entertain us.

N.B. As lunch is provided it is essential to book in for this meeting.



ASSOCIATES' NEWS

C.H.N. Associates' AGM 2019

On 2nd February, 13 Associates and 2 prospective Associates met at the C.H.N. Spirituality Centre for their A.G.M., at which Sister Jean's smiling face and friendly welcome were much missed.

The current office bearers, Pat Blake and Margaret Pawsey were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and were thanked for the good work they have done in these roles and for being willing to continue in them.

It was decided that a donation of \$500.00 be sent to the Community of the Visitation of Our Lady in Papua New Guinea, and also that Associates' annual subscriptions be increased from \$15 to \$20 at the beginning of 2020.

While on the subject of subscriptions, I would like to thank those who have paid their subscriptions for 2019, and give a gentle reminder to those who have not yet done so. Donations are welcome too, but please make it clear whether they are for the Associates or for CHN.

After lunch we assembled again for a very informative talk by Kezha and Zhano Angami, illustrated by slides. Our Associate Jennifer Pugsley has written the following account of their presentation:



Zhano, wearing Naga traditional dress, with young Avi.

It was a privilege to hear the story of Kezha and Zhano and how they came to be in Australia from Nagaland, India. We were moved to learn how the power of prayer has been demonstrated in their lives.

R.I.P.

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of our Associate, Elaine Salvin, on 22nd January. Elaine, in her 80's, was the widow of Priest Associate Phil Salvin. Her parish church was St Bartholomew's, Burnley, to which she was devoted, travelling all the way from her home in Sunbury to worship there. She was a loving, generous person whom her many friends described as "great fun". In the past she had quite a lot to do with the C.H.N. Retreat House, and Sister Felicity has fond memories of Elaine helping her in the kitchen there. She also enjoyed attending Associates' meetings, though had not been able to do so recently.

She is survived by her daughter Alison and her son Bruce and their families.

May she rest in peace.

The faithfulness of this couple to their call from God in ministry wonderfully linked in to the faithfulness of the Community of the Holy Name to its call from God to hospitality in so many ways.



Kezha, wearing Naga traditional dress.

Kezha and Zhano were provided with a place to live, where they could both work for the Community to help support their family while Kezha wrote his thesis. He had a library in which to wrestle with archival material that was difficult to read and CHN Sisters who helped him proof read drafts of his Doctoral thesis on Missiology.

Their daughter Avi (now two and a half years of age) has been a wonderful blessing and is regarded by Kezha and Zhano as a "daughter of CHN".

They believe the CHN Sisters have been very special gracious vessels in helping them follow God's plan. And now they have received a 4 year extension to their visa to enable them to stay on for Kezha's graduation in March, and beyond.

We thank this family for generously telling us their story, and giving us some insights into the history and beauty of their homeland.

VALE SISTER JEAN



Jean Margaret Nothrop was born in Tasmania on 25th November 1932, with two dislocated hips which left her with a life-long disability, though today the condition could have been corrected.

An interest in the Religious Life led her parish worker to recommend a visit to CHN in Melbourne, where Jean moved and joined the staff at the Brighton Children's Home. She became a CHN Associate and attended retreats to deepen her

spiritual life. Later she spent six years as a secretary for the Church of England Boys' Society, and also worked in the CHN Children's Home and Hostel in Goulburn. When the Sisters returned from Goulburn Jean did too and became secretary to the Girls' Friendly Society in Melbourne.

Although Jean felt God was calling her to the Community, the local doctor would not recommend her because of her disability, but Sister Flora (Assistant Superior at that time) guided her to become an Oblate. She was invited to become the Hostess in the new Bethany Wing for private guests at the Cheltenham Retreat House, a position she held for 13 years. She loved her time there and was loved by all the guests for whom she cared. While there she also became involved in the Healing and Wholeness Ministry, through which her physical condition improved, and she felt God was prompting her to ask again to test her vocation. This time Jean was accepted, and was received as a Novice in 1988, the last Novice to be Clothed in the habit. She made her Life Vows on 25th March 1993, having waited 30 years to fulfil her calling.

During this time Jean undertook a Clinical Pastoral Education Course, leading to part-time Pastoral Work at

Monash Hospital and Kingston Centre. In 1997 she moved back to the Community House and completed a Spiritual Directors' course. Jean never liked the term "Spiritual Director", preferring to be known as a spiritual companion. For a time Jean looked after the Day Groups that came to the Community House.

When St Julian's Respite Centre opened in 1998 she volunteered to work in the team there, but after 12 months the work proved too heavy for her and she moved back to the Community House where her work included helping with the Associates.

The Cursillo Movement was an important part of Jean's life. She became one of its Spiritual Directors and regularly attended the Ultreyas.

As Jean's physical condition worsened and it became obvious that she needed more care than the Community could give her, she went in 2011 to Fairway Hostel for respite care, and from there to a permanent place in Rosehill Aged Care Facility in Highbury where she spent the last eight years of her life. She settled in very happily and developed a ministry to other residents as well as a ministry of intercession. She also became the conductor of the Rosehill Choir. The staff made a room available for her to meet regularly with her Cursillo group, which was still very special to her.

Each Sunday she returned to the Community by wheelchair taxi to attend Mass with the St Francis congregation and share a meal and fellowship with the Sisters. She also continued her work with the Associates, attending their meetings and welcoming them on arrival.

In spite of her handicap, Jean lived life joyously and to the full. She was a "people person" and touched many with her love and generosity, her friendly smile and infectious laugh. She was also a deeply prayerful person whose spiritual life and love of God undergirded all that she did. After a life well lived Jean died on 1st February, 2019.

The yes to all of God's promises is in Christ.
(11 Corinthians 1:20 NCV)

Jesus Christ
He made each star and galaxy,
His birth fulfilled each prophecy.
His power made the blind to see.
His sacrifice set people free.
His resurrection proved to be
the turning point of history.



Wildflowers of the West

By Diana Cherry, Oblate



In King's Park

In September last year Ed and I flew to Perth to join a tour of the WA wildflowers. The Botanic Gardens of King's Park provide a spectacular introduction to the wildflowers.

The tour took us across the Darling Ranges to York, the oldest inland town in W.A.

Here we had the first of many guided walks to see unusual flora as well as buildings of historical interest. A night in Hyden provided the opportunity to visit Wave Rock — a prehistoric rock formation in the shape of a giant surf wave. A local pointed out resilient wildflowers surviving in that harsh landscape. Wave Rock is not to be missed and the rare lace museum is an unexpected treat.

Distances are large. It was a long day's drive across the wheat belt to the mining towns of Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, where more than half of the gold mined in Australia is produced. On the way to Esperance on the southern coast we saw the extraordinary colours of the vast salt Lake Lefroy.



Small section of the Ravensthorpe exhibition

A lunch stop at the little town of Ravensthorpe was a highlight because our visit coincided with the community's annual Spring Wildflower Festival.

The next stop was in the Stirling Range, described as 'one of the richest areas for flora in the world', and from a high peak we could see bush-land below covered in wildflowers.



Wreath lechenaultia—a single plant

While we saw fewer wildflowers traveling back to Perth, we visited the Valley of the Giants with its huge tingle trees, the Cape Naturaliste lighthouse, and the northernmost section of the Margaret River area.

Fremantle was interesting for us because the only time we had visited was by ship, on the way home from the UK in 1966. With a toddler and a baby, our memory was of buying sandwiches and having a picnic by the river! Today

Fremantle and Perth seem to meld into one city. The second part of the tour was north to Monkey Mia, with a night in Geraldton on the way, and at Kalbarri on the return — so the distances became even greater. We stopped frequently, and found large areas of massed wildflowers, as well as several spectacular and rare wreath lechenaultia.



Southern cross

At the Coomberdale wildflower farm we learnt how the dried wildflower industry has developed into a multimillion dollar business. We saw the cultivation and drying of the plants, and learnt how the growing Asian market is hard to satisfy. Dried flowers have little appeal for us — but then we have a choice!



Drying flowers at Coomberdale

Swimming with the dolphins is now strictly controlled at Monkey Mia, but not even the dozens of tourists can spoil the natural beauty of the place. Coming south we saw Shell Beach, consisting of billions of tiny white sea shells.

We spent time at Hamelin pool, home to some of the world's oldest living fossils, stromatolites, among the first sources of oxygen on the planet. At Nambung National Park we walked among the pinnacles, unusual limestone spires which rise up to 6m above an area of shifting sand.



The contrast of orchids and scaevola

This 15-day wildflower tour was an opportunity to see so much that we would have missed touring on our own. We saw varieties of wild banksia, hakea, orchid, clematis, hibiscus, damperia, acacia, callistemon, pea flower, kennedia, wax plant, everlasting daisy, eremophila, and so many more. Does it matter that we remember very few of their botanical names?

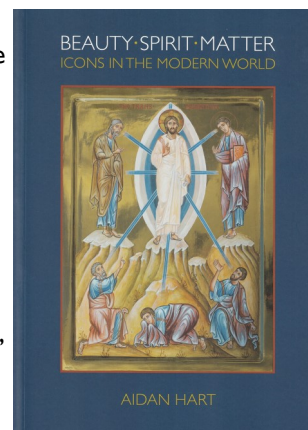
New in the Library by our Librarian, Philip Harvey

The Icon School of St Peter, founded by John Bayton in 1982 when he was vicar of St. Peter's Eastern Hill, closed towards the end of last year after a period of discernment. The School's superlative resource library was donated to the Carmelite Library in Middle Park, which holds one of the best icon book collections in Australia. A good number of the books also drifted in the direction of the CHN Library, for which we are grateful. Icon books cost a pretty penny, so receiving them gratis is an added blessing.

Amongst the titles added to our Library's existing icon books are two essential works by Aidan Hart. *'Beauty, spirit, matter : icons in the modern world'* (Freedom Publishing, 2014) presents the history and theology of the art, while exploring his understanding of its relation to contemporary concerns. One chapter is subtitled 'The icon as a paradigm of Christian ecology'. Another chapter reflects on 'the human person as icon: a union of body and spirit'. The making of icons, their use in prayer and contemplation, and our deepening appreciation of icons as artworks within tradition – these aspects are all taken up by the author with equal attention.

Aidan Hart is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church in Britain. His website states, breathtakingly, that he has over nine hundred commissioned works in private and church collections in over 25 countries. His authority on the subject grows in stature.

Hart's other book has, in a short space of time, become the magnum opus of icon handbooks. Indeed, you need two hands just to pick it up. 'Techniques of icon and wall painting : egg tempera, fresco, secco' (Freedom Publishing, 2011) has superseded all previous icon manuals in English, due to its thoroughness, detail, excellence of illustration, and sheer practical common sense.



Further, Kallistos Ware in his Preface says that "while concerned with technique, the treatment is never merely technical. At every point we see how technique reveals a transfigured world. Spirituality and technology are combined together, so that each illuminates the other." This book pays respect to the formative Byzantine and Russian icon practices, but also wishes to give the iconographer access into Coptic, Armenian and other traditions. It will be any iconographer's main required text for the foreseeable future.

Days of Prayer and Reflection 2019

The Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name Invite you to Days of Prayer and Reflection at the Spirituality Centre, Cheltenham, from 10am—3 pm.

The Eucharist is celebrated at mid-day and there are opportunities to sit quietly, to use our library and to wander in the gardens.

Some input is given, and suggestions for using the silence.

BYO lunch. (Tea and coffee are provided.) There is no charge for these days but a donation towards costs is appreciated.

For further information, contact Sister Josephine Margaret, CHN, on 03 9583 2087

DATES FOR 2019

7 March
4 April
2 May
6 June
4 July
1 August
5 September
3 October
7 November



"Be still and know that I am God."