

The Vine is the E-news for Evangelisation Brisbane. Our goal is to provide information on adult faith formation opportunities in many different forms – seminars, courses, websites.

Since Pope Francis gave us the wonderful gift of *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)* the call to action to be 'missionary disciples' has been at the forefront of our work here in Evangelisation Brisbane. At the beginning of 2015 Archbishop Mark declared *The Joy of the Gospel* to be the charter of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. The principles laid out by Pope Francis have guided our priorities and directions. On the first reading of *Divine Renovation* by Fr James Mallon two years ago it was clear that here was a book (and a pastor) that/who absolutely 'got it'!

It wasn't some grand theory but the telling of the story (both the gory and the glory) of moving a parish from just maintenance to primarily mission.

Brisbane was privileged to be one of only three cities in Australia where Fr James gave presentations in November. The videos of these presentations are now available online and details are below – along with information on other books by Fr Mallon, a new book by Fr Richard Rohr OFM and resources for Advent.

Please send information on diocesan, parish and deanery events by January 16th 2017 for the next edition of *The Vine* to Rob or Donna at: eb@bne.catholic.net.au

miniCALENDAR (December 2016 – January 2017)

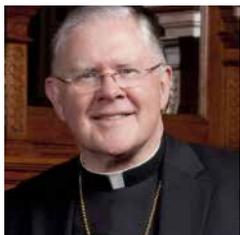
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DATE	TIME	EVENT/TOPIC	LOCATION	PRESENTER/FURTHER INFORMATION
Dec 9-11	6pm (Fri) – 3pm (Sun)	Pondering Expectantly - Women's Advent Retreat	Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Wellington Street, Ormiston	grace@dragonflyministries.net.au
Jan 31	7.00-8.30pm	Theology in the City	Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane	facebook.com/TheologyintheCity
*Feb 28	7.00-8.30pm	Theology in the City	Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane	facebook.com/TheologyintheCity
Mar 9-12		Alpha workshops	Brisbane and regional venues	More information in February. Contact Evangelisation Brisbane
*Mar 11	9.30am-12.30pm	Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Brisbane opening event	CCR Brisbane Centre, 688 Nudgee Rd, Northgate	Mass celebrant: Archbishop Mark Coleridge
*Mar 28	7.00-8.30pm	Theology in the City	Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane	facebook.com/TheologyintheCity
*Apr 8		CCR Brisbane National Day of Prayer rally	CCR Brisbane Centre, 688 Nudgee Rd, Northgate	
*27-28 May	8am-5pm daily	Kerygmic Retreat (English)	Brisbane	the Latin-American Evangelising Team
*May 30	7.00-8.30pm	Theology in the City	Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane	facebook.com/TheologyintheCity
*Jul 25	7.00-8.30pm	Theology in the City	Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane	facebook.com/TheologyintheCity
*Aug 12	9.30am-4.30pm	CCR Brisbane AGM & CCR Golden Jubilee celebration	CCR Brisbane Centre, 688 Nudgee Rd, Northgate	
*Aug 29	7.00-8.30pm	Theology in the City	Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane	facebook.com/TheologyintheCity
*Nov 25	9.30am-1.00pm	CCR Brisbane end of year celebration	CCR Brisbane Centre, 688 Nudgee Rd, Northgate	



In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)

The Flesh and the Facts • Archbishop Coleridge's Advent Pastoral Letter



'The Year of Mercy has come to an end, and I want to thank all who helped to make the Jubilee a gift to us all – Pope Francis for offering it to the whole Church, but also the many who have conceived and organised the many activities that have been part of our Archdiocesan journey into God's merciful love.

The Jubilee may be over, but we don't now set mercy aside. On the contrary: in these days of Advent and Christmas we set our sights firmly on the infinite mercy that takes flesh in Jesus. ...'

[Video, audio and text.](#)

Caritas Advent Parish Resources



Caritas Australia has launched a new Advent program to help people embrace the season of Advent and remember we are all part of one global human family. Our program is divided into the four weeks of Advent with each week focusing on a different theme: hope, peace, joy and love. It includes the tradition of the Advent wreath, the Gospel reading for each Sunday of Advent with guided reflection questions, a story about someone who has benefited from one of Caritas Australia's programs, suggested actions and a final prayer.

There is a parish resource which would be suitable for a parish prayer group, although we hope individuals will also find it enriching. There is also a young adult/youth group resource for those engaged in youth ministry. Catechists might like to include the Primary school PowerPoint in their lessons, with a PDF version if access to a data projector is not available.

All these resources can be downloaded from the Caritas Australia website:

www.caritas.org.au/advent

Emmanuel • Daily Advent and Christmas Reflection 2016 books



Emmanuel is a 72 page pocket-size book of short daily reflections from the beginning of Advent through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 January) primarily for personal use, but also appropriate for group use such as parish, Church agency, religious community and school staff/class prayer.

These spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections have been written by twelve contributors from the Diocese of Wollongong.

If you have any questions, please contact the diocese of Wollongong on (02) 4222 2400 or email orders@dow.org.au

[View a sample of the book](#)

[Order online](#) from only \$2.73 each

Advent Calendar



A simple A4 page Advent calendar that you can print and distribute. Published by Evangelisation Brisbane.

[Download](#)

Loyola Press Advent online resources



Loyola Press. This Jesuit Ministry continues to provide excellent free online resources to supplement their printed published material. Links below for their Advent materials:

[Advent website](#)

[Free articles on Advent](#)

Check out their other excellent website on Ignatian Spirituality: www.ignatianspirituality.com

Awakening to the Nearness of God



Bunbury diocese has produced a 20 page downloadable Advent program for use in small groups.

The Year of Mercy is complete, but not the ever present call to be the community of mercy in this topsy-turvy world. In the shadow of the Year of Mercy, we gather up the fruits and graces of this past year, and set off on a new liturgical year. With new resolve in our hearts, we continue living a merciful life so that others may have life.

The resource includes introduction, Group Leader's Sheet, Gospel for the week, reflection/discussion questions, prayers and 'Living Advent' section.

Provided as a black and white PDF – simple and inexpensive to reproduce for parishes, groups and individuals. We are grateful to the Diocese of Bunbury for providing access to this wonderful Scripture resource for the season of Advent.

Written by Fr Tony Chiera, Dr Michael Jackson and Mrs Rebecca Ward.

[Download the program](#) (1M)

Lectio Divina for Advent 2016



Published by Diocese of Broken Bay

Lectio Divina for Advent 2016 is out now as a PDF booklet (36 pages) for you to print. You may also choose to simply download the reflections for each Sunday alone.

'*Lectio divina* is the meditative reading of a text of God's Word, the Scriptures, alone or with others, which leads to prayer, transformation of life, and, through that transformed life, the sharing with others of the mystery of God entrusted to us. This practice of prayer involves the whole person. Through our senses we read, we meditate using our reason and imagination, and we pray and transform our life with our will. It is not just an interior practice but one that engages with the issues of our Christian life and prompts us to work with them.'

[Download the program](#)

Five Minutes With the Word Advent 2016



Available from Evangelisation Resources Down Under, Petrie.

Five Minutes with the Word is a pocket-size edition, published by The WORD Among Us, USA.

The booklet provides reference to the Scriptures from the Mass of the day, a brief spiritual reflection upon one of those Scriptures, and a short prayer. As indicated by the title, these reflections are intended to take only about Five Minutes a day. 1-5 copies \$2.85 (includes postage).

Order: office@erdu.com.au

[Information and to order](#)

[Sample](#)

Understanding the Catholic Advent Tradition



This is a page of the Melbourne Catholic Education Office website, 'Resource'.

Helpful information about Advent – Jesse Tree, Advent wreath, O Antiphons.

Simple video (slideshow) *What is Advent again?* takes the viewer back to the origins of this season and its meaning (4 mins).

[Website](#)



On Saturday 19th of November over 340 people filled the Siena Centre at San Sisto College to hear Fr James Mallon speak about practical ways that Catholics can take up Pope Francis' call to be 'missionary disciples'. There was a great atmosphere in the hall throughout the day. Many of the participants had already read Fr James' book, *Divine Renovation – from a Maintenance to a Missional Church*, and were eager to hear him develop the ideas in the book further.

We filmed the presentations throughout the day, including a panel in the afternoon with Fr Jason Middleton, Stephanie Unger and Vanessa Sullivan.

There are links to each session below.

- **Session 1** [Video](#) – [Audio](#): What does it look like to be a missionary parish community? Audio Remembering our Identity and Purpose
- **Session 2A** [Video](#) – [Audio](#): What is needed to transform the culture of the Parish?
Session 2B [Video](#) – [Audio](#): Naming the 10 building blocks
- **Session 3** [Video](#) – [Audio](#): Becoming an Inviting Church? What tools can be used to make this happen?
- **Session 4** [Video](#) – [Audio](#): Forum – So What? Vanessa Sullivan, Fr Jason Middleton PP and Stephanie Unger

Please distribute this information as widely as possible. The day created a great deal of energy, passion and excitement. These videos are one way to keep the momentum going forward and spread the word about *Divine Renovation*.

Divine Renovation



Fr James Mallon has two websites:

<http://www.divinerenovation.net>

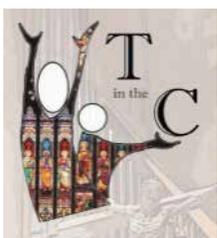
This site has information about the books in the *Divine Renovation* series, eBooks and links to a series of podcasts. You can listen to the audio podcasts on your computer or they can be downloaded wherever you have wifi access and then listened to on an iPhone, iPod or iPad anywhere.

<https://frjamesmallon.com>

This website has resources beyond *Divine Renovation*. This includes a video series Fr James has produced as a follow-up to Alpha: *Catholicism 201* (www.catholicism201.com). Check-out the downloads page on this site.

SEMINARS

Theology in the City • Lecture Series 2017



Theme: 'Culture of encounter: seeking common ground'

- Date Claimers (More information in future issues)
 - ~ Tuesday 31 January
 - ~ Tuesday 28 February
 - ~ Tuesday 28 March
 - ~ Tuesday 30 May
 - ~ Tuesday 25 July
 - ~ Tuesday 29 August
- Time: 7.00pm-8.30pm (refreshments provided from 6.30pm)
- Venue: Hanly Room, Francis Rush Centre, 277 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane (enter carpark via Charlotte St, the carpark is open from 6pm)
- Cost: \$5/person
- Enquiries: pblom@bne.catholic.edu.au, [Facebook](#)

Caring for Our Common Home



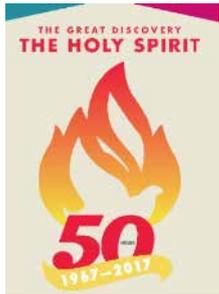
I recently gave this 30-45 minute presentation at the Queensland State Catholic Women's League conference. The presentation gives a basic understanding of the encyclical by Pope Francis, *On Care of Our Common Home (Laudato si')*, practical examples, a history and overview of key social justice teaching from 1891.

This is an issue that affects everyone, everywhere. To arrange a presentation in your parish or group please contact Rob Cosgrove at: cosgrover@bne.catholic.net.au

While this is a serious and grave issue I have attempted to make the subject interesting and relevant.

CONFERENCES / COURSES

Catholic Charismatic Renewal • Jubilee Conference



The Great Discovery – The Holy Spirit

The action of the Holy Spirit leads to:

- Experiencing union with God
- Inner transformation, leading to personal holiness
- Ministry empowered by charisms for evangelisation and service
- Building communities that witness to a renewed Christian life

The program will consist of teaching from Michelle Moran (UK), International President of ICCRS and Ulf Ekman from Sweden, coupled with praise and worship, daily Mass and prayer for healing.

- Dates: 16-20 January 2017
- Venue: International House, 241 Royal Pde, Parkville VIC
- Registration: \$295 per person (includes lunch and all day tea and coffee)
Live in accommodation available for \$85 per night (limited places)

More information and registration form at www.ccr.org.au

EVENTS / RETREATS / PRAYER / REFLECTION

Pondering Expectantly • Women's Advent Retreat



A retreat opportunity for women of all ages. Journeying with Mary and Elizabeth as they ponder and wait with great expectations for the advent of God-with-us.

(Gentle Reflection, Prayer, Deep Connection, Anticipation)

- Date: Friday 9 December 6pm – Sunday 11 December 3pm
- Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Wellington Street, Ormiston
- Cost: \$350 (\$320 pensioners and full-time students)

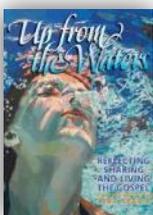
Individual, ensuite rooms. All linen, meals and resources supplied.

To Register or Enquire: Contact Grace on 0409 524 283 or grace@dragonflyministries.net.au

[Download flyer](#)

RESOURCES

Up From the Waters • Resource for Lent 2017



Up From the Waters: Reflecting, Sharing and Living the Gospel – Lent Year A

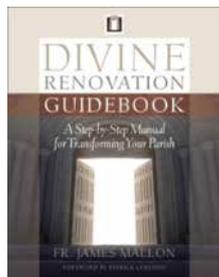
The Gospels include the three fundamental texts for our baptismal journey to Easter: the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well; Jesus healing the blind man and the washing in the pool of Siloam; and the raising and unbinding of Lazarus to new life.

[Online Store](#) Preorder now for distribution in mid-January.

Orders received by 31 December will receive a 15% discount

www.lentprogram.com

Divine Renovation Guidebook • a step-by-step manual for transforming a parish



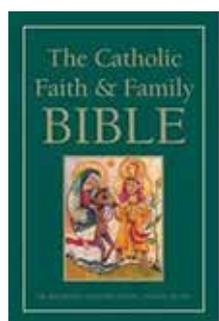
The *Divine Renovation Guidebook* includes the practical information and tools needed to put the ideas from the *Divine Renovation – from a Maintenance to a Missional Church* book into practice. Pastors will delight in Fr James empathetic and clear delivery of the material in this guidebook.

'This guidebook is easy to use, extraordinarily practical in the strategies and tips recommended, and infused with a solid Gospel vision. Because it is also chock full of timely and wise suggestions, pithy anecdotes, assessment tools and discussion questions, *Divine Renovation Guidebook* is a superb resource for every 21st-century parish intent on making joyful missionary disciples.'

+ J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of Vancouver

Available from bookshops across Australia.

The Catholic Faith & Family Bible



Developed in partnership with the Center for Ministry Development and Our Sunday Visitor, recognized leaders in Catholic youth and family ministry.

The text is brought to life through more than a thousand notes and articles such as:

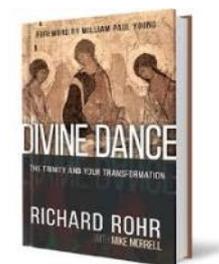
- Act On It – encourages families to engage in something active that the biblical passage may inspire, such as works of mercy and justice.
- Make the Connection – offers important facts about the Bible and shows how the Bible is relevant to Catholic family life today.
- Meet the People – introduces the main characters of the Bible.
- Pray the Word – offers simple prayers for the family to pray together.
- Take It to Heart – invites families to reflect on a biblical passage and discover God's message for their lives.

Additional features include book introductions, helpful articles and Bible reading plans for the family, parenting tips on how to share scripture with children, cultural and ethnic perspectives on the Catholic faith, inspiring articles written specifically for Catholic teens, and a topical index to help families connect their faith to everyday events.

Clear easy to read type!

1,621 pages. New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition. Published by HarperCollins.

The Divine Dance • the Trinity and Your Transformation



By Fr Richard Rohr OFM with Mike Morrell. Just released around the world.

Richard Rohr has been to Australia a number of times and I have had the privilege to listen to his reflective insights, profound wisdom and deep spirituality. He has been a prodigious writer and presenter of talks – first on cassette, now CD and online. His book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* has had a significant impact on the lives of many people I know.

Fr James Martin SJ writes 'Richard Rohr is one of the great spiritual masters of our time, indeed of any time ...' (book jacket).

I am sure this new book will be warmly embraced by people everywhere. This is not so much a Trinitarian doctrinal analysis as a way of 'seeing' the dynamic relationship that is the Trinity as a dynamic movement of spiritual transformation.

Available in hardcover, softcover and [eBook](#).

219 pages. Published by Whitaker House.

*From the online Diocese of Bunbury Advent resource: **Awakening to the Nearness of God***



If we pause for a moment and reflect, it is clear for us humans that 'love' and 'nearness' go together. Friends seek out and enjoy one another's company. Spouses seek physical union. Parents delight in having their children together for special celebrations. God who is Love, likewise, could not keep his distance from us! In becoming a human being, our Loving God was able to come as near to us as he possibly could. Becoming human, God shares our experiences. He communicates with us through words, touch and our own body language which he created. Becoming human, he draws us into the depths of his own divine life.

This nearness of God is the radical intimacy of God. St Augustine expressed it beautifully when he said, 'God is closer to us than we are to ourselves'. St Paul tells us of 'One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all' (Eph 4:6).

Meister Eckhart the 14th century mystic says 'Never has a person longed after anything so intensely as God longs to bring a person to the point of knowing him. God is always ready but we are very unready. God is near to us but we are very far from him. God is within us but we are outside, God is at home in us but we are abroad' (Sermon 68).

The nearness of God is a nearness in love, drawing us into communion with God and love for all. Advent summons us to wake up to this God who is 'more in us than we are'. Advent challenges us to see God in the people and situations that most challenge us. Advent invites us to prepare for Christmas by meeting God in the most vulnerable among us. Advent calls us to make the Merciful God visible in our world.

Excerpt from *Awakening to the Nearness of God*. Written by Fr Tony Chiera, Dr Michael Jackson and Mrs Rebecca Ward (©Diocese of Bunbury, 2016. Used with permission). Artwork: The mosaic of Nativity in St. Sebastian Cathedral, Bratislava. Used under licence AdobeStock: © Renta Sedmkov, Fotolia