



June-July 2020

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Perhaps once in a generation, historians argue, 'pivot events' occur (eg war, pandemic). During these events life hits the 4x fast forward button. The crisis can produce inventive and creative initiatives to ameliorate the situation. On a smaller scale this is also true for parishes and dioceses across Australia (and the world) as we have responded to the challenges posed by the Coronavirus COVID-19 in unique and new ways.

This edition of *The Vine* will focus on some of these creative solutions. Hopefully this will provide you with resources, fresh insights and encouragement to adapt ideas to suit your local adult faith formation needs.

Our movie review (see 'At the Movies – At Home') may even give you an alternative to binge-watching that streaming series you've already seen before!

One example, amongst many, is St. John's Wood The Gap Parish. The local St Vincent de Paul group volunteered to contact by telephone as many people in the parish as possible. This served as both a wonderful act of pastoral care, especially for parishioners living alone, but also enabled the Society to provide material assistance to anyone in need. The Parish Pastoral Director, Sr Kari Hatherell OSU, could see an immediate need to keep in contact with parishioners through the shutdown period. Again volunteers helped setup an enews called [Filling THE GAP in our neck of the WOODS](#).

For the next edition of *The Vine* please send information on adult faith formation resources and opportunities to [ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au) by 17 July.

miniCALENDAR – from June 2020

[See page 7](#)

## WEBSITES

### Daily Reflections



This is a new series in response to Covid-19 published by Evangelisation Brisbane. Subscribe and you will receive these reflections daily to your inbox. The short reflections (300-400 words) are prayerful and insightful. The writers, so far, have been Shane Dwyer, Lisa McKerr, Deacon Peter Pellicaan, Carole Danby, Mike Humphrys and Steven Bird.

[Click here](#) to preview previous copies of the weekday reflections, and a link to subscribe. This site also includes a copy of the Sunday Gospel Encounter videos by Dcn Peter Pellicaan.

A great resource for busy parents or RCIA elect and candidates; well anyone really looking for daily faith nourishment.

### Flame of Faith



Some of the resources featured in this edition are not new but may fall into the category of 'how come we didn't know about that?'

With sacramental preparation for parents and children on hold it is worth visiting (or revisiting) this feature rich website and the suite of books published by Evangelisation Brisbane and Liturgy Brisbane. For Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation there are pages that describe the sacrament in basic non-technical language, meanings of symbols and actions, FAQs and resources.

There is also a five minute video on each sacrament. In internet and YouTube 'land' these videos have been very popular with over 200,000 views!

[www.flameoffaith.org.au](http://www.flameoffaith.org.au)

## CrossroadsRCIA



Last year Lisa McKerr (Evangelisation Brisbane, Adult Formation Team) completed a major project that helps to meet a need that has existed for over 40 years – RCIA for young people.

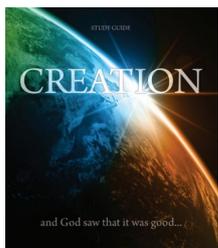
‘CrossroadsRCIA has been designed to provide support to parishes and communities in journeying with young people (ages 9 to 16) who wish to explore and develop their faith with a view to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.’ (website).

Parishes anywhere can access the free resources on the website. For two age groups, 9-12 and 13-16, this includes PDF documents for leaders or catechists for each stage or period of the RCIA.

For young people aged 9-12 there is an attractive Activity Book. Copies can be purchased from Evangelisation Brisbane through three [online store](#) (\$6.60 incl GST).

[www.crossroadsrcia.org](http://www.crossroadsrcia.org)

## Salt + Light Media



Established 13 years ago in Canada, Salt + Light Media has produced some 40 documentaries or TV series, has launched a satellite radio program, magazine and numerous web-based initiatives including a blog and live stream that are viewed daily by people throughout the world.

Many videos are available for free, eg [Faith in a Time of Crisis: Special Interview with Bishop Robert Reed](#) or this wonderful and amusing [interview with comedian, interviewer and host Stephen Colbert](#).

Other video series are available to purchase or hire. Salt + Light Media has just published a new series called *Creation*. This is based on Pope Francis’ encyclical *On Care of Our Common Home* (Laudato ‘si). This six part series is an absolute joy to behold and the production quality is as good as any first class documentary series on TV.

Sometimes the examples and case studies are from the US, eg the Ogallala Aquifer, however it is a simple exercise to compare these to similar problems and challenges here and in other parts of the world.

To accompany the videos Salt + Light Media have generously published a 40 page guide with quotes, reflection and discussion questions. [Click here](#) for more information, video samples and the guide.

## Be Not Afraid: A message by Catholic Artists from Home



Artists who have been in lock down or self-isolation during Covid-19 have been using this time and some creative uses of technology to develop some remarkable recordings; alone but together and in beautiful harmony.

During this time of crisis these videos and recordings have been a source of encouragement and hope. In those video Salt + Light Media invited singers and musicians to collaborate for a production off the well-known and well-loved hymn ‘Be Not Afraid’ by Bob Dufford, SJ (Oregon Catholic Press, © 1975). The video includes such Catholic musicians as: Dan Schutte, John Michael Talbot, Steve Angrisano, Jesse Manibusan, Ken Canedo, Gretchen Harris, and many others including Australian Fr. Rob Galea.

[Click here](#) to watch the video and lyrics.

## Spirituality & Practice



‘Spirituality & Practice serves people of all the world’s religions and spiritual paths and those with no tradition through the website [SpiritualityandPractice.com](http://SpiritualityandPractice.com)’ (from the website).

Launched in 2006 the website has grown into a resource centre with more than 40,000 pages of content: videos, e-courses, film reviews and articles.

You can enrol in an e-course at any time; there is a US\$49 fee. Some of these e-courses are given by presenters of other faith traditions, eg Rabbi Ted Falcon and Imam Jamal Rahman lead the e-course [Finding Peace in Turbulent Times](#). Notable Catholic presenters are: Sr Joan Chittister OSB ([Benedictine Spirituality](#), [Gifts of a Scarred Soul](#) and others), Br. David Steindl-Rast ([Trusting in Life](#)) and Trappist monk Thomas Keating OCSO ([The Transformation of Suffering](#)). However there are many other excellent, but less known, presenters.

Spirituality & Practice also has resources on social media, eg [Facebook](#).

## Fuel Scripture



A free daily companion that includes reflections to accompany the daily Catholic readings. Plus extra resources, talks and the Bible.

Available on the Apple App store

[Download Now](#)

## 3-Minute Retreat



Published by Loyola Press and now available in Spanish. These daily reflections and prayers are beautifully written and are complemented with stunning photography and music.

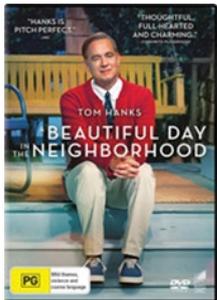
You can pray these retreats on your computer, tablet or phone.

Available on the Apple App and Android Play store. Free to download and use.

[website and links to app stores](#)

# AT THE MOVIES (AT HOME)

## A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood



In past editions of *The Vine* we have included reviews of films that have an insight into faith. Last year we reviewed *A Hidden Life* the deeply moving true story of Franz and Fani Jägerstätter – now available to buy or hire at iTunes Store or Google Play store.

Not going to the movies (and not going to church) has left a large hole in the lives of many of us. While streaming services such as Netflix seem to provide a wealth of choices much of it is quick entertainment and easily forgotten.

*A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood* appeared at cinemas just as Covid-19 was approaching over the horizon. Therefore many of us didn't see it for that reason, or because a film about a host, Fred Rogers, of a long running US children's TV show didn't spur much interest.

The script for the film is loosely based on an article that appeared in *Esquire* magazine in the US. The writer, Tom Junod, was sent by his editor to interview Fred for a 400 word profile article. His interviews with Rogers slowly become a deeply transformational experience from cynicism to an appreciation of kindness, goodness and faith. The film uses a fictionalised version of the writer, Lloyd Vogel, fantasy elements from the TV show and real events and words from Fred Rogers' life.

For the excellent review on the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference website by Peter W. Sheehan [click here](#).

You may want to also check out this YouTube video [5 Must-See Catholic Movies](#). This video is presented by a young Franciscan brother Casey Cole OFM. 7,500 individuals have given the video a 'thumbs up'; 140 'thumbs down'. What will you vote?

Like him or not Br Cole has certainly jumped on board with the new media with 100s of videos on his YouTube channel, [Breaking in the Habit – Evangelisation, Catechesis, Vocations](#). The channel has over 80,000 subscribers.

# RESOURCES

## Reflections on the Rosary

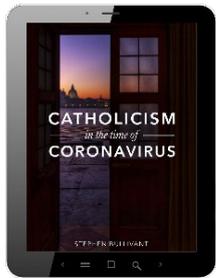


Have you ever wanted to learn to pray the Rosary?

Join in and pray the all the mysteries for everyday of the week with Carole Danby in this guided reflection for praying the rosary.

This [16 minute video is available on the Archdiocese of Brisbane website](#).

## Catholicism in the time of Coronavirus



Written by Prof Stephen Bullivant, published by Word on Fire. Bishop Barron wrote the excellent foreword. Available as a free PDF download. 107 pages. Highly recommended.

The text was written over a two-week period and took me about an hour to read. While dealing with a very serious topic it is at times deeply personal, engaging and even at times amusing.

The text offers excellent historical insights; how the Church responded to periods of plague and pandemics throughout history, including the 'Spanish' flu of 1918. (An interesting historical diversion is that the virus originated probably in Kansas, USA, or France. It became known as the 'Spanish flu' simply because the media there reported on the disease. Spain was neutral in World War I. In other countries wartime censors covered up news of the flu to keep morale high.)

From the Word on Fire website: 'A former Oxford researcher and expert in Catholic disaffiliation, Dr Bullivant looks at the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Church from both the spiritual and secular perspectives, weaving in his own personal reflections as a Catholic convert, husband and father.'

Bullivant raises many questions about how the Church can shine forth the Good News in such a dark and tumultuous time. He also suggests we take encouragement from holy women and men who have faced similar darkness throughout the 2,000 years of Christianity.

'Blessed Engelmar Unzeitig (1911-1945) was arrested by the Gestapo in 1941 for preaching in defence of the Jews. Imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp, he volunteered to serve quarantined inmates who were infected with typhoid.' From prison he wrote to his sister: *Whatever we do, whatever we want, is surely simply the grace that carries us and guides us. God's almighty grace helps us overcome obstacles ... love doubles our strength, makes us inventive, makes us feel content and inwardly free.* Unzeitig died of the disease on 2 March 1945 and was cremated. His ashes were smuggled in secret to Würzburg and he was hailed as the 'Angel of Dachau'.

Click here for a copy of [Catholicism in the Time of Coronavirus](#) and Word on Fire resources related to Covid-19. (Rob Cosgrove)

## Evangelisation Brisbane Facebook



To keep up to date with the services, personnel and resources at Evangelisation Brisbane 'like' and/or 'follow' us on [Facebook](#) – and encourage your parishioners to do the same.

Check out the videos by: Deacon Peter Pellican (Executive Director); Teresa McGrath, Eric Robinson and Shane Dwyer (Associate Directors); Steph Santos (Youth Team); and Mike Humphrys (Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre).

## Alpha Online



Once lock down started many church groups, faith sharing groups, Lenten groups and Scripture study groups closed down. Some managed to move across to 'virtual meetings' with Zoom or Skype.

Alpha has met the challenge head-on and have a great website to help individuals and groups take part in Alpha online. The [web page](#) has free resources to download, training video, suggestions and tips, and great testimonials from people such as Vanessa Comminos (Springfield parish) and Daniel Ang (Archdiocese of Sydney). There is also a new program, [The Prayer Course](#) – an eight week journey through the Lord's Prayer.

## Maintaining Social Connection while Maintaining Social Distance



Excellent article by Paul Jensen; Director of Mission and Formation, Centacare.

Paul writes: 'To get through the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to develop a connection culture that is rich in relational engagement and combats loneliness while maintaining social distance between individuals.' His practical steps for 'getting through' are relevant for parishioners, family members and parish ministers. You can take these practical actions outlined in the article to enhance a connection culture, nourish positive self-care and empower yourself to adapt and reach out innovatively.

[Click here for the PDF.](#)

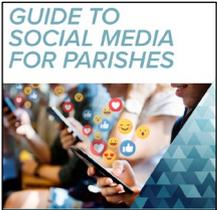
## Emmaus Online Video Library and music resources



Monica Brown and the team from Emmaus Productions have generously provided free access to many of their online resources during the pandemic. Monica and the team pray that their 'resources will ... warm people's hearts with the Presence of the Sacred One, and offer some hope and reassurance that the new dawn of Easter and the Spirit of healing and strength will radiate within your hearts and blaze across our world'.

[Spiritual Comfort for Troubled Times](#) and [Easter Hope and Pentecost Expectation](#)

## Guide to Social Media for Parishes



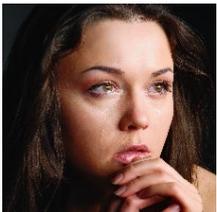
Hot off the digital press! Published by the Australian Catholic Media Council (ACBC) this guide is eminently practical, concise, and best of all, helpful for any parish heading out onto the social media 'highway'.

The thirteen page document deals with issues such as 'why social media matters to your parish'. 'Social media is the number one internet destination for millions of Australians today, with almost 80 per cent of Australians using the platform – including 99 per cent of those under 30, but also almost half of those over 65.' (p4)

The resources provides tips and suggestions for the use of Facebook and Instagram.

A great resource as parishes and communities as they attempt new means of communication, evangelisation and contact during Covid-19. [Click here for the PDF](#)

## Church's Social Mission during the Covid-19 Pandemic



In this moment of social isolation, there are many who are vulnerable and struggling to cope with a loss of employment, income or social support. As the Church we are called to care for the vulnerable, but it can be difficult to know how we can provide support. Our doors may be closed, but our hearts remain open and the social mission of the Church remains a priority. This document serves as a starting point providing information to enable support for those affected by the pandemic and the restrictions put in place. It covers a list of entities, the services they provide, and who these services are relevant to. For more information, contact Peter Arndt (Executive Officer, Catholic Justice and Peace Commission Brisbane) on [cjpc@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:cjpc@bne.catholic.net.au)

The paragraph above is the introduction to this 17 page document that lists a wide array of social and pastoral care services provided by churches, governments and community groups and organisations. Even after the pandemic this document will prove to be an invaluable resource.

[Click here for the PDF.](#)

## Initiatives for Parishes & Communities During Covid-19



This two page document published by Evangelisation Brisbane suggests five practical steps that a parish can do during the pandemic. 'It is essential at this time to recognise that though our buildings are closed, the Church is not!'

[Click here for the PDF.](#)

## Do Life Better Podcast



Why settle for an average life when you can create a life full of even more happiness, success and fulfilment? This podcast shared inspirational messages, proven methods, quick life hacks and interviews with expert guests so that you can do your life even better, both now and in the future. Your host, Dave Jorna, is among Australia's most sought-after presenters for student leadership and personal development.

[Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)

## The Catholic Leader



A [digital edition](#) continues to be free while Sunday Mass is suspended in our Brisbane Archdiocese. To access the digital version of the newspaper you now need to subscribe by providing your email address. You can unsubscribe at any time.

## A Flick of Chimps or a Faggle of Cows? Flocknote, Mailchimp, Moosend ...



Once upon a time, far, far away, we would attach sticky images to rectangular paper, drop it into a red box and expect the postie to deliver it hail, rain or shine.

But with email there is a wide variety of 'posties': Telstra, Optus, Aussie Broadband, etc. And because of something called spam (what we call junk mail when it is dropped in our letterbox) there is absolutely no guarantee that if your parish sends 500 emails to parishioners that a certain percentage will ever be delivered!



This is where services/companies such as Mailchimp came to the fore. With stringent privacy and spam controls they give you and your church the best chance for delivery of your newsletter and messages.

Costs US\$ (check what works for you):

- [Mailchimp](#) free up to 2,000 contacts (1 audience/list), send up to 10,000 emails per month
- [Moosend](#) free up to 1,000 contacts (1 audience/list), send unlimited emails
- [Flocknote](#) free up to 40 contacts. After that a monthly fee based on number of contacts, eg 500 contacts \$55. However there is a 25% discount for Australia as text function not available here.



These services will let you send attractive emails that can be viewed on computer, tablet or phone. They provide a great, and safe, way to keep in touch with parishioners. Their templates provide mandatory 'unsubscribe' and 'update' buttons.

## COURSES / TRAINING

### Special Studies in Theology: Liturgical Inculturation



ACU's Faculty of Theology and Philosophy and the ACU Centre for Liturgy will welcome Rev. Professor Mark R. Francis csv as a guest lecturer for a new masters-level unit called *Special Studies in Theology: Liturgical Inculturation*.



This unit is offered at postgraduate level for students enrolled in master's or graduate certificate program in theology and religious education. It is also being offered as a professional learning seminar. Liturgists, clergy, pastoral associates and all who have an interest in the fascinating and pastorally relevant area of Liturgical Inculturation are invited to [register here](#). (by 5 June). Cost is \$450.

The unit will be offered as an online intensive on July 6, 7, 9 & 10 (with our professional learners joining the masters-students from 9am-12.30pm each of those days). Further details about how professional learners can enrol in this one-time-only offering can be found on the attached flyer along with contact details for any questions they may have.

[Download the flyer \(PDF, 627KB\)](#)

## EVENTS / RETREATS / PRAYER / REFLECTION

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 24 - 31 May



Join the leaders of Christians Churches in Brisbane to pray for Christian Unity.

This Ecumenical Service will be live-streamed from the Cathedral of St Stephen on **Wed 27 May at 7pm**.

Log on to [archbne.org/bzw](http://archbne.org/bzw) or watch later on demand.

This year's theme calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action. The international resources for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by colleagues in Malta. The 2020 theme, *They showed us unusual kindness* (Acts 28:2), remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta and calls us to a greater generosity to those in need.

National Council of Churches in Australia resources available now:

- [WoPCU 2020 Worship Service resource](#) (Word Doc) - The NCCA realises that this may need your creativity and adaptation in the current COVID-19 situation
- [WoPCU 2020 Reflections for the 8 Days](#) (PDF)
- [WoPCU Sermon Notes](#) (PDF)
- [WoPCu Poster](#) (PDF)
- [WoPCU Prayer Cards](#) (PDF)



Join Ignite Youth on Friday nights when they gather online and connect with each other. Each week includes an inspirational speaker, dynamic worship from Ignite Conference followed up with high schoolers online youth group. Friday Nights from 7pm on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

## Sole to Soul 2020 Men's Contemplative Bushwalking Retreat



photo:www.piqsels.com

The Sole to Soul team is delighted to once again offer you the blessings of another weekend away with a group of men who want to walk the male spiritual journey together, and to take the brave but blessed step of walking this pilgrimage in the deep and longstanding contemplative tradition and practice of the Christian community.

- Date: Friday afternoon 16th to Sunday afternoon the 18th October
- Venue: Lamington National Park, Binna Burra, Beechmont or Mt Tamborine (TBC)
- Cost: TBC (approx. \$155) includes accommodation (BYO food and bedding)

Please mark your diaries and send in your expression of interest ASAP to [jeffrlawrence@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jeffrlawrence@optusnet.com.au)

[Facebook](#)   [Date Claimer](#)   [Further information](#)

miniCALENDAR – from June 2020		* date claimer (more information in upcoming issues)	
Every effort has been made to check details of these events; however, we suggest you check that they are still running closer to the date.			
DATE / TIME	EVENT/TOPIC	LOCATION	PRESENTER/FURTHER INFO
May 24 – 31 May	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity		
May 27	Ecumenical Service: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Log on to <a href="http://archbne.org/bzw">archbne.org/bzw</a> or watch later on demand	
<del>Jul 5</del> POSTPONED	RCIA 1 Day Conference		Evangelisation Brisbane
July 6, 7, 9 & 10	Special Studies in Theology: Liturgical Inculturation	Online (Australian Catholic University)	<a href="#">See article</a>
<del>Jul 14 (6-9pm)</del> POSTPONED	Liturgy Brisbane – Parish Workshop:	Aspinall Centre, Upper Mount Gravatt	Elizabeth Harrington and
<del>Jul 18 (6-9pm)</del> POSTPONED	Training for Liturgical Ministers	Fr Denis Power Centre, Paddington Qld	Trish Stapleton
<del>July 25</del> POSTPONED	Australian Catholic Men's Gathering	ACU, Strathfield, NSW	POSTPONED to 31/7/2021
Aug 15 (9.30am-1pm)	CCR Brisbane AGM	CCR Brisbane Centre, Northgate	CCR Brisbane - <a href="#">email</a>
Aug 28-30	Women of the Way Retreat	Watson Park Convention Centre, Dakabin	CCR Brisbane - <a href="#">email</a>
Oct 16-18	Contemplative Bushwalking Retreat	Lamington NPark or Mt Tamborine	See article in Events
Nov 28 (9.30am-1pm)	End of Year Celebration	CCR Brisbane Centre, Northgate	CCR Brisbane - <a href="#">email</a>
Dec 11-13	Women's Retreat	Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, 267 Wellington St, Ormiston	Grace Harwood (Dragonfly Ministries)

## INSPIRATION FOR THE ROAD AHEAD ...

When we try to live in solidarity with the pain of the world – and do not spend our lives running from necessary suffering – we will encounter various forms of 'crucifixion'. ... Pain is physical discomfort, but suffering comes from our resistance, denial, and sense of injustice, or wrongness about pain. I know that is very true for me. This is the core meaning of suffering on one level or another, and we all learn it the hard way. Pain is the rent we pay for being human, it seems, but suffering is optional. The cross was Jesus' voluntary acceptance of undeserved suffering as an act of total solidarity with all of the pain of the world. Reflection on this mystery of love can change your whole life. ...

I think the acceptance of that invitation to solidarity with the larger pain of the world is what it means to be a 'Christian'. It takes great inner freedom to be a follower of Jesus. His life is an option, a choice, a call, a vocation, and we are totally free to say yes or no or maybe. You do not have to do this to make God love you. That is already taken care of. You do it to love God back and to love what God loves and how God loves! You either are baptised 'into his death' and 'resurrection' (Romans 6:3; Philippians 3:10-12), or Christianity is largely a mere belonging system, not a transformational system that will change the world.

From *Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi*, Richard Rohr OFM, Franciscan Media, 2014, pp 21,22

Audio recording *Sunday Sermon in a Pandemic: Fr. Richard Rohr OFM and Rev Jim Wallis in Conversation* [click here](#).



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