



COMMUNITY OF THE HOLY NAME



Summer 2022/23
Newsletter

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We have an extraordinary addition to our Library; Janet becomes our new Novice; along with all our calendars for 2023.

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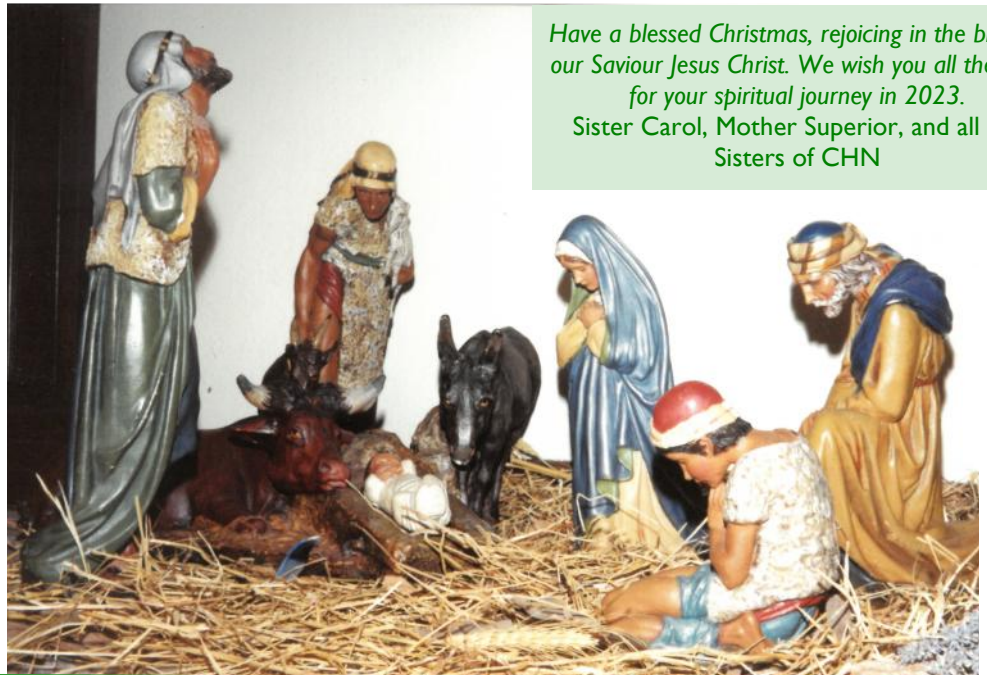
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Have a blessed Christmas, rejoicing in the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We wish you all the best for your spiritual journey in 2023.

Sister Carol, Mother Superior, and all the Sisters of CHN

A Very Special Birthday

On 7 May the Adelaide Oblates and Associates met to celebrate a very special occasion, Oblate Joan Durdin's 100th birthday. It was touch and go whether Joan would be able to join us for her celebration, due to COVID at the residential facility where she lives, but fortunately at the last minute she was cleared to come. It was a very happy day, the only sadness being that Joan's identical twin sister, Patience CCK, had not lived to share this milestone with her. We were blessed to be joined by Sister Valmai and Sister Avrill from Melbourne, and commenced with a Communion Service from the reserved sacrament conducted by Rev Carol Cornwall. We then enjoyed a shared lunch which of

course included cake! We are grateful at our meetings to enjoy Jenny Francis' hospitality. After lunch we all shared our latest news, including the Sisters giving us an update on happenings at Cheltenham. Joan reminisced and shared with us some of the birthday celebrations that she had already enjoyed, including the news that two nursing scholarships have been given in her honour, one from the Royal College of Nursing Australia and the other from the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. Congratulations, Joan on these two scholarships and on your milestone birthday, and we wish you God's blessings now and always.



Joan shows off her card from the Queen.

Rev. Carol Cornwall, Oblate, CHN

Dear friends,

You may have heard that Liz our editor had resigned due to her move to Seymour and her studies. However, Liz has completed her studies and is able to resume as editor in 2023. We are pleased with her decision as this includes the prayer aids and website.

We were all saddened by the sudden death of our Warden, Fr. Graham Reynolds. He will be greatly missed. The Sisters agreed to appoint Revd. Colleen Clayton, priest of St. Matthew's Cheltenham, as acting Warden. She will be licensed by the Archbishop on 16 December as our Warden for the next three years. This is a milestone for us as Colleen is the first female warden in the life of the Community.

Our Postulant, Janet, was received as a Novice on Sunday 30 October, a special moment for all of us.

After spending some weeks in hospital with a septic ulcer on her leg, Sr. Hilary's medical team felt it best for her to go into care as we could not manage her needs at home. She is settling into Calvary Central Park in Windsor and becoming involved in some of the activities they run.

Our Oblate, Joan Durdin celebrated her 100th birthday, in South Australia.

Srs. Josephine Margaret and Felicity celebrated their 50 years of Life Profession in the Community on St Luke's Day 18 October. A great achievement for each of them and for the service they gave to many through their various ministries during this time.

The Spirituality Centre has hosted a number of retreats and groups this year and many individual

guests. The first Annual General Meeting of the Spirituality Centre was held on 17 November. Next year an invitation will be issued to those who would like to be members of the Spirituality Centre so they can attend the Annual Meeting in 2023.

As a Community we have agreed to experiment with a Leadership Team rather than have a Mother Superior. This is a significant change but as our numbers diminish we need to look to the future and, by having a team, the responsibility is shared. The running of the Community is not dependent on one person. I am sure there will be some teething problems but nothing insurmountable. I ask for your prayers of support for this new venture. My time as Mother Superior will finish at the end of February 2023. I will then take some time off for the Leadership Team to settle in.

There is so much that has happened since our last Newsletter that I am sure I have missed some things. I hope you all have a blessed Christmas rejoicing in the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Carol CHN .



Farewell, Fr. Graeme

The Revd Graeme Reynolds KSJ, Warden of C.H.N., died tragically on 30th June, 2022. Fr Graeme had been a friend and supporter of the Community for many years, and is greatly missed. His funeral, with a packed congregation of all who had come to know, respect and love him, was held at St Peter's, Ballarat, where he was baptised as an infant.

Fr Graeme trained first as a chef and caterer, and hospitality remained one of the hallmarks of his ministry after he was ordained to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Gippsland in 1975. He served in five different parts of that Diocese before moving on and serving as Dean of St Alban's Cathedral (Riverina

Diocese) and Rector of the parish of Box Hill in Melbourne. Later he served as Parish Partnership Manager for Anglicare Victoria, before retiring to Ballarat. He had strong links with the Sudanese communities in Melbourne, and he served two separate terms as Warden of the Community of the Holy Name. When his wife Judy died in 2016, Fr Graeme struggled to come to terms with her loss, but was still very active in the life of Ballarat Diocese and made many friends. He is survived by his three sons and their families. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

- Adapted from an article by Bishop Garry Weatherill in the 'Ballarat Chronicle', Sept. 2022.

Our new Novice

30 October was a special day for the Community, when our postulant Janet was admitted as a Novice. At the Service of Reception in the Spirituality Centre Chapel, in the presence of the Sisters, Janet’s family members and friends, and Oblates and Associates of the Community, Janet committed herself to follow the Rule of the Community and obey those set over her by it, observing the spirit as well as the letter of its requirements. The Novice’s cross was blessed and placed around her neck and she was led to her place for the Eucharist which followed, celebrated by our Warden, the Revd Colleen Clayton, Vicar of St Matthew’s, Cheltenham.

The readings were from Isaiah 43:1-5a, Ephesians 1:3-12, and John 15:1-11. Commenting on them, the Revd Colleen said in her homily, “What a glorious set of readings to have on this special occasion, Janet, as you take another step in discerning God’s call to you, and becoming a Novice in this Community of the Holy Name.

From Isaiah, the promise that you do not need to fear because you are redeemed, called, accompanied and loved by God.

From Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus, the assurance that you are blessed, chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, lavished with grace, made aware, gathered up.

Finally, the invitation from Jesus himself to abide



Janet after her reception as a Novice

in the joyful, fruitful, love-filled life that is found, through him, in God our Father.

Colleen then spoke at greater length on the Gospel passage, drawing out the deeper meaning of ‘abiding in the vine’.

Aurill CHN

Days of Prayer and Reflection 2023

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.



DATES FOR 2023

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

For further information, contact Sister Josephine Margaret, CHN, on 03 9583 2087, or by email jmwarne@bigpond.com

Be still and know that I am God.



OBLATES' NEWS by Sister Valmai



There has been a gap in our Newsletters this year, the last one being Autumn/Winter. Our Oblate Liz, who has produced the Newsletters for many years, moved with her husband Geoffrey to a new ministry in country Victoria and couldn't

commit to being able to continue the work entailed for the Newsletter. However, we are thankful that Liz now feels able to pick up the production again. Hence you are now reading this Summer edition.

Our Oblate programme has proceeded without any cancellations through the year, all held at the Spirituality Centre which has been able to function normally.

John Steward was the guest speaker at the Combined day with the Associates on 4 June. John had worked in Rwanda with the traumatised survivors of the terrible genocide some years ago. The stories he told were both harrowing but inspirational.

We were fewer in number this year at our Retreat which was led by the Revd. Willy Maddock but I think we all agreed that it was one of our best. Willy's leadership was strong but sensitive and each of those present found a connection and strength in some art of her presentation.

The final gathering for this year will be the Advent Quiet Day on Saturday 3 December. It will be led by Carol O'Connor who will use writings of Evelyn Underhill for our reflection. Carol is the

Manager of St. Peter's Bookroom but has other connections with us, being the wife of our Librarian Philip and daughter-in-law of our Oblate Dawn Harvey. As well as all that, she is a dear friend to a number of us. We will be happy to welcome, at the Eucharist that day, the Revd. Ken Parker as a Probationer Oblate. Joanne Pope, who has been an Enquirer for the past year, will also join us on the Quiet Day. Hopefully, she will be admitted as a Probationer at the Lent Quiet Day next year.

During these past months, two of our long time Oblates have died. Fr. Jim Tregga and his wife Helen, both Oblates, have been in care in their home town of Wagga Wagga. It is some months ago now that we heard that Jim had died and, more recently, Fr. John Goodman died peacefully in a nursing home in Moe. Our prayerful thoughts are with his wife Nancye, also an Oblate.

The Adelaide Oblates and Associates have continued to meet through the year at the home in Burnside of Oblate Jenny Francis. A highlight was Oblate Joan Durdin's 100th birthday, an account of which will be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

At the Oblates' AGM in August, an election was held for Office bearers. Philippa Wetherell is now the President, Dennis Mills remains the Secretary and Liz Johnstone is now the Treasurer. Sue Retschko and Diana Cherry were warmly thanked for the contribution they have both made to these Offices over past years.

Best wishes for a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Valmai CHN

OBLATES' CALENDAR 2023

20 February Social Lunch for Oblates
Bring a partner or a friend.

amazing collection of historical clerical vestments, church plate, etc.

18 March Lent Quiet Day

3.00pm

Afternoon Tea and depart.

3 June Associates' & Oblates'

Combined Meeting
12 noon Middy Office
12.30pm Lunch (provided)
2.00pm Guy Churchman will treat us to an exhibition of some of his

21 - 24 September Annual Retreat
Led by Bishop David Farrer

2 December Advent Quiet Day



Combined Oblates' & Associates' Meeting, 4 June 2022



On a chilly winter afternoon in June, a group of Oblates and Associates gathered at the Spirituality Centre to hear our speaker, Dr. John Steward, a Spiritual Director, and Peacemaker.

John has had a long association with the Community having been a Spiritual Director with Fr. John Stewart at the former Retreat House. It was through the Spiritual Direction network that our Oblate Dennis Mills suggested that John be invited to speak to our combined day at Cheltenham.

The world and the current affairs news cycle has moved on apace since 1994, and there has been much war and violence in the intervening decades. So, as a prelude to his talk, John Steward's question to us of, "What do we remember about the Rwandan genocide?" This question prompted a range of recollections and responses of that massacre, the ruthless killing of the minority Tutsi group by armed Hutu militia. Most Rwandans were Hutus, and as the ethnic majority these Hutus targeted the minority Tutsi group. The hostility between the two ethnic groups was economically based as the Tutsis tended the profitable livestock trade and became the local elite whilst the majority Hutus were farmers of less lucrative crops. Post-independence resentment created by the former colonial divide and conquer sharpened the dividing lines between the two groups: the Tutsis were symbols of the former regime, and as resentment simmered, it became a full blown, premeditated plan to eliminate the entire Tutsi people, in which five out of six of the people were brutally slaughtered with machetes.

John and his wife Sandi came to Rwanda in 1997 to manage the reconciliation and peace building program for World Vision. In South Africa he met members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission who said, "You're going to Rwanda. Good luck, we haven't got a clue how you can help them." John quickly realised that as he didn't know the language or have the psychological training to do it, his recourse was to turn to God in prayer. He then decided that his role was to put all his energy into recruiting and training a small team of local Rwandans, sending them out to listen and be with their own people. John became the administrator, mentor, supporter, and friend to these teams.

Taking Bishop Desmond Tutu's advice, "If you



want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies", John threw caution to the winds and attempted what seemed like an impossibility at such a dangerous time. He gathered and trained a handful of Rwandans to dream of ways to heal traditional enmities and the wounds of genocide. John and Sandi formed a group of 100 prayer partners who prayed daily for their work, at the same time asking God to take away the trauma so regularly experienced.

John showed us videos and told us inspiring stories of the people's transformation from 'pain to purpose, peace instead of violence, hope replacing sorrow'. He demonstrated how evil is possible when good people do nothing, or people stop the good they were doing. Such generous and compassionate living asks of us, 'Is this healing and change only for Rwandans?' And the personal support stories make us ponder, 'Can I really say, "I could never forgive"?'

John and his team's enthusiasm expanded into a radical circle of change, which determinedly spread outwards. Youth channelled their energy into constructive goals, prisoners told their truth, and healed survivors had courage to forgive and let live.

As a result of his experience of the Rwandan healing and recovery, John is now offering a formation course of ten sessions, entitled 'Alive to Love', where participants grow through storytelling, expressing emotions, and practising forgiveness, with learnings from Rwandans who provide practical insights for living well in our changing reality. John believes that for people struggling with unresolved issues from the past, this course can help to identify those issues and provide tools to find release and freedom. John has a passion for peace, and imagines a world where each of us become peacemakers by being at peace with others and ourselves.

Sue Retschko, Oblate, CHN



ASSOCIATES' NEWS by Sister Avrill



Dear Associates,

Another year is nearly over, and we give thanks that this year we have been able to meet as normal, in spite of COVID. Some of you have probably had it and, if so, I hope you have all made a good recovery.

In late July COVID found its way into Esther House and seven of our household went down at once, but thankfully all recovered without needing hospitalisation, no doubt partly because everyone was

vaccinated.

We have a good program for you for next year, thanks to the committee appointed at our last AGM, who have come up with some great ideas.

We look forward to seeing you here in 2023.

I hope you are all having a fruitful Advent as we prepare to celebrate our Saviour's birth, and I wish you a joyful Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

With love and prayers for each one of you,

Avrill CHN

CHN ASSOCIATES' PROGRAMME FOR 2023

11 February Annual General Meeting

10.30am Morning Tea
 11am AGM
 12.30pm Midday Office
 12.45pm Lunch (provided)
 2pm "Adventures Abroad", a presentation by seasoned travellers, Val Dyke and Lyn Ryan.
 3pm Afternoon Tea and depart.

1 April Lent Quiet Day

Led by Fr. Greg. Davies, Associate Priest at St Peter's Eastern Hill & Oblate of the Benedictine Community at Camperdown.
 10am Start with Morning Tea
N.B. BYO lunch
 3.30pm Afternoon Tea and depart.

3 June

12 noon
 12.30pm
 2.00pm

3.00pm

Associates' & Oblates'

Combined Meeting

Midday Office
 Lunch (provided)
 Guy Churchman will treat us to an exhibition of some of his amazing collection of historical clerical vestments, church plate, etc.
 Afternoon Tea and depart.

1 - 3 September Annual Retreat

led by the Revd Pirrial Clift, Solitary, & Hon. Associate Priest at St Peter's Eastern Hill.
 6.00pm Fri. Begin with evening meal.
 1.00pm Sun. End with midday meal.

11 November Corporate communion

11.30am Eucharist with address
 12.30pm Lunch (provided)
 2.00pm Speaker (TBA)
 3.00pm Afternoon Tea and depart.

PLEASE NOTE: With the threat of COVID still hanging over us, we do ask you to book in for all the above events, not just the catered ones, so we can contact you if there has to be a last minute cancellation.



Associates' Retreat: TRAVELLING

Nine Associates journeyed with our Retreat Leader, Fr Roger Kelly, from Friday 2nd September until Sunday 4th and what a wild ride it was at times, despite it beginning with the words 'Be Still and Know that I am God'!

In his introduction we learned that Fr Roger had been a priest for 48 years, a religious for 14 years, seven of those years as a priest brother, a chaplain to three different Anglican Schools, had done locums in Guernsey and Scotland and been a Chaplain to seafarers in Japan. Now retired, he is still busy as Prior of the Melbourne Chapter of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd and Chaplain to the Oblates of Christ the King, among other duties.

With his love of travel, which Father Roger feels enriches and broadens us, it was fitting that the theme of our retreat was 'Travelling'. Our life of Faith is a journey! How difficult is our entry into this world where our journey begins and also how difficult is death when we leave this life and our journey here ends. Both are a struggle. The life between is the journey which is also difficult and dangerous at times. We need strength for the journey. That is why we are here! Oftentimes prayer is the only answer.

Every day is a new journey, a new opportunity.

We looked at the questions:

How are you travelling?

Where are you travelling to?

Who are you travelling with?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life".

(John 14:6)

"Oh Lord, I do believe, help thou my unbelief." (Mark 9:24)

Baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19) begins our journey with Christ.

It's in the whole we find the truth, even in the things that are unpalatable. Jesus knows what is in the heart of all of us. He knew that reality too. The tender and caring part of us and all the other things inside us that we don't want. We try to learn from the journey until we can come to the point of acceptance. Of life. Of ourselves. Of Christ.

None of us asked to be born but here we are. We endeavour to find in ourselves, and in others, all sorts of truths. The world is beautiful; there is the mystery of music, its notes and spaces. Does it matter

if we believe in God? God believes in us.

Life is mystery. Learning to live with the mystery and finding the questions to ask becomes what is important. During one discussion Sr Avrill read out her poem titled "Infinite God", which explores the possibility of God creating life forms in other universes and solar systems and other possibilities including the Cosmic Christ being incarnated elsewhere, in non-human forms, perhaps?

The following is an excerpt from Sister Avrill's poem:

*My mind is blown apart
by questions too big for answers.*

*Once I thought I knew it all,
but so much of what I "knew" has been swept away.*

*The loss of so many certainties
can feel like loss of faith at times
but I don't believe it is.*

*Rather, I feel on the verge of
glimpsing something for which*

I have no words,

*sensing a presence so far beyond my understanding
that it can only be You.*

*Is this darkness of unknowing
an invitation to adore*

Your limitless being?

Our faith sustains us along the way through this journey of life which, by its nature, is messy and unpredictable. It helps to have a daily program which is our time to pray, to be still, where we listen for the prompting of the Spirit; and wait for the eyes to see and the ears to hear. Let it wash over you. Let go and let God. Our intention is what matters. Those who walk with God will always reach their destination.

And so we come to the end of our retreat with our final communion service. We have been silent in the presence of God; we have been led through contemplations on the mystery of life from birth to death and all the wonders and complications of the journey in between; we have contemplated possibilities beyond our imagination. We are blessed.

Pat Blake, Associate, CHN

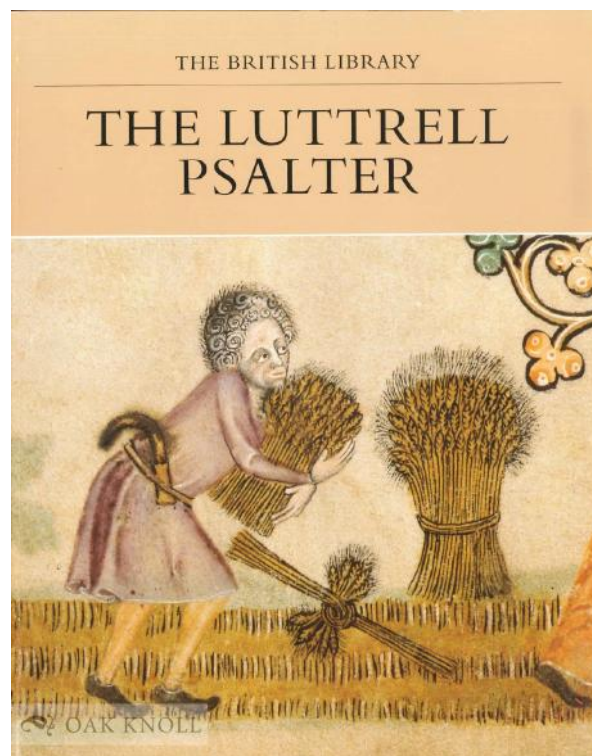
What's new in the Library

'The Luttrell Psalter' with commentaries by Michelle P. Brown. British Library, 2006

Rare books are sometimes thought to come from any century other than the present one, yet the Library recently received a rare book that deserves special care and attention. The Revd Brian Porter's donated collection contained a copy of 'The Luttrell Psalter' in facsimile, one of several works revealing his interest in medieval illuminated manuscripts. This heavy object came in its own box, a folio of over 600 gloss pages, the cover wrapped in flimsy old plastic to keep off the dust. The librarians' eyes popped out of their heads at the sight of this remarkable windfall.

Created sometime in the first half of the 14th century, this Psalter is filled with colourful imagery and illumination. It is the work of one scribe and at least five artists, none of whose names are known. Such a collaboration would have occurred in a town of some size, with opinion it was very likely Lincoln, near to the estate of the Luttrell family. It is worth taking time to study the illustrations of seasonal life in the fields and villages, which speak to us of the world of those who used the Psalter. The book is also gloriously decorated with initials and 'grotesques', hybrids of human, animal, bird and fish imaginatively invented by the makers themselves.

Historically, the manuscript was commissioned by Sir Geoffrey Luttrell (1276-1345), lord of the manor and wealthy land owner of Lincolnshire and beyond. Wikipedia recounts



that he "felt his death was coming and wanted to account for all his actions, as is stated in the colophon of the Psalter. The purpose of the manuscript was to help with the provisions of his will, in which Luttrell requested twenty chaplains to recite masses for a five-year period after his death (believed to speed the soul's passage through Purgatory) and clerks to recite the Psalms, and other activities for stated levels of monetary remuneration." This helps explain why, in addition to the 150 Psalms, the book also contains amongst other things the Church Calendar, the Litany of Saints, and the Office of the Dead. The whole is written in Latin and is composed of 309 high-quality vellum leaves.

The Library's newly acquired copy, a visual delight in full-colour facsimile, was duly catalogued for shelving in the special collection in the Library Office. Amanda Witt removed the old protective wrap, replacing it with best Hansa plastic covering to keep the book in good condition for handling. This magnificent acquisition is available for viewing by arrangement with the librarian.