



Encounters



Sisters of Charity of Australia

4th Edition, ADVENT 2023

We Sisters of Charity, seeking God in all things, commit to a culture of encounter and collaboration.
28th General Chapter Direction Statement, 2021

Welcome!

*May our good
God teach us to
value
our holy
Institute, to
practise
its teachings
and transmit
its holy spirit
from age to age.*

Mary Aikenhead

Dear Sisters and Friends,

This is the final edition of Encounters for this year.

It has been timed to coincide with the beginning of Advent – our time of promise and hope.

It invites us to look back and to look forward and to celebrate the Christ within and among us as well as the Christ who is to come!

There are some stories in this issue which look back with gratitude. Some articles focus us on the present and some encourage us to continue living with hope the promise of what is yet to come.

We know that Advent heralds the fact that Christmas is coming. Perhaps over the next few weeks we might together intentionally pause and explore and reflect on the gift of hope.

Our world is in need of hope and peace. Can we unite in prayer with this intention?

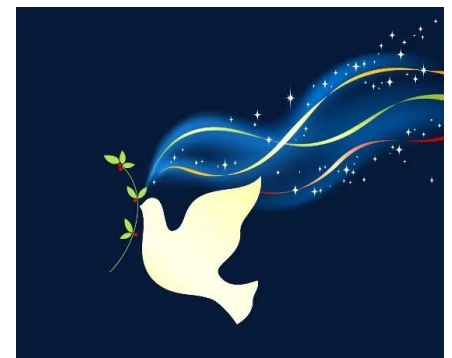
Thank you to all our contributors, editors and readers.

May your Advent be a time of pause, prayer and peace, encounter and grace.

Christmas blessings to each of you, your families, friends and colleagues.

In Christ our hope

Laureen.



In this issue: Welcome; A Year of Jubilees; Farewell to Joeys: Our new Constitutions; Remembering our Sisters; Five Pillars of Peace; A Prayer for Peace.

A Year of Jubilee for our Sisters, 2022-23.

Each year as August approaches, I find myself saying, "it's jubilee season". This year I was privileged to attend 4 celebrations, each different and each a reminder of God's invitational call and the faithful response made by each Sister over her lifetime.

Patricia Coyle - Platinum

On August 4, a small group of sisters gathered in Brisbane to celebrate with Patricia Coyle, her 70 years of profession. It was a lovely, personal celebration, beautifully prepared by her Sister, Carmel.

Margaret Beirne - Diamond

On Sunday August 6, Margaret Beirne had a "low key" celebration at Parish Mass at St Francis Paddington, celebrating her 60 years of Profession. After Mass Sisters, parishioners and Margaret's family gathered in the Parish House for morning tea.

Pat Walker & Helga Neidhart - Diamond

Wednesday August 9, the Mononia community and Helga's community celebrated with Mass and afternoon tea. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Terry Curtin.

Laureen Dixon - Golden

Sunday October 9, at what has become an annual event, the Sisters and Melbourne Companions joined together for a celebration acknowledging Pat, Helga and myself. I had celebrated 50 years on September 29.

If you reflect on the motto for each sister, you will see a deep message coming through, God is at her centre and reason for her being:

Patricia's motto: Thou in me and I in thee

Margaret's motto: Totally dedicated.

Helga's motto: One with you in love

Pat's motto: I love you, O Lord my strength.

My motto: I am with you.

What a privilege to have shared all these celebrations, each different, but each recognizing and acknowledging the commitment of each woman who had given her life to God and God's people 70, 60 and 50 years ago. The blessings to each individual Sister, to our Congregation and to the Church and our wider society cannot be measured. Laureen Dixon



Top: Patricia receiving Papal Blessing. Below: Laureen, Pat and Helga



Below: Margaret, in choir garb, receives her Papal Blessing



L: Patricia with Papal Blessing, Qld sisters and Laureen.

R: Helga and Pat with Bishop Terry Curtin and their communities.



Sr Claudette Palmer

— Diamond 60 years

Claudette is deeply grateful for the love and prayers of the sisters sent in the cards and messages she has received for her Diamond Jubilee. On 16th August, she travelled up to St Francis' Paddington for a small celebration that centred around her childhood memories of St Francis' parish and the school she attended until her final two years at St Vincent's Potts Point. We visited St Francis' Church where the parish secretary took the attached photo of Claudette proudly holding her papal blessing. The weather was perfect for our celebratory lunch on the rooftop of the hotel opposite the Church. Congratulations Claudette, and every blessing now and in the years to come.

Margaret Beirne



Claudette with Papal blessing and celebrating with Margaret Beirne

Sr Lorna Moylan

Platinum 70 years

Due to an outbreak of Covid at Corpus Christi, Clayton, Lorna enjoyed two celebrations for her jubilee. On the actual day, 4th August, several of us were able to come for individual visits with Lorna in her room. On that day she received many messages, cards and flowers as well as her Papal Blessing

Pastoral Care staff Maree and Sharon invited a group of us to morning tea and the Corpus Christi community mass on Thursday 7th September to celebrate with Lorna as we had not been together due to the lockdown. Lorna sends a big "thank you" to all who sent their greetings.

Below Pictured: back row, Helen, Pam, Maree, Anna, Sharon and Loretta. Seated: Lorna, Fr Laurie Leonard SJ and Eileen.



Lorna with Papal Blessing and flowers.



Cecilia Kinsella – Platinum 70 years

Cecilia had various celebrations for her Jubilee – with our community and at OLMC School Mt Pritchard where a whole school Assembly was held on 4 August and High Tea the following day! At the Assembly in the school hall, staff, students and parents gathered for a Prayer Service, followed by speeches and acknowledgements of Cecilia's dedication. In readiness for the High Tea, the staff had prepared the Staff Room which looked like a first-class hotel! So much of the catering was done by the Staff too and all looked so inviting on the tiered plates. The China cups and saucers were a favourite with Cecilia! Before the High Tea concluded, Cecilia expressed her sincere appreciation to all.



Above: Cecelia, Amanda, Maureen, Margaret V and Gaye. Below "High Tea" for Gaye and Cec.



Below: Josephine and her cake designed for sharing.

Maureen Heffernan and Gaye Reynolds - Diamond 60 years.

Together with Gaye's Community, we had a special celebration on the day itself. It began with Mass at Concord West, followed by Morning Tea at Maureen's Unit. We then drove to Abbotsford and had a return trip to Circular Quay on the ferry (River Cat). Although it was cool, the sun was shining brightly and the water sparkled and glistened as we travelled along! It was such a pleasant trip! On our return to Abbotsford, we enjoyed lunch at the Sydney Rowing Club. We both agree – *'we have much for which to be thankful.'*

Josephine Hodges – Platinum 70 years - 4 August 2023

A small group of Sr Josephine's friends gathered at *Carinya*, St Vincent's Care Services Auburn, to celebrate this special occasion on her Jubilee day! We began with a short Prayer, giving thanks to God for Josephine's 70 years of dedication as a Sister of Charity. After the prayer, the Papal Blessing was presented to Sr Josephine by Sr Margaret Guy. A beautiful Jubilee cake was then shared by her friends, staff and residents. as well as Srs Enid Doherty and Angela Burke and Sr Margaret Guy, our little group included, Sr Margaret Valentine, Sue Andruskin, Grace Mahdavi and myself, Sr Gaye Reynolds.



Farewell to "Joeys" – 1882-2023

St Joseph's Hospital, "this Little Gem", is decommissioned.

People came from far and wide to be at the decommissioning of this treasured hospital. The unique spirit of St Joseph's was palpable as we, Sisters of Charity, gathered with many past and present staff & friends of St Joseph's to pay our respects. Yes, there was sadness that 'Joey's' was closing but there was an overwhelming sense of gratitude that care and continual service has been offered to so many over the past 137 years.

The ceremony began with the Eucharist, Bishop Terry Brady as celebrant, followed by a smoking ceremony in the grounds of the hospital and concluding with a light luncheon.

In her opening address, Sr Laureen acknowledged the many Sisters of Charity, including Amanda, who have been missioned to St Joseph's and *'have left their heart here'* Those gathered would have been humbled to hear their roles mentioned: *'We gather today to remember and give thanks for all who have been part of this special place: the nurses, the doctors, the cleaners, the allied health professionals, the office support staff, the chaplains, the catering staff, the gardeners, the board of directors, the ward clerks, the patients, and countless others.'*

All provided a spirit of welcome and hospitality which never waned – such comradery!

Sincere thanks to our Sisters and co-workers – *Caritas Christi Urget Nos.*

Gaye Reynolds RSC

Love is proved by deeds...

Mary Aikenhead



This heritage-listed building was originally 'Duncraggan Hall', a residence designed by Harry Kent and built in 1876 in the Victorian Italianate style. The estate was sold to the Sisters of Charity in 1892 and became 'St. Josephs Sanitorium for Consumptives'. In 1903, 'St Joseph's Hospital Two' was constructed on the land and the sisters occupied the building as their convent.



St Joseph's Two



Our Newly Approved Constitutions...



On 27th October, the congregation gathered online via our Portal to celebrate the approval of our new Constitutions by Rome's Dicastery for Institutes for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (DICALSAL).

From the Introduction:

In the light of the needs of her time, and in her wisdom, Mary Aikenhead involved all classes of people in the realisation of her vision. That inspiration of our foundress has remained with us and is characterised by the flexibility, courage and dynamic awareness with which our sisters exercise their vow of service of the poor as they participate in the saving mission of the Church.

Our congregation is thus the living witness of the charism of the foundress.

What each of us gives to the future depends on our continuing sensitive and courageous response to the changing needs of humanity, finding God in all things in the spirit of our motto: Caritas Christi urget nos. (2Cor 5:14)



*The Constitutions
should be to us
the next book
to the Scriptures.*

Mary Aikenhead

Several of our sisters share an extract from their reflections,

Our Life of Consecration in Christ

Chastity:

In essence, chastity is respect and reverence, and its fruits are integration, gratitude and joy. My commitment to it provides freedom, the capacity to serve, to love and be loved

Margaret Valentine.

Poverty:

'My vow of poverty is integral to the mission and this is expressed by working with and standing in solidarity with the poor in rural Southern QLD to make them visible and relevant'.

Christine Henry



Obedience:

"The vow of obedience as a Sister of Charity calls us to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking in our hearts, our community and in the world and respond appropriately with love."

Colleen Noonan



Service of the Poor

Our charism is to bring to each person the love, tenderness and concern of Christ for the poor, seeing Christ in everyone we serve. This includes those whom Mary Aikenhead called our ***Domestics of the Faith***, each individual sister- seeing and valuing the Christ within each Sister whatever the limitations placed on her through illness or advancing age.

This was the Vow that originally divided the Congregation into two distinct Classes under the Code of Canon Law: Class One and Class Two. Prior to Vatican II, the Class Two Domestic Sisters were not permitted to make the 4th Vow.

Jeannie Johnston

Our Life of Prayer

The practices we have been faithful to over many years provide a series of sacred pauses throughout our day, enabling us to be praying always.

Suzette Clark

Community Living

My reflection on Norms 44-48, focused on a quote from one of the Vatican references given below each norm as a source of enrichment and insight into their potential for finding in our revised Constitutions a means of prayer, and a fresh vision for a "future full of hope" as ecclesial women religious.

Margaret Beirne

Formation in Christ

Norm 64. *"while the limitations of illness or advancing age may lead us to a less active apostolic ministry, we still press on towards that maturity which is proportioned to continuing growth of Christ in us."* Margaret Guy

As One Who Serves

Our call to servant leadership reflects our vow of obedience and our exercise of authority which exists in the congregation for mission, the purpose of the Common Good being at the centre. Servant leadership is for all of us, called to walk together in love, unity and loyalty... servant leaders striving for honest and respectful dialogue, discerning our mission of love and inclusivity, reflected in how we relate and walk with everyone we meet each day.

Leone Wittmack

We remember our sisters...



Sr Robyn Wheeler RSC

26th March 1935 – 12th June 2023

Behold the handmaid of the Lord



Winifred Robyn Wheeler was born in Sydney on 28th march, 1935 ” and was older sister to Gabrielle. Her parents Nance and Reg and the family lived with Grandmother Winifred Hickey, a holy and wise woman. No doubt it was in this home that Robyn’s faith flourished and her love of the Eucharist and Rosary was nurtured before moving to the Glebe/Forest Lodge parish.

Completing her schooling at St. Vincents Potts Point, Robyn entered the Sisters of Charity, after sometime working. Known as Sr. Mary Luke, Robyn was professed on 18th august 1958. Her ministries included childcare in Liverpool, and St Vincent’s Hospitals in Toowoomba, Lismore, Darlinghurst and Launceston. She was a constant face of joy and kindness in reception and had the gift of making very many friends from Toowoomba to Launceston, Amsterdam, Ireland and New Zealand and especially the priests and parish community at blessed. Sacrament, Haymarket.

Her fidelity to eucharist and rosary took her most days to Haymarket where she had the unique ministry of meeting and greeting, ensuring that seats of friends were not occupied by a drop in, chatting to celebrants, organising her good friend Fr. Philip for the day or collaring the unsuspecting to join in all the mysteries of the rosary. Everyone knew Robyn and she them.

Robyn saw our congregation as community, and she regularly prayed for sisters especially those who were ill. There was always an enquiry and a request to remind them of her prayers until she heard that all was well. In community, though she knew she fell short at times, her intention was to be kind, accepting and a source of healing. Many would attest to never hearing Robyn say an ill word about anyone and she never held a grudge.

A “boundary rider”, after mass you might find her at Manly, Westfield, Watson’s bargaining in the little shop at St. Vincent’s or setting out at 5.00 a.m. to attend Floriade in Canberra. returning home about 9.00 pm. Hospital security requested she stop “nicking” the racing pages from the patients’ papers. Interested in all kinds of sport, she loved the South Sydney Rabbits best of all, fostered by her dad Reg when they sat on the hill at Redfern or the SCG each weekend.

Robyn had a thirst for knowledge and many of her gathered newspapers were of history, geography and all kinds of interesting topics.

Her move to St. Joseph’s Kensington proved successful, and she was very happy there, finding another niche. She was a Sister of Charity in the true sense of the-word.

Robyn, you were God’s celebration of life and you lived life it to the full.



Sr Marua Carmel Cullen RSC.

30th August 1928- 11th June, 2023.

"To love Thee and to be loved by Thee".



Carmel was the seventh child in a family of nine. Her parents, John Cullen and Mary Agnes Mc Quillan were farmers in the Darling Downs where she attended the local State Primary and High School at Crows Nest and then her final year at the Convent of Mercy in Warwick. From there she joined the staff of Downlands College where she helped in the Boarding School and did light secretarial duties.

On 2 July 1949, she entered the Novitiate of the Sisters of Charity and was professed on 24 January 1952. Maria Carmel completed her Nurses Training at St Joseph's Hospital Auburn.

Over the years since her graduation, her ministry in health care saw her being appointed to St Vincent's Launceston, St Vincent's Melbourne, St Vincent's Sydney, St Vincent's Toowoomba, and to Nursing Administration at St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney. She was Director of Nursing at Mt Olivet for 9 years. Apart from being a triple Certificate Nurse, she had qualifications in Gerontology, Pastoral Counselling and Psychiatric Pastoral Care. Maria was a hard task master and set a high standard for the nurses under her care and tutelage. In time her nurses came to appreciate, love and respect her for the aims and goals she enabled them to achieve.

In August 2002 Maria Carmel was transferred from her pastoral role at St Vincent's Hospital Toowoomba to the Community at Mt Olivet to live out her retirement years. In Community she was known for her wicked sense of humour and also had the knack of being neat and natty at all times, taking pride in her appearance.

After postponement due to Covid lockdown, her Platinum Jubilee -70 Years of Religious profession was able to be celebrated. On Sunday 11 June 2023 in the early morning Maria Carmel went peacefully home to her God



Sr Anne Crowley RSC

23 March 1930- 21 October 2023

Dominus Tecum - The Lord is with you.



Anne was born in Bowen and started School at St Mary's Primary School Bowen and later attended St Finbarr's Ashgrove.

After leaving School Anne spent 3 years working as a Laboratory Assistant. She was 21yrs. old when she entered on 2 July 1951. Professed on 9 January 1954 and 5 years later made her Final Vows. Her initial ministry was Primary Education.

In March 1962 Anne received her Mission Crucifix in St Vincent's Chapel, Potts Point. Anne spent twenty-nine years on overseas Missions - Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Zambia and working with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Thailand. In each of these countries, Anne set herself the task of learning to converse in the local language. Learning to speak Thai was the most difficult for her.

Anne was a good community Sister, had a great sense of humour, was a great cook and very handy with a sewing machine.

Anne loved watching and playing Cricket. She used to say to us that her batting average in her sister's backyard at Caringbah, fully dressed in the habit and veil, was 72. Watching cricket with Anne, we discovered that she never batted for Australia, always championing the underdog whose misfortune it was to play against Australia.

Her chosen motto was *Dominus tecum – The Lord is with you*. The most vulnerable in society were at the centre of her life. She saw the sacred in the outcast, in the stranger, in those who found themselves taking refuge in a new country and struggling to learn our language, Anne spent time in the Archives and in the Bondi Junction Office as Congregational Secretary, and then her day off as a volunteer at the Asylum Seekers Centre at Surrey Hills teaching English. Anne's whole life was one of self-giving. Rest in peace, Anne



Sr Patricia Heenan

18th November 1929 – 24th October 2023

Through Him, with Him, in Him.



Patricia was the daughter of Kevin and Eileen, the third of six children, Mary and Frank were older and Peter, Paul and Brian younger. A close, caring family, Patricia loved them deeply.

Educated at St. Finbarr's Primary School and Mt. St Michael's College, Ashgrove, Patricia entered the Sisters of Charity in Sydney on the 2nd of February 1948 and was professed on 27th of August 1951, taking as her motto, "Through Him, with Him and in Him"

Her first appointment was to Mt St Patrick's Paddington, Sydney, then St Vincent's College Potts Point, and Bethlehem College, Ashfield where she became Principal. Patricia's skills in administration were evident and in 1981 she was appointed Regional Director of Catholic Education for Inner West Sydney. After thirty years of Education in Australia. 1984 saw Patricia answer the call to overseas mission as a teacher in Zambia, where she ministered faithfully for over 10 years.

Patricia frequently wrote home to the sisters and her reflections gave us insights into her life as a missionary. While teaching at Meheba Refugee Camp she spoke about the difficulty she had in making herself understood by the Angolan and Mozambican students, as well as those from other surrounding countries. It was a camp of about three thousand people manned by armed soldiers. Patricia took her turn in the bucket brigade carrying water and she played cards by candlelight. Patricia was conscious of the illnesses which plagued the people – cholera, malaria and AIDS. She wrote, of the peoples' resilience.

Patricia returned to Australia in 1997 and was for a time in central Queensland in Woorabinda indigenous ministry, and later in the Sisters of Charity Outreach, Toowoomba. From 1999, while living here at Mt Olivet Convent, Kangaroo Point, she was chaplain at Princess Alexandra Hospital where she ministered faithfully to the sick for fifteen years.

For these final years of her life, Patricia was a resident at Marcrest. Here she quietly continued her ministry. Through her calm, peaceful presence, beautiful smile, prayerfulness and loving concern for those around her, she radiated the loving God to whom she so generously dedicated her life. Patricia went home peacefully to her loving God on 24th October.

Five Pillars of Peace

The movie Of Gods and Men tells the true story of the monks of Our Lady of Atlas Abbey in Tibhirine, Algeria.

Nine Cistercian monks lived in harmony with the largely Muslim population, until seven of them were kidnapped and assassinated in 1996 during the Algerian Civil War.

The 7 martyred monks were beatified by Pope Francis in December 2018.



Of Gods and Men Sony Pictures, 2010

Brother Christian de Cherge, Prior of the monastery, taught five Pillars of Peace necessary to secure peace in our own lives and peace in the world:

Patience

Poverty

Presence

Prayer

Forgiveness.

In his writing, Br Christian emphasises the **mutuality** that is necessary to bring peace firstly to our own hearts, then to others and for this to permeate our world.

I ask myself. "Do I have the right to ask God to disarm him, if I don't begin by asking, 'Disarm me, disarm my brothers.'" That was my prayer each day.

In a last testament written to his family in France, he closed by addressing the murderer he expected would kill him one day:

*And you also,
the friend of my final moment,
who would not be aware
of what you were doing.
Yes, for you also,
I wish this 'thank you' —
and this adieu —
to commend you to the God
whose face I see in yours
...may we find each other,
happy 'good thieves,'
in Paradise,
if it pleases God,
the Father of us both.
Amen."*



***When I approach
my neighbour,
I also become his guardian,
which means to become his
hostage.
Justice begins with the other...***

***People say these types.
(the terrorists)
are disgusting animals,
they are not human and you
cannot deal with them.***

***I say that if we talk like that,
there will never be peace.***



Br Christian de Cherge,
in The Monks of Tibhirine: Faith, Love and
Terror in Algeria.
John W Kiser. St Martin's Griffin, NY, 2002.

A Prayer for Peace.



Suggested Song: Peace Prayer.

Music and Lyrics John Foley SJ © 1976 John Foley and New Dawn Music.

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=NGrRdWsBJRA&list=RDAMVMNGrRdWsBJRA>

Lord, make me a means of your peace
Where there's hatred grown, let me sow your love.
Where there's injury Lord, let forgiveness be my sword.
Lord, make me a means of your peace.

Lord, grant me to seek and to share,
To forgive in thee, you've forgiven me.
For to die in thee is eternal life for me
Lord, make me a means of your peace.

Invitation to Prayer:

In prayer I seek to open my heart to the reality that we are all one.

We are united in our brokenness, our failure, our lack of love. (Christopher Page)

United in love and faith, let us remember Mary Aikenhead's words calling us to prayer:

Truly, we ought always try to unite ourselves with all who pray... remember, we are bound to pray for all God's creatures." Mary Aikenhead.

We respond: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Matt 5:9

Word of God and Words of Peace

From the Prophet Isaiah:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD. Isaiah 2:3-5

Response: Psalm 122

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: "Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls, In your palaces peace!"



Pope Francis writes:

No one can cultivate a sober and satisfying life without being at peace with him or herself... peace... is much more than the absence of war. Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good, ... reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence "must not be contrived but found, uncovered". Laudato si, #225

We pray for Peace:

Reader One: *Our automatic reaction is to lash back against any force or person by which we feel threatened... when we pause and take a deep breath, we make it possible to listen more deeply to all voices in the situation... we move beyond ... "us" and "them". (Pause)*

We pray for Patience...

All: May our coming to patience sow peace in our hearts and the hearts of those we encounter each day.

Reader Two: *To be poor is to know that alone we do not understand the mystery of being human... it is time to admit our poverty and seek out the wisdom of the weak and the proposals of the powerless... we need to hear the voices of the outcast, the refugee, and those without access to the machinery of the world's power. (Pause)*

We pray from our Poverty:

All: May the acknowledgment of our own poverty sow peace in our hearts and the hearts of those we encounter each day.

Reader Three: *Am I willing to see in you the presence of the Divine no matter how different, threatening or unfamiliar you may be?... When I open my heart to the presence of the divine in the other, compassion becomes possible. ... lasting peace will come only when I am willing to "suffer with" my brother whose pain causes him to seek to do me harm. (Pause)*

We pray conscious of the Presence of the Divine in all peoples:

All: May our recognition of the presence of the divine within all persons sow peace in our hearts and in the hearts of those we encounter each day.

Reader Four: *The only prayer that leads to peace is the prayer that starts with honesty and self-awareness. The prayer of peace acknowledges that I am not at peace and then asks God to "Disarm me". (Pause)*

We pray to be persons of deep Prayer:

All: May the growing awareness of our own need for peace of heart sow peace in the hearts of those we encounter each day.

Reader Five: *The price of peace is paid in the currency of forgiveness... to my shame, the call to forgive reveals the pettiness and violence of the person I so often am. ... To forgive is not to deny wrong may have been done... Forgiveness is the only way out of the destructive blaming that holds the world in such a stalemate of violence. (Pause)*

We pray to be persons of Forgiveness:

All: May the knowledge of our own need for forgiveness from others sow peace in the hearts of those we encounter each day.

(Extracts are taken from Five Pillars of Peace, Christopher Page, [In a Spacious Place](#), November 2015)

Concluding Prayer:

Holy Mystery, our life, our hope and our peace.
You are present in our hearts and in the hearts of every created being.
Inspire us in working to bring peace, each in our own corner of your world.
We are so many individual beings, but you call us to become one,
united in our desire for life, love and wholeness.

Teach us patience when we think ours is the only side that matters.
Be with us in our poverty as we struggle to find a way forward together.
Help us to recognise your presence in all peoples.
Lead us to stillness as we learn to pray with and for each other.
Help us to forgive when we are hurting.
May our words, our deeds and our presence wherever we are,
make us instruments of peace for the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Christopher Page is former Rector of St. Philip Anglican Church in Oak Bay, B.C from 1993. Now retired, he published the blog [In a Spacious Place](#) from 2010 to 2022.

Suggested Final Song: Go Now in Peace, Joe Wise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zolyK1qG2U0>

Go now in peace, go now together.
Be sure once again my love has no end, and you are its beginning.
Go now in peace, go now together:
Create a space and cradle a place where we all can come together.
Go now alone, not lonely.
Go now alive, not just living.
Go as yourself and rely on My help.
Till yourself is yourself for the giving.
Go now in peace, go now together.
Be sure once again my love has no end, and you are its beginning.
Go now in peace.





We pay our respect to the traditional custodians of all the lands upon which we live and work, Gadigal People of the Eora nation, Wurundjeri and Boonwurrung People, part of the Kulin nations, Larrakia People of the Larrakia region, Turrbal and Jagera People of Meanjin nation, Palawa People of Nipuluna nation, Wadawarrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging. We commit to walking and learning together.



Sisters of Charity of Australia