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Newsletter of the Wellington Christian Life Community

April 2020

Dear CLC MEMBERS

Last Newsletter I wrote of settling 'in to our usual work, life and CLC meeting routines'! How things can change in a month. Now nearly all of us are in lockdown and everything is far from routine as we try to cope with the changes brought by Covid 19. With Masses cancelled this will be a Lent like no other. However as CLC members we have the resources of Ignatian spirituality and our daily meditation/contemplation and examen to help us, in the absence of access to the Eucharist, to keep focussed on what, or rather **who**, really matters.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Due to circumstances beyond our control, 2020 has been postponed.

WelExCo, the CLC Wellington Executive Council, will continue to send through links and resources to support members during lockdown.

The Reflection Day on Discernment to be held at Pa Maria on 18 April 2020 has been cancelled.

A decision about holding the First Spiritual Exercises from 17 May to 14 June 2020 has not yet been made, but it looks unlikely that it can be held in the form of meetings at St Peter and Paul's Johnsonville over five Sunday afternoons. We will update you before the end of this month on whether it will take place, and if it goes ahead, what form it will take.

KEEP IN TOUCH – WAYS GROUPS CAN MEET

Over the first full week of the lockdown, Hiruharama and Kohanga CLC groups trialled meeting by Zoom, and it worked very well. Joining the meetings was relatively easy for most people once they had downloaded the programme, and where it went a bit haywire, we managed to sort things out quite quickly. The picture and audio are good, and the platform seems very stable compared to Facebook Messenger and Skype. Sarah Dench has purchased a commercial version of Zoom which allows her to set up meetings then leave after transferring the hosting of the meeting to a group member. It's free to use for participants, and the advantage of using Sarah's version is that it gives you up to 24 hours of time to hold the meeting. The free version you can download only allows 8 people to meet for 40 minutes.

If you would like to hold meetings via Zoom, please contact Sarah on sarahdench@yahoo.com or phone (04) 9733501.

RECENT EVENTS

On Saturday 14 March the Archdiocese held a Mission and Vision Expo at Bishop Viard College in Porirua. This was well organised and the hospitality proved by the College was excellent. In particular, a large number of their senior students ably supported and assisted the participants and visitors. During the day food was available and a number of organisations ran workshops in classrooms. The main focus was in the hall where during the day numerous musical and cultural items were presented from the stage. At the end of the day senior students from St. Mary's and St. Patrick's Town colleges led a prayerful closing liturgy.



Cardinal John Dew welcomes participants and visitors to the Mission Expo at Viard College

Spread around the hall were booths where various Catholic groups had displays emphasising how their work contributes to the mission of the Church. The CLC booth had a large banner summarising the purpose of our organisation and a table containing leaflets and other items for people to read and/or take away.



Participants and visitors listen intently to Cardinal John's welcome

Throughout the day a number of CLC members from different group took turns in staffing the booth and answering any questions from those who approached. A number expressed interest in Ignatian spirituality and left their contact details with a view to maybe joining an introductory group. Some also expressed interest in the First Spiritual Exercises Retreat scheduled for May/June.



Gary Finlay hosts the CLC booth at the beginning of the day – a new banner, a table full of interesting material for visitors to take home, and lovely images of St Ignatius decorating the wall behind him.



Gary Finlay, Aren Valentine and Maureen McKillop at the CLC table.



Photos from left to right:

1. *Trish McKillop (Kohanga) and Liz Coe (Upper Hutt)*
2. *Top: Chris Walkerdine (Upper Hutt) Seated: Michelle Hogan (Gypsies)*
3. *Sarah Dench (Hiruharama and Upper Hutt)*

This was a wonderful day of fellowship, meeting old friends and making new ones. Special thanks go to the Cardinal and all the staff at the Catholic Centre for making this day possible. And we especially thank the Catholic Centre's (and CLC's own) Chris Walkerdine for the extraordinary energy and effort she put in to everything she did to make this day so successful.

AROUND THE GROUPS

- ✚ Upper Hutt group is following the *Spirituality of Service* programme.
- ✚ Hiruharama group now has 8 members as Jenny has now rejoined, and with the prospect of some other new members the group may have to consider splitting.
- ✚ Northland group has 4 members.

- ✚ Gypsy group is re-configuring and Michelle is starting a new group.
- ✚ The Otaki group has 4 members.
- ✚ Kohanga group has been attending Lenten talks at St. Thomas More church.
- ✚ The Introductory group run by Maureen and Travina has completed its meetings and may yield a new member for the Gypsy group.
- ✚ Michelle and Bernadette held the first introductory meeting for four people at St Gerard's monastery on 18 March. That group will now continue by way of Zoom meetings.

FOR REFLECTION

‘Prayer is not our attempt to make contact with God but a sign of our confidence, fragile sometimes, that God is already present, and has always been present, awaiting our invitation to come and be at home in us; “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)’

[Timothy Radcliffe O P]

O Mary,
 you always shine on our path
 as a sign of salvation and of hope.
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
 who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
 You, Salvation of the Roman People,
 know what we need,
 and we are sure you will provide
 so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
 we may return to joy and to feasting
 after this time of trial.
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
 to conform to the will of the Father
 and to do as we are told by Jesus,
 who has taken upon himself our sufferings
 and carried our sorrows
 to lead us, through the cross,
 to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

[Translation done by Catholic News Service of the prayer Pope Francis recited by video March 11 for a special Mass and act of prayer asking Mary to protect Italy and the world during of the coronavirus pandemic.]



[A Coronavirus Prayer](#)
[Kerry Weber](#)

WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out the NZ CLC website.

It can be accessed at <clc.org.nz>

