



ANNOTATIONS

June 2025

AUSTRALIA



A Reflection in Thanksgiving for the Life of Pope Francis

When Jorge Bergoglio was elected Pope, he was not well known outside of Latin America. Some Jesuits I knew presumed that he had taken the name Francis in honour of the first Jesuit saint - Francis Xavier – but we soon learned that it was in honour of St Francis of Assisi.

Now, as we give thanks for his life and twelve years of ministry as our Pope, we have witnessed deep connections between Francis of Assisi and Francis our Pope. Both had a strong personal commitment to material simplicity, a deep love of those made poor, pushed to the edges, or excluded, and a sense of kinship with all of God's creation. Both men were prepared to walk across battlefields - literally and figuratively - to encounter others, to listen, to engage in dialogue, and to promote peace. Francis of Assisi and Francis our Pope both answered God's call "repair my house, which is falling into ruin."

Those are the words that St Francis heard addressed to him in a mystical experience before the cross at San Damiano. At first, he took it literally and started maintenance work on the church building. Then he realised that God was asking him to remedy the corruption that the church had fallen into with its abuse of power and love of wealth.

Pope Francis erected a huge replica of the San Damiano cross right at the entrance to the Paul VI Hall where the Assemblies of the Synod on Synodality took place. Every day as we came and went it reminded us that reviving the ancient practice of synodality is about returning to the wisdom of the Early Church, getting back to basics - and repairing the church. Pope Francis invited us anew to journey together as the People of God, following Christ in our time and place, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, towards the Kingdom of God.

Here are four items in the 'scope of works' of Pope Francis' repair project:

Item 1: eradicating clericalism. Pope Francis was sometimes quite hard on priests. He constantly condemned clericalism because it disrespects the equal baptismal dignity of all members of the pilgrim People of God. We know that it is part of the culture that enables abuse. **(Cont'd)**

The World Common Mission of CLC

First, we want to bring the freeing power of Christ to our social reality.

Secondly, we want to find Christ in all our varied cultures and to let His grace illuminate all that needs transformation.

Thirdly, we want to live Christ so as to bring Him to every aspect of our daily life in the world.

Item 2: rectifying a preoccupation with disciplines and practices of secondary importance instead of focussing on the core message of the Gospel. It is so easy for any of us to be like the scribes and Pharisees, but Francis focused on the kerygma, always placing pastoral witness to God's love at the centre.

Item 3: replacing indifference to the cries of our sisters and brothers who are in need or excluded with a lively sense of being one human family. That was the focus of Francis' second social encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. Throughout his pontificate Francis was constant in his concern for asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, First Peoples, and victims of violence and war. He wanted to see a better kind of politics aimed at the common good.

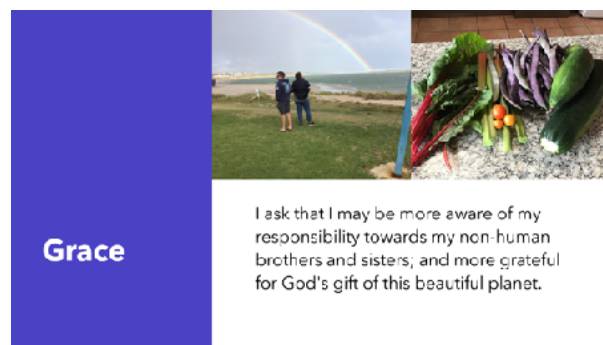
Item 4: reinstating the understanding that we are God's creatures. Francis' best-known social encyclical *Laudato Si'* reminded us that we are part of God's creation not outside or above it. Along with all other creatures, together with all flesh and matter, we are part of a sublime universal communion of God's creation. The ecological crisis that we are facing is, at its heart, a spiritual crisis.

I was truly fortunate to meet Pope Francis personally on three occasions. Each time he asked me to pray for him, which of course I have been doing. In November 2024 we spoke about Study Group 2, which is one of ten international study groups established after the First Assembly of the Synod. Its task was to provide him with advice by 30 June 2025 on how the church might better listen to the cry of the poor and of the earth. I am the coordinator of Study Group 2, and I asked Pope Francis to pray for us. He picked up my ID badge hanging on a lanyard, looked closely at it, nodded, and said "thank you, thank you, thank you". Study Group 2 will complete our work in memory of Pope Francis.

Now it is time for us all to say "thank you, thank you, thank you" to our beloved Pope Francis. Thank you for your example of humility and simplicity. Thank you for your love of those made poor or excluded and of God's creation. Thank you for reminding us that the mission of the church is not fundamentally about rules and rituals but about sharing the transforming love of God in every aspect of life.

Dr Sandie Cornish, 30 April 2025

LAUDATO SI' ANNIVERSARY EVENT



On May 24, the Ecology working group hosted a zoom event to mark the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si'. We were delighted to have around 20 members attend.

After Iain Radvan shared his reflection on the significance of Laudato Si', mentioning especially how it has brought the church and the secular world together as nothing else in the modern world has, we went into small groups for personal sharing, and then a plenary session. A common theme was that while many already had had a caring relationship with nature, before Laudato Si' they hadn't realised its spiritual dimension.

Thanks to Chris Gardner, Debbie Deal Paz and Iain Radvan sj for putting this event together.

FILM REVIEW "OCEAN with David Attenborough"

This recent film is a 'must see' for anyone interested in the health of our planet. While exploring the terrible degradation caused by the fishing industry as large trawlers scour the ocean floor taking everything in their wake, we also learnt of the amazing powers of the ocean to regenerate if left free of fishing in protected zones.

Attenborough, so committed and inspiring at 99 years, explores the planet's undersea habitats using stunning photography to reveal the greatest age of ocean discovery, emphasising the ocean's vital importance to our planetary life and exposing both the problems and the opportunities for marine life recovery.

We went from abject despair at the sight of the huge fishing trawlers literally destroying the ocean floor, to hope and wonder at the possibility of these areas coming back to life, if left alone.

Examples of communities who have created fishing free zones is both encouraging and inspiring. If you want to know and understand more, don't miss this amazing documentary currently showing in our movie theatres.

Chris and Jenny Gardner



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

1 September to 4 October, 2025. The Biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth.

*Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored.
There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth.*

To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.



Cherishing the legacy of Pope Francis

In the half millennium since St Ignatius was walking the Earth, the only period in which there was a Pope from the

Ignatian tradition were the years 2013-2025. All of us in the Ignatian family are blessed to have lived during a time of an Ignatian papacy.

Early in his pontificate, Pope Francis gifted the Church his great encyclical *Laudato Si'*, arguably the most significant social encyclical since *Rerum Novarum* over a hundred years ago. The evidence of the tilt towards ecology and ecospirituality is all around us, including in CLC and many members' own experiences of ecological conversion.

Francis's other legacy will surely be the movement towards synodality.

I was recently reminded that *Laudato Si'* contained a clue to Francis's future agenda. Encyclicals of the past typically cite Scripture, church doctors, ecumenical councils and previous popes. *Laudato Si'* broke with this by pointedly citing regional bishops' conferences – including our own Australian Catholic Bishops Conference – as a source of authority. I did remember being struck by that at the time but had forgotten all about it. An early clue that Francis wanted to move away from a top-down church model to something more collegial.

The 2023-24 worldwide Synod on Synodality clearly signalled a change in how the Church needs to be oriented.

It is something we will have to consider in CLC not only because it is part of our reality as part of the broader church, but because we want to be practicing it ourselves. The final document of CLC Australia's National Assembly last year also called us to embrace synodality.

When it meets later this month, NEXCO will be discerning our plans for the year 2025-26 and, from our preliminary discussions, synodality has already emerged as an area of focus.

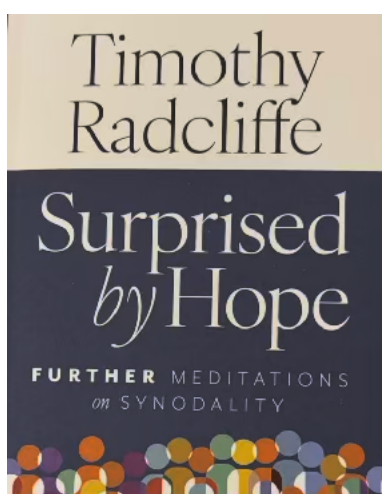
Speaking of which, I encourage members to join us for a unique event to celebrate the Feast of St Ignatius Loyola. Former CLC World President Mauricio Lopez will be in Australia and will join us for a conversation about the call for a synodal Church and what this means for lay Catholics. After his term with CLC finished, Mauricio worked closely with Pope Francis in the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development. He now works in the ground-breaking PUAM University of the Amazon. Join us for what promises to be a rich conversation. **(See text box on next page)**

It is up to us to carry forward the legacy of Pope Francis, the Ignatian Pope. Others will note different aspects. For me, though, the two stand-outs are Care of Creation and Synodality.

Lastly, a shout out to the eight members of CLC New Zealand who joined in our World CLC Day Zoom event in March (pictured below), making it a genuinely international event! Special thanks to CLC NZ President Sarah Dench for putting together this year's material.

Michael Walker, President of CLC Australia

Book Reviews

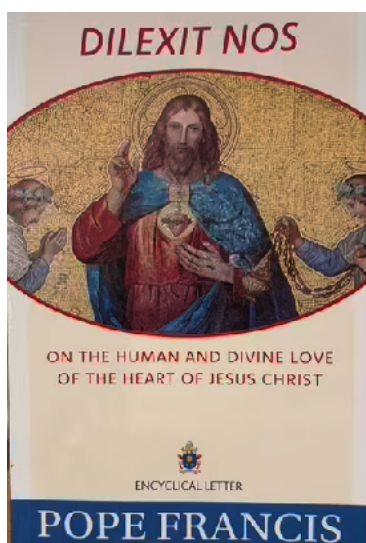


In *Surprised by Hope*, Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe shines a fresh light on how to be a missionary, synodal Church in our crucified world.

The Synod on Synodality gathered Catholics from all over the world to listen, pray, and reflect on a new way of being church. Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe, the official retreat master and spiritual advisor for this assembly, was appointed by Pope Francis to deliver a series of retreat talks and meditations to the delegates during the assembly of the synod. In *Surprised by Hope*, he reflects on the radically transformative process begun at the general assembly of the Synod on Synodality with a new focus for today: “How to be a synodal Church on mission?”

Timothy Cardinal Radcliffe, OP, retreat master and spiritual advisor for the Synod on Synodality, is a member of the community at Blackfriars, Oxford and was master general of the Order of Preachers from 1992 to 2001.

Published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 2025.



In his fourth encyclical, *Dilexit Nos* (“He loved us”), Pope Francis writes, at a time of profound global challenges, on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ. As Pope Francis observes, “we find ourselves immersed in societies of serial consumers who live from day to day, dominated by the hectic pace and bombarded by technology, lacking in the patience needed to engage in the processes that an interior life by its very nature requires.” The Holy Father calls for a change of perspective, urging humanity to rediscover what is most essential: the heart.

In *Dilexit Nos*, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on aspects of the Lord’s love that could illuminate the path of ecclesial renewal and resonate meaningfully with “a world that seems to have lost its heart.” This encyclical, which includes reflections from Sacred Scripture and previous magisterial teachings, reintroduces the Church to the spiritually profound devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Copyright 2024 Liberia Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City.

Published in 2024 by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, Huntington, Indiana.

Ignatian Spirituality and the Call for a Synodal Church (online)

A conversation with former CLC World President Mauricio Lopez.

7.30pm-8.30pm AEST Thursday 31 July

Register your attendance to receive the Zoom link, at <https://events.humanitix.com/ignatian-spirituality-and-the-call-for-a-synodal-church-an-approach-from-our-clc-mission>

NEWS FROM WEST AUSTRALIA





Our first event for CLC in WA was Clean Up Australia on 3 March, again very well organised by Chris Gardner. Thanks, Chris, for this contribution to our Community and the Planet.

This is not only an opportunity to support a worthwhile cause, the conversation and sharing that follows amongst us is also a valuable time to deepen our relationships within the CLC community.

Our Annual Gathering celebrating World CLC Day was held on 23 March. We welcomed Br Terry Casey CFC as our guest speaker this year who shared his wisdom and lived experiences of being 'Pilgrims on a hope-filled journey...living Spirituality in Everyday Life'. Br Terry was down-to-earth and real in his interesting and encouraging presentation of living each day with a sense of the Presence of God in our ordinary, and Spirit-led lives. He used the CLC Priorities as the framework for his talk which made the link to our Ignatian spirituality very accessible.



Submission Dates for Annotations Material:

December	28 November
March	26 February
June	29 May
September	28 August

From the Editor

Please send your articles to:

Postal: Ann Hoare, CLC Editor, Rendu Towers, 1082/43 Evelyn Street, Newstead QLD 4006

Email: aho87668@bigpond.net.au

Articles (up to 350 or 650 words) to be in .doc or .docx format. Please provide photos and images in high resolution jpg format and separate from articles (not pasted into your document). Please provide captions for your photos.

CLC members in WA joined others across the nation on April 5 for the first of much valued six online Keystones sessions, thus gaining a deeper understanding and appreciation of CLC.

On 13 April, Palm Sunday Prayers for Peace held at the Anglican St George's Cathedral grounds was recognised and attended by some of our CLC members. This is an ongoing ecumenical event which highlights the need for justice and equality for all people in our country.

A Silent Women's Walking Retreat was held in Nathanael's Rest in Mundaring on 23 – 25 May. This was organised by Chiara Von Perger and attended by seven women. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect, share and walk on a part of the Bibbulmun Track and be encouraged and inspired to find and deepen connection with our God in this beautiful part of WA. A quote from Noel Davis's poem *From the Eye of the Inner Quiet*, that resonated is:

'The beauty resplendent all around, Life's passion expressed in every leaf and blade'.

CLC members, family and friends are invited to join Friends of Gabbiljee Reserve (Bull Creek) for their annual Planting Day on 5 July. This is a great spot to support the ongoing work of restoring and maintaining this important waterway in our city. More information regarding meeting place and time soon to come.

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry is having a NAIDOC Week Mass at Holy Trinity Church, 8 Burnett S, Embleton on 6 July at 11am. If you would like to share in their lunch after Mass, please notify Kerry Cirillo kerrycirillo@gmail.com.

Ignatian Spirituality WA (ISWA) organised a beautiful opportunity to connect with nature at Tomato Lake, Belmont and many of our CLC members attended. These events are being held throughout the year, and we are grateful to ISWA for making it possible.



Membership Renewals

We operate on a financial year, so many registered members who pay once a year will receive a reminder about payment due for 2025-26. To complete registration go to: <https://www.clcaustralia.org.au/renew-manage-account/#myaccount> While you are doing this, please check that all your contact details are current including your Guide and Group Name.

News from South Australia

CLC Pilgrims say Thank You to June

When Margaret and I moved from Balaklava to Norwood mid 2008 we were triply blest – firstly, our parish was the Jesuit parish of St Ignatius, secondly, within a year we were invited to join CLC and thirdly, our guide was the lovely June Duffy. Our membership has changed over the years, but June was constant, always leading by her prayerful example, always generous with her hospitality and always challenging us to deepen our spirituality. One such challenge was a series of meetings reflecting on Margaret Silf's book *Landmarks*.

Over the past two years, June has faced a series of health issues that required hospitalisations and eventually permanent nursing home care. Despite these challenges, she consistently expressed her unwavering confidence in God's presence and love throughout her journey. Last year we had several CLC meetings either in her room or in the nursing home's library. In fact, late last year I planned to write a report for *Annotations* titled "CLC in a Nursing Home". It was to include a photo, taken by one of the lovely staff, of the library set up as a sacred space and featuring our Pilgrim group. This report was to reflect that God indeed can be found in all things and in all places. However, medical events meant that this never happened. We have all learned from June a lot about acceptance, letting go and trusting in God's love.

However, there is much more to June than just our Pilgrim group. In the wider CLC spheres June has been involved at both state and national levels. Among other things she has helped organise retreats, led Ignatian First Spiritual exercises and introduced groups to differing forms of prayer. Her working life included working in a political office and lecturing at TAFE. Post retirement she helped with administrative work at The Otherway Centre. She talked fondly and with great pride about her children Patrick, Tim and Tom and her grandchildren Lucy and Wren.

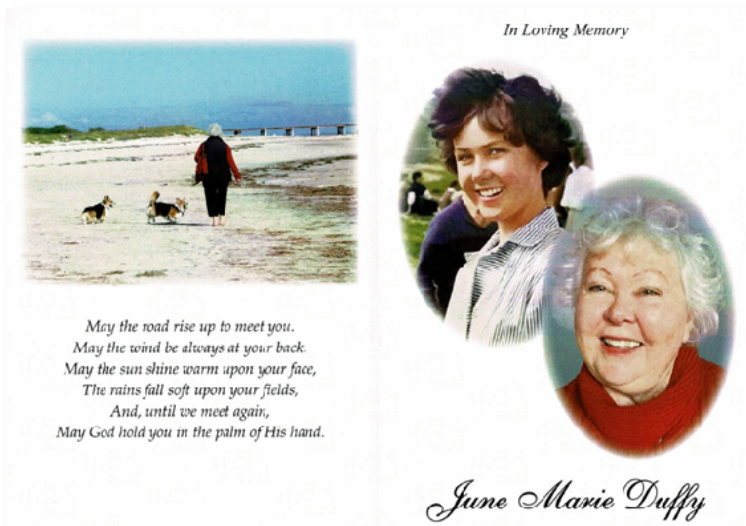
We have special memories of sharing end of year Christmas brunches. This image is from December 2021.

So, thank you dear June.

We were privileged to have known you. Please continue to pray for us.

Jeff Baker





Vale June Duffy

June was farewelled at a very personal funeral held at the Otherway Centre, in Adelaide, where June had volunteered and supported The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Adelaide. Her Requiem Mass in the chapel was celebrated by Fr Chris Horvat SJ. It was preceded by a smoking ceremony and was followed by a shared morning tea in the park. The wake in the Centre's gathering space included a special memorial room showcasing some of June's treasured items. It was a wonderful tribute prepared thoughtfully in memory of June, a much-loved mother and grandmother. We were all united in thanksgiving for her full and blessed life, lived with joy and purpose, with a sense of gratitude for having shared in some of her life's journey.

Thank you, June, for all you shared and gave to CLC; you will be missed.

Petranel, CLC SA ExCo

NEWS FROM VICTORIA

Emmaus Road CLC group - First Spiritual Exercises Lenten series at Campion, Kew, Victoria

Over a five week Lenten period this year, our Emmaus Road CLC group both organised and attended a First Spiritual Exercises retreat at Campion, Kew. The theme for the series was Inner Peace in Darkness and Light, using Michael Hansen's guidebook *First Spiritual Exercises - Four guided retreats*. It was opened to local parishes and 16 people attended. All felt blessed to have Dr Susie Hii leading, with Sister Mary O'Shannessy and Trish Collier, all from our CLC group, as our guides. Doing these exercises and daily practices over Lent gave an added sense of depth as we journeyed together, sharing our faith and perspectives in weekly meetings and preparing in this way for Holy Week. It is always a valued opportunity to reflect on faith from an Ignatian perspective, and we hope we might be able to share this more widely again in the future.

Christine Hallam

Left to Right: Sr Mary O'Shannessy, Susie Hii, Trish Collier

The First Spiritual Exercises - a Lenten Opportunity

In the lead up to Lent I was searching for something different to do for Lent. I had tried various forms of abstinence in the past but these efforts were doomed to being dispensed with as soon as Lent was over. This Lent, I was looking for something that might continue on after Lent was over. When Susie Hii, Trish Collier and Mary O'Shannessy (The Emmaus Road Group) offered a series of workshops on Fr Michael Hansen's adaptation of Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises for Lent, it was a quick decision to sign up.

I was surprised at the first meeting by how many people were there, including a couple of young people, some fellow parishioners and even an old friend who I hadn't seen for a couple of years. The rest were from nearby parishes and from memory, we numbered at least 15. Some people had a good idea of what the FSE workshop was about but most of us weren't quite sure what to expect. I was concerned that this might be a hard thing to do and I'd be a dismal failure at it. But the leaders were very encouraging and open to accommodating individual situations and personal constraints. Another surprise for me was how quickly a sense of welcoming encouragement developed within the group. By the end of the second meeting everyone was at ease with each other. I put this down to the leadership style of the three women running the workshops, which was collaborative and open to contribution from all participants.

In one of the early workshops I recall a conversation the group had about Ignatius, that having been a military man, he would have been accustomed to a disciplined daily routine. That view certainly fits well with the Spiritual Exercises and the daily Examen. Luckily for me, and others I suspect, such strict observance of ideal practice was not being demanded of us. I was greatly relieved to hear that the main thing to focus on was to develop a routine that includes a morning reflection, preferably based on scripture, that orients our thoughts towards God and helps us be open to God's graces throughout the day. Secondly, to finish the day with the Examen, a reflection on how the day went, asking where can I see God's hand at work? Did I help or hinder? And finally to give thanks and pray I'll do better tomorrow.

My personal experience of the exercises is that they do provide something positive though I cannot describe exactly what that is. I found being consistent in practice to be a challenge, having failed dismally to maintain the practice while travelling and then settling for a watered-down version that better suited my daily routine. I do not lead a particularly busy life, but neither do I have full independence in determining my daily routine. So the journey continues and I am pleased to have made a start. I can highly recommend these workshops, should they be offered again, to anyone looking for a practical way to enrich their prayer life, indeed life in general.

Ric Canale

CLC Weekend Ignatian Retreat
'Love'
Fr Iain Radvan SJ

CLC invites you to a retreat for the renewal of the vision of your life.
The Spiritual Exercises and the life of our faith calls us to continual conversion.
Fr Iain will lead you through a weekend of prayer, reflection and sharing.

Friday 1 August: on Zoom

Commencing 7:30 pm and concluding 8.45 pm

Saturday 2 August: at St Joseph's by the Sea, Williamstown

Commencing at 9.00am and concluding following a 4.30pm Vigil Eucharist.

If you choose to stay on for an evening meal, it will be something like Pizzas in Williamstown (around 7pm) but some may prefer to go straight home after Mass.

Sunday 3 August: at St Joseph's by the Sea, Williamstown

Commencing 10am and concluding at 4.30 pm

Costs: \$100 (or \$80 concession).



Costs includes two lunches and refreshments throughout the days. It does not include any overnight accommodation.

There is limited overnight accommodation available at St Joseph's by the Sea (5 rooms only) \$120 Bed & Breakfast.

Retreat Bookings :

vic.exco@gmail.com by 22nd July

Accommodation Bookings:

Phone 9397 6012