



ANNOTATIONS

September 2025

AUSTRALIA

Mauricio Lopez's visit and the University of the Amazon



Many CLC members would remember the 1986 film *The Mission*, about the Jesuits and their troubled relationship with South American colonisers and its unforgettable musical theme, *Gabriel's Oboe*, composed by Ennio Morricone.

The film is based on real events. Jeremy Irons' character, Fr Gabriel, is loosely based on the Jesuit Saint Roque Gonzalez de Santa Cruz, who lived from 1576-1628.

Notwithstanding all the changes that have happened in the world in the four hundred years since Roque Gonzalez was active in South America, similar work is still being done. A long echo of events depicted in *The Mission*.

Mauricio Lopez (CLC World President 2013-2018) visited Australia in July for a series of speaking engagements relating to his work on synodality and on the project to establish a University of the Amazon, PUAM (<https://puam.org/en/>).

After being closely involved in organising the consultations that were part of the 2019 Synod on the Amazon, Mauricio has since made PUAM his focus. It is a university unlike any other. It has been set up for indigenous people in the Amazon region but, rather than simply adopting Western-style ways of knowing and striving to Westernise, or at least modernise the indigenous, it is a place for indigenous knowledge to be retained and transmitted to the next generation. We have nothing quite like it in Australia although, who knows, maybe the idea will catch on here in time.

CLC and other Ignatian ministries were never far from PUAM's story. A member of CLC Mexico, Fabiola Romero, works at PUAM and appears in the explanatory video that Mauricio shared. PUAM's educational approach is based on a model developed by the Jesuit Refugee Service to deliver university degrees in refugee camps. It also draws on work done in the Philippines. In the rural community of Bicol, Jesuits including Fr Pedro Walpole SJ have been working on a model of teaching traditional and sustainable agriculture. The hope, explained to me a few years ago, is that the people of the region who become educated will choose to remain in their community and share their skills locally, rather than the usual story of educated people leaving to take on higher-paying work in big cities, where they lose contact with their kin and culture. There were many CLC groups set up among Bicol's villagers, too.

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.

On hearing about PUAM, I was struck by how similar it is to the projects of Jesuits and their allies with indigenous South Americans hundreds of years ago and, at the same time, how different. Just as the fictional Father Gabriel faced opposition to his project from forces within the Church so too, does Mauricio face resistance from those in the Church who struggle to understand why this work is necessary. Yet, while colonisers of four hundred years ago (including many Jesuit missionaries themselves) were convinced of the superiority of European knowledge, culture and technology, PUAM is very different in that respect; it is about upholding and preserving indigenous knowledges that have been developed in the Amazon over thousands of years.

After Mauricio's talk with CLC Australia members on the Feast of St Ignatius, my two main takeaways were, firstly, an affirmation that CLC has a gift of spiritual conversation that we can share with the whole Church; secondly, with respect to mission, that we can't just go out to "them" with projects we've pre-decided. Synodality means we must listen. Unbeknownst to Mauricio, this resonated with conversations we've been having at NEXCO. We do have a desire to offer synodality to the wider Church, but we will have to be patient while its form is revealed through listening and experimentation.

- > If you missed Mauricio's talk given to CLC, you can view a similar talk he gave at Parramatta Cathedral on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/live/7DPv5O3ZxLk>

Michael Walker, National President CLC Australia

Guide Tips:

One of the things that was mentioned several times in the recent CLC Guides zoom meeting was the desire to speak with other Guides. My tip would be that this does not have to be a formal occurrence. Ask your EXCO for the names and contact details of several guides who live in your proximity. Say a little prayer and then send one of them a text, email, or call them. Simply identify yourself and let them know you'd be interested in chatting with them about guiding in CLC. No pressure; just curiosity. Ask them how they are going and if they are interested in a catch up.

This may result in a quick chat. It may lead to a get together. You may be willing to offer hospitality. It will turn out to be whatever the Holy Spirit directs it to be.

God bless you in your guiding. It is a precious calling.

Paris Huffman

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, 166 Shaw Road, Wavell Heights QLD 4012

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.



PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

In celebration of the *Season of Creation* (Sept 1 – Oct 4), the Ecology Group encourages you to check out the resources listed below and engage in a couple of activities that truly reflect our commitment to 'Care for all Creation'. Links have been provided for easy access to the resources.

- Welcome *the Season of Creation* with this spiritual exercise (from Michael Hansen's FSE)
<https://jisa.org.au/blog/2025/08/26/spirit-hovers-over-creation/>
- Register to receive JISA's *Star Contemplations* (by Michael Hansen SJ). There is no cost involved and the video clips will be delivered to your inbox weekly, beginning Thursday 4 September through to Thursday 2 October 2025.
[Star Contemplations](#)
- Pray the ecological examen. Here is the link to an audio *Ecological Examen* guided by Robyn Wunder (JISA) and Sue Martin (Being with God in Nature).
<https://jisa.org.au/ecological-examen/>
- Organise or participate in a Reflective Walk. Two templates for organising a reflective walk can be found on our website under Goal #6 of our *Laudato Si'* Action Plan.
<https://www.clcaustralia.org.au/laudato-si/>
- Follow the *Season of Creation* calendar found on our website.
<https://www.clcaustralia.org.au/creation/>

To culminate this year's *Season of Creation*, we invite you to join an online celebration on Saturday, October 11 at 10:30 AEDT (See Zoom meeting details below.)

This reflective event is an opportunity for members to share their experiences of *the Season of Creation*—whether you attended events, spent time in nature, or simply observed the changing world around you. To make the gathering meaningful, we encourage you to capture a moment in nature—something that draws your attention, whether beautiful or confronting—and submit your photo(s) by September 30 to Iain Radvan SJ at inavdar@yahoo.com.

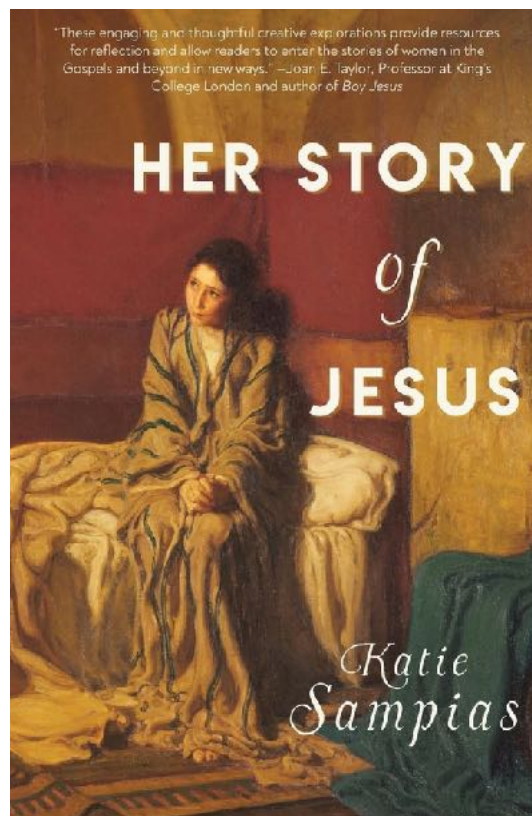
Zoom link. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89913076667?pwd=QQHMPT8vCBYdoCXtHWMVtGU0VhZdx.1>

Meeting ID: 899 1307 6667

Passcode: 304016

Debbie Dela Paz

BOOK REVIEW



Katie Sampias (née Cook) is a friend of CLC who has just published a new book entitled **Her Story of Jesus** well worth making time and space for reading either personally or in groups.

A series of short stories based on various encounters women had with Jesus either directly named in the gospels, implied or envisaged between the lines, Katie elegantly uses her powers of imagination and empathy to vividly tell stories to enrich your faith and understanding. The stories stretch and console, leading the reader to deepen our understanding of the gospels, the first century cultural and religious milieu, and the deeply relational nature of Jesus' life and ministry among women. While reading the stories I felt drawn deeper into the holy mystery Jesus came to unveil, and led closer to appreciating his gift, his kingdom, his healing work, with new eyes.

Katie Sampias welcomes us to a fresh sense of being at home in the gospel narratives. Each distinct story unfolds like a course of a banquet, and yet each can also be enjoyed like a main meal. The back end of the work has a discussion guide for group sharing which could suit a CLC group or similar which wishes to engage in story-by-story close reading, reflection and sharing.

All told, **Her Story of Jesus** is a work for the whole family of God to enjoy. We can give thanks for the gift Katie has given readers, and for inviting us to join her on pilgrimage through her beautiful writing, and so through life on mission with the Lord.

Published through Calla Press, the book is available through Amazon at <https://amzn.asia/d/bxiZkdh> and direct from the publisher at <https://www.callapresspublishing.com/shoppe/p/preorder-her-story-of-jesus-by-katie-sampias>

Katie was for a number of years a member of the Faber House CLC group based in Melbourne. Daughter of Ros Cook, a wisdom figure within CLC Queensland, Katie began writing the work twelve years ago, completing the work as a labour of faithful love and discipleship. She is married to Matthew and together they have three children.

James O'Brien

NEWS FROM THE WEST



CLC Members joined the Friends of Gabbiljee Park, Bull Creek, for tree planting on a sunny and crisp morning on July 5. Parts of the park were burnt this summer and to witness the resilient determination of long-term members of the park is both inspiring and heartbreaking. The environmental realities of our times are an acute reminder of the importance of preserving and restoring our earthly home with greater urgency.

It was a privilege for eleven CLC members to join the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry to celebrate NAIDOC WEEK at the Embleton Parish on July 6. A lively and splendid morning tea was shared with the community afterwards.



This year we joined St Benedict's Parish, Applecross to celebrate St Ignatius' Feast Day on Sunday August 3. We continued the fellowship at a local café. We welcomed Joyce Pragassa from CLC Mauritius while in Australia visiting family.

ISWA Contemplative Walk August 16



These are two reflections from members on the walk held recently at Bold Park, City Beach. Thanks to Chiara Von Perga and John Auer for organising and leading this event.

'I loved my walk with CLC in Bold Park. The weather was amazing, the colours extraordinary. I had just returned from being overseas for nine weeks and the walk grounded me back on Australian land. As I walked, I felt I was coming home, it was such an amazing feeling and a great surprise and gift. Not what I anticipated.'

Deborah Protter

'I noticed the Tuart trees. One was mostly burnt and dead, but one small part retained some bark and out of that a strong slim trunk had started growing again. Nearby, a majestic Tuart, untouched by fire, grew strongly. I saw further down, dead trees fallen on the ground. I got the impression about life and death existing in our universe. Both are part of the universe. Both are part of nature.'

Marq Rosario

Upcoming events

We are looking forward to our annual Spring Retreat on September 19 – 21 at the St John of God Retreat Centre, Shoalwater. We are delighted to have Iain Radvan SJ directing us on the theme "A Heart of Love", taken from Pope Francis' encyclical "Dilexit Nos." He will be ably supported by two CLC members Kay Hurd and Michael Anderson.

Iain will conduct a Day of Reflection in Bunbury immediately following the Retreat. We thank Carol Reid for coordinating this opportunity.

CLC WA will celebrate Christmas at a Lunch on November 30 at 11.30 a.m. at Tassels Place Bar and Bistro in Innaloo. Friends and family of CLC members are most welcome.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEW GROUP - TRUGERHAD

Just like a baby in the womb, a new CLC group has a period of gestation. The invitation to come and try Ignatian prayer is the beginning of a potential new life in Christ. As participants experience praying, reflecting and sharing together, they grow in trust; trusting one another with the confidentiality and tenderness with which their sharing is held and trusting God's delight in the developing intimacy.

Each person, and the group as a whole, periodically evaluates the engagement and growth in spiritual maturity and freedom. Finally, after sufficient discernment, the individuals and the group recognize their birth, as a new member of the CLC community and the Ignatian family.

It is with delight that I announce the new CLC group, Trugarhad, which has formed in the Adelaide Hills. We began our journey together with a brief talk at Mass about Christian Life Community and an invitation to come and try Ignatian prayer. That was in March 2023. There were many meetings in the CLC format introducing Lectio Divina, Contemplative Prayer, Imaginative Prayer, the Examen, Spiritual Conversation, Sacred Listening, the life of Ignatius and, through our sharing, getting to know one another and inviting others to join us in prayer. The seven participants have used the Gooley book, *To Share in the Life of Christ*, to deepen our understanding of the charism and General Principles of CLC.

One of our communal discernments, after committing to formalize our group, was choosing a name. Two of our group are Welsh and suggested "Trugarhad" which led to discussion and learning for all.

Kathrine explained: "In Welsh the word Trugarhad, which means mercy, has rich undertones of meaning.

It sounds like the words Trigahad and Trigaha, which mean dwelling and to die, respectively.

Similarly, it is made up of the two words Trigo, which means to live and Parhad which means to continue.

So, in Welsh, when we hear the word Trugarhad we think of God's mercy, his death his continuing life and that he dwells in us."

Trugarhad was the name selected and here are our members: Paris Huffman (Guide), Helen & Jeff Cantwell, John Leeton, Jane McCaffrey, Stephen Jenkins and Kathrine Johnson.

Pray for us, as we for thee, as we grow in our love and service to our world in Jesus' name.



CLC SA Annual Retreat at Sevenhill May 2025

By Margaret Kirchner (PreCLC group – Inner West)

Theme: Pilgrims and Companions of Hope. Facilitator Fr Brendan Kelly SJ

We gathered at the beautiful La Storta Retreat Centre at Sevenhill and we were blessed with sunshine though we would have preferred an end to the drought.

Together we mourned the recent loss of June Duffy, and a small table was lovingly arranged with plants and artwork to honour June and remind us of her enduring presence with us.

We also came in sorrow and concern for the unrest in the world with the Syrian Civil War, Ukraine-Russia War, Myanmar and the Gaza and Sudan wars. Fr Brendan started off the weekend talking about the movie Shawshank Redemption and its message of hope even amid evil.

Fr Brendan spoke of the need for us to lament. To lament disrupts the routine. It is a cry against the ravages of sin. We say that this world can be a better place, and it calls us to action.

We reflected on the central message of Pope Francis' decree for Jubilee Year 2025 - a call to be Pilgrims of Hope. We pilgrims saw many signs of hope in the beautiful landscape. We were delighted by the young calves and the hens and the ducks. At nighttime, the sky was a sea of stars and several people even glimpsed part of the Southern Aurora.

Times for prayer and contemplation as well as time for fellowship and sharing left us all with hope in our hearts and a desire to take this hope to the world.



EXAMEN-ING LIFE – A Day of Reflection in Buninyong, 19th July

Mary Wade



On a cold and bright winter's day in Buninyong near Ballarat, Susie Hii led 34 of us in a day of reflection, titled "Examen-ing Life". We were gathered in the beautiful Church of Saints Peter and Paul, which has astonishing floor-to-ceiling stained glass windows and is surrounded by bushland and next to a creek.

We began by joining with the local Buninyong community in Mass, celebrated by Fr Justin Driscoll. Using the Examen, Susie led us in looking back at our lives with God, to savour and heal them, and in looking forward with hope and trust to what God has in store for us. During the day there was time for silence, journaling and optional small group sharing. Small groups were led by members of our local CLC groups.

It was clear as the day went on that this reminiscence with God gave us a sense of wonder, with feelings of love, joy and peace. It gave healing and a sense of ease in finding meaning and purpose in our lives.

Susie is a geriatrician, a wife, a mother of two young adult children, and a friend. She is a spiritual director, and leads a Scripture reflection group and a Christian meditation group in her parish; and has been a CLC member for many years and currently on VicExco. She is a contemplative in action. This shone through her evident desire to share the wisdom gained from her own experiences, from her knowledge of spirituality and of science, particularly in her area of medicine. In essence, she shared parts of her story and led us in contemplation of Jesus in our own stories.

Some comments from the evaluations say best how blessed we were with the day and with Susie's generosity of spirit.

'The simplicity of presentations even though it was profound. The overarching theme of trusting in God's love.' Veronica

'Moments of sudden clarity. Peace. Beauty. Joy and Gratitude.' Mary W

'The simplicity. Abundance of helpful quotes. Uncomplicated, natural unfolding of the love of God. This experience I will treasure in my heart enabling me to live in hope.' Millie

'To forget that I have forgiven.' Jude

'Thinking about life differently. Living in the moment like a child with total trust.'

'The enthusiasm of participants. The preparedness to share at a deep level.'

'Taking time out in such a beautiful setting such as this sacred space is a very special experience. Being with people with similar interests.' Margaret

'Beautiful music and prayers. Inspirational.' Jenny D

'Susie's gentle guidance. Silence. Susie and Mary working together as a very thoughtful team.' Jenny M

'It was my first encounter with the Examen. I now intend to use it regularly. It was relevant and helpful for anyone's life, at any point.' Peter H.

'The attentiveness of people as they listened - I noticed how quiet it was. The Spirit was with us.' Doreen

Above all, it is as Doreen said, there was a strong sense of the Spirit with us as a small community that day. As I left the Church of Saints Peter and Paul at the end of the day and turned onto the highway towards home, an enormous billowing golden glowing cloud rose ahead of me coming up from behind Mount Buninyong. It was extraordinary. And I knew it was God's immense joy in the day and in us. Thank you.

I had asked Susie to come and give this day in Ballarat, after being at a similar day with her last year at our annual CLC Anglecrest weekend. I am very grateful she said yes! I'm also grateful for my fellow disciple, Doreen Roache who is constantly supporting and encouraging, and for the help and enthusiasm of our CLC members who helped with setting-up, packing-up, and providing morning tea and a nourishing lunch of soup and rolls.



Second half of Examen-ing Life - Reflection Day in Ballarat.

Mary Wade

Many of those who attended were from the Ballarat East Ministry District, which includes eight parishes stretching from Ballarat East to Ballan along the highway towards Melbourne. Of the eight parishes, five are in small farming communities. It was good to see people there from all these parishes. Justin Driscoll is one of the two priests who look after these parishes. He ran a small paragraph about the day in the parish newsletters over five weeks. We sent flyers directly to our local 'Friends of CLC' mailing list, which includes past members, and 'waiting members' and people who had previously attended FSEs and FHEs in Ballarat. We also sent flyers directly to a local Biblical Studies Group, and the Mercy Sisters. Our numbers got big quite quickly, so we did not send flyers to RE co-ordinators in our local Catholic schools as we had intended. Another time we would also like to include Catholic welfare organisations in the area. Of course some people came by word of mouth. It really did feel like it was a spirit-led moment and offered something people were yearning for.

Justin, who was able to stay for half the day, has asked Susie if she will collaborate with him in offering this day throughout the Diocese of Ballarat, and Susie has said yes! It is a geographically extensive diocese, which covers the western third of Victoria, extending from the Murray River in the North to the Southern Ocean. There are 23 parishes in the diocese comprising 99 church communities. There are 25 priests working in parishes. Their work is supported by retired priests. Twelve parishes have a parish priest who also cares for another parish. There is one parish that has formal lay-leadership with a Supervising Priest and a Visiting Priest. Many lay people have leadership roles in parishes, and many parishes share

resources within one of the eight Ministry Districts in the diocese, including sharing lay personnel. The diocese has 11 Catholic secondary schools and 52 Catholic primary Schools.

Our two groups in Ballarat will discern how we might share Ignatian spirituality in a simple and ongoing way within Ballarat, as well as help Susie on future days of reflection if needed. I thought it wonderful that Fr Justin asked Susie if she would bring this day across the diocese....and that she has agreed.

“Love” Retreat



The first weekend in August about twenty members of CLC in Victoria gathered at St Joseph's by the Sea in Williamstown for a retreat with Fr Iain Radvan centred around the theme of Love. Iain skilfully wove Pope Francis's last encyclical *Dilexit nos* on the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus, with reflections from Gary Chapman's *The 5 Love Languages*. Using Ignatian contemplation, Iain invited us to consider what is our Love Language with God and how do we experience God's love for us?



The Victorian Assembly was held on the 22nd June 2025 at St Joseph's by the Sea, Williamstown. We took time to reflect on the theme *“Legacy”*. Chris Power shared the Community Report for Aug 2023 – June 2025, giving thanks for all that has been and all that is to come.

The newly elected ExCo - Susan Soesilo, Cameron Cutts, Bill Hallam and Susie Hii - was welcomed. Chris Longman was again co-opted as Treasurer and Fr Andy Hamilton continues as our valued Ecclesiastical Assistant. We thanked the outgoing ExCo: Chris Power, Janine Hellard, Joanna Kim and Teresa O'Brien for their generous hearts and faithful service over the past two years. The day concluded with Mass celebrated by Andy.



NEWS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES/CANBERRA



On a chilly Sunday morning in July, at the beginning of NAIDOC Week, I joined a small reconciliation pilgrimage organised by the NSW-ACT community. We began at Cook's landing site in Kurnell, arriving in time to catch the last of the sunrise. Spending time in the stillness of nature was a powerful way to slow down and be present. Together we reflected on [Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr's teaching on *dadirri*](#) – deep listening and quiet still awareness. Many parts of this reflection resonated with our Ignatian practices: *"The contemplative way of *dadirri* spreads over our whole life. It renews us and brings us peace.... In our Aboriginal way, we learnt to listen from our earliest days. We could not live good and useful lives unless we listened."*

We also took time to reflect on that first contact between Cook's crew and the local Aboriginal people. As I've grown older and learned more, I've realised how one-sided the history I was taught in school was. This was a meaningful moment for me to think more broadly about that first encounter and what has followed since.

The pilgrimage then continued to La Perouse, where it is thought the first Catholic Mass was said in Australia, at the grave of Père Laurent Receveur, a Franciscan priest and scientist with the La Perouse expedition. From there, we walked up to the Reconciliation Church in Yarra Bay to join the monthly Mass celebrated by Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. The church is beautifully adorned with Stations of the Cross painted by artist Richard Campbell. I loved seeing Aboriginal culture woven into the liturgy — the entrance procession led by a man in traditional body paint playing the didgeridoo, and the vesting of the priest's stole by an elder. At the start of NAIDOC Week, there was a palpable sense of pride in the community. It was a blessing to join in the celebration in a spirit of respect and understanding.

Sarah Davies

The Eyes of the Land and the Sea sculpture by Alison Page and Nik Lachajczak which commemorates the 250th anniversary of the 1770 encounter between Aboriginal Australians and Lt James Cook's crew of the HMB Endeavour at Kamay Botany Bay National Park. Resembling both the hull of the Endeavour and the bones of a whale, (being the Gadigal totem), it speaks to the different perspectives of those first encounters.

