CVX-CLC
Christian Life
Life
Community
Iin Australia

ANNOTATIONS

MARCH 2026

50 years of CLC in Australia

2026 is a significant year for CLC Australia, marking the 50th anniversary of our community's establishment here.

To celebrate reaching this milestone, we will have a 50th Birthday celebration as the highlight of our National Gathering, on Saturday 18 July in Melbourne.

By coincidence, there are also some big changes happening this year at the world level, making it really feel like the beginning of a new chapter of our journey.

Firstly, we have a new logo and visual identity, which is explained in detail on page/s 7-8.

Secondly, we are about to receive the draft of our new foundational document, the General Principles and Norms, its first revision in 28 years. The draft General Principles will be shared in the coming months, and we will use the Gathering as an opportunity to consider, discuss and respond to the draft. It will be voted on at our World Assembly in 2028.

The Gathering won't all be work - there will be plenty of spiritual nourishment and plenty of time to catch up and socialise.

Check page 2 for more details of the Gathering. I hope to see you at this celebration.

Michael Walker, President

HOW IS AI IMPACTING YOUR LIFE?

It's hard to avoid the presence of AI since, as you have probably experienced, it intrudes on so many programs we use online ('do you want me to summarise this?'). Many people are making AI their personal companion. What about in our spiritual life? Can AI help me to pray? This is the question I asked Chatgpt late last year. I entered into a conversation with AI, which on the surface seemed benign, but with further reflection set off alarms. I share with you here the text and my reflections. If you have not had any engagement with AI this is an eye opener! **Iain Radvan**

Click on the link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M0Z34uXUQM_8czB_fQ-hhn0Qq-XayoJ_/view?usp=drive_link

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.

Celebrate CLC Australia's 50th Birthday!

17-19 July, Melbourne

All members of CLC Australia are warmly invited to a **National Gathering** from **17-19 July** at Holy Cross Centre in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

It will be a time for looking back over our fifty-year history, a time for looking forward, and an opportunity for spiritual nourishment and companionship.

NEXCO wants as many members as possible to participate in the Gathering so it will be offered in a hybrid format. The best experience is of course to attend the event in person; however, we are aware that this won't be viable for everyone so we will livestream the main participatory sessions on Zoom.

Please RSVP - even if you don't think you will participate - to help us get an idea how many people to expect. Once we have an estimate of numbers, pricing will be finalised and registrations will open.

· RSVP at: https://forms.gle/Ri1L4dB8A6ZaqCQB6

CLC COMMITMENT OPPORTUNITY

Within CLC across the world, commitment is understood as a response to God's call, expressed through two distinct stages: Temporary and Permanent Commitment. Temporary Commitment is an initial step, where members pledge themselves for a defined period to live according to the CLC way of life, deepening their relationship with Christ and the community. This phase allows individuals to explore and discern whether this vocation aligns with their spiritual journey. Permanent Commitment, on the other hand, is a lifelong promise, signifying a mature and enduring dedication to the CLC values and mission. It marks a fuller integration into the community, embracing its spirit and apostolic work as one's own.

Here is a personal testimony by CLC member, Ann Hoare, taken from the Blog on our CLC website.

The formation preparation for Commitment led Ann to make Permanent Commitment to CLC. "So at the National Gathering in Adelaide 2018, I committed myself permanently, and with enormous gratitude, to this wonderful way of life that has given me so much – love, intimacy with God, and deep and treasured friendships. But I was not just committing to my local group in Brisbane, but to all the wonderful CLCers here in our beautiful country."

Quoting John O'Donoghue Ann wrote "Once the soul awakens, the search begins and you can never go back. From then on, you are inflamed with a special longing which will never again let you linger in the lowlands of complacency and partial fulfilment. The eternal makes you urgent. You are loathe to let compromise or the threat of danger hold you back from striving towards the summit of fulfilment. When this spiritual path opens, you can bring an incredible generosity to the world and to the lives of others."

If you are considering how God may be inviting you to deepen your commitment to CLC, we warmly encourage you to participate in our upcoming opportunity. This four-session programme is designed to help you reflect, pray, and discern with support from experienced members and spiritual guides, whether Temporary or Permanent Commitment is right for you. It is a chance to explore your calling and grow within the CLC community.

The invitation is to meet at night online for four sessions of two hours each, on a fortnightly basis. The dates for the online sessions are Thursday April 30th, May 14, May 28th and June 11th, 2026. In between sessions you will be asked to spend time contemplating/considering and praying through some spiritual exercises. This will lead into a period of personal discernment regarding whether you wish to take Temporary or Permanent Commitment at this time. If you do so, there will be a Commitment Ceremony at the National Gathering in July 2026. The process of the four group sessions is worthwhile, whether or not you make the decision to take Commitment. We encourage you to seriously consider this invitation and this opportunity to journey together.

RSVP by April 15th your interest in attending or any questions to:

Paris Huffman: parishuffman2@gmail.com or Chris Gardner: mjgard7@gmail.com

The Making of Commitment is Part and Parcel of our CLC Formation

In the document *The Process of Growth in CLC – Guidelines for Formation*, adopted by World CLC in 2009, it is envisaged that all members of CLC are engaged in an ongoing process of formation, through which we draw ever closer to Jesus and his Mother, and come to discover the depths of our own vocation. This process of ongoing growth involves moving through stages from “First Contact and Reception” to “Laying the Foundations for Vocation”, then “Discernment of Vocation” to the “Apostolic Discernment Stage”.

The movement from one stage to the next reflects the growing entry of a person into the life of the Community, and the deepening of their vocation. Naturally, this involves a growth in commitment of the person to their vocation, the way of life, and the Community.

Within this vision of formation, which each and every member is engaged in, there are two major markers of movement from the initial stage towards the final stage. These are “Temporary Commitment” and “Permanent Commitment”. At each of these moments there is a dual process taking place: on the one hand, the person making their commitment is publicly stating to the Community their desire to live more fully the gift they have received through this way of life; and on the other, the Community is stating its embrace of this person as belonging to the Community and contributing through their vocation to the growth of CLC in the world.

In the experience of many CLC members, the decision to publicly celebrate Commitment arises from a natural desire of those who, having made a journey in CLC, recognise in CLC their particular vocation in the Church, and live that recognition in the manner of a “found treasure”, which makes them eager one to share their joy with others.

The public expression of Commitment usually carries with it a greater consciousness of CLC identity and a greater involvement with the apostolic mission and in the life of the community. It is a public proclamation of someone who, in a clearly discerned and confirmed way, has discovered in CLC his/her specific identity before God, and a personal way of being in the Church and in the World.

By bearing witness before the CLC, those making Commitment, ask the Lord for the grace that they may give their generous response to His fidelity. By doing so in front of the whole community, they are asking for its help: that the community may accompany them on their journey. The external expression of this internal offering somehow gives it a sacramental character.

The making of these Commitments is therefore part and parcel of our formation, and needs to be seen as a natural expression of the growth the person has experienced. Equally, the making of Commitment is not something to be undertaken lightly, but in accord with the Ignatian charism, as something that needs to be properly discerned: Is this what I want to do with my life? Is this the time for me to make this Commitment?

Commitment is a public proclamation of someone who, in a clearly discerned and confirmed way, has discovered in CLC his/her specific identity before God, and a personal way of being in the Church and in the World.

In July, this year, a CLC National Gathering will be held in Melbourne. and the opportunity will be available for CLC members to take either Temporary or Permanent Commitment. If you wish to discern whether you are called to take this step, there will be a series of online reflection meetings, facilitated by Chris Gardner mjgard7@gmail.com and Paris Huffman parishuffman2@gmail.com. If you feel interested to explore this possibility and learn more about Commitment, please contact by 15 April.

Report on the work of the National Formation Working Group for Annotations

In the December issue of Annotations, Michael Walker mentioned the National Formation Working Group (NFWG) which was mandated by NEXCO with the following scope:

The Working Group will:

1. *Collate data on the formation that CLC Members are currently accessing from CLC and elsewhere*
2. *Consult CLC members and regional EXCOs in order to document the formation needs that they identify:*
    - *for themselves*
    - *for other CLC members in general*
    - *for leaders and potential leaders within CLC*
    - *for the Church in Australia?*
3. *Evaluate how well current formation activities align with CLC's mission and national priorities*
4. *Recommend ways of supporting the development of strategies to deepen CLC Australia's formation for mission in a synodal Church, including partnering with others to provide formation for CLC members and the broader church community, and better supporting a synodal church in mission.*

Kay Hooper was invited to be the Convenor of this group whose membership includes experienced CLC members across the various Regions. Current members are: Chris Power, Clare Smythe, Di Mackenzie, Kerry Cirillo, Paris Huffman, Rachel McLoughlin ibvm, Ros Cook, Teresa O'Brien. During 2025, NFWG conducted a survey of members of NEXCO, Regional EXCOs and Guides asking about the formation experienced by people in the previous five years. The responses were collated and analysed and recommendations were provided to NEXCO.

For Guides

- Providing a group of "Guide's Companions" whom Guides can contact for support, and conversation about their role.
- Four annual National events delivered by Zoom for Guides and Potential Guides (see dates below)

For all Members

Using our two means of communication: our CLC Website and our Newsletter

- Providing relevant articles related to Formation
- Assisting in providing Formation resources on our Website and assisting in making these more accessible.

NEXCO has supported the implementation of these recommendations.

SAVE THE DATES

Guides events – Saturdays 11am – 1.00pm (Sydney time)

18th April

27th June

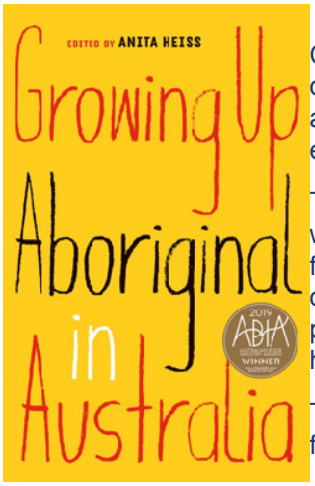
29th August

24th October

More information will be provided as we move into 2026.

BOOK REVIEW

Growing up Aboriginal in Australia.' Edited by Anita Heiss, 2018 (reprinted 8 times!).



Can you imagine what growing up Aboriginal in Australia would be like? Being of colour of any ethnic group can be hard enough in some of our communities and schools, but what if you know you are Aboriginal, yet having white skin, everyone discourages you from being who you are.

This is a collection of 50 stories of childhood memories of indigenous men and woman from all over Australia. Many of them enjoyed the love of extended family members. Some of them remember violence and constant moving. Most of them remember a time (usually in primary school) when their skin colour was pointed out to them as a problem. Many of them felt proud of their Indigenous heritage and yet struggled to be acknowledged or accepted for who they are.

Thees stories will open your eyes to the joys and struggles of our indigenous fellow Australians and will touch your heart. ***Iain Radvan***

GUIDE TIPS

One of our tasks while guiding a group is to encourage our members to continue to discern whether they are ready to make a Temporary or Permanent Commitment to CLC. This discernment is generally done through participating in a Colloquy – a series of four meetings exploring our stage of spiritual growth. With the National Gathering occurring in July 2026 the opportunity arises to have a Commitment Ceremony. Now is a good time to begin conversations with your group about what Commitment means and the value of participating in a Colloquy. If you yourself have participated in a Colloquy or have made Temporary or Permanent Commitment speaking of the graces of your own experience can be a valuable starting point. There are useful documents regarding Commitment and the Colloquy available on our CLC website under Resources, clcaustralia.org.au - A Vision of Commitment in CLC 2021. **Paris Huffman**

Guide's Companions

NEXCO has appointed a National Team of Guide Companions in response to a call from Guides for a go-to person to have a chat about issues in their Group and/or looking for resources material for their Group.

Should our Guides like to have a chat by phone or email the following people have generously made themselves available.

Marlene Beck (ACT/NSW) Clive Hamlin (QLD) Judy Foster (SA) Trish Collier (VIC) and Chris Gardner (WA)

A new logo for CVX-CLC

The Sun

This new logo enters the graphic and visual universe of the Ignatian family, to which CVX-CLC belongs. In this universe, the sun has always been present …

Here, for example, it is represented in a medieval style on the coat of arms of the first Jesuits: an orange-yellow sun, full of warmth, surrounded by a deep, intense blue.

In its own way, the image of this sun with twisted rays inscribes the Ignatian faith in a long history whose origins are rooted in the Mediterranean. Considered in the Bible as “one of the most glorious works of the Creator,” the sun represents the light of Christ and the radiance of faith.

The sun in the logo is therefore perfectly round, bright yellow and warm. Giving the logo its circular shape, it communicates its luminosity, energy, and joyful positivity.

In this logo perhaps it is rising on the horizon, a sign of hope and resurrection? “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” [5]

Or perhaps it is preparing to disappear at the end of the road? “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” [6]

It doesn't matter: following Ignatius' recommendations, the Christian Life Community encourages its companions to seek God in all things and at all times. Seek God even in this sun, whether it shines at the height of the sky, whether it rises or sets, and even if it is no longer visible: God is always there...

On Earth, our path

At the bottom of the logo, the **ground** is blue like **our planet,** a peaceful, gentle blue.

Between earth and sky, a white path winds across the ground, following the curve of the planet it seems to traverse. Like the dove flying above it, this path reflects movement and dynamism, like that of CLC, a community that leads its companions, opens up a path for them, and encourages each one to dare to take another step.

A dove

Sent by Christ, the dove points the way forward.

Like the Holy Spirit, sent by Christ who gathers it together, the dove invites the CLC community to rise up and follow it to guide them on the paths they choose to take. It should be noted, however, that neither the path nor the dove indicate a specific goal: the path ahead remains to be discovered in the trust and hope of the Gospel, in complete freedom.

The Texts describe the dove as a messenger of hope and a sign of the Holy Spirit. It is also known for heralding peace, evoking so many men, women, and children who today hope for an end to fighting. The dove thus reminds us that discerning paths to hope is not an abstract issue.

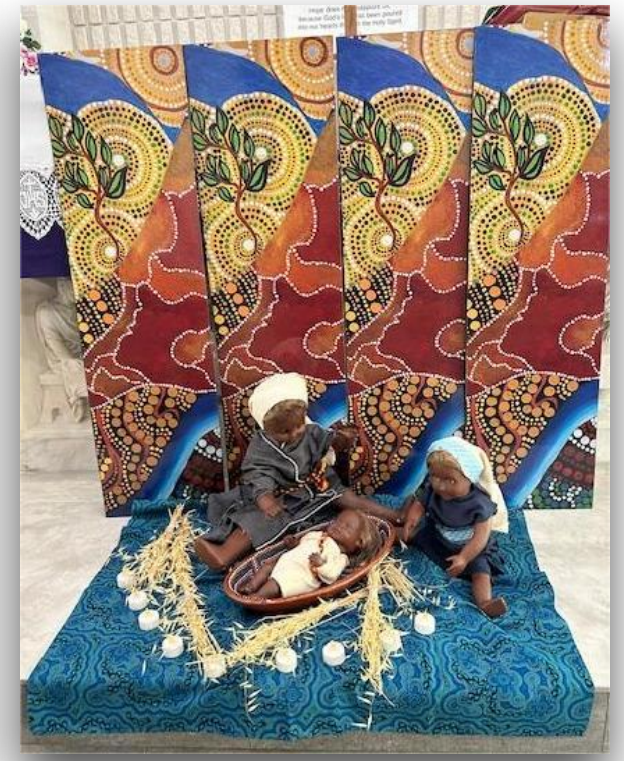
The dove is outlined in black against a white background, which reinforces the engraving effect created by the thick outline.

Sun, path, ground, bird: these elements brought together in a circle form the common part of the CVX and CLC logos of countries around the world

NEWS FROM WEST AUSTRALIA

The Christmas lunch on November 30, was a joyous occasion with many new and former connections and friendships fostered and nourished. Kevin Wringe was presented with a gift and heartfelt thanks and appreciation. He has stepped down as Chair of State EXCO WA after many years of leadership.

Thirteen CLCers joined the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Christmas celebration of Mass and shared lunch on December 14 at the Holy Trinity Parish in Embleton. Two CLC members were invited to participate on this occasion. Veronica Chong was invited to do a Reading at Mass, and Chris Gardner helped Santa give out the gifts to the children after the lunch. Our ongoing connection with this community is one of presence, listening and increasing awareness of the First Nations people here in Perth. It was encouraging to see some new and ongoing personal relationships and friendships happening there.



A new State EXCO met in January for the yearly planning meeting and appointment of office bearers. Your new committee consists of Therese Shaw (Chair, Treasurer and Retreat Co-ordinator), Kerry Cirillo, (Secretary), Veronica Chong (website communication), Helen Baronie (communications for Annotations and WA Newsletter) and Jenny Gardner (NEXCO). We welcome Kaye Hurd, Sue Wright, Clare Broad, and Rose Clark as rotating committee members.

Ignatian Spirituality WA (ISWA) are conducting two workshops exploring Synodality. This follows from their workshop in October 2025.

St Benedict's Parish, Ardross have provided the venue for all these events. The first one in February was well attended and has attracted a balanced number of CLCers and parishioners. The theme of 'Walking together as Church' and the concept of Spiritual Conversation and Sharing was introduced. Feedback indicates that it was well received and appreciated by the majority attending.

Further discussion around the concept of Synodality and how to engage with it became the focus for further thought and exploration.

The second workshop will be on March 7, at 9.15am to 12.30pm and on the11th at 6.45 to 9pm.

The Living Waters group have taken responsibility for CLC to participate in Clean up Australia this year. They have nominated March 8 as the date, and Garland Street, Victoria Park as the area. Thank you, Living Waters group, for coordinating this for CLC WA.

We will celebrate World CLC day with a Mass on April19, at 9.30am at Our Lady of Grace Parish, North Beach. Thank you to this Community for their gracious invitation to join you and share about Christian Life Community. We look forward to enjoying morning tea afterwards.

Helen Baronie

NEWS FROM VICTORIA

Prayer to Mary Glowrey for the healing of Mary Wade's (Ballarat CLC) husband Richard currently in hospital with Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey was born in the Victorian town of Birregurra 1887. She gained scholarships to secondary school and to the University of Melbourne, graduating from her first degree in Medicine in 1910 and worked in leading Melbourne hospitals. In 1920 Mary gave up her career as a doctor in Australia to take up a vocational calling to India to care for vulnerable women and children. She became a religious Sister with the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph in Guntur, ministering to many thousands of patients who would not otherwise have received medical treatment. She died in 1957 and her cause for canonisation was initiated by the Bishop of Guntur.

In Mary Glowrey, we encounter a woman deeply surrendered to Your love,
and an extraordinary witness to the value of every human life.
You blessed her with a brilliant mind,
and led her to place herself and her gifts at the service of life.
Through the practice of medicine, and her religious consecration to You,
she touched countless people with Your love.
With confidence and gratitude for the life of our sister Mary, and through her intercession,
we entrust to You our prayers for Richard Wade.
If it be Your will Father, may Dr Sr Mary Glowrey soon be numbered among Your saints.
We make these prayers to You through Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Imprimatur + Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne (May 201

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The End of Year Gathering 2025 for CLC in South Australia

The annual SACLC End of Year Gathering was held in Norwood on Saturday, November 30th. Members convened at 3pm in St Ignatius Parish Hall for a Welcome and a check-in. Petranel then led prayers of gratitude and invited us to engage in a neurographic art experience as part of our reflection on gratitude. This artwork creates a link between the conscious and unconscious, activating awareness and mindfulness, which can turn stress into calm. The experience was unique and challenging for many of us, as we chose our art materials and followed the simple directions.

After sharing about our experience and reflection we enjoyed a delightful afternoon tea and catching up with one another. This was followed by a report on CLCSA by Judy Foster, which included news of upcoming SAEXCO elections following the CLCSA Retreat at Sevenhill in early May. Then Paris gave a report on NEXCO news that included plans for a hybrid National CLC Gathering in July. The report concluded with the distribution of the new flyer promoting Bequests to the CLC Special Projects Fund. We then attended the 5pm parish Mass. After Mass we gathered for dinner at a café on The Parade for delicious food and lively conversation.

Paris Huffman

The Church's synodal form… suggests that Lent is also a time of … decisions, small and large... Decisions capable of altering the daily lives of individuals and entire neighbourhoods, such as the ways we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those who go unseen or are looked down upon. I invite every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment.

—Pope Francis's Lenten Message 2024

Why is prayer always the Church's response to war?

The silence of prayer helps us to imagine a different future and to resist the thought that weapons can solve problems.

A photograph taken on Feb. 24, 2023, shows the inside of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in London, decorated by 461 paper angels, one for each child that had died in the previous year, according to the official statistics, during an ecumenical prayer to mark the 1st anniversary of the Ukraine invasion by Russia. (Photo: AFP)

This week, as international headlines have swung back, with a familiar grimness, to war, the churches are urging the faithful to pray for peace.On Wednesday, Pope Leo said: "Let us continue to pray for peace in Iran and throughout the Middle East, especially for the countless civilian victims, among them many innocent children." He has been repeating this message, in various forms, almost nonstop — as he did at the Angelus on March 8, when he called for an end to "the thunder of bombs" and for opening "paths of reconciliation and hope". It was not a political stance or a strategic analysis. It was something much simpler: to stop, to pray, to invoke peace by forcing oneself to see the suffering of the innocent.

American and Israeli bombardments across Iran and Lebanon killed about 300 children in the first 10 days of the war, according to estimates by Save the Children — more than one child every hour. Wars have rules. Children and schools must be kept out of the conflict," declared Inger Ashing, the chief executive of Save the Children International, noting that at least 20 schools and 10 hospitals had been damaged. The most heartbreaking symbol of the violence is the bombing of the girls' elementary school in Minab, southern Iran, where, on Feb. 28, at least 175 people were killed, most of them students aged between 7 and 12.

In the face of crises that involve armies, military alliances, economic interests, and regional rivalries, what can prayer truly accomplish? Yet, it is precisely in these moments that the Church's view of history becomes clear. It allows itself to be moved by the horror of massacres and responds with silence and fasting. Why?

War always results from a series of political decisions, but its roots go deeper — into fear, national pride, and the use of force. That's why the Church continues to emphasize that peace is not just a balance of power but, more importantly, a matter of the heart.It applies to those in control of the weapons and decision-making, as well as ordinary citizens. We all risk falling into the narrow and destructive view of those who believe weapons solve problems. War is not, and can never be, the solution; the use of force cannot — and must not — replace patience and diplomacy

And so, while political leaders debate strategies and deterrents, a quiet light is ignited in Christian churches around the world. It does not immediately change the course of events, but it remains committed to the belief that peace also requires an inner space.

In the Christian tradition, prayer is the place where that space is kept.

It is also a matter of language — as Leo XIV himself has said, and as his predecessor, Francis, repeatedly emphasized before him. At a time when public discourse seems governed by confrontation, the Church continues to suggest an ancient and simple gesture: to pause and fall silent. Maybe, today, that's the only way left to start imagining a different future.

By Antonio Spadaro, SJ, Vatican Diary - Published: March 13, 2026 6.29 am GMT