

EVANGELISATION



Witnessing Christ in the World

No. 1

**Jesus:
"Who do you
say I am?"**

Matt 16:13

In these turbulent times, the Gospel is relevant.

- We see the Australian YCW movement lobbying and demonstrating about the harm being done to young peoples' work rights, value and dignity.
- We see entire families going through the RCIA program and being welcomed into parish communities.
- We see exchange visits between students in Catholic and Muslim schools.

The Columban concern is evangelisation. It is in the context of the World Youth Day, Sydney 2008 and the Centennial Mission Conference, Edinburgh 2010 that this Lantern Series on Evangelisation has been prepared. It will be useful for personal reading or group discussion and reflection. The words of Pope John Paul II are central to the twelve topics over the next two years:

Mission is one and undivided, having one origin and final purpose... Looking at today's world... we can distinguish three situations... First, peoples, groups and social-cultural contexts in which Christ and his Gospel is not known ... Secondly, Christian communities [where] the Church carries out her activity and pastoral care ... Thirdly ... where entire groups of the baptised have lost a living sense of faith ... in this case what is needed is a 'new evangelisation' or 're-evangelisation'.

Redemptoris Missio, Pope John Paul II, 1990, # 31-33
www.vatican.va/edocs

**"They will call
him Emmanuel,
a name
which means
God-is-with-us"**

Mt 1:23

**The twelve topics are derived
from Scripture**

1. Jesus
2. Dialogue with Australian Culture
3. The Rite of Christian Initiation
4. Dialogue within the Church
5. The Marginalised
6. Inter-faith Dialogue
7. Migrants and Refugees
8. Environmental Dialogue
9. Live Simply, Justly and in Peace
10. Reconciliation
11. Mission Spirituality
12. Inculturated Local Church

Francis and Sam-Cheok Youth group

Francis was a young Korean Catholic watchmaker and a member of the parish Catholic Youth Group. Francis also had TB which even second line drugs could not cure. When he had to give up his stall at the market, Youth Group members brought work to him at home. On their visits they also played cards, sang and prayed together.

Francis eventually died. His father planned a quick burial since he regarded his son as a failure - he had not married or fathered an heir. But the young people rallied around and said, "No. We have known Francis as a person. He has dignity and needs to be buried with dignity."

They arranged for me to say Mass in the house yard, dug a grave and buried Francis themselves, something you normally pay unknown people to do. Other youth from the area witnessed this and said, "Wow, there is something powerful here that young Catholics can face up to a less than good Korean custom." As a result, some joined the Catholic community. They had experienced the presence of Jesus through their friends.

Fr Charles Rue worked with these young people in Korea.



**"The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwell in the land of gloom
a light has shone"**

Isaiah 9:1

“ The evangelising mission of the Church is a single but complex and articulated reality. The principle elements of this mission: presence and witness; commitment to social development and human liberation; liturgical life, prayer and contemplation; inter-religious dialogue; and proclamation and catechesis.”

Dialogue and Proclamation 19 May 1991



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*There are only two feelings. Love and fear.
There are only two languages. Love and fear.
There are only two activities. Love and fear.
There are only two motives, two procedures,
two frameworks, two results.
Love and fear. Love and fear.*

Michael Leunig

Source: Christian Television Association www.cta.org.au

Learn More @

Josephite Community Aid
www.jcaid.com

Young Christian Workers
www.ycw.org.au/aycw/

Australian Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ACMICA)
www.acmica.org

Edmund Rice Spirituality
www.edmundrice.org/spirituality

Five Loaves & Two Fish, Pauline Books and Media, 2002,
Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan

The Kingdom of God, The Message of Jesus Today, John Fuellenbach, Orbis, 2002

“You can’t have a light without a dark to stick it in.”

Arlo Guthrie

Jesus said, I have come that you may have life and have it to the full (Jn 10:10). We know the stories of how Jesus went around meeting people at weddings, eating with them, and going to the synagogue to pray. We also know that he read aloud the Scriptures there and taught. Unlike others, he taught with authority. And what did he say? The Kingdom of God is among you.

Jesus looked to the needs of the people around him. He healed the sick and associated with outsiders. He confronted the legalistic religion of the Pharisees and demanded justice for the widow and orphan. By his actions Jesus revealed the power and gifts of God’s loving reign.

Our life and world are different but the reign of God is just as active as it was 2000 years ago. We witness those who respond to Jesus’ question, “Who do you say I am?” Their actions bring light and love to the needs of people in our time – the lonely lost in a crowd, parents struggling financially and emotionally to raise their children, the migrant trying to cope with English as second or third language, the self satisfied mired in greed, the angry and the violent.

This Lantern Series will tell stories of what Jesus means in Australia today. The stories might be about witnessing to an unbeliever, putting fire into the heart of a parish, or healing the hurts of a baptised person who has been subjected to a distorted view of the Gospel. Evangelisation has many faces and there is no one way of doing evangelisation. But every face reveals God reaching out to us and to our time. Jesus preached God’s reign and gave his life that every generation might live anew. This is Good News.

Columban Priest:

“When I was a young student, they told me to keep my spirituality to myself. Now, they’re asking me to share it. This is new for me.”

Chat Points:

- What affected you in the story about Francis and the Youth Group?
- Tell of a similar experience.
- What was the “something powerful” present that enabled the young people to stand up to the “less than good” custom?
- Within our own society we have “less than good customs”. Discuss. What feeds fear?
- Love is associated with light; fear with the darkness.
- Where does Jesus fit into all this?

Source: Christian Television Association
www.cta.org.au

What Can I Do?
Reflect on who you think Jesus is. List several things you’d tell someone about him.

Reflect on your own situation. Is there a “less than good custom” that needs to be challenged?

Connect with others and do something about it.



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