



FROM THE HEART

NEWS FROM THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY AUSTRALIA

March 2023

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this newsletter contains images or names of people who have passed away.

Introduction

Greetings and blessings to all.

As I write, while reflecting on things happening in the world, I am grateful to be living in Australia. The March edition of *From The Heart* contains fantastic articles full of stimulating ideas. Thank you for bringing these to our attention.

The *First Friday reflection* and thought-provoking *Carbon Fasting* prompts for Lent remind us that "from little things, big things grow". Thanks, Aidan!

"*Made in God's Image*" is a beautiful reflection of our call to love.

Check out the latest *Ametur* once again sent to us by Sr Ancilla! It is full of reflections and news. I particularly love "*True Heart Coerces*" by Phillip Huggins, encouraging us to imagine a better world, very much the 'dream' of Jules Chevalier.

Heartworks – "*fun, friendly, relaxing*". I know St Mary's Towers would be a long trip for many, but perhaps you know someone who would like to come along.

"*One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home*" is the *International Lay Chevalier Family Assembly* theme next year. Soon the next issue of *Encounter of Hearts* will outline what it is hoped will be achieved during the gathering. The *Australian Council* hopes to raise sufficient funds to send four delegates from Australia; we already have funds to assist two from the Pacific. We are very grateful to all who have been generous, but we need a further \$4000 to achieve our goal. Can you help???

Enough from me! Enjoy reading this awesome newsletter!

Fred Stubenrauch

(Chair, Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family)

PS. Keep the feedback coming!

Share 'From The Heart'

- Download [From The Heart \(March 2023\)](#) or read it [online](#).
- Join the mailing list by contacting aus.lcf@gmail.com.

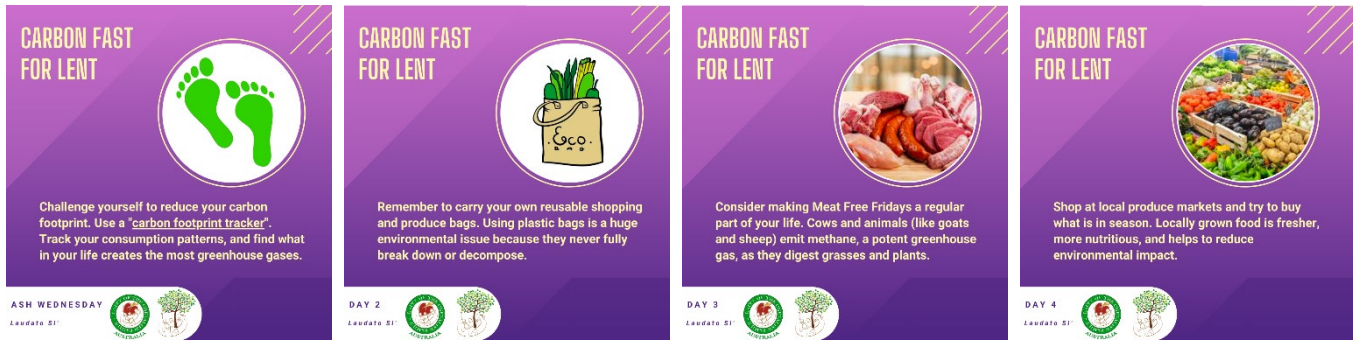


Carbon Fast - Lenten Calendar

Make your Lenten Fast a Carbon Fast! This lent, join us as we try to lessen our carbon footprint and do things that recharge our spiritual energies.

The Lenten calendar is released daily on Facebook and Instagram. It's also available for viewing and download on the [LCFA website](#) (Resources - Liturgical Resources) as images, a pdf document, and a PowerPoint presentation to assist you in using and sharing the Carbon Fast.

It's not too late to join in!



Thanks For The Feedback!

"Thank you very much for the From the Heart publication. It looks so comprehensive and really interesting. So much work to put all this together. Thank you!" - Lee

"I am digging all the LGBTQIA+ friendly content. And thanks for it." - Gigi

"Looks and reads great - as usual. Many thanks for this terrific work." - Chris

"Thank you for these emails and the content chosen each month. It gives me great hope and a certain level of pride to know I have been formed in my faith by the MSCs. Reading Fr Michaels's paper gives me renewed support about how to respond to and support our LGBTQIA+ students in my College. Thank you, I am approaching the day with a full heart and a smile on my face" - Renee

"Thank you for the amazing and insightful reflection you've provided for the newsletter, with so much background and constructive ideas for 'having a heart for creation at Christmas' - something which is certainly on our minds as LCF members. Everything in the issue seems relevant and inspirational to me." - Kerrie



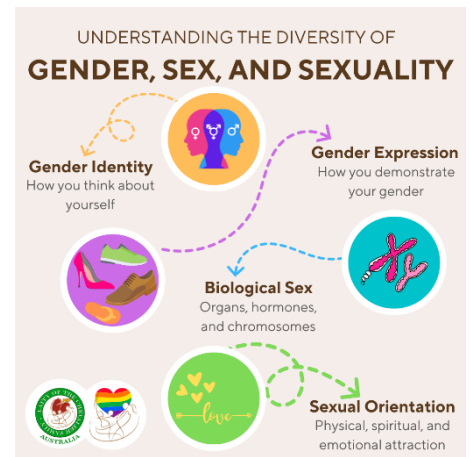
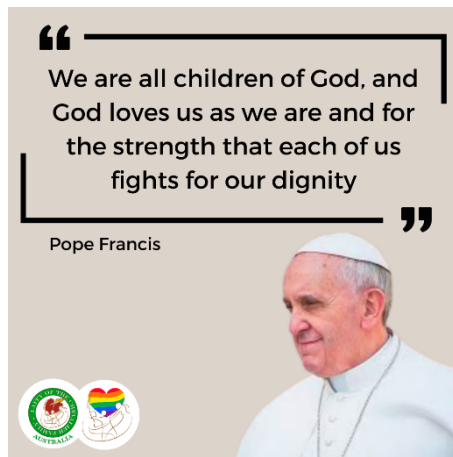
Made In God's Image

'*Made in God's Image*' is a justice statement on gender, sex, and sexuality diversity from the Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family (ACLCF).

The ACLCF made the following concrete promises in the statement:

- To be informed and caring people who recognise the dignity of everyone.
- To reach out with love to people, particularly those who are marginalised.
- To provide a safe and respectful environment for people to raise issues, ask questions, and share information.
- To provide formation resources regarding gender, sex, and sexuality diversity.
- To include the justice statement on gender, sex, and sexuality diversity on the *Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia* website and in the *Australian Council* communications.

The images below appeared on social media and the LCFA website to fulfil those promises, particularly during *World Pride* (17 February to 5 March 2023).



Honouring Aunty Betty Pike

Last Friday, we farewelled a most remarkable and beautiful Noongar woman, Aunty Betty Pike, who entered her eternal Dreaming on Sunday afternoon, 5 February 2023. She was 95 years old.

She was a beautiful soul, a spirit-filled woman, and a prophetic voice in our Australian Catholic Church. She touched the hearts of many people throughout Australia.

Aunty Betty was a gifted writer who published her works in many journals, including the Madonna magazine. Her Aboriginality and journey were reflected so exquisitely in her writings. In addition, she wrote two powerful books, expressing her yearning for a sense of belonging and an appreciation of her Aboriginal identity. Aunty Betty's reach was far through her education, reconciliation, and social justice work. She engaged fully in and with all of life. Betty holds a special place in the Chevalier Family, as one of Aunty Betty's writings was adapted into the *Chevalier Family Blessing*.



We pray that our loved sister, Aunty Betty, will rest in peace in the Dreaming.



Chevalier Family Blessing

May you always stand tall as a tree,
be as strong as the rock Uluru,
as gentle and still as the morning mist,
and as comforting as the sight of the Southern Cross.

May you also hold the warmth of the campfire in your heart,
and may the Creator Spirit always walk with you.

And may the blessings of Almighty God,
who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
come upon the Chevalier family
and all of us
and bless us always.

Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Betty Pike and used with permission

Letter to the Chevalier Family



The *International Council of the Chevalier Family* shares a letter written to the Chevalier Family outlining the planning for the 200th anniversary of the birth of Father Jules Chevalier (15 March 2024).

[Read online](#) or [download](#) from the LCFA website.

International Assembly Logo

The *International Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family* presents the logo developed by the Philippines Laity in preparation for the fourth *International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family*.

The logo is an abstract representation of the theme: *'One in Heart in Caring for Our Common Home'*.

The first element is the *Hands*. The hands in the centre symbolise the unity of the *Laity of the Chevalier Family*. Facing downward, it gives us an image of a dove engulfed in flames. The colour denotes the colour of an inflamed heart, reflecting the virtues of love, passion, and care.

The second element is highlighted through the colours *Green* and *Blue*. They represent Mother Earth, our common home. Our home is enclosed in flaming hands to convey that with love and passion, the *Laity of the Chevalier Family* is committed to the care and protection of our common home.

The last element is a *Salakot*, a symbol of Filipino culture and identity. It is commonly worn by Filipino farmers in their day-to-day lives, thus representing resilience, dedication, and hard work. As members of the *Laity of the Chevalier Family*, we must have inflamed hearts imbued with commitment and hard work to become true stewards of God's important Creation, our common home.



First Friday Reflection

The *International Chevalier Family* publishes a First Friday reflection to support individuals and groups to focus communally on an area of spiritual formation. It aims to raise awareness, inspire prayer, and give a social justice action related to the monthly topic. The initiative is jointly supported by the *International Laity of the Chevalier Family*, the *Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*, the *Missionaries of the Sacred Heart*, and the *Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*.

RESPONSE TO THE CRY OF THE POOR

12 FIRST FRIDAY STEPS
towards the **LAUDATO SI GOALS**

MSC MISC MSH

AWARENESS

The cry of the earth is also the cry of the poor since the poor themselves are the most vulnerable from the effects of the environmental crisis.

PRAYER

Lord, Father, when I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? (Ps 8:3-4). May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, give us a merciful heart towards the poor. Amen.

ACTION

Assure access to clean water for everybody; address issues of digital poverty ("the inability to interact with the online world fully, when where and how an individual needs to"); join movements or networks to address the root causes of poverty.

MARCH 2023

image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/sichuan-liangshan-yi-yi-butuo-1908312>

Download the [First Friday Reflection \(March 2023\)](#).

Australian Reflection

Australia is not exempt from the *Cry of the Poor*, and it's considered a wealthy nation. We experience digital poverty (mobile-only users, those over 75 years, people who didn't complete secondary school, public housing authority renters, or the lowest income quintile are being left behind; 14% of Australians would need to pay more than 10% of their household income to gain quality, reliable connectivity - [Digital Inclusion Index](#)). We experience water poverty and limited access to clean water in some areas of Australia (at least 627,736 people in 408 locations [40% remote Indigenous communities] didn't have adequate water - [Nature \(2022\)](#)). We experience homelessness (on census night 2016, 110,000 people were estimated to be homeless - [AIHW](#)). We experience poverty ([Vinnies](#) helps around 1.8 million Australians annually). Imagine what poorer countries and peoples experience!

Consider supporting charities that assist the poor, provide clean water initiatives, and improve digital literacy/reduce digital poverty in Australia and internationally. The support could be in many forms, including prayer, learning more about the issues and initiatives, raising awareness, or donating time or money. Some examples are listed here: [MSC Mission Office Australia](#) (Clean Water), [MSC Hope Academy](#) (PNG Digital Poverty), [Be Connected](#) (Senior Australian Digital Literacy), or [Vinnies](#) (poverty).

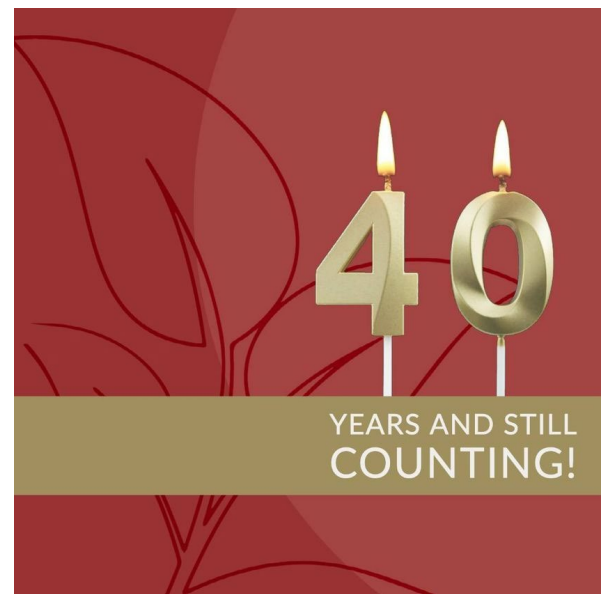
Heart of Life Celebrates 40 Years

Heart of Life celebrated its 40th Birthday with a new-look website!

www.heartoflife.melbourne

It has everything you need to know about Heart of Life, including the 2023 program details.

Thank you to the web designers David, Karen Cheah (Abacus Mind), and Gigi Anderson (Summa Grafika).



Chevalier Institute Retreat

Last week saw the first Chevalier Institute residential retreat for 2023. *Journey to the Heart* was tailored specifically to staff from MSC schools and conducted at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park.

As it happened, on this occasion, all participants were women, although the group was blessed with the presence of Bob Irwin MSC for the closing sessions and Eucharist.

Ametur Latest Edition

The *Ametur* newsletter is produced for the Associates of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (OLSH Associates) in Australia by Sister Ancilla White (OLSH Sister).

It provides material for reflection and ongoing formation, plus updates from the Chevalier Family (particularly the OLSH Associates and OLSH Sisters) and the international Catholic Church.

[Download](#) the latest edition (349, March 2023).

Back issues are available on the [OLSH Sisters website](#).





Close The Gap

Kerrie Wehbe has written another excellent reflection that has formed the basis of this month's Community Contribution ([read online](#) or [download](#)).

(Anyone is welcome to submit something to be included in the newsletter or Community Contribution. Contact us at aus.lcf@gmail.com).

16 March 2023

Harmony Week

"Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds.

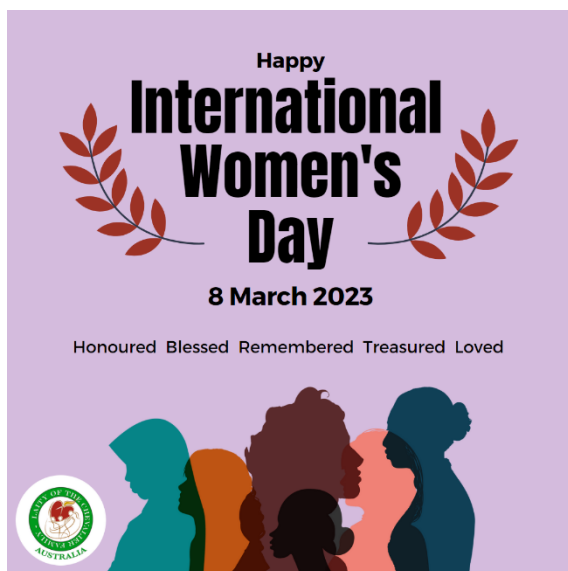
It's about inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone.

To participate, you can wear orange to show your support or attend/host a Harmony Week event."

www.harmony.gov.au

Harmony Week runs from 20-26 March 2023, with Harmony Day on Tuesday 21 March 2023.

We hope to see you in **orange!**



Heartworks

*Heartworks Building
St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park*

Thanks to all who came to the last gathering to kick off the year. It was certainly good to gather together again. We will be gathering on the second Sunday of every month. The next *Heartworks* gathering will be Sunday, 12 March 2023.

We welcome back existing members and invite new people to join us. Our gatherings are fun, friendly, and relaxing.

Connect with us on [Facebook](#) or by [email](#).

Hope to see you there!

- Aidan -



Voice Lecture Invitation

What: First Nations 'Voice' to Parliament

Who: Fr Frank Brennan SJ

Where: Crypt of St Patrick's Church in Grosvenor Street, The Rocks, Sydney

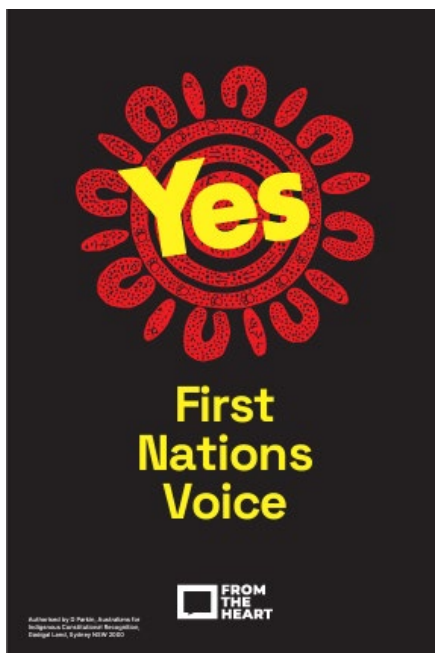
When: Sunday, 2 April 2023, 1:30 pm

Cost: Free event

As the campaign for the 'yes' vote began last week, there may be events in your town or city which you could attend.

To learn more about the Yes campaign at yes23.com.au.

Learn more about the [Uluru Statement From The Heart](#) and its call for a *First Nations Voice to Parliament*.



MSC Mission Office

What: Celebrating 25 Years - Opening Mass

Where: Randwick Parish, Sydney

When: Sunday, 26 March 2023, 10:00 am

Come help the MSC Mission Office celebrate 25 years!



Call for Contributions

The Australian Council for the Laity of the Chevalier Family is looking for contributions to social media stories and *From The Heart* to help build connections in the Chevalier Family.

- Hosting an event?
- Have a story?
- Know of an achievement?

It could be anything related to MSC, OLSH, and MSC Sisters communities, missions, ministries, and lay people that would interest the wider Chevalier Family. Whether a local item or something of national/international significance, send a reflection, article, short paragraph, or sentence with any photos/images (with permission to be publicly shared) to aus.lcf@gmail.com.

Fundraising

The Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family has committed to raising funds to support two delegates from Pacific Countries and four from Australia to attend the 4th International Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family held in the Philippines in 2024. Your contribution is one way to express solidarity as part of the Chevalier Family. Download the [Fundraising Appeal Letter](#).

Australian Council of the Laity of the Chevalier Family



[aus.lcf](https://www.facebook.com/aus.lcf)



aus.lcf@gmail.com



[aus.lcf](https://www.instagram.com/aus.lcf)



chevalierlaity.com.au



With deep respect and love, we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (the traditional custodians of this land) and their Elders - past, present, and emerging.

We support the *Uluru Statement From The Heart* and recognise the importance of ensuring First Nations people have a voice in Australia.



We commit to a "greater love for our Creator, each other, and the home we share" (*Laudato Si* 14). We live in the *Spirituality of the Heart* and are called to love and care for Creation and the Created.



We rejoice in our differences and celebrate the gift of the LGBTQIA+ community. We live 'to be on Earth the heart of God' and welcome and include all people in their diversity.