



# FROM THE HEART

NEWS FROM THE LAITY OF THE CHEVALIER FAMILY AUSTRALIA

August 2023

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Welcome to Heartbeat August 2023!

Once again, we have many inspiring articles, including the latest Ametur and OLSH Hearts for Others.

I hope you and your loved ones are well and looking forward to Spring - blossoms appearing, birds gathering items for nesting, and daffodils showing their smiling faces. Springtime always brings to my mind resurrection and new life.

A reminder about the Gathering at St Mary's Towers. Only FIVE weeks away. It's time to register for what promises to be a wonderful experience. A highlight will be celebrating the Aboriginal Mass with the St Mary's Tower parish to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Voice to Parliament. This year saw the 50th anniversary of the first [Australian Aboriginal liturgy](#).

It would be wonderful too if we could see people from all the Chevalier Family ministries here (perhaps our schools, parishes, and other ministries could sponsor people to attend.

Details of the program and how to register, including a printable form that can be mailed, are enclosed.

Hoping to see you here, or if unable to travel, then see you via ZOOM!

Take care,

Fred

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

## Share 'From The Heart'

- [Download](#) From The Heart (August 2023).
- Join the mailing list by contacting [aus.lcf@gmail.com](mailto:aus.lcf@gmail.com).

## National Gathering

It's time to register for the Laity of the Chevalier Family Australia national gathering! Having representatives from the OLSH, MSC, and MSC Sisters ministries, parishes, schools, and communities would be wonderful.

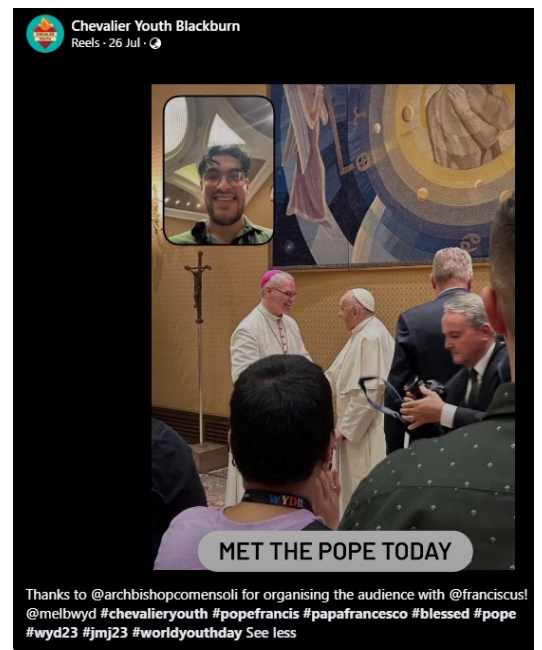
Download the [program](#). Register using the [online form](#).



# World Youth Day 2023

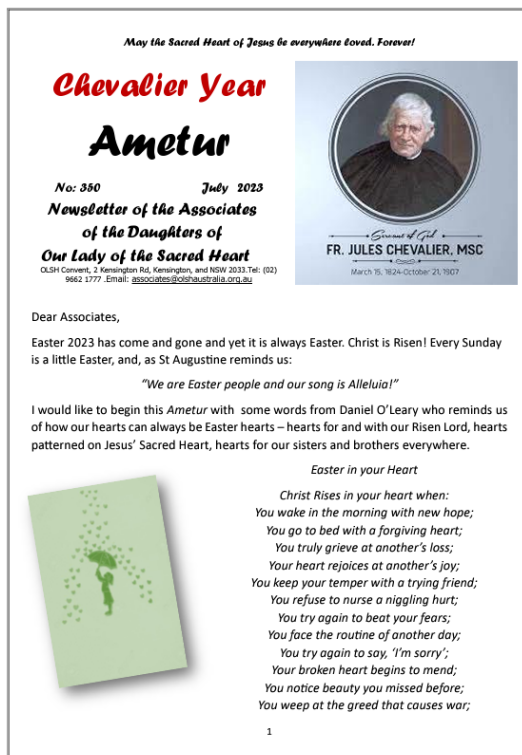
Young Catholics went on a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, with stopovers at key sites for encountering God, such as the Sea of Galilee, Assisi, and Fatima. The Melbourne pilgrims, including some of the Chevalier Youth, Blackburn, even privately gathered with Pope Francis in Rome! The final WYD mass, attended by an estimated 1.5 million pilgrims, saw Pope Francis deliver the message 'Shine, listen, and be unafraid'!

Read more: [Chevalier Youth Blackburn Facebook](#) and [Pope Francis' WYD Homily](#).



## Ametur

[Download](#) the latest edition of the OLSH Associates newsletter.



## OLSH Hearts for Others

[Download](#) the latest edition of the OLSH Hearts for Others newsletter – 'What's Happening With The Voice Referendum?'.



## Chevalier Family Dates

[Read](#) about significant dates for the Chevalier Family in August.

# 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*.

**ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY**

**TWELVE FIRST FRIDAY STEPS  
TOWARDS THE LAUDATO SI GOALS**

**AWARENESS**

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. **What is required is an "ecological conversion,"** whereby the effects of Christians' encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them," wrote Pope Francis."

**PRAYER**

God of love, show us our place in our world as instruments of your affection for all beings because no one is forgotten by you. Amen.

**ACTION**

Encourage a greater contact with nature in a spirit of wonder and gratitude and celebrations for the healing of our environment and asking forgiveness for harmful activities.

**AUGUST 2023**

*Image by Sasin Tipchai from Pixabay*

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

## Australian Reflection

"Ecological spirituality begins in the acknowledgment, grateful and joyful, that all creatures owe their existence to God. Humans are not somehow separate from the rest of creation. We share it intimately with other creatures. We acknowledge God as Creator of us all." ([USCCB](#))

- Spend time in Creation with the Creator. Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and sensations. Dwell on the thought that Creation is sacred and deserves our respect through loving thought and action. Discover God in the Creation - the natural world, its creatures, and its ecosystems.
- Read the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference (ACBC) 2021-2022 Social Justice Statement '[Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor](#)'.
- Read something by an eco-spiritual writer. (Recommendations: 'An Astonishing Secret' by Daniel O'Leary; 'Care for Creation [A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth]' by Delio, Warner, and Wood).
- Find out about [Earthcare](#) Schools, Parishes, and Families.



One Heart...



National Gathering

Sat-Sun  
23-24 Sept



Many Stories

Heartworks.msc@gmail.com

St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre  
Douglas Park

# Musica Divina

Listen to music with the ear of the heart. Listen for God's voice or rest in God's presence.

(Songs from the September 2023 Australian Assembly of the Laity of the Chevalier Family. Available on streaming services [Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube Music]).

## The Great Southland - Geoff Bullock

This is our nation, this is our land  
This is our future, this is our hope  
A land of reaping, a land of harvest  
This is our land, this is our home

*This is the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit  
A land of red dust plains and summer rains  
To this sunburnt land we will see a flood  
And to this Great Southland His Spirit comes*

This is a nation, this is our land  
This land of plenty, this land of hope  
The richest harvest is in her peoples  
We see revival, His Spirit comes

This is our nation, this is our land  
This lucky country of dreams gone dry  
And to these peoples we see a harvest  
And to this land, revival comes



## Hearts On Fire - Michael Mangan

We come from ancient Dreamtime,  
From the bush, or by the sea.  
We come from a thousand city streets.

We are the rich and lowly,  
We are the poor and strong.  
We come to share this moment,  
Gathering here, singing one song.

*With our hearts on fire  
With the love of Jesus.  
Hearts on fire, let's spread the Word.  
Hearts on fire, feel the Spirit blazing.*

*Hearts on fire,  
called to live the Good News in this land.  
Setting hearts on fire,  
with our hearts on fire,  
setting hearts on fire.*

We long to live in freedom,  
We yearn for unity.  
We dream of justice,  
joy, and peace.

Spirit, fill us with Your power.  
Jesus, help us live Your call.  
O Creator, give us wisdom,  
So we will be Good News for all.

We are the voice of Jesus,  
We are His heart and hands.  
We are His body in our land.

Stand up! Live the story,  
To all the world proclaim.  
Go out!  
To all creation  
Lighting the fire,  
Fanning the flames.

## Holy Spirit In This Land

Holy Spirit in this land.  
Reach out and touch us while you can.  
From the high, high mountains  
To the deep, deep valleys,  
Holy Spirit in this land!



## Ancient Words - Micheal W. Smith

*Holy words long preserved  
for our walk in this world,  
They resound with God's own heart  
Oh, let the ancient words impart.*

Words of life, words of hope  
Give us strength, help us cope  
In this world, wherever we roam  
Ancient words will guide us Home.

*Ancient words ever true  
Changing me, and changing you.  
We have come with open hearts  
Oh, let the ancient words impart.*

Holy words of our faith  
Handed down to this age.  
Came to us through sacrifice  
Oh, heed the faithful words of Christ.



## Aboriginal Our Father - Diocese of Broome

You are our Father, you live in heaven,  
We talk to you. Father, you are good.

You are our Father, you live in heaven,  
We talk to you. Father, you are good.

We believe your word, Father,  
We are your children, give us bread today.

We believe your word, Father,  
We are your children, give us bread today.

We have done wrong, we are sorry,  
Teach us, Father, all about your Word.

We have done wrong, we are sorry,  
Teach us, Father, all about your Word.

Others have done wrong to us,  
And we are sorry for them, Father, today.

Others have done wrong to us,  
And we are sorry for them, Father, today.

Stop us from doing wrong, Father,  
Save us all from the evil one.

Stop us from doing wrong, Father,  
Save us all from the Evil One.

You are our Father, you live in heaven,  
We talk to you, Father, you are good.

You are our Father, you live in heaven,  
We talk to you, Father, you are good.



# 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?

Anything related to MSC, OLSH Sister, 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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:aus.lcf@gmail.com)



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



[chevalierlaity.com.au](https://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.