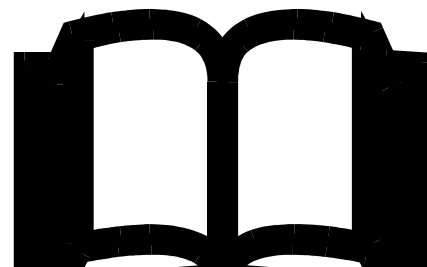


# Adult Education & Formation Tips



## **Bishops Gathering. October '08. Topic: the Bible.**

The forthcoming Synod of Bishops due to take place from 5 to 12 October 2008 will address the theme: "The Word of God in the Life and the Mission of the Church". As the Bishops prepare for this meeting, it is an opportunity for us, too, to freshen our appreciation and knowledge of the Scriptures.

Here are some ideas for starters...

## **Bible Education**

The July edition of *Mission & Spirituality News* focuses on the Bible. It explores the power of storytelling and 'story-listening'. Articles include:

"Four Steps to Learning the Bible Basics in One Day!" By Martin Teulan.

"Remembering A Good Story: Entering the gospel cycle of Ordinary Time" By David Ranson

"Archaeology of the Word" By Teresa Pirola.

"Faith Comes by Hearing, and Hearing by the Word of God." By Matthew Del Nevo

"Brother Bill's Seven 'Must Know' Bible Facts"

### ***Mission & Spirituality News***

is published online by Broken Bay Institute.  
<http://www.churchresources.info/missionspirit/issue0807/index.php>

*A reminder, too, of opportunities for exploring Scripture right here in our Parish:*

\* **Wednesday Night Bible Study** (contact: Jenny & Ray 9412 1701)

\* **Lectio Divina session** – this Tuesday (after the 9am Mass); and more opportunities to come... (contact: Sonia 9410 9022)

\* **Word of Life** – monthly reflection sheet of the Focolare movement, in the small brochure stand in main foyer of church.

## **Adult Education Seminars**

### **Broken Bay Institute**



### **Liturgical Spirituality**

By Rev Dr John Frauenfelder  
& Sr Jill Shirvington op  
8-10 October 2008, 9am-4pm  
Broken Bay Institute.

This unit aims to create within the daily experience of life as we live it, an awareness of that world as a spiritual place in which the human spirit can find the fulfilment of its ultimate purpose – liturgical spirituality is none other than the practical

living in our everyday lives of the spirit of the liturgy.

Ph 9847 0030. E: [bbi@bbi.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bbi@bbi.catholic.edu.au)

[www.bbi.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au)

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More seminars advertised in the July edition of *Mission & Spirituality News*...

### **Working with people who wear us out:**

Caring for their mental health and ours.

A Forum on Mental Health in Ministry.

By Margaret Smith. 9 July, 5.30-7.30pm, Epping

For pastoral practitioners, and others in not for profit organisations, who often encounter, among those they care for, people whose mental health is fragile.

Ph 9674 1216, 0430 369 945

### **Being Peacemakers:** Taking up Jesus' call

Thursday 17 July, 8 – 10pm, Paddington Town Hall.

Ph 0431 519 577 or 0403 411 351

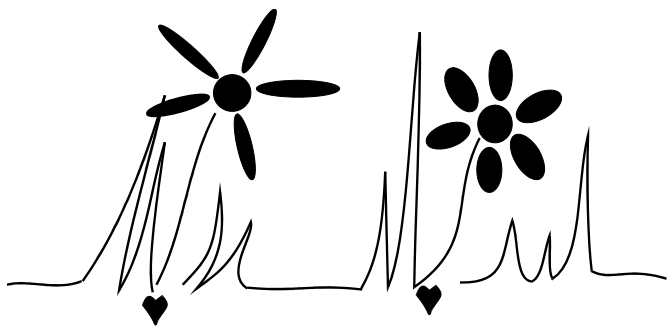
### **Exploring Non-violent Living**

Four Saturday workshops 9am-4.30pm: 26 July, 16 Aug, 6 Sept, 27 Sept. Small group learning, using storytelling, roleplays, discussion, creative imagination exercises, journaling and action. Ph 9922 2927; 0417 487 135

### **Finding Happiness:** Monastic Steps for a Fulfilling Life.

Wed 16 17 July, 7.30pm, St Scholastica's

College, Glebe Point. Ph 8752 5300



## *Easter Thanks* for our Parish Community

- So much new life! People, of all ages, want to be part of our community... They feel welcome here, the Lord touches them here. A visitor said that they hadn't had a baptism at her parish for as long as she could remember (30 years!) And here we had twenty parishioners baptised/received over Easter.
- All those reconciliation times leading up to Easter... How wonderful that our priests make themselves available for this sacrament every week, and in abundance during Advent and Lent.
- Stations of the Cross offered twice a week, or more, during Lent.
- A church that is OPEN from 7am till late, every day of the week.
- A parish with 1500 liturgies each year, not to mention all the private prayers and personal visits during the week.
- Something for everyone... music of every style, liturgies for the young, the young-at-heart, for the seniors, for different cultural groups... Spiritualities of many different kinds find a home in our parish, from Divine Mercy devotions to Social Justice, from Ecumenism to Novenas and Eucharistic Adoration, from Bible Study to Charismatic Prayer. And there is always room for more initiatives should a parishioner wish to start one...
- Continue the list... For what/whom are you grateful? It's a great Easter exercise!
- Thanks to all who allow this rich tapestry of faith and community life to flourish here at Our Lady of Dolours, Chatswood. And for the leadership Fr Vince offers in encouraging the plurality of gifts. We are not perfect, but how much there is to thank God for in the 'trying'!

Our Lady of Dolours,  
keep on praying for us....



## Thoughts on the *Gospel*

‘The period from Easter to Pentecost celebrates the presence of the risen Christ in the Church. The gift of the Spirit to the fearful disciples and the appearance to “doubting Thomas” complete the Easter octave, when early Christians doffed the white robes of baptism and entered a period of exploration of the deeper mysteries of the faith. Until Pentecost, the first reading is always from the Acts of the Apostles, which might be better called the “Acts of the Holy Spirit,” since every important event in the early church is stimulated by the Spirit.

‘People frequently ask, “What is the Church?” Today’s readings provide foundational images for God’s own people. Three motifs characterize the appearance to Thomas: the greeting of peace, a gift of the risen Christ that casts out fear; the presence of the Holy Spirit manifest in the power to forgive and restrain sin; and the need for a faith that grows even without the tangible presence of Christ. Every Christian who envies the Easter experience of Jesus’ first followers can pray daily Jesus’ words to Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”’

Excerpt from a homily by Fr John R. Donahue, S.J., the Raymond E. Brown Distinguished Professor of New Testament Studies at St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Baltimore, Md., USA



Church Below the Rooftops

### **‘I went to the tomb and...’**

My 8 year old niece is a child with a lively imagination and a lovely way with people. When I greeted her at our family lunch on Easter Sunday, I said to her in a slight whisper and with the appropriate

tone of excitement in my voice:

“Guess, what... I went to the tomb, and he wasn’t there!” She looked at me inquisitively for a moment before saying flatly (with the tone of: *you dope, don’t you get it?*) “It’s ‘coz he’s risen.” I widened my eyes with wonder, and said, “Quick, tell the others!!” At that she was suddenly filled with energy, and went running through the house, excitedly saying to person after person, “Guess what! We went to the tomb and he wasn’t there. What do you think happened? [And before anyone could reply] He’s risen from the dead!!”

It was a lovely, fun way to proclaim the risen Lord, and I felt so happy that, with the support of her parents, her teachers and her parish, this little one knew the Gospel story well enough to be able to enter into our little role-play so spontaneously and joyously! (Teresa)