



Launch Out Letter (LOL)

February 2020

The Power of Love

by THERESA BEGLEY
Launch Out Candidate

Recently I had a song stuck in my head "I want to know what Love is; I want you to show me, I want to feel what love is, I know you can show me" It nearly drove me crazy. So, I found out a little about this song. Mick Jones from the group Foreigner explained, 'I Want to Know What Love Is' came up at three in the morning sometime in 1984. I don't know where it came from. I consider it a gift that was sent through me. I'd say it was probably written entirely by a higher force."

I decided to take the words of the song to prayer and sit with them. The following is the result of my reflections.

The quick and easy response is, "Well, God is Love."

So, where's the evidence of God's love in my life and how have I responded?

Back in the 80's a priest called Chuck Gallagher SJ brought a programme to New Zealand call Parish Renewal. During the two-day experience Chuck Gallagher's talks were inspiring. A lot about building community, sharing faith and understanding what our call to mission means.

In one of the talks Chuck addressed married couples and suggested part of their mission as parents could be to give their children brothers and sisters rather than 'things'. Consumerism in New Zealand was in its infancy at this time.

My parents were way ahead of Chuck as I come from a family of 12 children. We certainly didn't have much materially but we all grew up knowing that we were loved; that we belonged to each other and that our faith was really important.

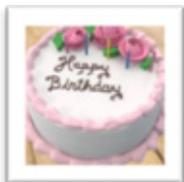
I'm reminded that God's been good to me over the years. I have a loving and very patient husband [a saint really!] and we've raised five very individual and strong children. They're a tight bunch who look after each other. A sense of social justice is a hallmark of the Gospel and I believe they all have a handle of what that means.

Rex and I have always believed that marriage means more than just being able to legally sleep together, earn money, buy a house and raise kids. It could be debated that next to Baptism and Eucharist it's the most important Sacrament of the Church.

As a couple we've had the privilege of witnessing to our Sacrament of Marriage first by raising a family and then by going on mission.

We were invited to become Companions to the monks at Southern Star Abbey. Supporting guests and taking part in the prayer life of the monastery was our mission. We were there for three years. We also spent one year up the Whanganui River at Jerusalem with the Sisters of Compassion supporting the mission of Suzanne Aubert.

Having a ministry of prayer and service and at the same time witnessing to our call to mission as a married couple is a rewarding experience for us as a couple.



Happy Birthday!

Greetings and blessings to *Joan McFetridge* who celebrated her birthday last 12 February 2020

Updates

- Thank you to all who attended the Launch Out Seminar last 25 January 2020 at the Catholic Centre. A warm thanks to Bridget Taumoepeau who led us into a seminar-workshop on leading “Change” from a reflective practice perspective. The afternoon was just as exciting, led by Mary-Ann Greaney, Sharon Penny and Charles Cooper on what Collaborative Ministry looks like within the context of the Archdiocese of Wellington.
- During the past weeks Maya has been meeting Candidates with their lay pastoral leaders and parish priests to open the year for the Pastoral Projects. There have been lively discussions on possible project ideas for the year. Most of the Candidates have also been discussing with the Parish Pastoral Council and are in the middle of formulating their project proposals. In fact, Margaret Bearsley, has already submitted her proposal! (no pressure for the rest of us).
- The Parish Leadership Ministry (PLM) organised a seminar on Liturgy with Children for the Ministry Formation Day (MFD) last 11 February. The MFD are organised primarily for the lay pastoral leaders and clergy and Launch Out Candidates are also invited. Jude McKee was there and put to good use what she had learned when she ran an activity with the school kids of St Theresa’s School. We enjoyed the music of Michael Mangan, the mass with children by James Lyons and the wisdom and facilitation of Patrick Bridgman.
- March 14 is the Mission Expo in Wellington. Launch Out will have a booth to promote the programme. If you are free, please drop by to help or just enjoy the festivities. There will be games, workshops for all ages (i.e. building an insect hotel for children) and food stalls by the different ethnic groups and a whole day entertainment. Come along and bring the whanau. The South Island will have theirs on 21 March.

A Reflection on *Love*

by JOE GREEN

Lay Pastoral Leader, Wellington South Parish

In the introduction to *Made for Love*, Joy Cowley describes coming to ‘an overwhelming awareness of love as the creative force of the universe, infinite and without boundaries’. She believed love ‘is all about God’. As Christians, when we seek to understand love, we look to the “Great Lover”, Jesus Messiah:

‘Jesus looked hard at him, and loved him’ (Mark, 10: 21).

Try to envisage in your mind what ‘looking hard’ at a person and loving them might be like.

For me, this is what I see when I’m talking to a couple, and before responding they glance at each other, checking out their joint response; or when I find myself looking at someone I love dearly, just for the pleasure of looking (or catch them looking at me!). *‘Her great love proves it!’ (Luke, 7: 47).*

This woman of ‘poor character’ has entered a house to which she would not be at all welcome; she is crying; her tears wash the feet of Jesus; she dries them with her hair, kisses those same feet, and anoints them. Our minds are drawn to that other washing of feet (John, 13). We recall that after washing their feet, Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment: ‘love one another! Just as I have loved you, so you must love one another. This is how everybody will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another’ (John, 13: 34-35).

The ‘great love’ demonstrated by the woman who washed and dried Jesus feet, is the same love Jesus has for us, and that he commands we are to have for one another. --*‘Jesus burst into tears’ (John, 11: 35).*

Jesus loves Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus (John, 11: 5). On being told Lazarus is ill, Jesus is tardy in returning, and returns to find Lazarus buried. The gospel doesn’t say why he delayed.

For me, Jesus is like those who are fearful of visiting a seriously or terminally ill person. Many don’t go, and regret it all their days. Jesus does go, and on approaching the grave, bursts into tears. I imagine a gut-wrenching sob – the sob of a bereaved lover! *‘Don’t cling to me’ (John, 20: 17).*

Mary journeys with Jesus, she is at his crucifixion, and she is there at the empty tomb. She is clearly grieving. And then Jesus tells her not to cling to him! This is the story of love, and grief, seeking to cling to a dead loved one, and then having to let go. It’s hard to learn, and it takes time to learn that when a loved one dies, ‘your heart will be scarred, but your heart will sing again: not the same song, not a weaker song, just a different song’. And that’s OK, because that’s love, and what a miserable life, and death it would be without it!

Love in Action- Fighting Child Poverty



Mary Margaret Schuck, Launch Out Graduate and Lisa Beech, Launch Out Candidate. Mary Margaret shared the Select Committee considering the Budget Policy statement that to meet the government's goals to reduce child poverty and enhance child wellbeing, base benefit levels need to be raised. Mary Margaret, is a parishioner of Te Awakairangi parish and a benefit advocate. The picture above shows Mary Margaret and Lisa answering questions from David Seymour.

