



WHISPERS OF THE SPIRIT

PENTECOST 2018

THE TWO-FOLD ROLE OF THE SPIRIT



It has been said that the Holy Spirit has been the neglected member of the Trinity in the history of Christianity. If so, this is certainly not true in the New Testament itself. There, the Spirit is portrayed as playing a decisive role in the individual lives of Christians, and in the origins and growth of the early Church.

I want to restrict myself to the letters of Paul, our earliest Christian writings, and to St. Luke's *Book of the Acts of the Apostles*.

Luke was a disciple of Paul, and accompanied him during part of Paul's missionary journeys. They shared a common understanding of this new faith in Jesus, and yet there is a subtle difference in the way they saw the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit.

A new creative act of God

In *Acts, Chapter 2*, Luke's description of the Pentecost event is intended to recall God's original work of creation in *Genesis 1*. What happened at Pentecost was a new creative act of God, the creation of the Church – and the Holy Spirit was the dominant force. The disciples were all “filled with the Holy Spirit” (*Acts 2:4*) and were thus changed from timid, fearful men to bold and fearless preachers of the Gospel.

Throughout *Acts*, Luke depicts the Holy Spirit as the power behind the growth of the Church. He tells us how the Spirit intervened at times of crisis, where difficult choices had to be made.

This is Luke's great legacy to the Church – an image of the Church which gives us the confidence that in difficult times, like the present, the Spirit will see us through.

The Spirit's decisive influence

Paul has a different take on the role of the Spirit, focussing on the Spirit's decisive influence on our lives as individual Christians.

In his first letter (*1 Thess 1:5*), he reminds his readers that his gospel came to them “in power and the Holy Spirit”. He tells us that “God has sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts crying “Abba! Father!” (*Gal 4:6*).

“It is the Spirit which enables us to recognise God as ‘Abba’ (Father), in this intimate way, as God's children.”

Again, he even says: “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit” (*1 Cor. 112:1*).

He makes a similar comment in *Romans 8:15-16*: “When we cry “Abba, Father”, it is the Spirit himself bearing witness to our spirit that we are children of God.”

In other words, it is only the Holy Spirit who can inspire us to accept God as our Father, Jesus as our Lord and our status as God's children. Clearly, for Paul, the role of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life is paramount.

Later, in the letter to the Galatians, he urges them to...

“Walk by the Spirit”, to be “led by the Spirit, and then lists the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

(*Gal 4:16, 18, 22-24*).

For Paul, it is obvious that God's Holy Spirit is the dynamism of the Christian life. Luke emphasises the role that the Spirit played (and plays) in the origin and growth of the Church.

Both perspectives are valid, but it may leave us sometimes with a question: fidelity to the Church, or fidelity to one's own conscience? What is the Spirit saying to us? They are alternatives we may sometimes have to wrestle with, as we strive to follow the path Jesus mapped out for us.

Fr. Bill O'Shea



IN THE STEPS OF

Maria Purdie is a staff member of Holy Spirit Care Services. Sponsored by Holy Spirit Care Services and Mates4Mates. This is her story...

In the following paragraphs, you will read about the historical significance of the Kokoda Trail and of the men who fought and died in the jungle of Papua New Guinea. However, in these few sentences I hope to convey to you why I chose to walk 'in the steps of heroes'.

Anyone who walks the Kokoda Trail does so for their own distinct, personal reasons; many to honour the deeds of relatives, others for the challenge. After years of caring for the returned soldiers of this war arena, I saw personally the cost to veterans' quality of life as they try to navigate through the emotional and savage turmoil caused by war. I also experienced, and became familiar with, the growing numbers of current serving ADF members and their families battling the ravages of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

I can answer the simple question of 'WHY did I do this' with a simple answer... because I thought that by honouring the deeds of past soldiers we could help soldiers in the present and future!

July to November 1942

To begin this story, it is both imperative and appropriately respectful that we travel back 75 years to the months from July to November 1942. It is only through investigation of the history of the Kokoda Trail that we are able to understand the significance it holds for Australians today.

If Port Moresby had been captured in 1942, the Japanese would have secured the anchor for their plan to completely cut-off American support to Australia.

'The men who saved Australia'

The heroic Australian diggers who repulsed a much larger and better-equipped Japanese army under conditions of extraordinary hardship on the bloody Kokoda Trail deserve to be called 'the men who saved Australia'.

Fighting along the Kokoda Trail was some of the most desperate and vicious encountered by Australian troops during World War II. Approximately 625 Australians were killed along the Kokoda Trail and over 1600 wounded; (casualties due to sickness exceeded 4000).

Walking the Kokoda Trail

The Kokoda Trail is also significant in a symbolic sense. When Australians remember the First World War – they think of the landing at Gallipoli. When they think of the Second World War – the name 'Kokoda' looms large.

Each year, 6000 Australians take up the mentally and physically challenging task of walking the Kokoda Trail... all are changed forever by their experience.

Walking the Kokoda Trail is not easy or without danger. Since 2001, six Australians have died on the Trail and each trekking season sees up to 50 trekkers require medical evacuation.

So why did 15 Australians undertake to walk the Kokoda Trail from the 22 August 2017? During the 75th Anniversary year of the Kokoda Trail, they did so to learn about and pay homage to the Australians, Japanese and Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels who walked, fought, lived and died there in 1942.

Surprisingly, it takes only 25 minutes to fly over the Kokoda Trail. Yet, as for our journey – 10 days to walk!



The Battle of Ioribaiwa Ridge

The Battle of Ioribaiwa Ridge occurred on the 14–16 September 1942. This final defensive battle was fought by the Australians on Ioribaiwa Ridge just 40 kilometres from and within sight of Port Moresby. It marked the end of the Japanese surge southward and their final victory on the Kokoda Trail. Australian forces would soon push north again and drive the Japanese from the Owen Stanley Ranges.



The speech to the men of the 39th Battalion at Menari Village

On 6 September 1942, Lt Col Ralph Honner delivered his famous speech to the men of the 39th Battalion at Menari Village. The 39th Battalion had been relieved of duty after heavy fighting at Oivi, Kokoda, Deniki and Isurava. The Battalion had been reduced to 180 men from the initial 1068 officers, NCOs and men who sailed from Australia on the 27 December 1941 aboard the Aquitania. This is a short extract from Lt Col Ralph Honner's speech to his men:

"I want you to know that you are some of the finest soldiers that I have ever seen... I am honoured to be your brother."

HEROES...

So many UPS and DOWNS!

As a primary geography student, I would eagerly craft a replica of a mountain in papier-mâché. Anyone can fashion a likeness of the Owen Stanley Ranges by scrunching up a long piece of aluminium foil and then just ever-so-slightly expanding it. What this exercise reveals is lots of spikes, valleys and many, many UPS and DOWNS!

How does one compress the experiences of 10 days on the Kokoda Trail into a few short words? You can't. You cannot with justice, convey or describe how steep, rugged and relentless the terrain is; or how debilitating the environment is... the heat, the humidity, the rain and if not the rain – the mist!

The solution to this quandary is snapshots. The following are the best snapshots of my 10 day trek along on the Kokoda Trail...



The Battle of Brigade Hill – (Mission Ridge)

The Battle of Mission Ridge – Brigade Hill took place between the 6–9 September 1942. Casualties from the fighting amounted to 87 Australians killed and 77 wounded. Brigade Hill was a decisive victory for the Japanese. Historian, Nicholas Andersen described the battle as 'an unmitigated calamity'.

Havala Laua

This quiet, gentle and unassuming gentleman is Havala Laua. He is the last surviving Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel. He resides in the village of Kagi with his daughter, Michelle and her family.

Sapper H 'Bert' Beros wrote a poem at 4am one morning on the Kokoda Trail after having just been on stand-to. The poem may never have been printed but for the fact that an officer sent a copy home to his mother. So impressed was she by the poem she organised for it to be published in The Courier-Mail in Brisbane. Here is an extract:

'May the Mothers in Australia, when they offer up a prayer, mention these impromptu Angels, with the Fuzzy Wuzzy hair.'



Isurava Memorial

In 2002, Isurava Memorial was constructed in remembrance of all those Australians and Papua New Guinean who fought and those who died on the Kokoda Trail.

Isurava is the sight of the Battle of Isurava that occurred over the period of the 26–31 August 1942 as Australian forces were being pushed back to Port Moresby by the advancing Japanese.



The memorial is immediately adjacent to the sight where Pte Bruce Kingsbury performed an Act of Valour for which he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross – the first awarded on Australian soil.



The end of a bloody campaign

On the 2 November 1942, a patrol from the 2/31st Battalion cautiously entered Kokoda. Expecting to encounter Japanese resistance, the patrol found the village abandoned, the enemy having withdrawn to the Oivi Pass several days earlier. The Kokoda Trail campaign had ended with a whimper some three and a half months after it had begun. The actual moment is best summarised by the official history; 'So quietly the Australians re-entered Kokoda. Apart from its airfield, its significance lay only in its name which would identify in history the evil track which passed across the Papuan mountains from sea to sea.'



...Continued from page 3

Sacrifice Courage Endurance Mateship

History can relate the many sacrifices along the Kokoda Trail and the Papua New Guinea campaigns. It is for this reason the word, *Sacrifice* is emblazoned on one of the four marble pillars (beside *Courage*, *Endurance* and *Mateship*) of the Isurava Memorial.

Those who returned...

There were soldiers who never returned home, some who lost limbs and those who lost their quality of life... one such soldier was Cpl Leslie 'Bull' Allen.

In 1943, he was awarded a Military Medal for recovering Australian wounded under fire near Wau. Yet Allen was also a man badly affected by his war service. He was discharged from the army suffering 'constitutional temperamental instability', 'anxiety symptoms' and malaria. So traumatised was this veteran from his war service that Allen retreated to his uncle's farm and for a period of time lost the ability to speak.

The value of hindsight

What question do we pose to ourselves in the present armed with the advantage and value of hindsight from the past? How do we today interact and appreciate the service and sacrifice of our current and retired Defence Force members?

One organisation that has as its mission 'to provide enduring physical and psychological support to the military family' is *Mates4Mates*.

Mates4Mates supports current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members and their families who are wounded, injured or ill as a result of their service. It is an initiative of the Queensland Branch of the RSL.

Mates4Mates is a non-for-profit charity that receives no government funding. Instead, it relies on the largesse and financial support of the community and businesses to maintain its support services to Mates and their families in need.

Support services are offered through its national and regional recovery centres across five key areas:

- physical rehabilitation and wellbeing services
- psychological services
- employment and education support services
- rehabilitation adventure challenges
- social connection activities.

Holy Spirit Care Services has been proud to support *Mates4Mates* through various fundraising activities during 2017. Thank you to everyone who contributed throughout the year.

MATES 4 MATES

For further information about *Mates4Mates* – visit their website: mates4mates.org

TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN US COURAGE

*This journey brave and difficult,
What inspired us to start – Family history?
Significant mystery? Or while we still have heart?*

*What inspired us to continue, Where angels dare to tread –
Stepping through pages of history? Reliving memories shed?*

*Whatever the cause. We lasted the course
and returned to leave this plaque.*

For when we returned, this message we'd learned:

MOVE FORWARD, BUT REMEMBER THE PAST.

*Thanks for giving us the courage. To climb and conquer,
This and all life's other mountains.*

As with all stories, there is a beginning and an end. A fitting closure to this story is to relate a poem (author unknown) which is displayed on the wall of the Kokoda military museum...

Veronica's Magic gesture!

A simple gesture can make a difference in the lives of young people.

Written by Sr. Veronica Sari SSpS.



Sr. Veronica Sari SSpS. is studying a Bachelor of Youth Work and Minor in Counselling.

The Year of the Youth

The Year of the Youth theme suggests the need to dialogue about the importance and life-giving presence of young people in the church and society.

I paused and reflected on this theme and asked myself – is there any time I have taken to listen to young people's stories? Have I allowed them to tell their stories and dialogue with them about what they feel? Have I walked with them to achieve what they are longing for in this fast moving world?

Whitelion

Today, I feel privileged and blessed to share my journey with the young people whom I am now working in Melbourne through a non-government organisation called Whitelion.

Whitelion provides services including education, counselling, housing, mentoring and employment.

For further information about Whitelion visit: www.whitelion.asn.au

Reaching out to young people

I first started reaching out to young people aged between 12 and 25 (although I have also encountered some people over 25 years old). These young people are very disadvantaged. They have issues with drugs and alcohol, homelessness and theft, only to name a few.

My main role is to reach out to these young people with drug and alcohol issues and homelessness. It has been a challenging role where you do not know what's going to happen when the young person is taking heaps of drugs or may have been through rough days of sleeping on the streets and having not eaten a proper meal.

The magic gesture I discovered after a year and a half of journeying with these vulnerable young people is from what some of them told me...

"That your smile and presence makes us feel welcomed and comfortable to share our most vulnerable stories and experiences and you listen with a non-judgemental attitude."

Working with young people who have endured such traumatic experiences has taught me so many things in life which I took for granted. Walking in their shoes has helped me understand them – which in turn creates a safe space for them to dialogue.

Positive feedback

Despite the stories or situations they are going through, I always receive positive feedback from them!

The happiest moments are when a young person sees me at the usual meeting place where we first met (skate parks or under a bridge), to tell me they got their first job, or a roof over their head, or they are going back to school.

A listening heart

I have had a grace-filled year of journeying with vulnerable young people in Melbourne. Through my interactions with them I have learned that the most important thing they all need is a companion with a listening heart. They have taught me to be vulnerable before God and others in order to understand them with my heart and with my mind.

Life is a journey and it may be like a spider's web which no one can understand at times. But God understands perfectly. Your presence and smile can make a difference in the lives of others.



ABOVE: Srs Elham Daghali, Claire Cooke, Sarah Yaco, Veronica Hadol and Skolastika Kidi

Aussie-Iraqi experience

Sister Elham and Sister Veronica arrived in our Holy Spirit Community at Carseldine one afternoon in January for four weeks of insertion into an english-speaking community.

These two Religious Sisters from Iraq were in Australia to minister to the Chaldean Christians in Sydney. They were members of the Iraqi founded congregation: Daughters of Mary Immaculate. They had been in Australia for some months, and were assigned to provide pastoral ministry and catechesis to the Chaldean community in Sydney.

The Chaldean Christians were among the first Christians going back to the First Century. The Chaldean Church is an Eastern Rite Catholic Church, and in Sydney they have their own Bishop. Fr Gerry Hefferan of Bracken Ridge, negotiated with the Bishop for the two Sisters to become part of our community for four weeks.

All stops were pulled out! Each morning, three of the Holy Spirit Sisters encouraged the Sisters to become more familiar with english. In the afternoons, residents of the Holy Spirit Home complex spent time with them in conversation and encouragement. Whilst with us, they also enjoyed the opportunity to take a dip on the very hot afternoons in the Home pool!

We are grateful for the privilege of sharing time with these two wonderful women of God. We wish them ever-increasing joy speaking english as they work with the Iraqi children (most of whom speak only english).



In loving memory

Sr. Juliana SSpS

09.01.1923 – 08.12.2017

Born 9 January 1923, Juliana was one of six children to John and Suzana Hoffman.

The family lived in Landweiler, Germany. Her brother Ewald died in World War II, and her younger brother Johannes became a priest.

Answering the call of God

In 1947, Juliana entered the Holy Spirit Sisters Convent in Koblenz. Germany was still recovering from the effects of World War II.

It is amazing to think that while the people in Germany were still grappling with the destruction of their cities and the dire need all around, some young women were answering the call of God to reach out to others in need beyond their shores.

During the war, the Motherhouse had been taken over by the Nazis and the Holy Spirit Sisters lost many Sisters.

After the war had ended, the Sisters were eager to reopen their Mission training school to new candidates.

First Vows

Juliana made her First Vows on 8 December 1949, and then entered the Mission training school in the Motherhouse in Steyl. Her training included Catechetics, Theology, Home Science and many practical skills for use in mission countries.

Juliana was very bright and developed a valuable talent for electrical maintenance. The mission preparations took three years. In 1955, together with two other Sisters, Juliana was given a mission mandate for the young Province of Australia.

They sailed to Australia aboard an Italian migrant ship. The journey lasted five weeks. For these young Sisters it was an exciting journey around the world! They recorded their experiences in poetry and in their diaries.

The young Province

The Australian Province itself was very young and very poor having begun with refugee Sisters from Papua New Guinea and China.

These three young Sisters were very welcomed. Because Juliana had a deformity of the feet which gave her much pain, she was allotted to the sewing room. There was much to do because the habits and other clothing was constantly being patched, and re-patched.

A gifted woman in many way

Although rather quiet, Juliana was a gifted woman in many ways. Her life seemed not to have given her the opportunity to use her talents. She had her struggles, yet always gave wholeheartedly to whatever task she was given.

Juliana was one of the best-read members of the Province and was full of deep, rich thoughts about God and the cosmos. She composed many poems.

On 8 December 2017, Juliana passed away in the nursing home at Carseldine – 68 years to the very day since taking her First Vows.

*In loving memory***Sr. Felicitas SSpS***(Anna Lindenbuss)*

08.10.1932 – 22.12.2017

Sr. Felicitas was born on 8 October 1932 in Weseke, Germany, the youngest child of Bernhard Lindenbuss and Maria Bishop.

She was baptised on 11 October 1932. She had two sisters and five brothers. Sadly, Sr. Felicitas knew pain and sorrow early in her life, for she was only one and a half years old when her mother died.



As a child growing up during the war years, Felicitas was not only introduced to her own family's suffering, but also that of others. In spite of the hardship involved, her family took in a refugee boy, adopted and accepted him as one of their own.

Living through these experiences, Felicitas grew into a person with a big and compassionate heart for all people who were suffering. She had to learn many things the hard way, working for many years on the family farm, until the time when she decided to enter the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters.

In 1957, Felicitas was accepted into the Motherhouse in Steyl, the Netherlands, and pronounced her First Vows in 1959. She was trained in Domestic Science which was followed up by practical application in the Mother House where she cooked for 300 people every day and 400–500 people on a regular basis!

Joining the Australian Province

When Felicitas joined our Australian Province in 1968, she worked in the Holy Spirit Home kitchen for a few years, where she also spent time visiting and caring for the residents. She later took on a supervisory role for housekeeping and laundry duties.

Felicitas spent six years with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters in Toomelah, Goondiwindi – a ministry she loved very much.

She had a heart for all, especially those enduring suffering of any kind.

During her years of ministry, Felicitas spent a lot of time with everyone without making any fuss – newly arrived migrants, Sisters or others, refugees, Aboriginal brothers and sisters and the elderly.

Jill of all trades

Felicitas did simple things with so much love. She would often be called a 'Jill of all trades' as she gladly took-up any ministry, depending on the need at the time. When the community needed a driver, she was always there to help. She served in the Provincial Leadership team for some years. She gave herself joyfully and totally to everyone in the community, as well as those to whom she ministered. She was a solid, no-nonsense, caring person who was always busy serving others. There was no 'show' about her!

Felicitas continued visiting the elderly, feeding those who could not feed themselves, and having a coffee with those who were longing for some human company. She was also an avid reader, and had her radio by her side during her free time. She wanted to know what was going on in the world so that she could include those intentions in her prayer. Thus she did simple things with a big heart full of love.

Into the hands of her loving God

Suddenly, Felicitas became ill with a blood infection on 17 November 2017. This was the very same illness which had taken the life of her mother when Felicitas was a one and a half year old child.

The illness came as a shock to her as well as to all of us. Being of strong physique, we hoped she might recover, but this was not to be. Felicitas surrendered herself into the hands of her loving God on 22 December 2017.





Digil OF PENTECOST 2018

Communion with others, refugees
and asylum seekers

Saturday 19 May 2018
2.30pm – 5.30pm

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
736 Beams Road, Carseldine

To conclude with Eucharist at 5.30pm



Guest Speaker: **Phil Glendenning**

Phil has been the Director of the Edmund Rice Centre since its inception in 1996 and is currently the President of the Refugee Council of Australia.

With a background in education, law, political science, and overseas aid and development, he is now primarily involved in human right advocacy and education, peace and reconciliation work, raising awareness of the impact of climate change on marginalised peoples.

In his work for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, Phil led the Edmund Rice Centre's research team for the *Deported to Danger* series which monitored the safety of rejected asylum seekers in 22 countries, and resulted in an internationally screened documentary, *'A Well Founded Fear'*, in 2008.

He was also a consultant for the 2012 television series *'Go Back to Where You Came From'*.



We are also inviting some members from the parish of St. Joseph and St. Anthony, Bracken Ridge/Bald Hills Parish's 'new family' who were humanitarian refugees or persecuted Christians from Iraq/Syria to share their experiences.

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

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