



REPORT

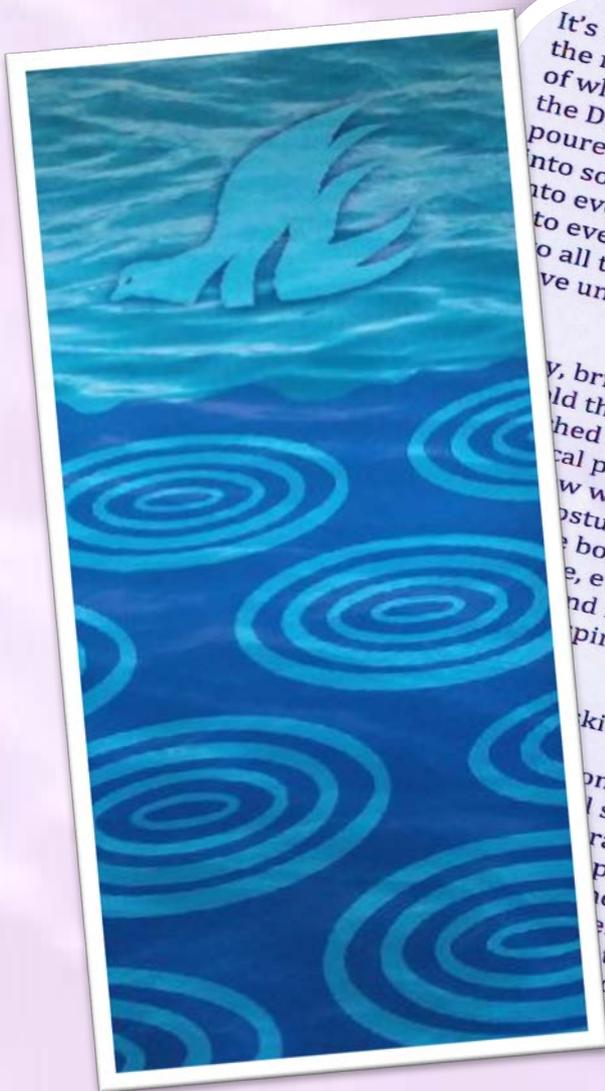
on



NEW WINESKINS WORKSHOP

Matt 9

Brisbane
Sept. 2019



It's time to celebrate the new wine,
the new insights, the uncovering
of what has always been,
the Divine Presence
poured out generously
into soil, sand and sea
to every leaf and tree,
to every child who laughs or
to all that leaps and swims and
to all that unfolds continuously.

... brittle wineskins
... old this wine
... shed hardened cloth,
... cal pitch will check its pa
... w where it will
... costumes and rank,
... e boundaries and collar
... e, everywhere
... and replenish a thirsty
... ppirits free.

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l stretch and bend
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eal and breathe
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THE GRAIL
IN AUSTRALIA

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INTRODUCTION

Some months ago I attended an Adult Education evening at Grovely Parish. The guest speaker was Bishop Bill Morris. His talk was entitled "The Mission has a Church". Two messages came through to me that both shocked and delighted me, more than just a little.

The first was a deepened realization of the absolute gift of Baptism. The second was a reinvigorated enthusiasm for the direction and spirit of Vatican II. In the sixties, as a Josephite, we had studied a new Document every weekend for months. We were alive with excitement for the possibilities ahead! Our sadness at what never actually eventuated knew no bounds. It was so wonderful to hear someone who still believed in its potential and relayed its spirit.

As I drove home I kept asking myself if I had ever really appreciated the Mission that baptism gave me to "... Go out to all the world...". On reflection I saw myself as a somewhat immature catholic, dependent more on what the institutional Church told me to do, rather than being lead by the Holy Spirit. The newness of this reflection left me ever so grateful for the awakening from Bishop Morris' talk. I felt a deep need to share what I had received.

I spoke about my experience to Ann Aboud of the Brisbane Grail, which organization she felt sure would back me in putting together an event where others might be reminded of the two messages that came to me and thereby deepen their own realizations. Consequently, I located six people with commitment, knowledge and expertise to refresh our faith awareness.

SECTION B: NEW WINESKINS AS PLANNED

1. Purpose:

- (i) To invite members of the catholic community to come together, hear from significant Speakers & think about "re-shaping" their responses to today's faith Challenges; through this process engender a spirit of hope.
- (ii) To make the Grail more widely known

2. Intended Participants:

It was envisaged that the day, as advertised, would appeal mostly to those people who were already seriously on their faith journey & keen to look more deeply at some current issues.

3. Method of Advertising:

- (i) Some 124 emails were sent to both individuals as well as a number of people (14) who in turn sent on the Brochure & Application form to groups that they regularly circularized
- (ii) A friend visited most Brisbane Parishes and Secondary Catholic Schools to leave brochures and application forms

- (iii) Brisbane Grail members advertised to friends and contacts
- (iv) Notices were sent to around 12 parishes for inclusion in Weekly Bulletins
- (v) For two weeks the Brisbane Grail advertised in the Catholic Leader

4. Venue:

The Grange Bowls Club was selected as a low cost, fairly central location with ample parking. Here we had the option of a downstairs room that held 75 people or an upstairs one which could cater for up to 150 people.

5. Projected Costs Involved:

Venue hire:	\$350
Catering:	\$8.50 – 10 pp
Musician:	\$150
Artist:	\$125
Grail Pens:	\$165
Printing/folders:	\$1,000 approx.
Gifts to 6 Speakers:	\$200 approx
Miscellaneous:	\$30

Speakers & Topics

- i) Alison Healey Noisy Contemplation
- ii) Kevin Treston Moving Forward with Hope – Church through the Ages
- iii) Fr Bill O’Shea & Fr Orm Rush Vatican II Reflections in Conversation
- iv) Janet Galos Womens’ Spirituality for the 21st century
- v) Lyn Horner Working Collegially at the Local Level

6. Cost to Participants

\$25 per person with options to pay directly into the Bank, by cheque or through “TRYBooking,” an event facility set up by the Grail. Morning Tea was included in the cost along with individual Folders with quality handouts including a specially inscribed “Grail pen” & Vision Statement.

7. Method of Evaluating the Day

In the first instance, participants had written Evaluation Sheets in their Folders. They were asked to rate the Speakers as the Sessions progressed. At the end of the day the registration women would collect these. Participants were informed that a blank yellow sheet in their folders was intended as the repository of thoughts, hopes, wishes & dreams they might have for the church as the day progressed.

8. The Planning Group

Janet Galos and **Garry Everett** joined with me over several months in planning New Wineskins. These two were chosen in consultation with Ann Aboud of the Grail.

- i) Janet was selected because she was familiar with the Grail locally and nationally and its history of providing spiritual opportunities for the faithful. She had knowledge and experience in presenting academic learning opportunities to faith groups. She also agreed to present a paper for the event.
- ii) Garry Everett had been introduced to me by Kevin Treston who shared with him a Vatican II talk given to the Residents of Delamore during 2018. At that talk I had observed Garry as a strong and clear speaker and, with Kevin's agreement, sized him up as a firm and deeply spiritual moderator for the Day. He is widely read, locally committed in parish life and an author appearing in a number of journals, including The Good Oil.
- iii) Both he and Janet really proved their worth in both roles.

9. Some Extra-curricular Aspects of the Day

The more I thought about the wineskins scripture and the fact that we humans are wonderfully made of many facets and aptitudes I found myself wanting to integrate art, music & poetry into the Day's celebration. The Spirit seems to me to move through, not only the spoken word, but also the beauty of various elements that surround us. Sometimes "soul experience" comes from an unfocused source in addition to the primary one.

Consequently, I approached Anglican Franciscan Brother Bart Sinclair, a harpist, to welcome people as they arrived at the Bowls Club. This he did beautifully.

Dr Jenny Close, a friend to a Delamore woman, had already become known through her artwork at the Delamore Elizabeth Hayes Celebration in May of 2019. Jenny designed and had made a two metre high banner depicting Baptism as that was the basis from which inspiration for the day had arisen. In doing this Jenny artistically incorporated a photo of the waters of the Brisbane River over which hovered the dove and symbols of Baptism.

Poet, Margaret Clifford, from St Mary's In Exile Community was commissioned to write a poem based on Matthew's (9) gospel passage re New Wineskins. On the day Margaret was overseas but she provided a video of herself reciting. The video was shown at the Workshop. Words of the poem were included in participants Folders & they will be depicted on the cover of this Report, along with photos of the Banner and the Harpist.

SECTION C: IINFORMATION ON SPEAKERS & PARTICIPANTS

(a) Speakers

There were six speakers. Three were women and three men. Two of the men speakers shared a Conversation re their topic, making five presentations altogether.

Four of the Speakers resided in Brisbane; one came from the Sydney Grail; another from the diocese of Townsville

(b) Participants (81)

Gender

Females: 67 (83%)

Males: 14 (17%)

Ages

51-60 years: 8 (10%)

61-70 years: 9 (11%)

71-80 years: 40 (49%)

81-90 years: 24 (30%)

Places of Residence

Annerley, Ashgrove, Ascot, Aspley, Auchenflower, Boondall, Bellbird Park, Bribie island, Carseldine, Clayfield, Chermside, Corinda, Crows Nest, Eatons Hill, Enoggera, Ferny Grove, Hendra, Highvale, Kedron, Keperra, Kangaroo Point, Kings Beach, Mitchelton, McDowall, Margate, Moorooka, Nundah, Newton, Spring Hill, St. Lucia, Stafford, Scarborough, Taringa, Toowoomba, Townsville, Virginia, Wilston, Wishart,

SECTION D: CONDUCT of the DAY

Judy Brown welcomed everyone on behalf of the Brisbane Grail. She gave a short explanation of the history of the Grail with particular reference to the fact that the Jesuit priest who founded it in the Netherlands nearly 100 years ago did so because he recognized womens' giftedness, for a post war world needing healing. Participants were informed that the Grail Vision Statement was in their folders and the Grail inscribed pens held the web address of the Australian Grail on which results of New Wineskins would be posted in the weeks following.

Ann Aboud was then invited to lead the group in a prayer to the Holy Spirit. All joined in from a videoed slide.

Garry Everett was then introduced as the Moderator for the day. At this point Garry & Janet Galos were acknowledged as part of the Planning group for New Wineskins.

Garry introduced the first Speaker, Alison Healey. The day progressed from there with different speakers handling their input using various styles.

After the final Speaker the group was given a time of quiet/reflection on the day and encouraged to complete evaluations to be handed in. At the end of the day people accessed drinks and food, talked to each other, left for home or helped clean and tidy the room. The Moderator thanked everyone for their attendance.

SECTION E: RESULTS OF WRITTEN EVALUATIONS

Number of People present: 91 (=100%) of these 10 were either speakers or workers

Number of enrolled Participants: 81

Number of yellow sheets submitted referring to Hopes & Dreams: 3

Number of evaluations submitted: 68 (a return rate of 84%)

Session 1: Contemplation in Action- Alison Healey

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being marginal and 5 extreme) how helpful did you find this session?

Rating 1	1 person
Rating 2	3 persons
Rating 3	17 persons
Rating 4	22 persons
Rating 5	22 persons

(b) Which aspects did you most appreciate?

5 out of 50 comments regarding this session included:

- Its relevance to today's busy world;
- Its fundamental necessity;
- The speaker's interaction with the audience;
- Its clarity & simplicity and the relevance to building social capital;
- Her concrete examples, both from scripture & life.

Session 2: A Journey through the Church to today's Hope

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being marginal and 5 extreme)

(a) How informative did you find this session?

Rating 1	0
Rating 2	0
Rating 3	14 persons
Rating 4	21 persons
Rating 5	29 persons (one person marked 10)

(b) Which aspects awakened your interest in Church History?

Some 55 comments were written regarding this session. 5 comments were selected to detail here.

History is essential to us finding a way forward;

Whets the appetite for more, more, more;

To see history as “stepping stones” not stones around our neck;

If we ignore history we are cursed to repeat it;

Made me interested to read more history.

Session 3: A Conversation around & through Vatican II

(a) On a scale of 1 to 5 how interesting was this session for you?

Rating 1: 0

Rating 2: 0

Rating 3: 12

Rating 4: 32

Rating 5: 23

(b) In what ways did this Session reawaken your appreciation of the riches of Vatican II?

Some 55 comments were written regarding this session. 5 comments were selected to detail here.

Feel some optimism with Pope Francis & synodality compared with previous disappointment;

I liked the interplay of voices; memories!

I remember the original reaction of communities & then disappointment;

This direction needs to be reiterated if the Church is to prosper;

Amazed that it has been ignored to such an extent

1. Session 4: Womens' Spirituality for the 21st century

(a) On a scale of 1 to 5 how helpful did you find this session?

Some 55 comments were written regarding this session. 5 comments were selected to detail here.

Rating 1: 0

Rating 2: 1

Rating 3: 15

Rating 4: 23

Rating 5: 25

(b) Did this session lead you to reflect on contemporary spirituality differently? In what ways? What issues in particular seemed most relevant?

Excellent;

Hope the Plenary Council would be receptive (to this);
I have been waiting for this talk for some time & it was excellent, well delivered and well illustrated;
Spirituality of the feminine is necessary to the wellbeing of the whole Church;
Was struck by the concept of women acting out of “prophetic hope”;
Opened my eyes to a better way.

2. Session 5: Collegial Interaction at the Local Level

(a) On a scale of 1 to 5 to what extent is this style of being Church part of your current experience?

Rating 1: 1

Rating 2: 6

Rating 3: 7

Rating 4: 19

Rating 5: 25

(b) Which aspects of this talk might you see yourself promoting?

There were 44 responses to this and 5 responses are detailed here. However, I feel the need to say that the questions we posed on the Evaluation sheet, in relation to this session were flawed in that they focused on future possibilities or recent experience rather than asking about the helpfulness/usefulness of the input. Gratefully, it seems that the participants disregarded this aspect and rated the Session on its enthusiasm & its encouragement for the future. My apologies are offered to Lyn.

An excellent down-to-earth presentation;
Would love to see this style of lay pastoral leadership emulated in other Parishes;
Stressed the importance of power sharing & recognizing everyone’s gifts;
Fantastic, real story of experiencing change;
Inspiring;
Her style of Leadership, relational & listening.

Actual Costs

(a)Income

Ticket sales	\$2,095
Donation	\$500
Grail contribution	\$590

Total Costs **\$3,185**

(b)Expenses

Venue Hire	\$350
Catering	\$985
Harpist	\$150
Artist	\$125
Poet	\$138 (printing costs)
Speakers gifts	\$200
Grail Pens	\$165
Folders & Printing	\$1,000
Miscellaneous	\$30
Total Expenses	\$3,143

SECTION F: SUGGESTED FUTURE EVENTS:

1. Current & ideal place of women in the Church. A discussion on womens' action in the development of the Church from Apostolic times til now.
2. More of Kevin Treston & Orm Rush
3. History of the Church
4. How can we address the FEARS that stand in our way as Church lovers & practitioners complimenting giftedness, learning & enthusiasm?
5. Why the young (under 35) are not following any religious practice (including those who attended religious Schools and had practicing parents)? Which aspects of Church i) teaching ii) Behaviour e.g. relatively comfortable lifestyle iii) Church hypocrisy e.g. exclusion of women, forms of abuse, nepotism in parishes iv) rejection of scientific fact e.g. LGBTI issues, put them off?
6. Women priests – different structure for the Church
7. Not sure, but a session which provided both possibilities & support for different forms of Leadership
8. The Plenary Council
9. More Alison, Bill & Orm
10. I enjoyed all of today's topics & would be happy to hear more about them
11. More of the same
12. Being disciples & making disciples
13. How we can bring the change of old wineskins to the New
14. Would like to receive any follow-up
15. How do we educate the priests in our parish & its ways?
16. More on contemplation & inclusivity
17. Beyond Atonement Theology

18. More on the role of women through the ages
19. Worth recording Presentations for those absent. Use the technologies.
20. Half hour Presentations would be sufficient to grasp the subject matter
21. More info on Session 5 (Local level Collegiality). An inspirational presentation
22. As Church we have lost our credibility esp. due to the sexual abuse. We as Church seem to be living in a culture of fear –so rules++ Q: How can we reclaim our credibility? Our freedom to live the Gospel?
23. More on helping lay people feel Ok in (the) Church
24. Shorter talks. More time for interaction with other participants. 'Twas great food! A good idea to bring our own lunch
25. Very Much (future days)
26. Something on the Plenary Council or Ecology
27. Shorter inputs might be better
28. Post plenary Council feedback
29. Post Plenary Council issues & new approaches
30. How contemporary spirituality may be promoted in Parish Communities
31. The progress of the Plenary Council. The day is long as I am older. A 3pm finish or a half day would be enough for future sessions
32. Laity in the Parish. Grassroots solutions. Ideas re faith issues; the Cosmic Christ
33. Individual Church members contributions in support of overall activities
34. Workshops/sessions on Illio Delio's writings (American Franciscan Sister)
35. Not sure what form but sessions that provide both possibilities & support for different forms of lay leadership
36. A week later, the following evaluation was phoned in from the person living in Crows Nest: "I had never before this day owned the Church for myself. I am very interested in history especially & we in the bush never get to hear Speakers of such quality. Could tapes be made for us? U3A is here but does very little in Spirituality. I left on a high note believing for the first time that 'I could do it!' Excellent day! Send us tapes please!"

SECTION G: HOPES & DREAMS FOR A FUTURE CHURCH

(Only 3 Responses were submitted at the end of the day.)

Response no. 1

Open ears & hearts; contemplate how we interact with all people & widen the group we call neighbours; Pope Francis, we are all useful, we are all equal; Go back to the & understand the

true meanings; Liturgies need more inclusive language & less of an atonement focus; Redirect administration to lay people.

Response no. 2

I pray to God every night for more women priests but She is not listening

Response no. 3

We are living in an amazing time.

Why are we not seeing and acting on the signs of the time?

Can our Canon Law be revised?

Can we put new wine into old skins?

In Religious Congregations review their Constitutions as they see the signs of the times.

How do we as Church, the People of God: (a) reclaim our faith? (b) Stimulate and energize our belief in the Real Presence (Eucharist)?

Who will help us look into the Possibilities for a future Global Church?

What is the future style needed to be living Gospel today within the Church?

How do we promote change within the Church if decision makers (Bishops) won't listen?

SECTION H: OVERALL SUMMARY & LEARNINGS

The feedback, as represented in previous Sections, indicate that by far the majority of people really enjoyed the day. Each of the Speakers was well received and well rated. I believe it was the quality of the Speakers that meant they were much appreciated. In choosing them the aim was to expose participants to a range of speakers so that they would be made/remade aware of the calibre of scholarship available to us in the Catholic Church, at least along the Eastern seaboard. Advice was given in relation to six being too large a number on one day. The advice was indeed logical but there wasn't one which I felt I could leave out. So, I think our first objective was achieved.

Making sure participants were made aware of the Grail was the second aim. A little was covered in the morning welcome and an invitation to follow up on the national website to those wanting to further explore the Grail. Secondly, the new wineskins Report would be on the Australian Grail website some weeks after the event.

Given the predominant ages, a day-long event would not be advisable in the future. It seems that these were the people we aimed the day at – those on the Journey and keen to participate in an event that might look at reshaping faith responses. Some people have suggested a 9.30 - 3.30 day with 4 speakers.

It has also been suggested that the school holidays might not be the best time to hold such an event as many families have out of town or overseas commitments as well as being committed to other Brisbane based events.

The Grange Bowls Club met a number of our requirements although, having an upstairs room without a general Lift would have deterred people who used wheelchairs. The Chair Lift was offered to some 8 people and the Club Manager attended to those using it but I am unaware of more than one person who did so. This matter was not addressed in the feedback that we received.

Lots of very positive feedback was received regarding the quality of the Morning Tea. In the absence of any nearby shops and the fact that we asked people to bring their own lunches, we had deliberately ordered a substantial Morning Tea with an understanding that people might need to “graze” if they hadn’t been able to bring lunch. This actually happened & was appreciated.

With hindsight, the attendance fee of \$25 per person was probably not high enough to enable the Grail to make a marginal profit, although one of the participants provided a donation of \$500 which helped us along. If we had only incurred the hire fee, the Morning Tea & the Handouts we would have covered costs more completely. The “extras” viz the Baptism Banner, the Harpist and the Poet meant additional costs. I hope they added to the day but didn’t actually receive feedback re same. Overall, we ran at a small loss. The Brisbane Grail’s contribution amended this situation.

The biggest disappointments were in relation to the microphones and urns. Whilst we had tested the mics during two previous days, they were not up to par during the event. Two of the hot water urns also did not support participants with boiling after the initial cup of tea. It amazed me that no one complained!

I regretted us not having previously spoken within the Grail group about needing a stand to display the Grail banner. It was handed to me on the day but we hadn’t planned something to display it with pride. This may not be a problem in the future as we now know that Officeworks can put the banner on a fold-up stand. Ann Aboud has also spoken to Dr Jenny Close about possibly designing another Grail banner. If this happens through Officeworks it will come with its own stand.

Finally, in essence, I believe that the overall day went really well as an event. However, the “reshaping” outlined in the subtitle required an outcome over and above experiencing really good Speakers and enjoying the group. This reshaping didn’t happen, I believe, because the day was so full and time didn’t permit. Even if we had reminded participants throughout the day, to complete their “yellow papers” time would not have made it possible. This does not

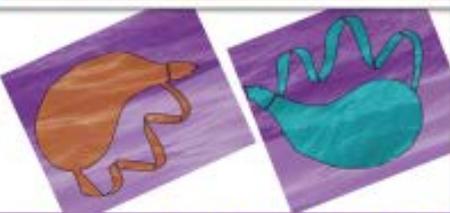
concern me unduly because both the “Future Events” suggested in Section G and the number of phone calls received in the past weeks indicate that many people want to pursue an opportunity to come together in the future to further address possibilities for reshaping their responses for enhancing the new Wineskins of the Church of the future.

I have responded with a positive interest to suggested follow-up from the day but indicated that it would likely not be before next year. There also needs to be discussion within the Grail about whether the next step is something the Grail wants to continue with or whether the Laity might be encouraged to take charge of it themselves. I am open to either.

Perhaps the Grail might discuss whether a copy of the findings from this Report might be sent to the Archdiocese of Brisbane in support of the directions of the Plenary Council

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(Ms) Judy Brown
Organizer on behalf of the Brisbane Grail.
October 16, 2019



.....RESHAPING OUR RESPONSES TO THE FAITH CHALLENGES OF TODAY.....



Saturday, 28th September, 2019.
9am - 4.30pm
The Grange Bowls Club, 79 Sellheim St, Grange

