

The Grail Newsletter

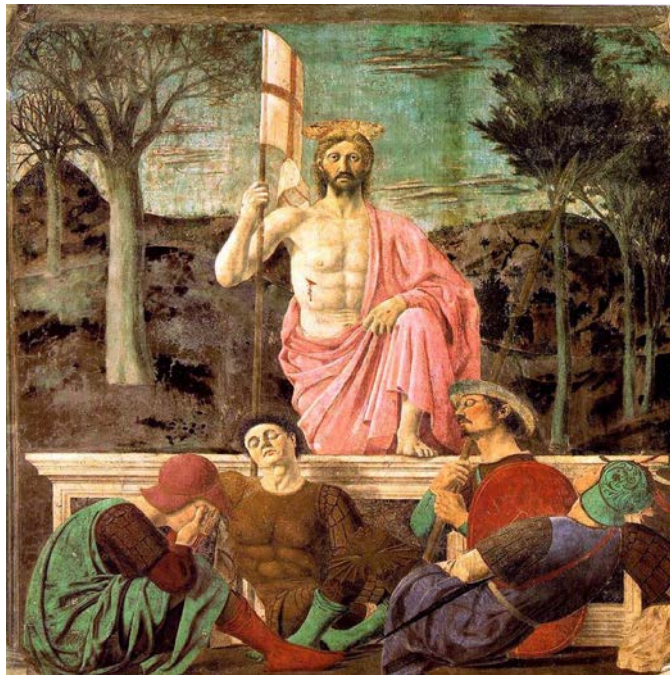
The Grail
22 McHatton Street
North Sydney. NSW 2060
Tel: 9955-3053. Fax: 9954-0697.
Email: grailsydney@ozemail.com.au

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Prepared in Sydney

Excerpted from
PINK IS THE COLOUR OF THE RESURRECTION



So here is Piero – gaunt, asleep,
just below the Resurrection.
That's his self-portrait: implicated,
the crisp morning light all about them.

His hometown Borgo Sansepolcro
is where Jesus rises forever
So long as the fresco lasts.
the hills of Umbria are already vanishing.

Above the low perspective of the sleepers'
world, Jesus (he has his own vanishing point)
appears to raise
his left leg onto the tomb edge with such force –
we see this is the first step of a new creation.

.....
and ... pink is the colour of the Resurrection.
Another of Piero's wonders is that nobody
moves.

Andrew (Andy) Bullen SJ

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'Pink is the colour of the Resurrection'

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*Andy Bullen SJ, Parish Administrator, North Sydney-Lavender Bay-Kirribilli
contemplates the fresco of Piero della Francesca (1415-92).
Reprinted here with the author's permission.*

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2014 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Friday, 6th June – Monday, 9th June

at

St Mary MacKillop Place, Mount Street, North Sydney

As many Grail members in Australia as possible are called together for this long weekend. Whether from North or South Queensland, Victoria or Sydney, travel and accommodation costs will be shared equally, with national funds also subsidising the Assembly.

Contact one of the National Team:

Kay Hunt	kay.hunt@optusnet.com.au
Jill Herbert	vidler_herbert@aapt.net.au
Mary Nelson	darryl_and_mary@hotmail.com

ADDRESSES

The Grail Centre
22 McHatton Street
North Sydney. NSW 2060.
Tel: 02-9955 3053
Fax: 02-9954 0697
Email: grailsydney@ozemail.com.au

Sheila Hawthorn
2/105 Goodwin Street
Currajong. Qld 4812. (Townsville)
Tel: 07-4779 5931

Andrea Venier
2/25 McBean Street
Clayton. Vic. 3168. (Melbourne)
Tel. 03-9548 9432
Email: avenier@bigpond.com

Jill Herbert
14 Carawatha Avenue
Ferny Hills. Qld 4055. (Brisbane)
Tel: 07-3351 5390
Email: vidler_herbert@aapt.net.au

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NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

North Queensland

At the end of March, all that comprehensive information of dos and donts in severe monsoonal weather remains sitting on coffee tables or unopened, as the need for it has not arisen so far – of course, thankfully. Still, and again thankfully, the seven months drought in Townsville has been broken with some very welcome rain just before ‘the wet’ officially ends.

It was a delight to us to have Anne Marie George and Nour Barcha come up from Sydney to facilitate a program for professional women offering some spiritual resourcing and refreshment. Five women appreciated the opportunity and three were sorry that unexpected situations at home or at work stopped them from attending. As usual Deborah Pennington and Cheryl Vacchini were generous in the warm hospitality they offered Anne Marie and Nour. (Anne Marie has written of the visit from her perspective below.) Though more in her office than the classroom this year, Deb has a rather full schedule of school visits in her role as Guidance Officer.

As I write, Margaret Tranter and Andrew Wood are celebrating their son Jacob’s wedding in Melbourne and the Kyle family are gathered to rejoice in Andrea’s 50th birthday. I happened to meet Shannon Kyle yesterday and he told me he was ‘now 38’. They are the eldest and youngest of Erykah’s six children. Erykah has now moved from her home on Palm Island to the Good Shepherd Home here in Townsville, where I visit her almost every week.

In February, Townsville Little Theatre launched its very ambitious program for 2014. We are committed to producing eight short plays and three major ones this year. The eight short plays have all been entered in the annual Festival of One-Act Plays to be held here in May. I’m enjoying being involved in the planning of the Festival this year, in which several local high schools have entered.

In January, I spent a week in South Australia and took the opportunity to telephone Bishop Len Faulkner, who expressed his interest and pleasure in receiving his Grail Newsletter regularly.

Stoic energy is certainly required at present in the Multicultural Support Group, as governments change programs, re-organise funding, demand more and more paper work and implement heartless policies towards refugees, that receive public support. For us, this means we must restructure and review our policies and procedures and generally do some hard thinking about how and where to fit both efficiently and compassionately into the social service sector of the society in the future.

A particular sadness recently was the death of Professor Emeritus Barbara Hayes on St Patrick's Day, 17th March. (See *In Memory* below.) Barbara was a very dear friend and supporter of The Grail and found St Raphael's College a haven she often needed in her challenging professional life. In her last weeks of palliative care, it was necessary to limit the number of visitors, so, one day, I left a written message for her. A few hours later, she rang to say 'Thank you very, very much for the warm, friendly reception I always received, for the shared dreams and inspiration and for the energy and strength which must continue'. I assured her of the prayers of Grail members and of the House of Prayer and told her of the forthcoming program with Anne Marie and Nour. 'That is excellent,' she replied. Barbara spoke often of her friend, Ann Woodruff, a 'dedicated colleague' in nurse education at the Victoria University, Melbourne. What a deep loss we feel with the departing of these two fine and great women.

Roberta Michna came for a few days to visit Barbara in palliative care. While it was a sad time, it was also a chance for me to be with Roberta which I much appreciated. The Michnas' rainforest home is slowly coming into being.

On 28th March, North Queenslanders woke to the news of the death overnight of 'the people's bishop', Rev. Michael Putney, AM, DD, STD. The previous day marked the 13th year of his episcopate in Townsville. He had lived courageously for 15 months with an 'untreatable cancer', rarely absent from work, which included visiting schools, attending meetings of diocesan commissions and com-

mittees, celebrating parish milestones, ordaining a priest and, a week before he died, launching the book, 'My Ecumenical Journey', which describes his desire and commitment to bringing the churches together. He was referred to in the Townsville daily press as 'our gift from God'. Clearly he will be sorely missed, but it is anticipated that, thanks to YouTube, thousands of mourners will be able to 'attend' his funeral.

May we all be renewed and refreshed by Easter joy and hope.

Sheila Hawthorn

In Memory

Professor Barbara Ann Hayes, OAM, was the Foundation Head of the Department of Nursing Sciences at James Cook University (JCU) from 1989 to 1997 and then became Foundation Professor of Nursing Sciences until 2006. Barbara studied and trained in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. She came to JCU with qualifications in midwifery, psychiatry and pediatrics and with a PhD from the University of California. At that time she was the only Australian with a PhD in nursing. In 2008, she was awarded an OAM (Order of Australia Medal). Professor Wronski (JCU) has said that Barbara set the Nursing Department 'on its philosophical rails... and believed deeply in health access for rural and indigenous populations'.

Barbara was a very faithful supporter of the Townsville House of Prayer and led many prayerful and inspiring liturgies as well as robust discussions on gender equality, women's roles in the church and personal responsibility for one's own health and well-being.

Barbara rejoiced in all that is life-affirming, especially the arts, friendship and hospitality. Peter Steele, SJ, dedicated his poem on a carved Madonna and child, titled 'Ivory', to Barbara in acknowledgment of her strong faith and love of beauty, especially poetry.

Townsville – Sydney connecting

Nour Barcha and I ran a day program at the House of Prayer in Townsville with five local women, contacts of Sheila Hawthorn - Juliet Walker, Cathy Stone, Deborah Pennington, Dianne Salvador and Louise Doolan. Sheila had indicated some months earlier that she perceived these women to be each seeking spiritual deepening and inspiration and she wondered if Nour and I might share something of our own faith journeys, spiritual sources and practices. In the lead-up to the program, we invited the women to share something about themselves via email with the group so that we could gain some idea of who they were and tailor the program accordingly. Though the responses arrived quite late, they were rich and interesting and very open.

The morning session was about getting to know one another and included the 'River of Life' exercise which produced thoughtful and surprising revelations from everyone – and ran well over time! We had to cut back the afternoon program on spiritual practices we had found fruitful and had time only for a Taizé prayer session and a shorter *lectio divina*. We have yet to receive group feedback as we didn't have time for it on the day.

As it was our first visit to Townsville, Sheila took us to St Raphael's College on the university campus. For nearly ten years of meetings in Sydney, I've been listening to my older Grail sisters recall events and people from the decades of living and working in Townsville. Now having driven through the campus, seen the garden, walked through the corridors, seen the dining room and the students' rooms - and heard another tale or two while there - I do feel less removed from that part of the Grail story. Now just Springwood and 'Tay Creggan' to go!

Deborah Pennington and Cheryl Vacchini invited Sheila, Nour and me to a delicious home-cooked meal at their place. Sitting out on their deck on a balmy North Queensland evening, Sydney felt a world away. After the program, we also drove to The Strand and sampled a different aspect of Townsville - the vibe and style of this strip of shoreline on a Saturday night. We could well have been driving along the Manly esplanade. Deb and Cheryl invited us to join the open air drumming workshop that is held every full-moon Saturday. Hundreds of Townsvilleans of all ages and colours are invited to take up one of the dozens of

bongo drums lining the amphitheatre, and start drumming to the beat. It was a powerful feeling of community, blending into the beat and being immersed in some very potent rhythms.

I'm glad we had the opportunity to visit Townsville at last – it filled in some gaps in my Grail knowledge - and in my Australian knowledge. Little did I know what a multi-cultural and unexpectedly modern place it was (and for this, I blame the Sydney-centric media!). It was also great to meet other women who had started on similar Catholic journeys to our own and to hear how each of them was dealing with her particular questions, her particular phase in life and how her religious practice was, or was not, nourishing her.

Anne Marie George

Brisbane

At one of our monthly meetings last year we invited Margaret Hounslow to talk to us about a project called Days for Girls (DfG) - a feminine hygiene program. Would others like to take up this project with women's groups they work with? Check it out on the internet at www.daysforgirls.org So far we have had two sewing days, one at La Valla Centre at Rosalie and one at Mary and John Crombie's house, and are planning to continue. Through St William's parish, another very talented group of sewers led by Jan Whiteway have produced a lot of kits to add to our small pile. Maggie Jenatsch and Jill Herbert will attend a packing day this week with a number of Brisbane experts who have produced hundreds of DfG kits for distribution around the world.

We had planned a get-together for International Women's Day at Roma Street Parklands. While it didn't turn out as we had planned, the parklands were indeed full of large multi-cultural groups having barbecues and picnics and playing games.

Some of our members are travelling. Jay and Dudley Scoullar are cruising in Asia to celebrate 'a significant birthday' for Jay. Ann Aboud leaves this week for Exeter (UK), Italy and Paris. Jan O'Donoghue and Gloria Lazzarini had a very fruitful and enjoyable weekend at 'Avila' in Sydney recently to begin some

work on the story of the Grail in North Queensland - a long held dream for Gloria to see something published on the life and work of The Grail in Mackay and Townsville.

Others in our group are recovering from illness or broken bones. Mary Nelson is up and walking (although not running) after breaking a bone in her foot late last year. Elizabeth Lancaster continues positively on her road to recovery after a serious illness.

As usual, many of our Brisbane members are involved in community events and groups. Jan O'Donoghue attended the celebration of World Religion Day which was held at the Baha'i Centre of Learning. It was a joyous occasion, when representatives from a wide range of major religions gave short presentations, interspersed with splendid musical interludes by talented members of the Baha'i faith. A sumptuous afternoon tea followed which gave the opportunity for those who were there to meet one another. Mary Nelson has become involved with the North-East Asylum Seeker Welcome Hub run by the Sandgate Community Centre where she, her husband Darryl and daughter Monique attended a welcome barbecue for recently arrived Iranian, Karen and Tamil families. Mary has also started to tutor a young woman from Burma and, when school resumes, she will assist a Year 11 Tamil woman. Ann Aboud continues to volunteer at the Multi-Faith Academy for Chaplaincy and Community Ministries (MACCM), with her practicum at Princess Alexandra Hospital. She greatly admires the chaplains, many of whom have done overseas missionary service and tell of hair-raising experiences.

Grail offspring must also be mentioned. Keith and Duncan Patterson (Helen Jeffcoat's sons) are now at Marist College Ashgrove in Year 8. Chris Vidler (Jill Herbert's son) is in Year 10 at Marist. These three share the same birthday! Jo Vidler completed Year 12 last year with a fantastic result and is now doing a double degree in Law and Science. Monique Nelson has started her second year of teaching in Emerald and is training to walk the Kokoda Track in September as part of a Marist Immersion trip to Papua New Guinea. Ann Aboud's granddaughter, Sophie, will be singing at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day at Gallipoli this year with the combined All Hallows' and St Joseph's Terrace

choir. The students' trip will also extend to a little more of Turkey, including Istanbul. Ann says the Bosphorus has the bluest water she has ever seen. She attended a fund raising concert leading up to the choir's departure and can assure us that the singers will do us proud. The soloist who is blind sang superbly.

On Boxing Day, Jill's mother, Gert Herbert passed away in Mackay. Jill and her family were with her. She was 91 and ready to meet God. Many of the nurses she had trained or worked with at the Collinsville Hospital while Matron there for over 30 years attended her farewell.

Ann About writes: 'Win and Rod Manning, great friends of The Grail in Mackay, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 5th April in conjunction with the second birthday of their grandson, Liam. Their son, Laurence is married to Peruvian Zonia, who, with her mother, Maura, and others of the Peruvian community, served a stunning feast. A large poster of Win and Rod's wedding blessed the party. It looked like a marriage made in heaven and so it has been'. All of the Brisbane members are looking forward to attending the National Assembly in June.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter,

Jill Herbert

Sydney

There is something missing from this season of Holy Week. The St Mary MacKillop Chapel has not resonated with the sounds of *The Grail Singers'* service of music and readings and prayer. The choir has gone into recess for a while because, all at once, a number of members were somewhat overtaken by events - study overseas, illness, increased family commitments, extended hours of work, moving house out of Sydney. After Easter, a dinner together will go some way to reconnecting and making up for the weekly meeting and greeting that everyone has so missed.

February saw the beginning of activities once more at the Grail Centre. Suzanne Atherton has moved into her own apartment this year and Lauren Porter has joined the residents of 'Avila'. Lauren is doing a Masters degree in counselling at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and a course in pastoral ministry. A Quaker, Lauren is committed to peace and is an active member of Pace e Bene.

As this goes to print the exterior of the house is being washed. We are hoping that this might delay the need for a full house paint. We will see. But we will have painters here soon, as the wood and iron work, as well as interior areas, badly need their attention.

On Wednesday evenings, 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. *Food for the Soul* resumed. In Lent we used a DVD, 'Our Earth – Our Home', combining beautiful photography and text based on a lecture of Elizabeth Johnson, entitled 'Women, Earth and Creator Spirit'. Produced in Victoria by Emmy Silvius and Mary Burke fmm, it is available through eagle@dodo.com.au or fmmcbury@rabbit.com.au Tricia Gemmell, the leader of this program, also offers daytime group reflection on Tuesday mornings every second month, this year using texts of women mystics. Anyone is welcome to attend these meditative sessions, regularly or sporadically – whenever it fits in your schedule. Tricia is excited at the thought of graduating in a few weeks from Newcastle University with her Masters in Theology.

Tricia's daughter, Bernadette, went to New York in early February to spend three months with The Grail in the Bronx. This was an internship designed around the work of the UN Commission for the Status of Women and a week-long conference held every year in New York to coincide with International Women's Day. This year's theme was the Millennium Development Goals with respect to women and children. Bernadette has found the whole experience life-changing and hopes to find work in the area of human rights and migration.

The monthly *Book Club* has a long list of suggested titles for the year. So far, we have discussed Australian Tim Winton's *Eyrie* and Canadian Alice Munro's latest collection of short stories, *Dear Life*. What a superb writer of English she is. We rejoice in her Nobel Prize for Literature. The next two books are 'The

Narrow Road to the North' by Richard Flanagan and Kazuo Ishiguro's 'The Pale View to the Hills'.

Sonia Mrva-Montoya, who initiated and developed this happy group of readers, is travelling with her husband George in Mexico at present, where Sonia's closest friend since student days at the University of Lima lives. While there, she will also meet again Rosaurora Espinosa, a founding member of The Grail in Mexico. Just two days before leaving Australia, Sonia had some exciting and gratifying news. She was chosen from seven nominations to be honoured with the 2014 award from the Australian Hispanic Women's Business Network, 'in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the promotion of our Hispanic heritage in Australia'. Sonia and George have both contributed their talents and energy to Australian society very generously since they arrived here from Peru and Czechoslovakia.

Mary McDermid writes after returning home at the end of March: 'When I heard that there was a special offer for Grail members to stay at Kleinmond, I leapt at the chance to visit South Africa. I enjoyed the natural beauty of the Western Cape, but it proved to be much more than a tourist's visit. I was privileged to meet Anne Hope and Sally Timmel before they leave the Centre and to talk to some of the people involved in the Training for Transformation course. It was very interesting and informative to see some of the work of the International Grail and yet, at the same time, have a relaxing holiday in peaceful surroundings'.

Through March we held an *Introduction to the Grail* program for interested women and, once again, found it a nourishing and enjoyable experience. Some of the women who attend these programs are interested in pursuing responsible participation in The Grail; others are at the stage of initial exploration and may not proceed further. All are welcome. There will be another program in the second half of the year.

Ruth Crowe organised another successful *Training for Transformation* day in March – the first for this year. She will continue this work in Sydney and, at the

same time, is looking to extend it further in the Pacific and South Asia in collaboration with other Grail women there.

The Sydney Centre holds our *archives* and Anne Stevens and Mary McDearnid are efficiently and patiently updating the files established over several years by Moya Merrick, Shirley Collins and Denise O'Hara. There is a mass of work to be done but Anne and Mary maintain a calm persistence. We all are indebted to them. Gloria Lazzarini and Jan O'Donoghue from Brisbane did some delving into the Queensland material recently and plan to visit the filing cabinets again in June.

Eight of the Sydney members have met over dinner at Elizabeth Lee's home for a first discussion on how the Sydney Grail might participate in the work of restorative justice. In their professional work, some members are familiar with already existing programs in the prison system and in schools. Liz and Anne Marie George prepared some preliminary questions for the group to explore. It was suggested that *Restoring Relationships* may be a more apt name for the kind of work we are envisaging not bound by a particular institutional setting. We will spend time in further thinking about this during our May Regional Group meeting. We have reformed our monthly meetings to ensure that we deal with the business of the meeting in a more business-like way and devote an hour and a half to reflection and prayer. With two experiences of the new format so far we are pleased with it.

Immediately after the National Assembly in June, Alison Healey will be responding to an invitation from The Grail in South Africa to be a resource for a program of formation they are planning. She will be home again before the end of the month.

In the December 2013 Newsletter we wrote that the *Personal Journal* project was nearing its completion. You will recall that we printed 2000 journals (A5 size), each consisting of 80 pages, including photographs and words of wisdom from across cultures and times with blank pages inviting personal writing or drawing. The aim is to sell 1000 journals at \$10 each, allowing the remaining 1000 to be given to inmates in correctional and detention centres. We need a

final push to sell the remaining 200 and are asking for your help. Perhaps you could purchase some for gifts, or find opportunities to sell some to others in your locality? We can provide you with briefing notes if you think of speaking in your parish or to a group who may be interested. Email grailjournal@ozemail.com.au

Since the last Newsletter, Cath and Jack Mullane have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary which prompted their daughter, Fran, to include some reflection here.

We also want to honour two former Grail members who have died in Sydney this year and were farewelled within weeks of each other from the Franciscan church in Edgecliff: Jo Delacour and Agnes Thompson. Jo, creative and artistic, loved life and especially a party. She was an active Grail member in the eastern suburbs for many years and she and Jim were strong participants in the Family Apostolate Movement. Their son John and daughter Louise with the celebrant, Tony Doherty, created a warm, serene liturgy of farewell for her, attended by her wide circle of friends. Agnes was a nucleus member of The Grail for some 15 years during which she played an influential role in the formation of young women. She trained as a nurse in St Vincent's, Darlinghurst and at the Mater in Crows Nest, and spent the rest of her working life in nursing and management in St V's and community nursing in the Northern Rivers region of the State. Patricia Reed, her long-time colleague and friend, who arranged Agnes' farewell Eucharist and burial, expressed her view that Agnes never really left The Grail and there's truth in this. She stayed tuned in, so to speak, to the values of The Grail and maintained loving relationships with those she had so closely shared her life with as a young woman. We salute Jo and Agnes, admirable women of faith and compassion and dear friends.

Sydney Grail group

Cath and Jack Mullane ponder seventy years of marriage

Just after Christmas last year, Cath and Jack Mullane celebrated the 70th anniversary of their marriage in 1943, joined by their immediate family numbering nearly 50 - from their children who are now grandparents to babes. For all those 70 years, The Grail has been a part of their life and they have been part of The Grail; and they have been reflecting on this.

Cath says that her early marriage was full of promise and a very happy time, although she would have liked another year of teaching before she had the children. She 'made a go of it' living in Warrimoo on the lower Blue Mountains and, although it sounds a little spartan, their being part of the 'back to the land' movement was an exciting time - that and the beloved Grail. During those years, Cath and Jack met Noel and Bidy Kennedy and Philippa Green, who were living in Springwood, not far from Warrimoo, on a property that had been gifted to The Grail. Here, lifelong friendships were shaped, grounded in shared values, the gatherings of the Grail-inspired Family Apostolate Movement and a spiritual tie to the land.

Both Cath and Jack talk about 'standing up for what I believe in' as especially important. Jack is particularly interested in how this has played out in his relationships in the Church - in his experiences of local parish life and of the involvement of the Church in national politics, such as the split in the Labor Party, the emergence of the Democratic Labor Party (DLP) and the ongoing consequences. He spoke very positively of the Catholic Credit Union. Jack was a great leader across his different domains, quietly achieving ahead of others. Whether this was in education, the Catholic Church or political debates, he was there.

And the family has been reflecting too:

Cath is a woman of principle, exemplified in all she has touched – responding to the neighbours' wants and needs, to errant children she patiently tutored, to young and older migrants who found themselves in western Sydney trying to make sense of their new lives. She instilled in her children a spirit of responsibility to others and of making a contribution to society. By 1965, Cath

was a model for married women returning to, or entering, the workforce. Women could 'have it all', but she always knew how to balance competing priorities. Jack is doing a great job as Cath's carer, and seems happy in this new role. They still talk a lot and even when Mum says he 'has his head in the paper again', you know that they are travelling this journey together. They are a remarkable couple, anything but ordinary, with almost two hundred years of wisdom between them. Jack wants us to quote this text of Dickens - Mr Micawber's famous, and oft-quoted, recipe for happiness. While it is about money, Jack sees it as a metaphor for his and Cath's union and happiness together.

'Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen [pounds] nineteen [shillings] and six [pence], result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds nought and six, result misery'.

Catherine Mullane and Frances Warner

Melbourne

Just before Christmas last, Genny Grabau returned home after taking some leave in Europe. Germany was her main destination, but she also particularly wanted to meet up again with Bé (Isabel) Marujo in Portugal.

Bé had spent 18 months in Melbourne when a group of young graduates, including Genny, who were meeting weekly at the Grail Centre, decided to set up a Neighbourhood House in Yarraville to serve some of the needs of the multicultural community there. Bé made a major contribution to this project and lasting friendships with the project group, so she and Genny greatly enjoyed their time together. While in Munich, Genny was also pleased to meet Christa Werner and Gunda Dirauf in Ingolstadt.

Andrea Venier decided last year to resign from her teaching responsibilities at 'Avila' secondary school, feeling the need for an extended break from the work load. From June this year she will devote time each week to facilitating and organising some new development in The Grail in Melbourne. This is very welcome news. In March, there were a number of meetings of Grail members to

explore possible projects and resources and make some initial plans, to be followed up in coming months. We will have more to tell you in the next Newsletter. Meanwhile, Andrea's father, Peter, continues with weekly therapy for his persistent cancer – a grave concern for the family, who would welcome your prayerful support.

The Grail Secretariate in Balwyn, where Pat Sheeran lived, will remain a working centre for Andrea and a meeting place for members. For the last twelve months and more, Ann Niall has been looking after it – splendidly and generously.

With the death of her husband, Bob, Dinny Culican Ward decided to move to a new location in Burwood and is very happy with her decision.

The latest news from Peter Royal, Carolyn's husband, is that their youngest daughter, Monica, is to be married in June; and in Osaka, Japan, in the same month, eldest son, Martin, and his Japanese wife are expecting their first child. Carolyn's absence from these two events will be an ache in the midst of the family's joy.

May this season when we contemplate the death and rising of Jesus Christ fill us and our world with strength and hope.

Melbourne Grail group

St Teresa's Secondary School, Mwanga

Kilimanjaro, Tanzania

Many Grail members and friends, along with family and friends of Fran and Bill Warner, have contributed over the last eight years to the costs of establishing and running St Teresa's Secondary School for girls in Tanzania.

From the first intake of students in 2009, the school has grown to 400 girls in Forms 1- 5 at the end of 2013. Form 4 students did well in the end-of-year exams in 2013 and it is hoped a number of them will continue their study at St Teresa's into Forms 5 and 6.

Many facilities have been built, including a new science laboratory, new dormitories and an all-purpose hall, as well as classrooms and kitchens. The school is attracting several Caritas volunteers at any one time. The latest of these are working with the girls in the computer laboratory.

The \$52,995 our Australian supporters have contributed since 2006 have been critical in making this significant project possible. 2013 was the last year of Fran and Bill's requests for support for St Teresa's. Many thanks to all those who contributed. Maria Goretti Semvua, the School Manager, has written: 'We are extending our thanks and gratitude for all your support. May God bless you'.

However, the school still has plenty of challenges. Food is short in times of drought. Lack of reliable internet is an ongoing challenge. The water well is quite a way from the school so that water has to be pumped in. Maria Goretti recently wrote, 'A particular challenge the school is struggling with is to find sufficient finances for a school bus. Reliable transport for the students is urgently required'.

Anyone who wishes to continue contributing to St Teresa of Avila's ongoing needs, may donate by cheque or direct transfer.

Cheques should be made out to *The Grail in Australia* and sent to:

The National Treasurer, C/- The Grail Centre,

22 McHatton Street, NORTH SYDNEY. NSW 2060.

Transfer direct to: The Grail in Australia

BSB 032 090

Account Number 80 9730 or 80 9722

(Mark the transfer 'St Teresa's'.)

Fran and Bill Warner, Ruth Crowe

