



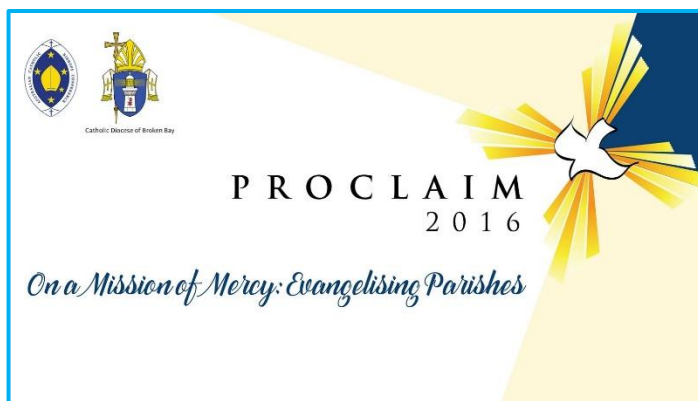
Diocesan e-News

PROCLAIM 2016

I was very fortunate to represent the Parish of St Michael and John's Horsham at the Proclaim Conference in Sydney in September, along with Robert Niehus and Anita Masiero.

In a conference which was challenging and energizing at every turn, I will highlight two points that stick in my mind all these weeks later.

The first was a workshop by Dr Susan Timoney, "My Story and the Great Story". Dr Timoney says that we as Catholics are called to give witness to our faith in every aspect of our lives.



Never underestimate the power of 'your' story. Be a witness of faith at home, at work in your daily life. Dr Timoney also said when you leave this conference be a messenger, if someone asks you what you did at the weekend don't be anonymous, say I went to this amazing Conference, *Proclaim* with lots of other amazing Catholics interested in sharing our stories. Be proud of your story.

The other important point she made was about welcoming. How do we welcome people, do we simply hand them a newsletter and grunt 'morning' or are we genuinely happy to see people enter our church, our community? Do we offer the invitation to stay for a cuppa or come to something else happening in the parish?

The second take away for me was the workshop "Parishes of the poor for the poor: a practical response to Pope Francis Vision". So what does this mean? Simply put it is about meeting people where they are. Acknowledging that everyone's needs are different and that everyone's need will be met differently. For some it may be needing a ride to Mass, for some it may simply be someone to walk them up to communion or for others it will be a greater spiritual need. All are important and no need is greater than the next. We need to welcome everyone and walk the journey with them to a deep relationship with Jesus.

I am extremely grateful for such a wonderful opportunity. I am very grateful to the Diocese for their assistance in attending Proclaim 2016, an opportunity to learn and develop my own faith but also a chance to give something back to my own parish of St Michael and St John's, Horsham.

Mary Dalglish