

WELCOME

As the Year of Grace concludes this Pentecost Sunday, there is the opportunity to reflect on your Year of Grace journey. Whether it has been your faithful recitation of the Year of Grace prayer; a deeper appreciation of God's grace and presence in your life; the return to a family ritual like 'grace before meals'; a renewed commitment to prayer; or trying a new spiritual exercise then it has been a rich time of encounter with Jesus.

Your participation in the national online survey would be greatly appreciated as it will provide a snapshot of 'graced moments' across the country and provide a deep well from which wisdoms can be drawn for our future directions.

Mike Humphrys
Archdiocesan Coordinator

Online Survey

One of the key purposes of the Year of Grace was to listen to the voice of the Spirit and to discern the wisdom of God for our future directions as a Church and nation. One way to harvest the fruits of our spiritual journey is to invite each person to respond to four questions through an online survey. These responses will then be collated and submitted to the Australian Bishops for their discernment. Below are the four questions posed in the survey that invites us to reflect on our 'journey of grace'.

What difference has the Year of Grace made in your life?

Share a moment of grace you have experienced.

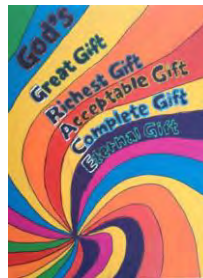
What do you believe the Holy Spirit is now calling our Church to be and to do?

What signs of hope and good news do you experience now in our Church and world?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/yearofgrace>

The survey opens next **Monday 20 May** and you are encouraged to share this link with others.

My Favourite Things



A few of my favourite things:

- ❖ **Receiving a candle from Bishop Michael Putney at a Mass at Mary Mackillop Place in May 2012 with the Australian Catholic Bishops and Diocesan Coordinators in preparation for the Year of Grace**
- ❖ **Creating the 'Waves of Grace' promotional video seeking to capture the key elements of the Year of Grace journey**
- ❖ **Collaborating with a wonderful group of people on the National Planning Team to develop National Resources and key celebrations.**
- ❖ **Reading Bill Huebsch's book 'grace, God's greatest gift' along with many other inspiring articles that have expanded 'grace' for me.**
- ❖ **Receiving precious stories of 'Graced Moments' in people's lives for posting on the Year of Grace website (worth revisiting!)**
- ❖ **Presenting seminars and briefings about the 'Year of Grace' to many groups throughout the Archdiocese**
- ❖ **Hearing about parish and deanery initiatives encouraging locals to discover God's grace in their lives**
- ❖ **Distributing over 150,000 cards through our schools and parishes to invite Catholics to regularly recite the Year of Grace prayer**
- ❖ **Listening to Archbishop Coleridge speak about 'seeing the face of Christ' at a series of Prayer Evenings around the Archdiocese**
- ❖ **Utilising an exciting series of school resources 'Experiencing Grace through the Arts' produced by a team from Brisbane Catholic Education**
- ❖ **Engaging more deeply with the life and story of St Francis Xavier during the pilgrimage of this saint's relic.**
- ❖ **Viewing a rich variety of images of Jesus through use of the 'Contemplate the Face of Christ' DVD but most of all, gaining a deep sense of gratitude for being greatly blessed by God's grace.**

What was one of your favourite things during the Year of Grace ?

NEWSLETTER INSERTS

Grace is always and everywhere available to us. It is only we ourselves who prevent it from transforming us more truly into that image of God in which we were first created. God's gracious gifts surround us on every side.

It is important to remember that grace does not only travel on fine days. On wintry evenings, especially, grace is never far away. By this I mean that very often the greatest strides in holiness are made in the darker happenings of our lives.

Daniel O'Leary *Passion for the Possible*
Columba Press Dublin 1998

Grace is elusive, poetic, awesome, uncontained. It's a dance of love and life, a circling around and coming back, a moving in harmony and a race into the horizon. We touch it like a kiss, but we never own it.

What is needed in order to have grace is maddeningly simple: We merely let go of our own controls, we die to ourselves in love and lo! Grace appears to sustain us.

Bill Huebsch *Grace God's Greatest Gift*
Twenty Third Publications, USA, 2009

The Grace of Christ opens the Door of Faith

Soon there will be changes to the appearance of the website and the next edition of this newsletter as the Year of Grace concludes and the Year of Faith continues on till the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday 24 November.

Just as Christ's resurrection and the coming of the Spirit empowered the apostles to proclaim the Gospel, so too, our experience of contemplating the face of Christ calls us to share our faith in the risen Christ. We are reminded in the Book of Acts that the grace of the Christ event opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. (Acts 14:27)

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Stories in National e-bulletin



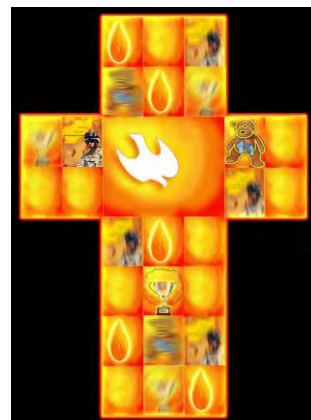
The May edition of the Living Grace e-bulletin describes the wonderful conversation between Australian poet, cartoonist and writer Michael Leunig and Fr David Ranson held recently in Broken Bay diocese. This is one of several 'grace' stories recounted in this issue.

You can subscribe to the e-bulletin or download other editions from the National Year of Grace website at:
<http://www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au>

New School Resource Reflecting on the Year of Grace Tool: Moments of Grace Mural

This latest resource from the Brisbane Catholic Education Team provides an imaginative way of capturing students experience of 'grace' and displaying it for appreciation by fellow students, teachers and parents.

This is one of the many excellent 'Experiencing Grace through the Arts' resource activities available on the Brisbane website.



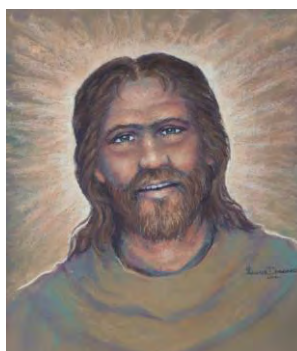
Year of Grace Facebook Reflection



I was praying about 3 or 4 years ago and I had this amazing sense of a wave of Grace coming, that the Holy Spirit would go before stirring up the hearts of people so that we would stand ready with open hearts and minds to be swept up in this wave of grace. I was so impacted by it that I grabbed some paints to try and journal the image in my heart - now I am absolutely no artist and the picture

Are you open to being swept up in a wave of grace at Pentecost ?

Image from the Contemplate the Face of Christ DVD



This image was created by Yvonne Dorward as a local image for the Port Pirie diocesan celebrations of the Year of Grace. It is one of 32 Australian images that have been used in this DVD resource.

Copies of the DVD booklet with details about each image can be downloaded from the Brisbane website.