



Issue #5
October 2020

The Vine

Official Newsletter of St Charles' Seminary,

A Roman Catholic Seminary forming men for the Priesthood in WA.



Latest News

- We joined the seminarians from *Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary* in serving and music ministries at the annual clergy Mass. We offer our prayers for Archbishop Costelloe and all the faithful Deacons and Priests of our Archdiocese.
- Seminarian Nicholas will be formally accepted as a candidate for the priesthood by Archbishop Costelloe in October. Please pray for Nicholas as he continues his pastoral parish placement and takes the next step towards ordination.

Since last month's edition of *The Vine* many more musicians and singers have contributed to sharing sounds of hope during these times of uncertainty.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, 300 people from 15 different countries came together to participate in a virtual rendition of the beautiful song "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *Carousel*.

Australia's own Fr. Rob Galea has also been busy recording three EP's titled *Songs of Worship: A Home Isolation Project*, on which he plays acoustic covers beloved contemporary Christian songs of hope such as *Lord, I Need You* and *Beautiful Name* as well some of his own songs.

In this edition of *The Vine*, we once again share with you, songs that instil in us faith, hope and courage during times of trial.



Above: Virtual Choir / Orchestra performing "You'll Never Walk Alone" from *Carousel*



Above: Fr. Rob Galea performing an acoustic cover of "Lord I Need You" by Matt Maher

Come and See!

No matter where you are in your discernment journey, you are always welcome to introduce yourself to us and join us for a meal. Whether you're someone who has only begun to have thoughts about becoming a Priest, or someone who has already made the first steps towards seminary life - come and see! We would be delighted to meet you. No strings attached!



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A Light in the Darkness

The conclusion of a series in which seminarians share songs of hope and encouragement to help you through COVID-19. In this part, fourth year seminarian Nathan introduces five such pieces.

Visit our Facebook page and let us know what you think!

The Prayer (Caleb and Kelsey)



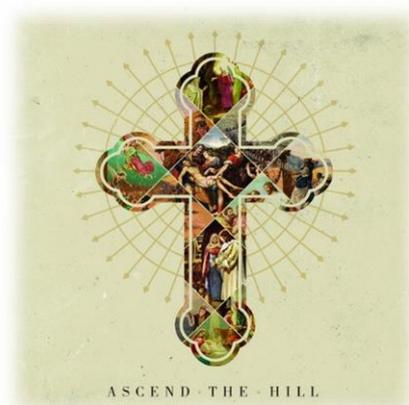
"I pray you'll be our eyes...in times when we don't know. Let this be our prayer when we lose our way." Who could be blamed for feeling like we have lost our way throughout the struggles and worries of this pandemic? "When we lose our way, lead us to a place, guide us with your grace, to a place where we'll be safe." This song expresses that yearning for God to go before us and set crooked paths straight; our desire for renewed perspective. "A world where pain and sorrow will be ended, and every heart that's broken will be mended, and we'll remember we are all God's children." Indeed, let this be our

prayer. Originally recorded as two solo versions in English by Celine Dion and in Italian by Andrea Bocelli for the film *Quest for Camelot*, this song has been extensively covered by various artists since its inaugural release over 20 years ago. Husband and wife, Caleb and Kelsey, join in beautiful harmony to form this powerful rendition of this beloved song. Their interpretations of today's worship songs are unique in the simplicity of the arrangements which allow the listener to hear songs in a more personal and intimate setting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGaY7VQx0y0>

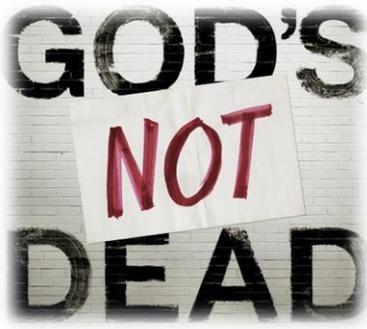
How Great Thou Art (Ascend the Hill)

Sometimes it can be difficult to see God in the midst of suffering. We may feel perhaps abandoned and even become plagued with doubt. It is times like these I find it valuable to take a moment to ponder the true awesomeness that is our God. He is our Creator whom in all *"thy power throughout the universe is displayed."* He is our Redeemer whom *"bled and died to take away my sin."* In meditating upon these divine mysteries my soul is convicted once again and I am compelled to proclaim, *"my God, how great thou art!"* This formidable rendition of the 19th century hymn from artists 'Ascend the Hill' is a mighty prayer that lifts my heart in trying times.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvTaamADIYU>

God's Not Dead (Newsboys)



St. Paul tells us that *“if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”* (1 Cor. 14) We must always remember that in Christ, death has been overcome. There is no sickness, disease or pandemic that can defeat Christ. This song serves as a reminder, as an anthem that *“my God's not dead, He's surely alive, He's living on the inside, roaring like a lion!”* Through the Resurrection, Christ has conquered all sin and daily answers our prayers to *“let hope arise and make the darkness hide.”*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_OTz-lpDjw

Reckless Love (Cory Asbury)

In the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, there are themes of loss, searching, and rejoicing. In times of darkness we may become “lost.” We may become disheartened, have feelings of loneliness, and lose our direction. We may feel a burden to others, perhaps even unworthy. In this commanding song from Cory Asbury, we are reminded of God’s *“overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love.”* As in the parables, God’s love is illustrated as pursuing us despite our unworthiness. *“I couldn’t earn it, I don’t deserve it, still, You give Yourself away.”* Our God loves us so dearly that He allows nothing to come between us and His love. There is no obstacle that God will not overcome. *“There’s no shadow You won’t light up, mountain you won’t climb up, coming after me.”* God constantly searches for us and rejoices when we return to Him!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE>

Because He Lives (Matt Maher)



This song from Matt Maher is another electrifying anthem of the power of Christ’s Resurrection. *“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, every fear is gone.”* Indeed, as in the words of St Peter *“we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”* (1 Pet. 1:3) Let the words of this song inspire those deep convictions of the Spirit that reside within you. *“I believe in the Son. I believe in the Risen One. I believe I overcome, by the power of His blood.”* Amen, Amen!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs>

The Discerner

A column for those discerning a vocation to the Roman Catholic Priesthood

“Practical Suggestions”

There are a number of time-honoured practical suggestions that a man can use to help him in the process of discernment:

Prayer

God seeks deep union with us, and he desires our good. As such, if God wants you to be a priest, he has placed that desire within you. Approach the Lord in prayer each day—through the Scriptures, through the traditional prayers of the Church, in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, in silent meditation—and ask him if this is truly what he wants for you. Then look for signs whether or not this is so.

Living a Sacramental Life

If possible, go to Mass every day, and be attentive to the readings and prayers of the liturgy. Make the effort, and allow the Lord to touch your soul in the process. Similarly, regularly examine your conscience and make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Service

Offering some form of service within the Church is a good way of testing your desire for public ministry. Examples include serving at Mass, assisting with the parish youth group, outreach to the poor, taking Holy Communion to the sick, along with many others.

Discuss it with People you Trust

It can be helpful to bounce your thoughts off a family member or a friend who knows you well. Similarly, your parish priest or another priest you trust can help provide information about seminary and priestly life. You may even want to consider meeting regularly with a priest for spiritual direction.

[Article taken with permission from www.perthpriest.org]



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