



Issue #4
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The Vine

Official Newsletter of St Charles' Seminary,

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



Latest News

- *Redemptoris Mater* and *Saint Charles'* seminaries came together in solidarity to pray for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and to build fraternity.
- Seminarians are preparing for end of semester exams and ask for your prayers.

At a time when many are feeling lost and helpless, Catholic composers, musicians and singers have shared their God-given gifts and talents, offering hope and encouragement through song.

More than 20 performers, including Dan Schutte, John Michael Talbot, and Australia's own Fr. Rob Galea, joined together to sing the beloved hymn, *Be Not Afraid*. Recorded separately in the artists' own homes, the collaboration is a message of hope for this time of difficulty.

Composer of the hymn, *On Eagle's Wings*, Fr. Michael Joncas, said he woke up in the middle of the night March 25 with a "nagging idea." He had been praying about the coronavirus and wondered if music could play a special role in these uncertain times. Out of his prayer and reflection came his new hymn, *Shelter Me*, which is based on Psalm 23.

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



Above: *'Spiritu'* performing *'Shelter Me'* by Fr. Michael Joncas



Above: Catholic artists performing *'Be Not Afraid'* by Bob Dufford SJ

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 first of a two-part series in which seminarians share songs of hope and encouragement to help you through COVID-19. In this part, fifth year seminarian Errol introduces five such pieces. Visit our Facebook page and let us know what you think!

Song of the Wanderer (Dan Forrest)

Dan Forrest is, without doubt, one of my favourite living composers and there is much from his work that has brought me comfort and peace in these times and that I would readily recommend. *Song of the Wanderer* was released to be an encouragement especially during these difficult times of the Covid-19 Pandemic. It traces human experience through the metaphor of changing seasons and proclaims God's steadfast faithfulness in all that we go through. It ends with the well-known doxology 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow' that never fails to move me, but Forrest weaves the doxology in surprising ways throughout the piece. Beckenhurst Press, where Forrest is co-editor, has put together this tremendously beautiful lyric video: <https://youtu.be/kKYIxi5bN1w>



Two Disciples on a Journey (Michael Joncas)

The hymn, rather traditional in style, is inspired by the Lukan story of the encounter of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Perhaps now more than ever before, we find ourselves like those disciples – with all our hopes and fears, trying to make sense of recent experiences. As the hymn retells their story, we are drawn to contemplate the consoling truth that the risen Jesus comes to meet us wherever we are in our journeys of faith, illuminates our lives with his word, and strengthens us with his presence. We are gradually led into prayer as we ask the risen Jesus to help us perceive him even when he is hidden from our earthly sight, and telling him that we are confident in his promise of remaining with us till the end. Do not miss the beautiful 'Amen' with which the piece concludes! https://youtu.be/65z0FHj_3no

***Still, My Soul, Be Still* (Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, and Stuart Townend)**

It is difficult to not recommend a piece that begins with the words, “Still, my soul, be still, and do not fear though winds of change may rage tomorrow. God is at your side: No longer dread the fires of unexpected sorrow.” *Still, my soul, be still* is a wonderful piece for these times. It is full of hope and confidence in God, even as it gently cautions us against a spirit of self-reliance and impatience and reminds us that waiting upon the Lord is an act of faith. I am particularly fond of this rendition from the New Irish Choir & Orchestra: <https://youtu.be/vtBRZIAWw0o>

***Day is Done But Love Unfailing* (James Quinn)**

Those familiar with the Divine Office might already have discovered the Jesuit Priest and Poet James Quinn’s elegant and prayerful text, *Day is done but love unfailing*, commonly sung to the Welsh tune Ar Hyd Y Nos. A hymn ideal for the end of the day, it reminds us of God’s providential love and concern for us, even as darkness descends upon our lives. When we find ourselves lost for words in these times, we have only to allow this wonderful text to speak for us: “Dark descends, but light unending shines through our night; You are with us, ever lending new strength to sight: One in love, your truth confessing, One in hope of heaven’s blessing. May we see, in love’s possessing, Love’s endless light!” Listen to the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir’s recent rendition of this timeless piece: <https://youtu.be/M0O51JiXUog>

***To Praise You* (Dan Schutte)**

Dan Schutte says that he took his cue for this piece from those spiritual writers who suggest that we imagine that we have only one more day to live and imagine how we might live differently if we do that. His response might not be the one that comes most readily to our minds, and it might certainly not be our own response to these times, but it is a response that we need both for ourselves and for those around us. May this inspiring piece of music raise our hearts to pray that even amidst the voices of despair and confusion that surround us, and even when we are utterly overwhelmed by the difficulties that face us, we might discover the strength to sing one more hymn of praise. <https://youtu.be/103vulwgocM>



The Discerner

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

“Signs of a Priestly Calling”

Though the process of discernment is of its nature both subtle and personal, it is possible to identify a number of signs that may point to the presence of a priestly vocation in a man’s life. As an initial guide, you may wish to read the following statements and take them to prayer:

- My relationship with Jesus Christ is central to my life.
- I want to live a life of service to others.
- Going to Mass and Adoration is an important part of my faith life.
- The thought of becoming a priest keeps coming back and won’t go away.
- People have mentioned that I would make a good priest.
- I’m afraid to tell my friends and family that I’ve been thinking about the priesthood.
- I feel called to give more of myself to others.
- After hearing the readings at Mass, I sometimes think about how I would preach on them.
- I have a desire to help people grow closer to Christ and to know the Truth.
- I seek to live a life of virtue and prayer.
- I have a sense that my plans for the future may not be what God has planned for me.
- Despite certain fears, the thought of being a priest gives me an underlying sense of peace and joy.

If some of these statements ring true for you, it may be a sign that the Lord has planted the seed of a priestly vocation in your soul.

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



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