

My priestly Ministry

GOOD NEWS!

NEW BOYS GO BUSH AGAIN is now on our website. Click link on the homepage and you will find it in groups of three or four chapters at a time.

Printing is permitted. A print version is coming.

First of all it is an outdoor adventure. Its setting is politically incorrect: stable marriage, big family, manners, mischief and daring-do.

Its appendices are a big upgrade on those in *Bush Boys on the Move*, especially the appendix on Home Tutoring/Educating/Schooling.

Another project, partly a hobby, is writing more of *New Boys' Bush Rescue*, which is a sequel to *New Boys Go Bush Again*, on the Lawson family.

I'M up to my ears in work on so many projects from which time is lost each day on peripheral phone calls. Requests keep coming in for 'demolition material' to refute trendy doctrine or morals or to support this or that worthy cause. Yet my memory, hearing and sight are slithering downhill.

The project that suffers most yet of greatest import is the *Catholic Family Catechist* (sic) for parents and others who are teaching from the *Catholic Family Catechism Disciples' Edition*.

Yet this is displaced by an immediate need for a new edition of the 1982 *Heart Speaks to Heart Revised Edition*. It might be called the Millennium Edition until something comes up with a better name. The Mass texts need replacing and a better I want translation of the Psalms than the Grail as used in the present responsorial psalms at Mass and throughout the Liturgy of the Hours, i.e. the Divine Office).

The 1982 *Heart Speaks to Heart* itself replaced the original of 1979 (in a pamphlet size), which in turn replaced *Lift up your Heart* which Father Brian Moore SJ produced in 1973 with a reprint in 1974.

All these prayer books preceded my computer acquaintance from 1986, so I have to scan in the earlier material — with lots of correction from scanning mistakes, yet quicker than my typing.

Given my other duties I cannot hope to get in more than three hours work a day and this is eaten into by phone calls (a least an hour a day) or writing answers to letters, all of which eat into my prime time 0900 to 1300 when my mind is not too tired. Sometimes I get up early between 0200 and 0330 if I wake early (lights out at 2000).

As for correspondence, if I don't answer at once, it gets displaced by new arrivals and forgotten. And Cardinal Newman Faith Resources Inc need a monthly *Handouts* for the internet version, while still posted out, three or four, at a time every three months.

The Media

IN the Old Testament, the Witch of Endor summoned up the ghost of Samuel for Saul.

She was called a 'medium', and means of access

to the occult. Our word 'media' is simply the Latin plural of 'medium'. Are today's mass media and social media might be a form of witchcraft?

Mass Media (a sample of a minor apostolate)

To the Editor of the local paper:

BEST TO BET ON GOD

Some agnostics, atheists and other irreligious persons would like everyone to convert to them and thereby ensure peace in the world — an attitude not unlike that of converting others to God and Godliness.

A good test of any religious or non-religious faith is which is the most noble in its teaching and practical results. The more noble the teaching, the harder it will be to practise and the more shocking the failures. Not surprisingly, people struggle with Christianity. We have to love our enemies and those who hate us, and alas, sometimes we find ourselves hating even our friends!

Pascal, who lent his name to air pressure in tyres, was given to gambling. He reckoned it was best to bet on God since we would never know if we were wrong! At least, that's a starting point for enquiry.

Father James Tierney

Catholic Family Catechism

Social Media

(from press clipping service of Father Bernie McGrath)

This sketch about Face Book probably came from it. Its grammar has been edited to help those unfamiliar with its lack of schooling as displayed in that medium. For those of my generation who do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles: Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell a passerby what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom, and give them pictures of my family, my dog, and me gardening, taking the apart in the garage, taking thing apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what everybody does every day.

I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them, and it works just like Facebook.

I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigation, and a psychiatrist.

Father Tierney's Comment (it isn't on Facebook):

Is *Face Book* the ultimate in trivial pursuit — or is it a means of evangelization?

Is it just good clean fun — or psycho-manipulation by demagogues to lynch their enemies?

Is it a healthy develop of Pen Pals — or a Stranger-Danger, corrupting thought, conscience and conduct?

Or it possibly all of these at once?

Is healthy caution required? Should we apply the motto of Jungle Warfare, "Constant Vigilance and Eternal Suspicion"?

Good Old Father Jim

composed for the celebrations of 26th September, 2015
for his Golden Jubilee of Priesthood and Eightieth Birthday
by Mrs Michele Vieira

FR JIM has been a priest for 50 years today
He has taught us all, to worship God
and how to kneel and pray
He has written books and handouts,
lots of letters every day:
Our priest is Fr Jim

CHORUS

Glory be to God for good old Fr Jim (*thrice*)
He is our beloved priest.

2. He grew up out at Beecroft,
went to school at Homebush High
He learnt to read and write at school,
to add and multiply
He went to Sydney uni. then on to Sydney seminary
He learnt to be a priest.
3. As Fr Jim he went to work
in the service of Our Lord
In Penrith, Ryde and Naremburn,
his priestly life outpoured
With weddings, Baptisms, confessions
and his preaching — no-one was bored
They all loved Fr Jim
4. When families came to see him
all upset and all distraught
For they sent their kids to Catholic schools
but the faith was not there taught
So he wrote his catechism and his Confirmation kit
And taught them in the park
5. When it was heard that teachers
did not know the truth to teach
He started courses for them all
so the children they could reach
With the truths of our great Catholic faith
through timeless recipes
Of passing on the faith
6. The Newman Centre blossomed
out of this apostolate
It's grown and grown in spreading truth
in books and pamphlet (*pronounced pamph-el-et*)
With statues, pictures, rosary beads,
advice all given free
The faith is passing on
7. Homeschooling next became the grounds
for Fr Jim's advice
Encour-aging the mums and dads to try was no surprise
He's our unofficial chaplain,
champ-i-on for all our needs
He helps us teach our kids
8. He retired from active ministry
and moved to Tarlo town
He never stopped his priestly work
but grew in high renown
Answering letters by the dozen,

providing all our spiritual needs
He continued being God's priest

9. These days he goes more slowly,
walks with staff and hats and boots
He tells us all the stories of his childhood and his roots
He drinks a pint of tea each meal,
lights fires with one match
And prays for us each day

10. We hope he lives upon this earth
for decades yet to come
Still sharing the faith, encouraging us —
the kids, the dads and mums
To persevere, to do our best to be God's holy ones
He still serves God today.

Media Evangelism Again

ACCORDING TO the old Sunday School song, the
best book to read is the Bible.

So once upon a time a boy [*guess who?*] waggled
Sunday School by pretending to be sick, and offered
to sit in the wintry sunshine and start reading the
Bible from Genesis, which means the Beginning.

Genesis was chock-a-block with good and evil,
ranging from the noble to the obscene, from God to
the Devil.

Some was inspiring. Let there be light. Increase
and multiply and fill the earth. Tend the Garden
and keep it. Not good for man to be alone. Jacob
served seven years for Rachel and they seemed but
a few days because of the greatness of his love.
Lots of parental affection.

On the other hand there was murder, slavery,
masturbation, rape, sodomy, fornication, prostitution,
incest, polygamy, theft, lies, false witness, false
pretences, sibling rivalry, jealousy. Wow!

And life in society. Big government, centralized
economy. A high-rise tower, fire, flood, famine.
Tragic infertility. Remarkable obstetrics and animal
husbandry. Sharp bargaining, even with God!

Actually, it's just like today. All that's missing
is abortion and euthanasia, where we have sunk lower.

However we are also far better off, with a Saviour
from sin, His moral code and power-packages to live
Godly lives.

It's a starting point for enquiry.

MAKING MOTHERS

Nothing is the same as matrimony.

While the word "marriage" comes from the making of a
husband, "matrimony" says more, for it means the making of
a mother.

Only a woman can be a mother. Only a man can make her
so. One young man's proposal of marriage was, "Can you hear
the pitter patter of little feet on the floor?"

No substitute is possible for matrimony. Nothing has
equality with marriage.

It's one of God's greatest inventions, a living symbol of His
union with creation, with humanity, and with His Church. It's
a symbol which makes His purpose present from generation to
generation. Without such a vision, the people perish.

Father James Tierney