

apmn  
australian pastoral musicians network

## Prayer

By Beth Doherty

In the hush  
And silence  
before the candles spark,  
we lean into the joyful waiting.  
A single note rises—  
thin as hope, steady as breath.  
Advent is a drumbeat in the dark,  
calling us to listen.  
The choir inhales,  
and the whole Church holds its heartbeat still.  
We sing not to fill the silence,  
but to uncover what it's hiding.  
Every verse a footstep  
toward the Promise we're aching for.  
Every harmony  
a reminder that light is a chorus, not a solo.  
In minor keys we confess our longing.  
in major ones, our trust.  
And when the final chord dissolves,  
the waiting remains—  
but now it glows,  
because we have sung it into hope.

## From the Editor



Dear APMN members,

As we move toward the close of the year and deeper into the rhythms of Advent, we are reminded of the extraordinary ministry entrusted to those who serve through music.

Pope Leo's recent Jubilee of Choirs homily offers a profound reflection for all of us: our work is not performance, but prayer; not self-expression, but service. Choirs, he reminds us, are "small families" within the Church—communities bound by discipline, mutual care, and a shared desire to help the People of God lift their hearts to the divine.

Here is an excerpt from that homily:

"You belong to choirs that carry out their ministry primarily in liturgical settings ... This ministry requires discipline and a spirit of service, especially when preparing for a solemn liturgy or an important event in your communities. The choir is a small family of individuals united by their love of music and the service they offer ....You are not on stage, but rather a part of that community, endeavouring to help it grow in unity by inspiring and engaging its members."

This edition of the APMN newsletter celebrates exactly that spirit.

As always, we offer resources to support your craft and your prayer, May this season renew your commitment to sing with faith, humility, and love.

Beth Doherty, Editor

# Ask Jenny



New Segment Coming in 2026!

Dr Jenny O'Brien is one of Australia's most well-known liturgists and liturgical musicians. Lucky for us, she is also a Life Member of the APMN!

Jenny will be our APMN Theologian in Residence for the coming year, and we welcome your questions to her on all kinds of sacred music that help us to pray across different forms of prayer. What is a music minister? How does music serve the liturgy? What are some of the differences between liturgical, catechetical and devotional music? Can there be some crossover? If you have a question, please email our APMN newsletter editor Beth Doherty on [Elisabeth\\_doherty@hotmail.com](mailto:Elisabeth_doherty@hotmail.com).

# From the vice chair

*By Timothy Hart*



It is with sincere gratitude and a spirit of joyful hope that I introduce myself as your newly appointed Vice Chair. Having dedicated over two decades to various roles within the Catholic Church in Wollongong, NSW – from Religious Education specialist to Spiritual Formation Facilitator, to my current role as the Creative and Music Ministry Leader – my journey has always centred on bringing faith to life through music and the arts.

My personal mission is to inspire joy and hope, particularly through sacred songs that speak to the universal Church. While I deeply honour the rich heritage of tradition, such as chant and litany, I enthusiastically embrace modern expression and instrumentation to create music that resonates powerfully with today's diverse audiences.

As your Vice Chair, I am dedicated to working with the Committee to discern future aspirations for our network. It is with great hope that our work continues to grow a vibrant national community of pastoral musicians, championing initiatives that support the vital work of Australian composers and music ministers.

I look forward to the journey ahead filled with spirit and song.



# From the chair

By Michael Mangan

Almost 400 pastoral musicians, composers, liturgists and educators shared a transformational three days at the national music and liturgy conference held at the Hilton Adelaide from 1 – 3 October. The event offered a smorgasbord of experiences and formation opportunities featuring five keynotes, six mini-keynotes, over 50 diverse workshop presentations. As always, one of the key strengths of the gathering was the opportunity to meet and network with others from throughout Australia and beyond.

Keynote speakers Rita Ferrone, Fr Ricky Manalo and Fr Richard Leonard set the tone for the conference with their inspiring, insightful and sometimes challenging presentations. Backing them up were the speakers for our popular innovation of mini-keynotes. This enabled delegates to hear from local liturgy and music luminaries, Clare Schwantes, Fiona Dyball, Anthony Young, Gen Bryant, Ann-Maree O'Beirne and Elizabeth Young in 30 minute presentations.

Delegates worshiped together at the conference Mass in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral presided over by Bishops Commission for Liturgy chair, Adelaide Archbishop Pat O'Regan. Evening Prayer was celebrated and each conference day began with a variety of prayer experiences. A wide range of musical styles in the five liturgy and prayer celebrations across the three days drew enthusiastic participation from the attendees.

Another popular initiative was the APMN Story & Song Night of Worship. While it was a late addition to the program it drew an enthusiastic group of worshipers who participated in some well-known worship songs with the highlight being the opportunity to experience newer compositions from a new wave of Australian religious songwriters.

While there are always learnings to help improve future events, the feedback received from participants was overwhelmingly positive with many first-time attendees expressing their gratitude and eager anticipation of the next conference scheduled for 2027.





# Committee Member Profile - Lauren Bierer

By Beth Doherty

From the moment five-year-old Lauren Bierer first climbed onto the organ bench—her toes dangling far above the pedals—music has been woven through every chapter of her life. What began as a misunderstood piano lesson arranged by her mother soon blossomed into a lifelong vocation. By age 13, Lauren had taken up the flute, eventually earning a place at the Elder Conservatorium of Music in Adelaide to study performance.

Despite a challenging childhood, Lauren found stability and inspiration in her Catholic schooling and in the varied Christian worship experiences she encountered with her father. At 17, determined to deepen her musical skills, she saved diligently from a department store job to buy her own Yamaha upright piano and began teaching herself. She became a regular music minister and learning guitar to support the Youth Mass.

Lauren completed her degree in vocal performance in 2005 and married Peter, a youth minister and fellow musician, the following year. Soon after, they relocated to Peter's hometown in Minnesota, where Lauren immersed herself in parish and school life. She taught classroom music in a Catholic middle school, directed musicals, and led worship at youth events. Her time in Minnesota was rich with musical leadership. Lauren held several accompanist and ministry roles before becoming Director of Music and Communications at St Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Mankato in 2014, where she collaborated with New York composer and producer George Maurer on a commissioned songwriting project.

Returning to Australia in 2016 with her growing family, Lauren continued her liturgical and teaching work across Adelaide parishes and schools. When COVID-19 disrupted music programs in 2020, she joined the Adelaide Archdiocesan office, contributing to liturgy, special events, and prayer resource development.

Today, Lauren leads workshops on liturgical music, inspiring communities with refreshed worship styles and renewed expressions of beloved hymns. Her recent achievements include contributing to Willow Publishing's Pilgrims of Hope collection and editing and typesetting music for An Attitude of Beatitude. Her work continues to enrich parishes, schools, and all who encounter her passion for music and faith.





# Scholarship Winners

By Timothy Hart

A highlight of the Pilgrims of Hope Conference 2025 was the presentation of this year's APMN Scholarship and Award recipients. The scholarships, named in honour of APMN founders and Australian liturgy giants Rev Dr Russell Hardiman and Rev Dr Bill Jordan, celebrate individuals making significant contributions to liturgical music in Australia.

Rev Dr **Russell Hardiman Scholarship Recipient: Dorothy Hong An Nguyen (SA)**

We warmly congratulate Dorothy Hong An Nguyen, a Vietnamese-Australian liturgical musician, composer, and educator from Adelaide, SA. Dorothy has served the Vietnamese Catholic Community for over 15 years and actively contributes to St Francis Xavier's Cathedral and St Augustine's Parish as a choir leader, pianist, and composer. She also shares her passion as an Instrumental Music Tutor, supporting the liturgical life of St Ignatius Junior School and St Thomas Primary School.

Rev Dr **Bill Jordan Scholarship Recipient: Brendan Moloney (VIC)**

Congratulations to Brendan Moloney, an experienced musician and the Music Coordinator and Organist at Holy Rosary and St Brendan's Catholic Churches in Kensington/Flemington, Victoria. Brendan is deeply passionate about Catholic liturgical music, coordinating choirs, planning weekly music, composing psalms, and serving as organist for various events. He is also actively involved in the Pastoral Council and Amalgamation Planning Committee, aiming to elevate the communal worship experience through his ministry and compositions.

## Introducing the Emerging Pastoral Musicians Award

This year, APMN was thrilled to introduce the Emerging Pastoral Musicians Award, a new category recognising the significant contributions of those in the early stages of their ministry, especially our youth. This award consists of a fully-funded sponsored registration to the conference.

We are delighted to announce two inaugural recipients:

**Sally Ryan (Recipient 1):** Sally was commended for her extensive involvement and leadership across her college and parish communities, notably her dedicated service to the Cabra Liturgy Band and her commitment to youth ministry through groups like "Revive" and "TGIF." The panel was impressed by her use of music to help young people encounter Christ. We wish her well as she continues her ministry beyond Year 12!

**Simon Macfarlane (Recipient 2):** Though unable to attend, Simon was recognised for his outstanding contributions to music ministry in both school and parish communities, as well as the wider Archdiocese of Hobart. Simon was specifically praised for his strong leadership of the Parish Youth Band, which provided music for the "Life to the Full '24 Conference." His application showcased a joyful enthusiasm to create a vibrant, spirit-filled community.







*Pilgrims from Western Australia gathered together at the conference*

## Conference reflections

### **Conferences as Sacramental Moments**

*By Maureen Gaul*

Conferences can be alluring, facilitating ease of access to the genius of others; however, they pose the challenge to embed learnings and expand ways of working to enrich others. The privilege of attending the APMN's Pilgrims of Hope conference was significant – such a delight to the senses and spirit! – so creatively applying new understandings to new situations was a necessity post-conference.

The enticement of creating experiences for communal voice drew me to ideate a prayer and blessing ritual that was elevated by two sung litanies. In a farewell to some senior organisational leaders, a ritual was composed specially for our faith community of educators. The collective wisdom that was shared by keynote speakers and presenters alike was the inspiration for this dreaming brought to life as a sacred ritual.

An integration of faith and sound, the text and music captivated attentions and shifted emotions. Colleagues were honoured through whole-hearted participation of the audience, such as was witnessed at the conference, as was the brilliance and beauty of sacramentality heightened by music.

True to the conference's byline, it was an impetus for transformation in sacrament and song.

I am grateful for the generous gifts of fellow-musicians who were the catalyst and momentum behind these prayer experiences.



*Maureen Gaul and singers from Cairns*

### **Singing in United Voice**

*By Fr Wayne Bendotti*

What a joy it was to attend the APMN/NLC "Pilgrims of Hope: Transformed through Sacrament & Song" Conference in Adelaide in October this year.

Coming from a rural parish in a country Diocese in WA, we can often feel a very long way away from the rest of the Australian Church ... and sometimes it can feel like we're just "doing the same old thing" year after year.

It was therefore an incredible blessing to be part of the Conference experience: Being inspired by Keynote Speakers Ricky Manolo and Rita Ferrone, and numerous other gifted presenters; reconnecting with colleagues and dear friends from the music and liturgical scene; and experiencing what's new in music for liturgy and worship.

Most memorable for me, however, was the experience of being in the main auditorium with hundreds of other Delegates, all singing together in full voice. For me, this was the Church alive! It was inspiring, moving, encouraging, healing and renewing ... all at once!

If you have never been to an APMN/NLC Conference before, I highly recommend that you book in for the next one – especially if you are from a small or remote community. You will not regret it.



# Conference reflections Continued

*By Di van Tienen,  
Liturgy Coordinator Kingston Channel Catholic Parish Tasmania*

Once again, my husband Joe and I came back from the recent APMN conference feeling not only inspired and uplifted, but motivated and energised in our Liturgical Ministry.

Having been to four APMN conferences over the past years, we find we always come back with little gems, either new music or words of wisdom from our Keynote speakers, or both!

This year, we particularly appreciated the Conference combining Liturgy and Music and came home with a lot of gems; not only from our keynote speakers but our mini-keynotes and breakout sessions.

A particular highlight for both of us was our engaging speaker, Fr. Richard Leonard, who had us reaching for tissues to wipe the tears of joy and sadness from our eyes.

Another highlight would also have to be hearing the news that our grandson Simon Macfarlane had been awarded one of two Emerging Musician Awards. Very proud grandparent moment! As our Parish supports us financially to attend these conferences we always like to attend different breakout sessions so that we can give something back. Although we have been back two months we are still processing all of the insightful thoughts, ideas.

The main drawcard for us in attending these conferences is that they give us the opportunity to be part of the bigger picture on the "mainland". As we are from a smaller Parish in Tasmania, we really appreciate being able to talk to people from all over Australia and create wider networks. And... the singing together, which almost lifts the roof off, would possibly have to be the "icing on the cake".

A huge thank you to all of the organisers.





# The Guitar in Worship - A Pilgrim's Instrument

## Workshop Presentation Reflection

*By Timothy Hart*

The guitar stands as the quintessential Pilgrim's Instrument, a portable and persistent companion that fosters community and hope on life's journey. This image, aligning perfectly with the 2025 Jubilee theme, Pilgrims of Hope, resonates universally—from the shared song among weary travellers in Camino shelters to its quiet inclusion with the official Jubilee companion, Sky.

Beyond simple accompaniment, the guitar is a faithful friend and a teacher, capable of processing the full range of human emotion. Legendary figures across genres attest to this intimate bond. George Harrison called it a tool for authentic self-expression, stating, "I'm only myself when I have a guitar in my hands." The driving rhythms of Chuck Berry used the instrument to define a new cultural identity. Furthermore, the guitar is a profound voice for action, carried by figures like Bob Dylan and Joan Baez to give sound to justice, solidarity, and prophetic change. It compels us to move from contemplation to courageous action. Within Catholic liturgy, the guitar's legitimacy is confirmed when it serves the Church's higher purpose: promoting the active participation of the faithful, as directed by Musicam Sacram.

Being accessible and adaptable, it is an effective instrument for this goal, continuing the sacred scriptural lineage of stringed instruments used in divine worship, thus enhancing its beauty and edifying the faithful.

The guitar's effectiveness is unlocked through intentional musicianship, transforming performance into ministry. Techniques like the power of a rhythmic strum or the introspection evoked by an arpeggio transform into acts of prayer in the sanctuary. By varying these elements, the instrument mirrors the rhythms of the liturgical year, guiding the faithful through seasons of lament and sorrow, toward moments of joy and hope. The guitar becomes a conduit of sacred action, serving the pilgrim heart with grace, and ensuring that the faithful are Transformed through Sacrament and Song.





# Launching an Attitude of Beatitude



## A New Resource for Living the Gospel Today

During the Adelaide conference, APMN member (and your editor!!) Beth Doherty launched her new resource, published by one of Australia's leading Church publishers, Willow Publishing.

An Attitude of Beatitude is a vibrant new resource, which brings together a book, an album of original music, and a suite of classroom and parish tools.

The collection invites communities to rediscover the heart of Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes and to live them boldly in today's world.

Rooted in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3–12) and its parallel in Luke 6:20–26, An Attitude of Beatitude explores the Gospel calls to mercy, compassion and justice.

The Resource Book offers stories, reflections, prayer experiences, and practical activities suitable for schools, parishes, retreat centres, and adult formation groups.

These are paired with song suggestions, lyrics, and creative ideas that help communities engage the Beatitudes not only intellectually, but spiritually and pastorally.

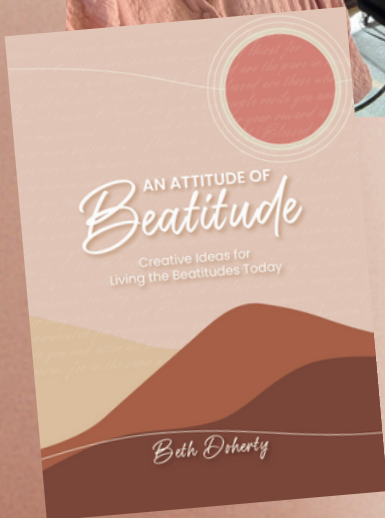
Complementing the written materials is an album of six original songs—**For Blessings Will Come, At the Table, 1000 Loaves, Humble Servant, Take Your Fill, and The Spirit of the Lord.**

Each track reflects themes from Catholic Social Teaching and the Corporal Works of Mercy, offering rich material for liturgy, retreats, youth ministry, and social justice initiatives.

The full Resource Bundle includes the book, music book, recordings, lyrics slides, and sheet music, providing everything needed to inspire reflection, formation and prayer.

With its blend of creativity, theological depth, and practical application, An Attitude of Beatitude is poised to become a valuable tool for any community seeking to nurture a faith that looks outward with compassion and acts with courage. May it help awaken, in Beth's words, "the sleeping giant of social justice" within us all.

<https://willowpublishing.com.au/product/an-attitude-of-beatitude/>





# Life Member Celebration Br Michael Herry FMS

By Sophy Morley



It is a great privilege and honour for me to introduce our newest Life Member of the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network, Br Michael Herry FMS. Michael grew up in a musical household, and there are strong memories of listening to music and being excited and influenced by it. He gained a music degree and had flute tuition at the Elder Conservatorium in Adelaide.

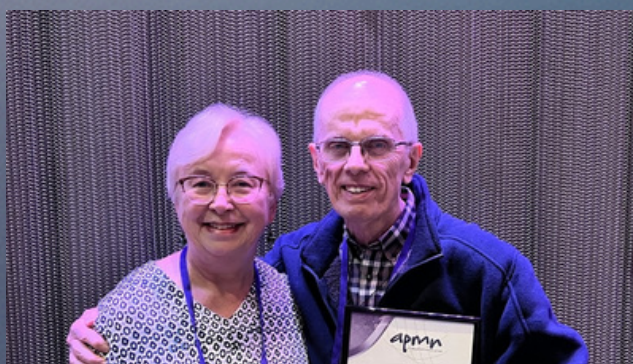
Our Life Member is forever grateful for his Catholic faith handed down through his mother and in his vocation living as a Marist Brother for sixty three years. His passion for music and love for the liturgy of the Church has led him to compose music for liturgy and prayer. His desire to enable faith communities to use sung prayer in worship has resulted in a large collection of beautiful and accessible music, which he has composed over several decades. In his craft of composing, our inductee is especially passionate about using scripture, the living Word of God, as a basis for much of his religious music.

He has had several compositions included in Catholic Worship Book II as well as in published collections from Willow Publishing. All of his music is freely available online via his website Marist Music. Our awardee is passionate about the role music plays in worship and prayer, and writes his music as a means of bringing us to a deeper experience of God, on truly 'holy ground', far beyond the horizon of mere thoughts and words.

I met Michael many years ago, introduced to him and his music by another Marist Brother in a Marist College in which I was working at the time. In 2005, when still working for Faith and Ministry at that College, my Director and I were invited to prepare and lead the liturgies for the three-day conference for the Association of Marist Schools Australia, held that year in Melbourne. We were delighted to be working with our awardee, whom I had met before and whose music I had begun to use. Each day's morning prayer featured the Senior Choir from one of the Victorian Marist Secondary Colleges – Marcellin College in Melbourne, Lavalla College in Traralgon and Marist College Bendigo.

Now, having discovered his music, many parishes around Australia are using his psalms, Gospel based chants, hymns and Mass settings as part of their liturgical music repertoire. The chants, psalms and songs can be used for various prayer rituals in diverse settings. In my magazine, Living Liturgy, it has been my pleasure to use and promote the use of this extensive collection of responsorial psalms and Gospel chants for the liturgical year, as well as the Mass settings and songs. They can be found online at [www.maristmusic.org.au](http://www.maristmusic.org.au).

This year and next will see our awardee embarking on a farewell national road tour to Catholic parishes and schools around Australia before this wonderful man and active octogenarian hangs up his professional hat. I'm sure many of you know by now the identity of our awardee. It is my honour to welcome one of our own Australian Catholic living treasures, Marist Br Michael Herry fms. Congratulations Brother Michael on your well-deserved Life Membership of the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network.







## Good Sams at POH

By Debra Vermeer

This article was published in the Good Oil, and an edited excerpt is below.

<https://www.goodsams.org.au/article/pilgrims-of-hope-transformed-through-sacrament-and-song/>

The recent National Liturgy and Music Conference featured an active Good Samaritan presence, with Sisters and an Oblate hosting workshops in which they shared their deep love, knowledge and experience of the liturgy, while also coming away enriched by the keynote speakers and participants. Four Sisters of the Good Samaritan took part in the conference. Sisters Elizabeth Murray, Elizabeth Brennan and Jill O'Brien presented a workshop together on the Prayer of the Church, while Ursula O'Rourke led a workshop on 'Living the Liturgy'. Good Samaritan Oblate Beth Riolo, along with colleagues from the Diocese of Wollongong's Catholic Education Office, led a workshop on Aboriginal enculturation in the liturgy.

Elizabeth Brennan said she found the conference energising, with "some high teaching moments", especially from the keynote speakers, and the workshops "full of encouragement".

"As I have reflected on the days in Adelaide, I find myself revisiting conversations I had with two young people and one older person who were self-funded attendees to a costly conference. Two had travelled from Queensland and one was from Adelaide. What touched me deeply about these people was their deep faith, their love of Church and their dedicated commitment to serving the People of God in their parishes," she said.

Ursula, who is the Director of Liturgical Formation at Queensland's Holy Spirit Seminary and a sessional lecturer in Liturgy at Australian Catholic University, said the workshop she led, on 'Living the Liturgy' was about "seeing liturgy as a ritual activity, but also a human activity, and understanding that what we do together is in communion with each other".

"It's not just what we do with the liturgy on a Sunday but also how we live it from Monday to Saturday. How do we listen to the people in our neighbourhood, or our community or our family? How do we respond to needs? How do we witness to the Gospel? We have to make it real in our lives."

Ursula said the focus on First Nations cultures throughout the conference, as well as the contribution from participants from Fiji and New Zealand, highlighted the importance of making liturgy a part of the culture.

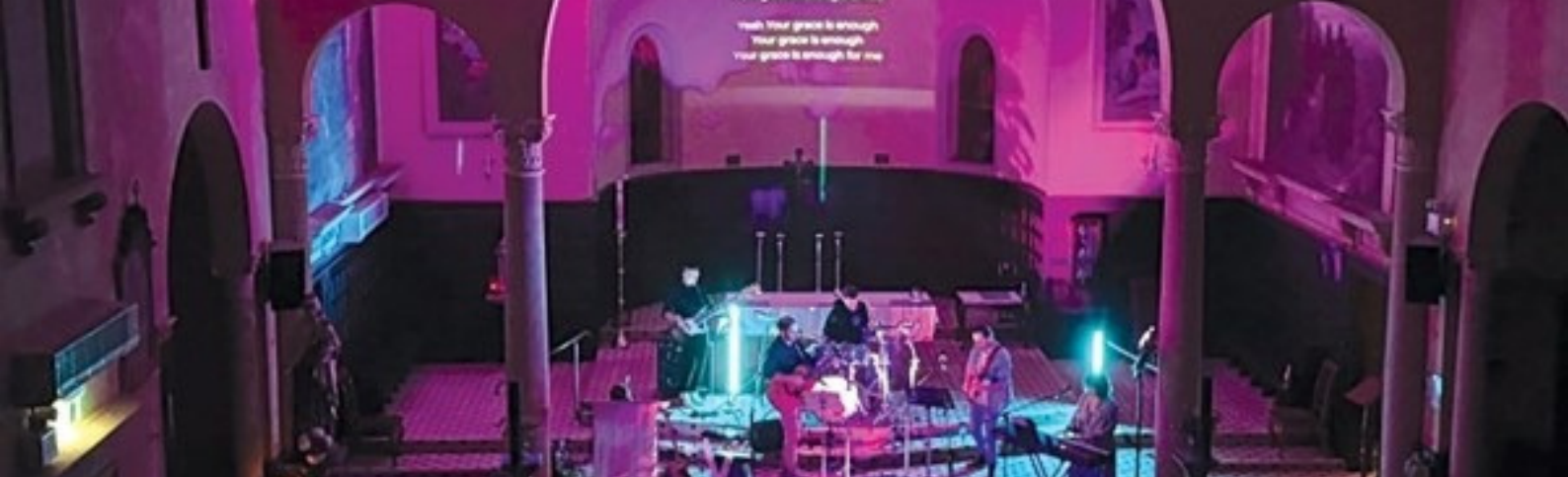
Meanwhile, Good Samaritan Oblate Beth Riolo attended the conference in her role as the Professional Officer for Environment and Liturgy in the Catholic Life, Education Mission Team with Catholic Education in the Diocese of Wollongong. Beth co-presented a workshop on Aboriginal enculturation in the liturgy. "For the past two years we've been celebrating a Year 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduation Mass, which has been an opportunity to recognise and celebrate those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who have stayed on to the end of Year 12.

"We've incorporated a smoking ceremony as part of the gathering and we use a lot of Aboriginal symbolism throughout the Mass, in the offertory, as well as the message stick during the Gospel, Aboriginal music and language.

"It's been interesting to see the families' pride and joy on their faces when they see Aboriginal culture incorporated into the Mass. It's really quite lovely. Our bishop, Brian Mascord, has used local language in the greetings and one of my colleagues, Tim Hart, has written music in the local Dharawal language in consultation with elders, so it was wonderful to share all that in the workshop."

Beth said she found the conference an uplifting experience. "I've attended the past few conferences the APMN has put on and it's always a really nice networking experience," she said. "Being with like-minded people who are looking for ways to enlighten and heighten engagement in liturgy, to make it a bit more accessible for people, is always great. We talk about the liturgy being the source and summit of our Catholic faith, but we don't always experience that. Any opportunity to get together and ask how we can make this more relevant and more engaging for people is always a positive thing."





# Night of Worship: Song and Story

*By Beth Doherty, Timothy Hart, Lauren Bierer*

A spirit of joy, storytelling, and heartfelt praise filled St Paul of the Cross Church at The Monastery as conference delegates gathered for the inaugural Night of Worship: Story and Song. The evening brought together composers, musicians, and worshipping communities in a celebration that proved to be one of the most memorable moments of the conference.

Dr Clare Schwantes, Chair of the National Liturgical Council, praised the event as “an uplifting and inspiring occasion,” acknowledging the work of featured musicians Peter and Lauren Bierer from the Archdiocese of Adelaide. “We’ll certainly look to integrate something of this nature into the program for 2027,” she added, affirming the night’s success and the appetite for more opportunities of this kind.

Fr Tom McDonough CP, Parish Priest of Glen Osmond/Parkside, also reflected warmly on the evening. “The songs were spiritually and emotionally warm, engaging and moving,” he said. “I would love to have more evenings like this, to give composers and performers an opportunity to engage and to offer something to the congregation.”

The concert unfolded as a series of unique musical moments:

- Timothy Hart energised the church with upbeat liturgical anthems, even turning the audience into a pop-up recording choir as he captured congregational vocals for his upcoming release *Hosanna*.
- Beth Doherty offered a deeply moving performance of her original work *All the Hungry*, her piano and vocal delivery resonating powerfully with listeners.
- Gen Bryant captivated the audience by creating a live looping piece—building layers of sound in real time through an overdubbing process reminiscent of Ed Sheeran’s signature technique.
- Lauren and Peter Bierer premiered their Psalm 121-inspired song *I Lift My Eyes* and closed their set with *Dry Bones*, showcasing their distinctive Americana acoustic folk style.
- Sally, one of our emerging pastoral musicians, added her gifts both at the evening concert and in leading morning prayer the following day, contributing through her piano accompaniment and prayerful musicianship.

The Night of Worship blended artistry and prayer in equal measure, offering not just performances but shared moments of encounter. For many, it was an evening that embodied the heart of pastoral music—where community, creativity, and faith meet in song.



# Member's Corner

By Ian Larter

Our AGM was held on 1 October as part of the Adelaide conference. The AGM was attended by 25 members and 8 guests, with a number of apologies being submitted. The executive committee, following nominations received prior to the AGM, is Michael Mangan (national chair), Timothy Hart (deputy chair), Susan Crowe (secretary), Ian Larter (treasurer), Lauren Bierer, Gen Bryant, Patricia Calabro, Beth Doherty (Communications) Fiona Dyball, Angela Gorman, Sarah Gould, Paul Mason, Sophy Morley, and Deb Searson.

## Membership Renewals:

Membership subscriptions recommenced in August 2024, with membership renewals being processed on the anniversary of your membership subscription. If you have any questions about your membership status, please contact us at [accounts@apmn.org.au](mailto:accounts@apmn.org.au), or via the contact tab on the APMN website. All previous members and new members are warmly encouraged to consider joining the APMN. Please go to: <https://www.apmn.org.au/join>. Choose the appropriate membership type, enter your details as if you are a new member, and proceed to the payment portal. This process will update our membership register. LIFE MEMBERS are not required to renew their membership. Full Individual Membership: \$50.00 Concession Membership: \$30.00 Parish/Diocese/Business Membership: \$100.00 With the renewal of our website, benefits of membership include access to our secure membership area that is being progressively updated with directories of previous newsletters and other resources for our liturgical and pastoral music ministry. The secure membership area is also the place to manage and update your billing details.

## Brisbane APMN Members and Friends looking forward to 2026:

The Brisbane APMN Members and Friends group has met on three occasions throughout 2025, with different people and parishes hosting a gathering. The aim of the group is to provide support for each other in our ministries, share music suggestions for upcoming liturgical seasons and discuss ideas on future areas of support. With that in mind, our hopes looking forward to 2026 are to look at conducting a diocesan cantor workshop and investigate the possibility of hosting some webinars, as well as continue to meet as a group. If you live in Brisbane or the surrounding areas and are not yet receiving the emails from Ian Larter about upcoming events, please drop us an email via ([secretary@apmn.org.au](mailto:secretary@apmn.org.au)). We would love for you to be part of our network.

## Useful Links for Further Reading:

Pope Leo's full homily for the Jubilee of Choirs

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/homilies/2025/documents/20251123-messa-cristo-redelluniverso.html>

Advent Resources

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/get-ready-to-get-ready-resources-for-advent-2025>

Why Christmas Music Matters More than Ever

<https://willowpublishing.com.au/why-christmas-music-matters-more-than-ever/>

