



MEDIA RELEASE

New book reveals the beauty of religious faith

***O God of Loveliness: The Poetry of St Alphonsus*, edited by Patrick Corbett C.Ss.R. (Published by St Pauls Publications: Strathfield)**

Events in our times have revealed the darker side of religion, with significant failures by Church ministers and terrible acts committed in the name of religion.

All of this has clouded for many people the beautiful aspect of religious faith, an aspect that has inspired hope, compassion, courage and remarkable acts of love. Over many centuries writers and artists imbued with deep religious faith have produced works of beauty and spiritual insight that have lifted the hearts of people.

A book has just been published that reminds us all of this beautiful heritage of the Christian faith. *O God of Loveliness: The Poetry of St Alphonsus*, edited by Redemptorist priest, Fr Patrick Corbett, provides a fresh translation by Enza Russo of the poetry and religious writings of one of the most significant figures of the 18th century, the Neapolitan, St Alphonsus Liguori. Alphonsus was also an artist and a musician and the book contains many of his etchings and paintings along with other classic works of religious art. It is indeed a beautiful book.

The book will be handy for students of English and Italian as it contains the poems of St Alphonsus in the original Italian and Neapolitan beside the English translation.

The book will be launched at the Italian Forum Cultural Centre, 23 Norton Street Leichhardt, on Saturday, 5 August at 2.30pm. Included in the launch function will be the recitation of some of Alphonsus's poems, and some beautiful music sung by John Stephan, Domenica Riggio and Hannah Natoli. Bishop Terry Brady will launch the book and well known poet and author, Paolo Totaro, will speak. The book will be available for purchase at the launch which will conclude with complimentary refreshments.

The launch venue is being kindly sponsored by Co.As.It., an Italian Association of Assistance that provides a wide range of cultural and linguistic services.

It is a free event, however, to assist with catering, please inform St Pauls Publications (sonja@stpauls.com.au or 02-9394 3400) if you are attending.

For media enquiries and to arrange interviews with the author and translator, contact Sonja van Vliet at St Pauls Publications.