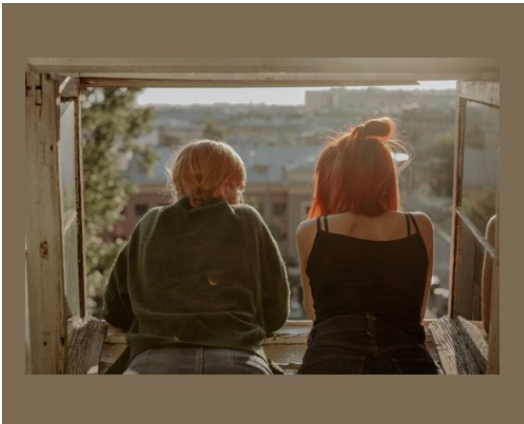




## Newsletter—July 2021



### News from National Chair

I've recently been made aware that Pope Francis has a prayer request each month that is easily accessible. The Holy Father asks that we join with many people world wide in praying for this intention each month. For July, the month intention is *Social Friendship*. Let us join in to pray that in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship. Rita Malavisi

## Annual General Meeting

**Date :** 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 (Saturday)

**Time :** 4.45pm – 5.45pm

**Where :** Online (Zoom link and meeting agenda will be sent out next week)

The time was given to us by those organising AECSD gathering. All Associations and Networks will meet at this time.

### AECSD “Communion in Diversity” gathering

Rita encourages you, if you are able, to join the AECSD gathering 16-18 July (online) [book here](#)



*Original art by Farshad Sanaee entitled 'The Guardian'*

## Lucy Abbott Tucker – Professional Development

Early in June, fifty five CSD Australia members and ten spiritual directors from other networks, joined to engage in Professional Development with Lucy Abbott Tucker. A central theme was Lucy posing the question of the “why”. Why do we do spiritual direction. It’s not an easy question to answer. She suggested that A good way of looking at the “why” is to write our definition of spiritual direction into a succinct sentence. Some participant comments :



- It was a wonderful morning! I'm grateful for Lucy's simplicity and directness (illustrated in her historical outline of the story of our ministry.) . . . I was drawn into moments of the journey along my path - the challenges, the growth experiences, the low moments, the companions along the way, the rich inter-relating with colleagues , with annual conference experiences (especially in the beginning years) .. how blessed are we all!! Many thanks!!!
- Wonderful initiative and offering, looking forward to more events like these. Fantastic we are able to both avail of good PD without associated financial/time burden and also engage in networking and in strengthening our organisation.

## Regional News, NSW

Looking for a peer supervision group in western Sydney. A small peer supervision group is seeking expressions of interest to any Spiritual Director who might be looking for peer supervision. The group meets every 4 – 6 weeks, for two hours. Currently the venue alternates between Homebush and Windsor NSW. If you would like more information, please contact Pia Galea (via email [pgalea7@hotmail.com](mailto:pgalea7@hotmail.com) or on 0423 656 444).

## Rae Brooker Retiring after 40 Years

My time as a Spiritual Companion covers 40 years. All these years I found very enriching and rewarding. I spent many years in companionship and retreat work at Marymount Castle Hill and St Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills on their six and three month programmes as well as retreats at Kincumber and elsewhere plus seeing people in Newcastle where I lived. 12 very special years were spent at the Sisters of St Joseph Retreat Centre at Mission Bay, NZ. Many of these offered multicultural opportunities which I found broadening experiences and I'm very grateful for them all. Rae Brooker RSM



## Kathleen Duffy SSJ Retreat

Drawn to follow the road of fire. Residential Retreat 17-22 October 2021 at the base of the Dandenong's Victoria with Kathleen Duffy SSJ online from the US 4hrs per day. [Details](#) at Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia.



Dr John Desmond Cavenagh died on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 exactly as he had lived every day of his life; lovingly, gently and humbly. In his professional life he worked for almost 40 years in Palliative Care. He possessed a rare combination of intelligence, knowledge, personability, humour and a powerful and unerring belief in the dignity of each and every person he met.

He was a man of deep, gentle and thoughtful faith, who loved his time in recent years both learning and practicing Spiritual Direction. It was a source of great joy and meaning in his life. He knew that all people experienced the love of the Creator in their lives, and he delighted in helping others to recognise and articulate their personal experience.

John loved his family, his wife of 45 years, Christine, and his beloved sons Andrew, Benjamin, Christopher, and Dominic. The love that John and Christine shared created a beautiful, joyous, overflowing love that reached out and touched the lives of everyone they met. Everyone who knew and met John has been blessed by the life of this good man.

[Eulogy from Christine for CSD Australia]

## Welcome to our New Members of CSD Australia

### *Rev Dawn Colsey*

As a semi-retired Anglican priest, I have completed the Spiritual Directors Formation program over the last two and a half years. It has been a rich, ecumenical experience at Bethany in the Mary MacKillop Precinct, Norwood, South Australia. I see working as a spiritual director as a way of using my life experience and recently learned skills for the benefit of others at this stage of my ministry.



### *Anila Isaac rsm*

I joined CSD Australia to be in association with a professional group of spiritual directors. In a hope to connect and communicate with a community of spiritual directors. To engage in ongoing learning and to benefit from up to date resources.



### *Cathy Solano rsm*

Belonging to this CSD Australia community of people committed to supporting and enhancing our ministry is important to me, especially as I am just starting out as a spiritual director. I look forward to getting to know other members and sharing how we can better serve those who wish to be more aware of God's presence and action in our lives.





## Yvonne Harte rsj

I have been a member of CSD Australia for close on twenty years. I recall attending a gathering in Tasmania early into the 21st century when the likelihood of CSD would fold in its then current form. Thankfully, due to the persistence of Brian Gallagher, who co-opted Kevin Hennessy and myself to form an interim committee in order to keep the organisation afloat. Now all that is history. CSD Australia has evolved into the vibrant and creative organisation as it is today, supporting members throughout Australia in the ministry of spiritual direction, supervision and ongoing formation.

I have been a Josephite for over fifty years and enjoyed a long career in education in schools throughout Victoria. I graduated as a spiritual director from Heart of Life through the Siloam Program in Melbourne in 2002. I graduated with a Master of Arts - Spirituality from the University of Divinity in 2012.



Yvonne Harte



Yvonne Harte, Kevin Hennessy, Brian Gallagher  
CSD Australia Interim Executive 2010-2012

My desire to become a spiritual director was seeded when I was working as Parish Pastoral Associate. I recognised the interest in people to share their faith journey. My experience in spiritual direction has been one of deepened self awareness and growth in listening deeply to the movement of God's spirit in my own life and in those I direct. Facilitating retreats has been a precious gift and privilege for me to walk with people in their sacred life and faith journey.

**Favourite scripture:** The favours of the Lord are not exhausted, His mercies are not spent, they are renewed every morning, so great is God's faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him. Lamentations 3:22-24

**Favourite book:** Merton's Palace of Nowhere- A Search for God through Awareness of the True Self by James Finley (1978)

**Favourite movie:** Sound of Music. (I watch it at least four or five times a year. It reminds me of all that is good and beautiful in God's Creation via music, song, art, scenery and love.)

**Memorable moment:** Travelling to the Vatican in 2010 singing hymns of joy with laughter and tears to celebrate Saint Mary MacKillop's Canonisation. A glorious memory I cherish with deep gratitude!

## No Greater Love: The Human Experience of God

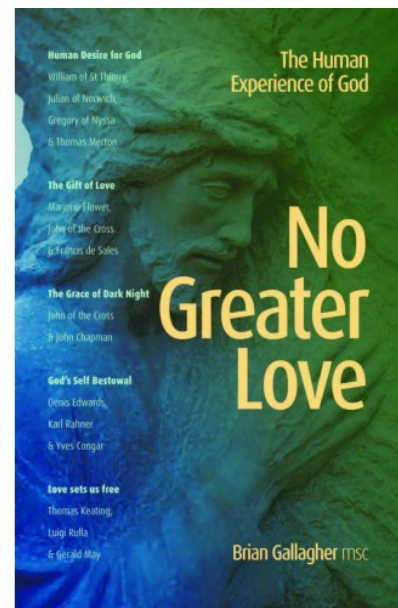
Brian Gallagher msc

*Reviewed by Michelle Vass*

This book is a companion book to Brian Gallagher's earlier work *God's Foolishness*. The author reflects on the lives and teachings of a number of other 'prophets' who have encouraged and inspired him in his own life and ministry. They include earlier classics, for example Julian of Norwich and Francis de Sales, and contemporary authors, Denis Edwards, Karl Rahner and Thomas Keating. In common to all is their experience of God's love in their lives, in joyful times and in painful times. Many themes from the teaching of St John of the Cross permeate Brian's writing. Brian Gallagher has a knack for writing just enough to whet the appetite for a fuller understanding, and yet leave the reader with enough freedom to explore the concepts in terms of their own life.

Michelle Vass is an experienced spiritual director, lay member of the community of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Douglas Park, NSW and for ten years she has ministered at St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park, NSW.

Availability: Coventry Press, April 2021, \$18.95



## See with the eyes of the heart

Christopher J. Monaghan CP

*Reviewed by Tim McCowan*

To be seen by another with the eyes of the heart is a precious gift of receiving spiritual direction for me. Within their compassionate, attentive gaze my shy, wild soul can tentatively reveal its beauty. This heart seeing, less judgemental than our ego's, opens up gifts of wisdom and beauty according to Christopher Monaghan's book. See with the eyes of the heart is a treasure trove of his striking contemplative photographs from Melbourne, NZ and beyond, accompanied by poignant reflections on life and Scripture. Chris, a gifted Biblical scholar and photographer, opens up rich conversations between these "lenses" that evoke new questions of our lives and the ways we view the world. His book (with optional journal version) is ideal for personal daily use, retreat reflection or as a gift for fostering the contemplative gaze.

Rev Dr Tim McCowan OAM is a spiritual director, retreat leader and lecturer in the spiritual life in Melbourne and Manila.

Availability: Garratt Publishing, 2019, \$24.95; Book and Journal Pack \$34.95





## Professional Development

Coming up at [Heart of Life](#) Enlivening the Heart. Coming up at Stillpoint Contemplative Prayer Practices (rsvp 10 July) and Contemplative Listening (rsvp 15 Aug). Contact [Irene Alexander](#) for details and rsvp. Coming up at [WellSpring](#) Deepening in God, Living out Love program.



## Spiritual Direction Formation Programs

**Siloam: Full-time or part-time program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors** Siloam applications are now open for 2022 students at [Heart of Life](#)

### August Intake St Francis College Supervision

**Training 'Professional Supervision for Spiritual Directors Online Certificate Training'** [St Francis College](#)

## Contacts and Dates

Interim Chair  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
CSD Representative on AECSD  
South Australia  
Queensland North  
Queensland South  
West NSW Contact  
Western Australia Contact

**Rita Malavisi rsj**  
**Katherine Blyth**  
**Bernadette Micallef**  
**Carey McIver**  
**Mary Cresp rsj**  
**Margaret Trevethan**  
**Elva Neal**  
**Ann-Maree O'Beirne**  
**Terry Casey cfc**

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[eneale@optusnet.com.au](mailto:eneale@optusnet.com.au)  
[annmaree.obeirne@gmail.com](mailto:annmaree.obeirne@gmail.com)  
[tmcasey@edmundrice.org](mailto:tmcasey@edmundrice.org)

CSD Australia Reference Group Meetings Tuesdays 10:00am: 3 August, 5 October, 7 December 2021

## CSD Australia Newsletter and Closing Dates

Invitation to contribute to the bi-monthly Newsletter of Conference of Spiritual Directors Australia is extended to members of CSD Australia and Australian national bodies of spiritual directors. You are welcome to email Katherine [secretary@csdaustralia.com](mailto:secretary@csdaustralia.com)

Closing Dates : 23 August (September issue) and 18 October (November issue).

### **Australian National Bodies of Spiritual Directors: Acronyms Explained**

Australian Ecumenical Council of Spiritual Direction (AECSD)

Australian Network for Spiritual Direction (ANSD)

Companions in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises (CMISE)

Conference of Spiritual Directors Australia (CSD Australia)

Ecumenical Spiritual Directors Association SA (ESDA)