

Stone by David Whyte

The face in the stone is a mirror looking into you.
You have gazed into the moving waters,
you have seen the slow light, in the sky
above Lough Inagh, beneath you, streams have flowed,
and rivers of earth have moved beneath your feet,
but you have never looked into the immovability
of stone like this, the way it holds you, gives you
not a way forward but a doorway in, staunches
your need to leave, becomes faithful by going nowhere,
something that wants you to stay here and look back,
be weathered by what comes to you, like the way you too
have travelled from so far away to be here, once reluctant
and now as solid and as here and as willing
to be touched as everything you have found.



Reflection

For those of us who have been lucky to travel to the west coast of Ireland, we know it to be a place of rugged, raw beauty. David Whyte, the poet, who has drawn back there many times, was fascinated by the face in the stone placed there centuries ago which he had passed many times but wondered what it meant. Then he saw it was a repository of ancient artefacts and stones, holding all the memories of previous pilgrims. David started to realise significance of the holy ground on which he was standing and acknowledged that the face in the stone was actually looking into him revealing the treasures he was holding within.

There are words and lines in the poem that invite one to be 'staunched', to be still and not be intimidated to rush on. This verse holds many beautiful images and themes for us to ponder.

As I get older and more practised in spiritual direction, I notice how I have been weathered over the years, often in a good way. I have become aware how various aspects of life have shaped me. It is only in slowing down and resisting the urge to hurry the encounter to fit everything in so that I can deepen the experiences into to which I am being drawn.

As accompaniers, let us dwell with this poem and engage with the 'face' so we open ourselves to the invitation of the 'doorway in' to ourselves and to the other.

Tim Moloney

National Chair CSD



Seeking CSD Treasurer

As many of you know, Cecilia Rogers has been our Treasurer for about eight years. She has reluctantly advised me that, given increasing family commitments, she will conclude her role of Treasurer towards the end of this current year. Personally, I am sad Cecilia has taken this decision as she has been a wonderful gift to CSD. However, I know Cecilia has not come to this decision lightly. We will farewell her more formally in a later newsletter.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone from our CSD membership base who may like to assist the association in this way. The position involves banking / recording the annual membership payments and issuing receipts (July/August each year), and paying occasional invoices.

I would be pleased to hear from Members, or someone you know who you believe would be suitable for this position, by 12 October. Please email me at: tjmoloney@edmundrice.org

CSD National Online Conference

Thank you for your support of the Conference. We have fifty people booked so far and look forward to gathering with you all. Just a reminder that the early bird discount will be available until this Friday. By the commencement of the Conference we will send registrants the program, Zoom tips and other conference material.

Membership Renewal Update

Thank you for your overwhelming support of the new procedures for membership renewal. I wish to reaffirm that the CSD Reference Group created the Renewal Form to encourage good practice. It is not our intention that anyone who is currently a member be barred from membership. Our hope is that these measures assist us all to do our part in upholding the integrity of quality of the ministry of spiritual direction. Please bear with us as we address these important issues. I stress again that 2020-2021 will be a transition year and we encourage all of you to keep records of your supervision and professional development. Take care in these Covid 19 times.

CSD Group Insurance Policy for Professional Indemnity and Public Liability

As part of CSD's measures to uphold the integrity and quality of the ministry of spiritual direction, it is an expectation that Members be covered by appropriate Professional Indemnity insurance.

Twenty-two Members are part of CSD's Group Policy, which provides cover for both Professional Indemnity and Public Liability. This Policy renews on 31 October 2020. The annual premium to that date was \$133.

Within the next few weeks, EA Insurance (and underwriter Ansvar Insurance) will provide details of our cover post-31 Oct 2020, and we will contact those already on the Policy regarding renewal.

If any Member wishes to join now or at Renewal, please contact us on email treasurer@csdaustralia.com to be added to the information list. Note that the premium for Members joining part-way through the insured year is pro-rata-adjusted to take account of the join date.

CSD National Online Conference



Listening for the Spirit in Troubled Times

Hearing Our Call in Today's Context
Through Scripture

30-31 October 2020

With **1 ½ days to go**, the *early bird* Conference *discount* expires by end of **Friday 25 September**.



..To register,

Early birds please complete page 5 of the Conference [flyer](#) and make payment by Friday 25 September.

Registration Fees:

CSD Early Bird Member \$160

CSD Full Fee Member \$190

From the Regions

Mary Cresp, South Australia

South Australian CSD members will join other Spiritual Directors at the AGM of ESDA on October 17th. The morning will begin with a reflection led by Annemarie Reiner on “The Cosmic Heart of Love Unfolding”. She will explore with the group the extraordinary Love Story of our unfolding cosmos – the incredible story of patience and love. In itself, this has much to teach us about ourselves and our own striving for results and outcomes in so much of what we do including our ministry of spiritual direction.

Sue Hyslop, Tasmania: News from Tasmanian Spiritual Directors

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and in particular, the lockdown on the North-West Coast, our planned State-wide gathering to be held in this region earlier in the year was not possible. Hence, we met for a gathering via the Zoom platform on 1st August, 2020. Despite the limitations, we experienced a prayerful time together and felt blessed by this time of sharing and caring for each other.

Items of business included the new CSD requirements. It was considered that the requirements were minimal and necessary, to ensure a professional standard for Spiritual Directors. For the same reason, it was also considered that Spiritual Directors should be members of a professional body.

For this time of sharing, there was a particular focus on the ways in which Covid 19 had changed our lives and our practice of Spiritual Direction. Many expressed anxiety for the health and wellbeing of others, particularly family and friends. Alongside this, a common theme was a deep appreciation for the opportunities gained. There have been graced times of quiet contemplation, extended prayer time, opportunity for using technology to follow on-line retreats and spiritual development courses. Many found it a time of deep personal reflection and opportunity for transformative closeness with God. There have also been greater opportunities for activities such as walking and gardening, which in themselves have been contemplative, engendering a deep appreciation of God’s presence in nature.

The ways in which Spiritual Direction has been provided has changed for all of us. Some suspended direction sessions altogether and have just recently resumed face to face meetings. Others spoke of their use of technology such as Skype, Zoom and telephone, to provide Spiritual Direction, or pastoral care where called for. Most expressed satisfaction and surprise at how well Zoom and Skype facilitated direction sessions. Directees have expressed satisfaction with these means of communication and some, particularly those who have had to travel a distance, have a preference for continuing this use of technology.

Gratitude was expressed for the model which our group came to at our previous gathering in March, 2019. It was a co-operative matter, and though we may need to maintain flexibility in how our gatherings occur, we will continue to use this model into the future. We will meet again via Zoom in November – an early Christmas blessing. The Southern group will be responsible for next year’s activities.

Our closing prayer left us with a deep sense of gratitude for our small community of Spiritual Directors, and for God’s love and care for us all.

Sue Hyslop CSD Regional Contact Tasmania is also Secretary of Concerned Catholics Tasmania Inc. CSD members may be interested at this time to learn about the Launch of Concerned Catholics Tasmania Inc (CCT) Saturday 10 October with Francis Sullivan AO and *Around the Well: The Newsletter of Concerned Catholics Tasmania* (Issue 2: 28 August 2020) has just been released. For CCT Launch information or for more information about *Around the Well* please contact please Sue at sue.hyslop@icloud.com .



Around the Well

Carmel and Zena (Bass Hill Hermitage), Victoria

Correspondence extract: We are writing to let you know in the midst of these uncertain and challenging times, we have actually sold our property! This is not how we expected Bass Hill hermitage to come to an end...We would have like to have had a Closing Ritual to which you would have been invited. Sadly this was not possible... We remembered [and prayed for] all the people who have stayed at the Hermitage and those who have supported and encouraged us along the way...We are planning to move to the Mornington Peninsula, but as we have not yet bought a house, God could still surprise us!...We will continue to work in Spiritual Direction and Supervision on Zoom for the present. We will continue to use the Bass Hill Hermitage name and email admin@basshillhermitage.com.au and let you know when this changes. We have attached a copy of "Flame Dancing Spirit," one of the favourite prayers which we used and the blessing (adapted from Margaret Rizza) which we sang in our Chapel for you:

Flame-dancing Spirit,
Come Sweep us off our feet
and dance us through our days.

Surprise us with Your rhythms.
Dare us to try new steps,
explore new patterns
and new partnerships.

Release us from old routines
to swing in abandoned joy
and fearful adventure.

And in the intervals,
Rest us in Your Still Centre.

Amen

Lost in Wonder, Esther de Waal

*May God bless you,
And may God protect you and guide you;
May God's strength uphold you,
God's light shine upon you,
God's peace surround you,
God's love enfold you.
May God bless you.*

Carmela and Zena

For a full copy of correspondence contact
secretary@csdaustralia.com

Research Survey participants needed

Research on Ethical presence in Christian Spiritual Direction: a research project survey

Research on Ethical presence in Christian spiritual direction is a PhD research project, University of Divinity, Melbourne, which seeks to identify how contemplative practice supports this dimension of practice. Implications for the formation and supervision of Spiritual Directors will be the focus of discussion of findings. The research project survey is conducted in three stages 1) demographic 2) interviews 3) focus groups. You are invited to participate at one or all three stages. To commence the completion of a permission/consent letter and monkey survey is required. The letter with link to the survey is available from secretary@csdaustralia.com . As a spiritual director within the Australian context, your participation in this study would be invaluable.

Professional Development for Spiritual Directors

What Does Depression Have to Do with Spirituality?

Facilitated by Kaye Twining

A fresh look at the intersection of spirituality and the experience of depression including: an overview of the nature of depression in terms of symptoms and lived experience; the impact of depression on the human spirit; reframing the experience from break down to breaking through; similarities and differences between depression and the dark night of the soul spiritual experience; the difference between rumination and self-reflection; some spiritual practices which can be helpful and boundaries for such practices.

Date: Friday 25 September 2020, 10:00am to 12:00noon

Cost: \$30 Full cost (\$25 Concession and WellSpring members)

Bookings: [Click here](#) for regular bookings or via www.wellspringcentre.org.au



'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative Sessions via Zoom

Carole Carmody rsm and Marlene McGrath

4 x Thursdays, 10am-12.30pm- 8, 15, 22 and 29 October

"Cultivating wisdom is a sacred work." -Nan Merrill

This series offers four contemplative sessions with opportunities for Deep Listening:

- * to oneself at this unique time in our lives,
- * to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the Hearts of Others, and
- * to engage in a Gentle, Creative response. Come to one or all sessions.

Bookings: \$85 for the Series, or \$25 per session. Please click this [link](#) to register and pay via Trybooking.

For more information, email holsc@bigpond.com or phone 03 9890 1101

Eight-day Retreat

Kardia is offering you an invitation to join in forming a community of prayer during an eight-day retreat while you are at home from 20-28 November 2020. Click this [link](#) for details

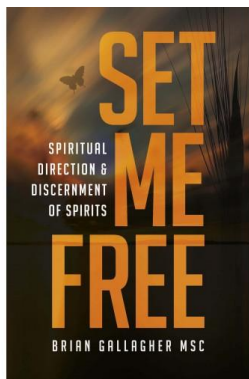
The retreat will be drawn from the book Grace upon Grace by Marlene Marburg. You can make this a silent retreat or a retreat in daily life. You can choose to pray with one or more readings from the daily suggested readings. Each day no more than five people will share on Zoom with a spiritual director.

Professional and Personal Development for Spiritual Directors

Five-day Intensive with Paul Beirne and Michele McCourt - 30 November-4 December 2020

Click this [link](#) for details

New Book Releases from Brian Gallagher MSC



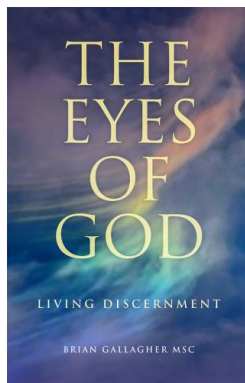
Set Me Free: Spiritual Direction and Discernment of Spirits

\$34.95 Coventry Press 2019

Review by Michael Smith sj

“Brian Gallagher offers a remarkably clear and rigorous account of the practice of spiritual direction. He describes the pastoral practice that is at the heart of spiritual direction: a spiritual director discerning their inner movements while contemplatively listening to a directee. The sacred ministry of spiritual direction will come to nothing without a discerning heart. ... If you are a beginning spiritual director or an experienced practitioner, or one who provides formation and ongoing supervision in the art of spiritual direction, your ministry will be enhanced by reading and re-reading this book.”

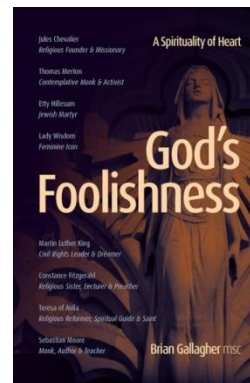
Brian Gallagher a Missionary of the Sacred Heart is a long-time member of CSD Australia, rejoicing in honorary membership now in his retirement. He has ministered in spirituality and spiritual direction for over 50 years. Brian founded the Heart of Life Centre in 1983 and The Cliffs Retreat in 1999. Academically, Brian has degrees in Science, Theology, and Spiritual Direction and a doctoral thesis entitled *Discernment of Spirits: The Corner-stone of Formation of Spiritual Directors*. His publications include *Set me Free: Spiritual Direction and Discernment of Spirits* 2019, *The Eyes of God: Living Discernment* 2019, *Communal Wisdom: a Way of Discernment for a Pilgrim Church* 2018, and *Taking God to Heart: A Living Spirituality* 2008, 2013 reprint.



The Eyes of God: Living Discernment

\$24.95 Coventry Press 2019

This is a unique book, blending personal experience of God and sound teaching about the ways of God's Spirit in individual lives and in community. Human response to the invitation of God's Spirit is often compromised by counter spirits, spirits not-of-God, drawing us away from God. The book studies these different attractions in our lives, their sources, and their power to affect our decision making for good or ill. Brian explains how unconscious places of unfreedom in our make-up affect our discerning choices and how growth in inner freedom is possible.



God's Foolishness: A Spirituality of Heart

\$18.95 Coventry Press 2020

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength (1 Cor. 1:25). Building on his own life and the lives and teachings of a range of spiritual writers – as diverse as Etty Hillesum and Thomas Merton, Teresa of Avila and Martin Luther King – Brian discovers God's foolishness, 'wiser than human wisdom'. He gladly acknowledges the influence of these women and men, whom he calls prophets, leaders, saints, on his personal spirituality, a spirituality of heart.

NB. These titles are suitable for Professional Development reading.

Your CSD Contacts

National Chair	Tim Moloney	chair@csdaustralia.com
Secretary	Katherine Blyth	secretary@csdaustralia.com
Treasurer	Cecilia Rogers	treasurer@csdaustralia.com
Regional Co-ordinators:		
ACT & Sth NSW	(to be advised)	
West NSW	Ann-Maree O'Beirne	annmaree.obeirne@gmail.com
Sydney & Nth NSW	(to be advised)	
Qld Nth	Margaret Trevethan	margtrev26@gmail.com
Qld Sth	Elva Neale	eneale@optusnet.com.au
SA	Mary Cresp	Mary.Cresp@sosj.org.au
Tas	Sue Hyslop	sue.hyslop@icloud.com
Vic	(to be advised)	
WA	Terry Casey cfc	tmcasey@edmundrice.org

CSD Australia, P O Box 171, Surrey Hills Vic 3127

Website: www.csdaustr.com

CSD Reference Group Meetings 2020

Tue 6 October

Tue 1 December