

# CONFERENCE OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA

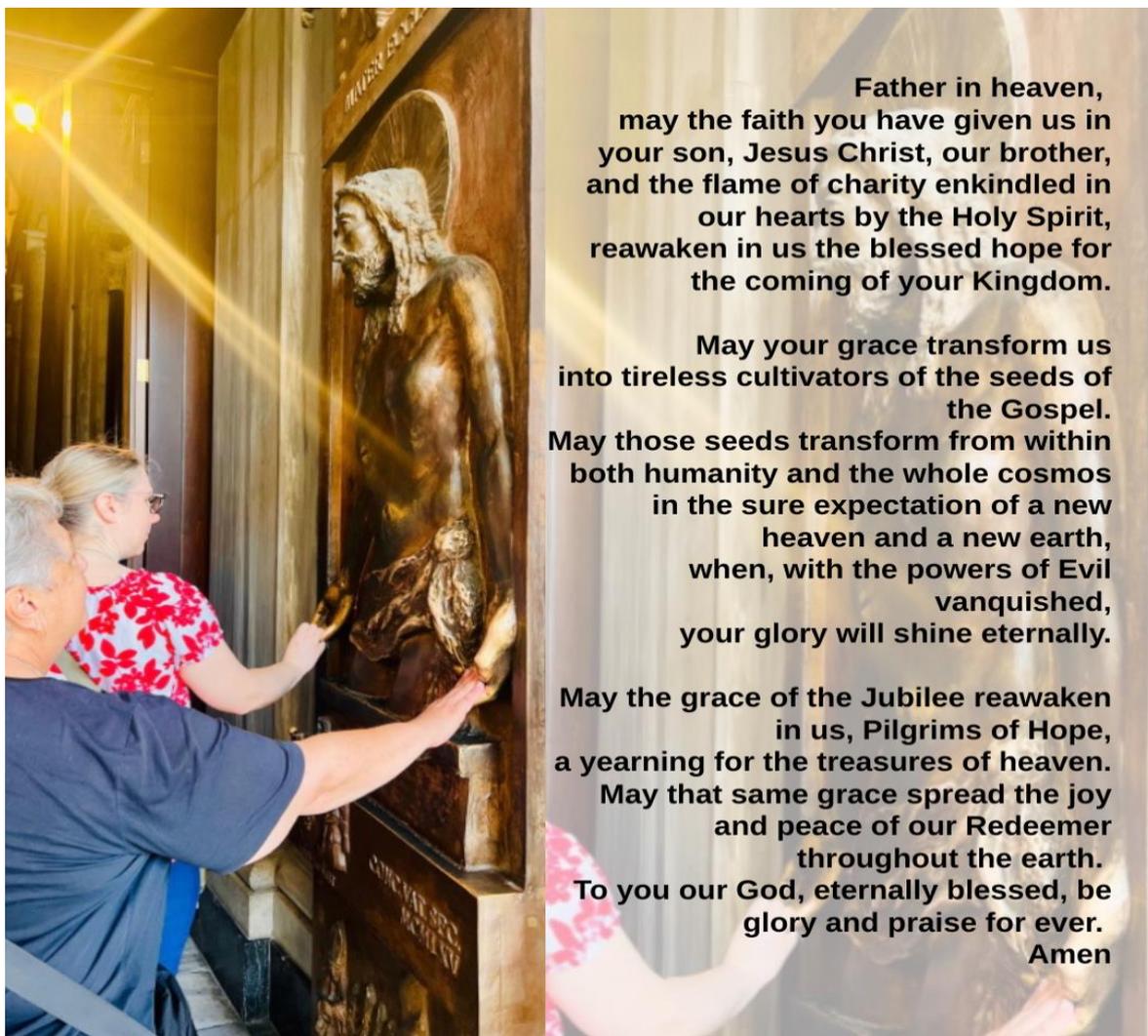
Newsletter July 2025

## From the National Chair

### Year of Jubilee - 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

Even though we are half way through this year, with my faith formation days with school staff groups, everyone wants to have a pilgrimage of some sort.

This year in June, I was blessed to be able to travel to Rome for a Global Gathering of Sisters, and was able to walk through two of the Holy Doors, where I prayed especially for those who need our prayers and hope. I continue to find consolation in the words of the Prayer for Jubilee set out below.



**Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us in  
your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled in  
our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope for  
the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of  
the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation of a new  
heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil  
vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken  
in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread the joy  
and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed, be  
glory and praise for ever.  
Amen**

With every blessing on your ministry  
Rita Malavisi rsj  
National Chair

# CSD Australia News

## CSD Australia Upcoming AGM

We invite you to mark your calendars for the upcoming CSD Australia Annual General Meeting, to be held via Zoom:

 Tuesday, 11th November 2025  
 6:00pm AEST



Further details, including the agenda and Zoom link, will be shared closer to the time. If you have any questions please contact [Rita](#).

## Scam Alert

A few members of our CSD community have reported receiving scam emails or text messages from someone using the name *Rosy Louise*.

Please be assured that CSD Australia will never:

- Send text messages to members,
- Email members to sell products, or
- Request funds outside of the annual membership fee.



All legitimate communication will always come from an [@csdaustralia.com](mailto:@csdaustralia.com) email address.

If you receive a suspicious message, we recommend you block the sender immediately and delete the message. We've thoroughly checked and can confirm that there is no indication of a data breach, your information remains safe and secure. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact [Karen](#). We're here to help.

## Membership Renewal

A heartfelt thank you to the 42% of members who have already renewed their membership, your prompt response is deeply appreciated and helps keep our community strong and connected!

Please note that the CSD Australia bank account number has changed from previous years. Be sure to use the updated details listed below when processing your renewal.

We kindly ask that all membership renewals be completed by the end of July. If you haven't yet renewed, please visit our [online form](#) to complete the process. Need a paper form or a helping hand? Please reach out to [Karen](#) if you need help with the form or have any questions, always happy to assist in any way.

Thank you for being part of our community!



## Membership Certificates

Membership certificates will be issued over the coming month for those who have returned the completed renewal declaration form and paid the membership fee.

## New Member Drive

Now is a wonderful time to invite new members into the CSD Australia community.

Do you know someone who has recently graduated from a recognised spiritual direction program? Or perhaps a qualified spiritual director who isn't yet a member of CSD Australia?



We'd love for you to encourage them to connect with us. It's a chance to share what our supportive CSD community looks like in action and how being part of it can enrich and sustain their ministry.

More details are available on our website, or they can simply reach out to [Rita](#) for a friendly conversation.

## Upcoming Gathering Melbourne

Following a small gathering in May, we're pleased to announce the next Melbourne in-person gathering:

 **Date:** Monday 11th August

 **Time:** 2:00pm – 3:30pm

 **Location:** Mary MacKillop Centre, 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne



We've heard interest in starting another in-person gathering in Croydon. Thanks for your patience as we finalise the details. Karen will email all Melbourne members with an invitation soon. Please note, this is an additional gathering later in the week – not a replacement for the current group – to offer more flexibility.

## Professional Development

What a fantastic start to the year it's been and the best part? There's more on the horizon!

We're currently in conversation with some exciting speakers to bring you engaging, interactive professional development opportunities in 2025. While we're still locking in dates, we can't wait to share what's ahead.

As soon as we receive confirmation from our speakers, Karen will email the details so you can mark your calendars and save the dates.

We're working hard behind the scenes to ensure our gatherings are shaped by inspiring voices and rich conversations. And remember if you have a topic you'd love to explore, or know someone who would make a great presenter, we'd love to hear from you!

Stay tuned it's going to be a great year for learning and connection.

# CSD Australia Members

## Profile of a Member

### Christopher Roga

My first spiritual direction session was a watershed. It opened me to the journey towards God. Since, then spiritual direction has given me invaluable support in navigating life and gently guiding me. I have developed a passion to walk with people, which in my career as a teacher meant young people and staff. In time this led me into the Siloam Program for Spiritual Directors at Heart of Life. I feel privileged to accompany persons on their sacred journey. My sole desire is to help persons experience the joy and freedom comes in walking such a journey of fulfilment.



**Favourite Scripture:** “I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full” (Jn 10:10b)

**Favourite Book:** Too Many. James Joyce’s ‘Ulysses’. The Song of Songs.

**Favourite Movie:** Fiddler on the Roof. Or Men and Gods.

**Memorable Moment:** Visiting the Monastery of St Catherine at Mount Sinai.  
Praying at the Mount of Olives.

### John Adamsons

In 2024, I completed the Siloam program for the formation of Spiritual Directors. Doing the course felt like the right thing to do at this time in my life. I taught in primary schools for 20 years, and have been involved in providing pastoral care in a hospital setting since 2005. They have opened me to the richness of diversity and have also revealed the universality of our hopes and desires. I have listened to people’s searching and have heard where they have encountered something of the mystery of God. Some of my greatest learning has taken place within the mental health unit, with people who can still find hope amid personal hardships. These have been grace filled moments. These experiences led me to explore spiritual direction.



**Favourite Scripture:** “And the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)

**Favourite Book:** “Let me Sing you Gentle Songs” by Linda Olsson.

**Favourite Movie:** “Dead Man Walking” The story is inspired by Sr Helen Prejean’s relationship with Matthew Poncelet, a man on death row.  
“Inside Out” – A wonderful depiction of our emotion lives

**Memorable Moment:** Being able to visit Latvia and meet family members who I only knew through photographs. I decided to approach Riga on a ferry because I wanted my first view of the city to be what my family had last seen when they fled in 1944. There was a mixture of home coming and a deep gratitude for the sacrifices they made as they left all they knew to start a journey into the unknown.

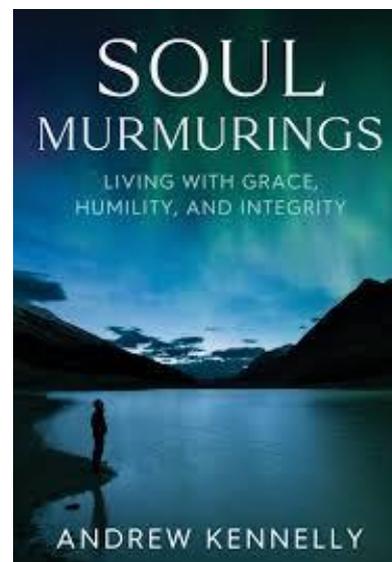
## Book Review

### **Soul Murmurings: Living with Grace, Humility and Integrity by Andrew Kennelly**

*Soul Murmurings: Living with Grace, Humility and Integrity* by Andrew Kennelly is a contemplative exploration into the depths of spiritual life. Through personal stories, musings, quotations, and questions, Kennelly invites readers on a journey of self-discovery and spiritual reflection .

For spiritual directors, this book serves as a valuable resource to deepen their practice. Kennelly's reflections encourage readers to:

- Find stillness in their daily lives.
- Listen to their soul's murmurings, those subtle inner promptings that guide personal growth.
- Identify authentic spirituality, discerning what resonates deeply and truthfully.
- Understand the impact of spirituality on various aspects of life, including sexuality, work, parenting, and social interactions .



The author's background enriches the narrative. With over 40 years of experience in contemporary spirituality, including 12 years as a member of the Franciscan Friars, Kennelly brings a depth of understanding to the connection between lived experience and the inner life.

*Soul Murmurings* is not just a book to read but a companion for those seeking to live a life grounded in truth and integrity. Its conversational style makes it accessible, while its depth offers profound insights for both personal and professional growth.

For those who joined our May professional development, you'll recall that Andrew Kennelly guided us through a morning full of inspiration, moving imagery, and thought-provoking insight drawn from his lived experience and the pages of *Soul Murmurings*. His presence was deeply appreciated by our CSD community, with many responding positively to the evocative imagery he used, the rich personal stories he shared, and the reflective questions that invited us into deeper contemplation. It was a session that nourished both heart and practice. For those wishing to deepen it further this book will guide you.

## Other News

### Heart of Life

Finding Hope in the Grief of Ecological Crisis

Saturday 26th July, 10:00am - 4:00pm

In the face of the ecological crisis we currently experience, how do we cultivate hope, purpose and meaning? This retreat day offers participants an opportunity to share the grief they feel in response to our present reality, while also exploring the seeds of hope, wisdom, and insight that lie within. Through shared experiences, reflection and naming our reality, we will also contemplate new possibilities. The day will draw on the wisdom and practices of Joanna Macy, the Quaker tradition, Ilia Delio & Brian Swimme (BYO lunch).



*Heart of Life*

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

### Films and Spirituality Jesus and Christ Figures

Saturday 16th August, 10:00am - 3:30pm

Films which have long been a powerful medium for exploring deep themes like spirituality, faith, and the human condition. Jesus-figures are direct depictions of Jesus or about Jesus, Christ-figures emerge in various genres, representing characters who embody sacrificial love, redemption, and even resurrection. Film characters who are seen as Christ-figures resonate with audiences because the story of Jesus speaks to universal human themes: the struggle between good and evil, the pain of suffering, and the hope for redemption and eternal life.

The portrayal of Jesus-figures and Christ-figures in films allows us to engage with spirituality in creative ways. Our film-watching experiences of storytelling enable us to reflect on the deeper questions of faith, sacrifice, and the meaning of life, making the spiritual journey accessible and profound. (BYO Lunch)

[For more information](#)

### Contemplatio - Pregnant with Nothing: Apophatic Prayer

Saturday 9th - Sunday 10th August 2025

Santa Casa Spirituality Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria and Online

This course is lead by Kerrie, who will draw on the mystical teachings of authors such as Denys the Areopagite, Meister Eckhart, Marguerite Porete, the Helfta Mystics, Jan van Ruusbroec, the Cloud of Unknowing author, John of the Cross and many more. Attention will be given to how spiritual directors may be naturally at home with apophatic language and create an atmosphere in the spiritual direction encounter that enables apophatic knowing to arise into conscious awareness without limiting its ongoing revelatory power.

Two days full of teaching, meditation, prayer, opportunities for heart dialogue plus follow up sessions.

[For more information](#)



## Wellsprings

A Contemplative Musical Journey with Russell McGregor  
Thursday 14th August, 10:00am - 12:00pm

“Music speaks where words fall away.” — Russell McGregor

Through storytelling and soul-stirring sound, this special morning invites you to reconnect — with wonder, with yourself, and with the quiet magic of music — in a unique experience at WellSpring Centre. In this intimate setting, Russell offers a performance of breathtaking beauty and artistry, and an opportunity to chat with him. Light refreshments will be provided.

[For more information](#)



## Kardia

Grace Upon Grace: Eight Day At Home Retreat  
October 13th - October 18th

Kardia is offering you an invitation to join them in forming a community of prayer during an eight-day retreat while you are at home.

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 the group will meet on zoom for group sharing (no more than five people) with a spiritual director. Upon registration, you will be given simple instructions on how to access and use Zoom.

[For more information](#)

## Eremos Institute:

Intensive Journal Workshop: Our lives are vast, multifaceted and profound

Intensive Journal workshops hosted by the Eremos Institute are offered online and in person. The Intensive Journal helps connect us with this vastness and depth by engaging the process created by Dr Ira Progoff.



**EREMOS**  
EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY IN AUSTRALIA

See upcoming workshops, including our newest offering, *Introducing the Intensive Journal*, a 3 hour online workshop

[For more information](#)

## From Santa Casa Retreat Centre :

Santa Casa, located in historical Queenscliff just 90 minutes from Melbourne on the Bellarine Peninsula in southern Victoria, is a sacred place of refreshment and nurture for body, mind and spirit. Santa Casa is available for Spiritual Directors to conduct retreats, workshops etc.

[For more information](#)

