

From the National Chair

"The season of Lent calls us into a landscape.
Though the imagery of wilderness is dominant in Lent,
this is not the primary terrain
that this season invites us to enter.

We enter Lent to enter our own earth,
to make a pilgrimage into our own terrain.
We move into this season to look at our life anew,
to consider what has formed us,
where we have come from,
what we are carrying within us.
Lent invites us to look at the layers that inhabit us:
our stories and memories, our imaginings and dreams.
This season invites us to notice
what in our life feels fallow or empty,
where there is growth and greenness,
what sources of sustenance lie within us,
where we find our inner earth crumbling
to reveal something new.

Lent opens our own terrain to us,
that we might meet anew the God
who lives in every layer of our life.

As this season begins,
how might God be inviting you
into the landscape that inhabits you?
Is there a space within your soul
that needs your attention,
your compassion, your prayer?
How might it be to open that space
to the presence of Christ,
who knows what it means to enter a difficult terrain,
and who found sustenance and angels even there?"
~ Jan Richardson



Image - Canva 2023

<https://paintedprayerbook.com/2017/03/05/lent-1-where-the-breath-begins/>

I have used the reflection by Jan Richardson with a number of groups over the past few weeks, and find that there is always a different blessing that comes from it. I hope that it may speak to your heart and soul.

Last week, Karen and I gathered with four others wanting to volunteer a few hours for CSD Australia. We hope to be able to spread the workload. Especially with having contact with members, in a pastoral capacity, or just to have a chat with someone, not in a supervisory role.

One idea that came, was to offer “Meaningful Conversations” every now and then. Just open up the zoom, or a group might like to get together face to face.

I’m pleased to see so many new members joining CSD Australia. You can read about them on the CSD Australia Members page.

Of note are the following details about new and deleted members across the past five years. There certainly seems to be continued growth.



Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible this Saturday, for our first Professional Development for 2023:

Rev. David Songy : ***Counseling or Spiritual Direction: Making the Right Call.***

Zoom link will be sent to you in a couple of days.

The leaders of Spiritual Direction Networks across Australia, will come together in a few weeks, for the first time in a face to face meeting to discuss a proposal for the way forward for a National Register - please keep us all in prayer.

With every blessing on your ministry.

Rita Malavisi rsj
National Chair

CSD Australia Members

Voices of New Members

Jennifer Rumbel

As a Kamilaroi woman and researcher I recognise the importance of reaching beyond my own local area and finding the presence of the Divine across this vast country. I also look forward to being a part of a wide group of SDs and the nourishment and support this will offer.



Gerard Goldman

As a recent graduate of the Emmanuel Spiritual Direction Formation program in Newcastle membership of CSD Australia was highly recommended! I look forward to becoming part of the wider SD community in Australia, to explore our journey, to listen for the sense of deep calling to deep within our members, and walking together in this extraordinary invitation to be part of the movement of God in people's lives.



Meheret Johnson

To connect and be in community with other spiritual directors.



Dennis Lim

Having recently completed Stillpoint's Spiritual Direction program, the one year complimentary membership of CSDA is most welcomed. Thank You. It will allow me to "test the waters" with membership; offer me access to an already established support network of Spiritual Direction practitioners; and it will encourage me with my practice standards and accountability in my Spiritual Direction Ministry. Shalom.



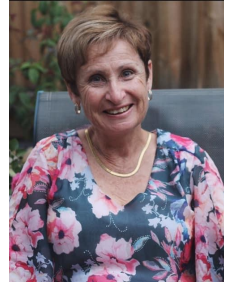
Ruth Payne

I am a beginning spiritual director graduating from Siloam at Heart of Life last year. I look forward to growing in this ministry with the support of the rich resources and traditions of the CSD membership.



Colleen Morris

I joined CSD to be connected to a like-minded community, supported and encouraged by the ongoing interaction.



Mary Hughes

I have joined CSD Australia so I can journey with others on their path to know God. I have trained with the Emmanuel Spiritual Direction Formation Program in Adamstown.



Christine Eager

Having recently completed the Emmanuel Spiritual Direction Formation program, I look forward to connecting with other spiritual directors and continuing my learning with the CSD Australia community.



Tom Thomas

I hope to connect with fellow spiritual directors, participate in professional development events and reach out to potential directees.



Gerard M Goldman

Canticle for Spiritual Directors

**Praise our God
who walks with the people.**

**God calls us forth,
to be like children
fully engaged in the Moment,
freeing people
from the grip of all that alienates.**

**The Lord promised
to renew us
so we might live without fear
and be holy and just all our days.**

**And you, dear friends, will be like
Guides on the Journey,
for you will come humbly, listening, and looking for pathways
for people to experience the Love of God,
to remember they are accepted
and held in this Love.**

**Out of God's deepest mercy
moments of transformation will come,
like rays of light.**

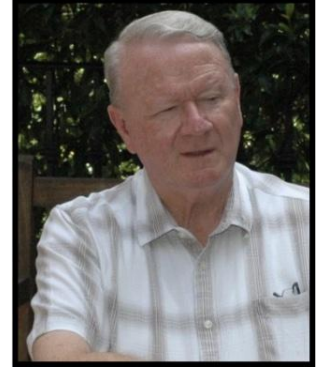
**You will be guiding companions,
on the way to Peace.**

Gerard M Goldman, July 2022

Profile of a Member

Bob O'Connor

A Marist Brother for over 60 years; worked in Catholic school ministry and leadership for over 40 years; formed in Ignatian Spirituality at Canisius College Pymble and subsequently at Loyola University Chicago 1987-1988. A member of staff at Marist Retreat and Spirituality Centre The Hermitage Mittagong NSW for the past 6 years; now resident as from 2023 at Marist Community Marcellin House Randwick.



- Favourite Scripture:** Hosea 2:14: "Therefore I shall lure her into the desert and... Hosea 2:14
- Favourite Book:** "The Little Prince" written by Antoine St Exupery
- Favourite Movie:** Tuesday with Morrie
- Memorable Moment:** Encountering the incomprehensible holy mystery....

Zena Liston

I grew up in Ireland and moved to Australia in 2002. I have a strong background in Celtic and also Ignatian Spirituality.

I love spending time in the wetlands near where I live, as I find a deep connection to my God in the natural environment. Another 'spiritual pathway' for me is music, particularly chants such as those by Keith Duke and more recently Deirdre Ni Chinneide. I am passionate about ongoing spiritual reading, and absolutely love Phillip Newell's recent book Sacred Earth Sacred Soul! (yes, all very Celtic!)

I have been working in Pastoral Care in Health and Aged Care in Australia for over 17 years. I am currently Chaplain Coordinator with Uniting AgeWell. I value regular Spiritual Direction and, for me, making a week's annual retreat is a 'vital' (in the literal sense of the word 'vitae', meaning 'life-giving') contemplative pause in the year.



- Favourite Scripture:** In God alone is my soul at rest. PS 62
- Favourite Book:** Hard to pick! Joyce Rupp's classic "May I have this dance?" but also the latest Dervla Mc Tiernan detective novels!
- Favourite Movie:** The First Wives Club
- Memorable Moment:** Holiday in the Swiss Alps many moons ago - hiking, eating wild berries and swimming in very icy waters!

Robert Aitken

A Marist Brother with over fifty years' experience in Australian Marist schools and Communities, I am currently a member of the Hermitage Community at Mittagong. I qualified as a Spiritual Director having graduated in 2019 from the Listen into Life Program. I am now involved with Spiritual Direction and Accompaniment at Mittagong including local retreats. I am also involved with Accompaniment at a number of schools in Sydney and the Campbelltown area. My experiences as Community Leader over recent years have helped form me in accompanying others on their life journey.



Favourite Scripture: Numbers 6:24-26. May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favour and give you his peace.

Favourite Book: I have enjoyed too many to make a choice.

Favourite Movie: Sound of Music

Memorable Moment: I used to be a member of the Sydney Philharmonia Festival Chorus. Being so close to professional orchestras, wonderful, talented musicians and performing great works from the musical repertoire, such as Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" from his Ninth Symphony, was always a time of sheer wonder and delight. Photo is a more recent one of me, as Cantor, at our first Mass for 2023 at Bowral Parish Church.

Theresa Foley

I have been nursing in country NSW for 35 years. Graduated from Sydney Centre of Religious Development (McKillop Place) in 2000. Nursed HIV clients in Ethiopia & South Africa for nine years. I am now Semi- Retired in Griffith (Riverina). I am pleased to offer Spiritual Direction to people in the country. I facilitate Lenten & Gospel reflection groups, & provide pastoral care to the Base Hospital.



Favourite Scripture: I have come that You may have life and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

Favourite Book: Most gripping. "Not without My Daughter."

Favourite Movie: Shadowlands

Memorable Moment: In mid 90's I flew to Ethiopia. Stopping at Sth Africa, Kenya & Addis as airport searches got worse. Bring kept in Addis airport without the Birr for airport tax.

Angel Lam

I am an associate professor and the Dean of Counseling Studies and Ministry in a Lutheran Theological Seminary. Moreover, I am a Registered Clinical Psychologist, Supervisor and Senior Counselor as well as a Spiritual Director in Companion LeShalom Centre in Hong Kong. My spiritual training and practice are based on Ignatius spiritual full exercise practice. I have kept studying in spiritual formation and Spiritual direction. I have attended different retreat camps, practiced and given the full spiritual exercise as well. I was called to be a companion to walk with people in their spiritual journey. During my spiritual journey as well as the journey with my directees, I have experienced God's grace and love a lot. I can provide spiritual direction sessions in Cantonese, Mandarin and English as well.



Favourite Scripture: Psalm 34:8 "O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him."

Favourite Book: God of Surprises

Favourite Movie: None at the moment

Memorable Moment: Jesus told me that "I am the one who takes care of your little girl as well as you."

Val De Brenni

As a Spiritual Director I feel a sense of awe and wonder when I companion someone on their spiritual journey. It is such a privilege to witness God acting in the life of that person. When I first discovered spiritual direction it felt like 'coming home'. Years later when asked to be Director of the Archdiocese of Adelaide Spiritual Directors' Formation Program I was happy to take on that ministry. Today, alongside giving spiritual direction, facilitating retreats and offering supervision, that is my focus. My background is in education and I have been an educator to primary students beginning their school journey, teachers in training and seminarians preparing for ordination.

Things in life that bring me joy and a sense of fulfilment include time spent with my husband, children, grandchildren and friends, a covenant relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph, being in creation, listening to music, drawing and playing chess.



Favourite Scripture: Isaiah 43: 1-2 'I have called you by your name.....You are mine'

Favourite Book: As an avid reader I don't have a favourite book but I often return to Sadhana: A way to God by Anthony De Mello

Favourite Movie: Billy Elliot

Memorable Moment: Feeling my newborn daughter clasp my finger and experiencing an overwhelming sense of what it means to love and be loved.

Ann Morrison

I have a passion for inviting people to deepen their relationship with God through my Josephite ministry of Spiritual Companionship and retreat facilitation. I love to experience the amazement when folk make the connection that we truly are Spiritual Beings having a very human experience here upon this earth. To walk with beautiful people who come to recognise that God is walking with us is a real joy and a deep 'soul' experience.



Favourite Scripture: Matthew 11: 28-30 "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Favourite Book: The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy

Favourite Movie: I don't really have a favourite movie, but love stories from Vera, Call the Midwife and the like

Memorable Moment: I love to walk and spend time in special places like my garden and the Mountains. Another place that allows me to pray for friends, family and ministry people is the beautiful Cascades near my home, which gives enjoyment to all of creation, especially after a heavy fall of rain.

Terry Fanning

I was born and raised in Waterford, Ireland. One of seven children. I began my nursing career in London with a short spell in the middle east before coming to Australia. I am married and John and I have four daughters and seven grandchildren.

My spiritual direction ministry began when I made The Spiritual Exercises in daily life and fell in love with Ignatian Spirituality. Since completing my formation in spiritual direction and giving the Spiritual Exercise, and taking out a Masters in Spiritual Direction I have been ministering in this field working with students in formation, supervision, spiritual direction and giving the Exercises through Campion and more recently JISA.



Favourite Scripture: 1 Samuel: 1-28

Favourite Book: To Kill a Mocking -Bird. by Harper Lee

Favourite Movie: 'Hook' with Robin Williams

Memorable Moment: Seeing a whale beached off the coast Broome WA.

Anita Brennan

I am Anita Brennan, Good Samaritan Sister living in Eastwood, Sydney. My ministry currently involves Spiritual Direction and Retreat work. In the past I have also been engaged in education and social work, pastoral care and leadership. I have companioned people spiritually during the past 30 years, with the aim of listening deeply as their journey in the Spirit unfolds – through their experiences, feelings and their prayer. I look forward to journeying with whoever needs a spiritual companion. I love animals and nature, and my hobbies are reading, especially books that trace the history of our country, or the lives of significant people. I also love gardening and music.



Favourite Scripture: John 4: 1-45 The woman at the Well

Favourite Book: To many to select one, enjoy books that trace the history of Australia

Favourite Movie: No particular favourite movie

Ann Vogt

I consider that I am a very blessed woman, married to Jim for 48 years, and mother to 6 adult children who have collectively given birth to 8 beautiful grandchildren. Aside from my busy life hosting family meals, doing child minding and taking part in family celebrations, I am busy helping run Stillpoint Spiritual Direction Formation courses in Brisbane and journeying with pilgrims in spiritual direction. To draw strength and deep quiet I spend time in our home garden and in prayer, enjoying the variety of birdlife, with their drinking and cavorting around the bird bath and delighting in their joyful song. Apart from formal study in Psychology, and counselling and working in pastoral care in a hospital setting I have been involved in music ministry with Jim for 50 years in each Catholic parish in which we have been living. It is from the richness of contemplative prayer, marriage and family life and pastoral work in caring and serving that I feel that I have been equipped and privileged to listen, to serve and to love pilgrims into new life through spiritual direction.



Favourite Scripture: John 17: 20-21

Favourite Book: The Letters and Diaries of ETTY HILLESUM 1941-1943

Favourite Movie: The Mission

Memorable Moment: My memorable moment involved talking to a young stranger in Brisbane as he came out of his garden gate, about the ferns that grew in his front garden. David shared that he knew nothing about ferns, that he was renting and that his landlord was a kind man. And from there he told me the story of his past life, his current illness and his concerns about a decision that he had to make that he feared. He said that he had always sought the counsel of a wise nun who ran a halfway house in Sydney, but sadly she had died. Having a sense of the wisdom still available to him I encouraged him to share his thoughts with her, and assured him that he would know what to decide. As I was leaving he exclaimed in wonder that he had told me the story of his life. I knew that the Spirit had been weaving our life together for our mutual blessing.

Tribute

Vale Lynette Pearce rsj

by Rita Malavisi rsj

Everyone knew Lynette as “Lynnie”. October 1938 - Nov 2022

I came to know Lynette on a Josephite Journeying Retreat in 2010 – where the different Congregations of the Sisters of St Joseph, came together to share the original story and founding of the Sisters through contemplation, reflection and sharing. For the last couple of years she was my supervisor. Many have spoken about her goodness and kindness, her loving care and support and her joy in living and sharing. Her priority was to the ones that needed her support and care, whoever they were and wherever they were.

Lynette’s commitment to the person of Jesus was front and centre in her life. Through her many years as a Sister of St Joseph of Lochinvar, she was a teacher, caring for boarders, pastoral associate, spiritual director, adult faith formator and supervisor. Some years ago, Lynette was interviewed for an article in an Australian magazine, which was aptly titled “Dancing with the creator”. She spoke often about the symbol of dancing in terms of the Trinity. God being the dance, Jesus being the dancer, and the Holy Spirit dancing in us. For Lynette this image of the Trinity was inclusiveness, about community, loving relationships and freedom.

She was convinced that others providing formation and spiritual direction had the necessary training, and committed herself to that. Lynette was instrumental in setting up an ecumenical four year course for training for spiritual direction. When asked what she looked forward to, Lynette would cite Teresa of Avila: God and the soul have fruition of each other, in the deepest silence. RIP Lynnie

Vale Marie Williams rsm

by Marg Trevethan

Those of us who have been friend, family, colleague or community to Marie celebrated her 90th Birthday in great style only late last year. What a party! It was a time of joyful gratitude for all that her life had been and I thought her one last hurrah. But no, while she accepted very calmly and inspirationally that her life here was ending, she then went on to plan a most wonderful funeral celebration for us all which was held here in Townsville on 15th December. Marie wrote her own “Words of Thankful Remembrance” for that occasion. She writes “the heart of the home in my very early years was the kitchen, and the heart of the kitchen was the first in the old wood-stove”. The fire-place of the heart was important to Marie. In her family, in the Sisters of Mercy, as a missionary and in PNG, in WA, also with the homeless, the refugees, and for the seekers of spirituality, and to the earth - all these became for her the fire-place of her heart. Stories of her life are also beautifully crafted in her last Poetry book, "Softly Shines This Love". Remembering a great woman of God, with much love and friendship.

CSD Australia Professional Development

You are welcome to join all or any of the monthly sessions planned for 2023. There is no cost or need for members to book. A zoom link will be sent to all members in the preceding week. If you would like a friend to join, who is a non member - please see the trybooking link below.

Counseling or Spiritual Direction: Making the Right Call with Rev. David Songy

Saturday March 11th 9.30am - 11.00am (AEDT)

Occasionally we are confronted with the struggle whether a person requires the help of a spiritual director or a therapist. Many issues have both psychological and spiritual components, and discerning the best means of support requires a particular expertise.

Rev. David Songy, O.F.M.Cap., S.T.D., Psy.D., a licensed clinical psychologist and spiritual director, explores the unique benefits of psychological counseling and spiritual direction and offers strategies for choosing an appropriate path of support and treatment.



Up until this month, David Songy was the Director of St. Luke's Institute, Boston. He has held a variety of leadership and teaching roles such as Director of Counseling Services at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, and professor of pastoral and spiritual theology at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, CO. Fr. Songy holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Denver and a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Institute of Spirituality of the Teresianum in Rome. He speaks Italian, Spanish and Tok Pisin, the language of Papua New Guinea.

ONLINE ZOOM GATHERING

COUNSELING OR SPIRITUAL DIRECTION: MAKING THE RIGHT CALL

SPEAKER
REV. DAVID SONGY

SATURDAY | **TIME**
11 MARCH | **9:30 AM**
(AEDT)



FOR ALL MEMBERS LINK WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO YOU

NON MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN AND BOOK THROUGH TRYBOOKING.
COST IS \$20 PER SESSION FOR NON MEMBERS.

[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/CGGDV](https://www.trybooking.com/CGGDV)

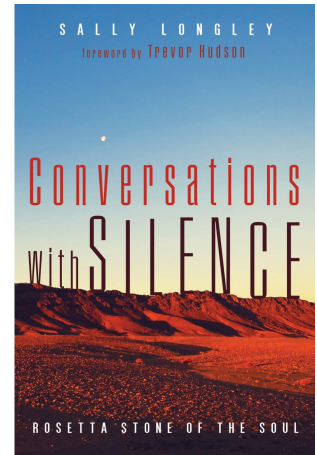


Non members are welcome to join and book through [trybooking](https://www.trybooking.com/CGGDV). Cost is \$20 for non members.

Book Review

***“Conversations with Silence: Rosetta Stone of the Soul”* by Sally Longley**
Reviewed by Maureen O’Halloran : Riverina, New South Wales

Conversations with Silence, ‘oxymoron’? I wondered as I picked up Sally Longley’s book. ‘Or perhaps paradox’? The title piqued my curiosity, and I’m glad it did – it offers some treasures. The book traverses several landscapes: part memoir and part teaching, it offers an earthy vocabulary for the ‘language’ of silence. Sally deftly traverses an ecumenical and inter-faith perspective, and also draws heavily on Christian Mystical Tradition. Examining various ‘types’ of silence, Sally looks at the Hebrew concept of Selah, a ‘sacred pause’ referred to in the Psalms. Selahs - ‘tiny houses of time’; the briefest of silences that create small spaces for God (p.93). This is welcome news for those who, for whatever reason, find extended periods of silence impossible. Sally Japanese concept of Ma – an ‘emptiness’ that is full of possibility. Ma requires a sacred seeing of the gaps ‘in-between’ structures, tree branches, notes of music or ... (the possibilities are endless). Those interested in feminist theology, and the theology of Icons will appreciate this work. Opportunity is given for reflection throughout. This practical book finds small and big ways to engage with silence, and so enrich awareness of God’s permanent presence. It would be useful to spiritual directors, particularly those engaged in retreat work.



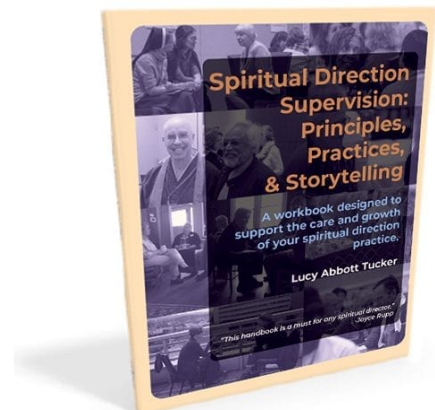
“Spiritual Direction Supervision: Principles, Practices, Storytelling”
by Lucy Abbott Tucker
Reviewed by David King : Sydney, New South Wales

A wonderful resource for experienced and emerging Spiritual Directors alike. I admire authors who frame ordinary situations of life in descriptive language. For example “companionable silence” has always stayed with me as a beautiful description of genuine friendship. Also apt in Spiritual Direction when Directee and Director are drawn to sit in silence with the Divine.

Other qualities I admire are original thought plus an ability to name elements of life we intuit but cannot adequately describe. Then an author comes along and we say, “yes, that’s it! “

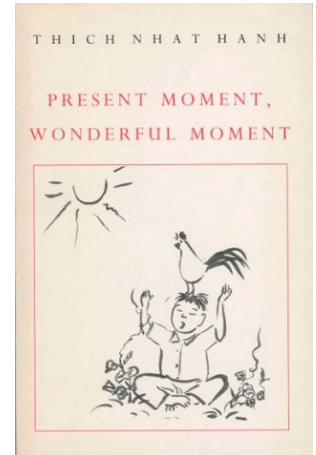
Lucy Abbott Tucker has such gifts with language and ability to name, plus she has many helpful and workable suggestions in her self described workbook. Add gems of originality which cause one to stop and stay awhile. It is no surprise as one of her personal stories concludes, “dare to have independent thoughts, listen to the stories of your life. Allow yourself to become the spiritual director and supervisor that lives within you, and is your gift to the world.”

There is much to recommend and it will be a valuable resource to retain.



“Present Moment, Wonderful Moment” by Thich Nhat Hanh
Reviewed by Fran Smullen : Sandhurst, Victoria

Thich Nhat Hanh, Dhyana Master, and revered Zen Buddhist monk, died in January last year. He is well-known for his many books, activism, meditation, and mindfulness teaching. *Present Moment, Wonderful Moment* is a collection of short four-line verses (in Sanskrit Gathas) written by Thich Nhat Hanh which seeks to engage readers in mindfulness and meditation practice. The book has five sections presenting Verses for Starting the Day, Meditation, Eating Mindfully, Daily Activities and Entering the Ultimate Dimension. Each Gatha is accompanied by a teaching from Thich Nhat Hanh. He encourages the daily use of gathas to cultivate awareness that allows us to “see beauties and wonders right before our eyes.” He invites readers to compose their own gathas to suit their circumstance. Why I bought this book? It is a simple but reflective introduction to Zen Buddhism and mindfulness, casual and accessible for those interested in developing their practice of mindfulness. From the first section, Verses for Starting the Day.



13. Washing Our Hands
Water flows over these hands.
May I use them skilfully
To preserve our precious planet.

“Our beautiful Earth is endangered. We are exhausting her resources and polluting her rivers, lakes, and oceans, destroying the habitats of many species, including our own. We are destroying the forests, the soil, the ozone layer, and the air. Because of our ignorance and fears, our planet may be destroyed as an environment that is hospitable to human life,

The Earth stores water, and water gives life. Observe your hands as the water runs over them.
Do you have clear insight to preserve and protect this beautiful planet, our Mother Earth?”

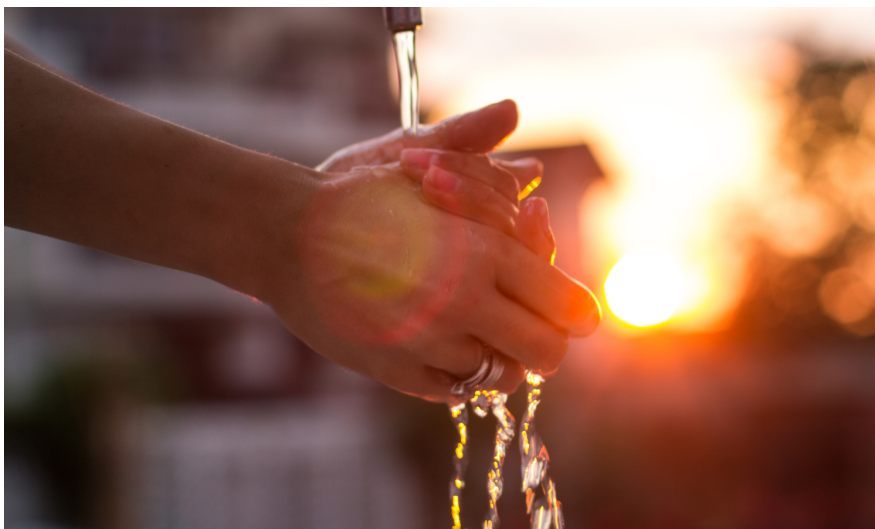


Image – Canva 2023

AECSD News



Australian Ecumenical Council for
Spiritual Direction

Serving the Spiritual Direction
Community of Australia

What's happening in AECSD?

Irene Alexander with Anne Pate, Maria McCormack and George Warren

AECSD (Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction) has been termed a holding bowl. In a similar way that the spiritual direction space is a holding space for the pilgrim to explore and reflect, AECSD seeks to hold a space for the Australian spiritual direction community. We see AECSD as Custodians of the well-being of the ministry at large in Australia. We hold the past, we cultivate and guard the present and we seek to hold a prophetic stance as we imagine the future.

Website

AECSD is about to have a new website. It lists spirituality centres, and spiritual direction formation courses – both those that have been recognised by AECSD and others. Cathie Lambert has been working on the website which is soon to be launched.



Supervision

With a present concern for supervision, formation programs in spiritual direction supervision are being developed either as part of spiritual direction formation programs or as separate qualifications.

Anne Pate and Liz Palmer set up the supervision working group along with Marg Trevethan, Val de Brenni and Lynette Dungan (and more recently Clare Shearman and Beth Robertson) who prepared a document describing rationale/philosophy, recommended attributes of supervisors and resources. These were distributed to the spiritual direction community who were then invited to a two-day online workshop in August to give feedback on what has been developed so far, to gather ideas to help shape the next phase of the Guidelines and to reflect on what good supervision formation should include.



An important question that came out of the gathering was the question of whether individual supervisors will be recognised or whether it will be supervision formation programs which are recognised. It appears that the present need is for recognition of pathways to becoming a spiritual direction supervisor.

A Spiritual Direction Register

While AECSD has been seen as a holding bowl for the spiritual direction community, more recently the leaders of the national associations in Australia – ANSD (Australian Network for Spiritual Direction, CSD (Conference of Spiritual Directors), and Companions (Companions in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises) and AECSD have begun meeting regularly to share vision and experiences.

From this group was formed a working group for the exploration of the possibility of a register of spiritual directors. In a statement concerning the purpose of the register the working group have said: “In an expression of care and concern for the communities in which we live and the directees who may come to us for guidance, we believe the provision of a register which seeks to list competent spiritual directors, who protect the confidentiality of their directees and offer them compassion, is vital.”



In a process of development of the register, seeking to involve the spiritual direction community, spiritual directors were invited to take part in small group Discernment Circles to imagine the possibility of a national register that would best serve the needs especially of those seeking spiritual direction. The reports from those discussions were then collated by the working group and distributed to all those who had taken part. There was discussion around whether the register should be a regulatory body or a listing, about whether it would be a one-size-fits-all – or have different levels, about what qualifications or qualities allowed someone to be on the register etc.

The working group have now proposed a model of what the register may be. This will be open to ongoing input but a present summary is that the register would list: name, location, contact, particular interest, and optionally photograph, spiritual tradition, and availability in person/online etc. While all spiritual directors can apply to be on the register, the register would check qualifications and ongoing professional development and supervision in cooperation with the spiritual direction associations. This model has been distributed to spiritual directors for comment.

Other News



Congratulations to Heart of Life Celebrating 40 Years

CSD Community extends their congratulations to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual and Pastoral Formation on celebrating 40 years. Touching many lives who have been blessed to be part of the journey.

Clare Shearman, director, expresses it a better way saying “Aging is a process of acceptance, adaptation and living life as fully as we can, to be who God created us to be – His Heart on earth. We are excited for our next 40 years and to have you along on the journey with us.” ([Heart of Life website](#))



Congratulations to WellSpring Centre Celebrating 30 Years

CSD Community also extends their congratulations to WellSpring on their 30 Year celebration. From our community to yours, may the next thirty years be equally as blessed with the continual gifting spiritual nourishment offered through holding an ecumenical space. ([WellSpring Centre website](#))

Joint Spirituality Centre Development Day: Pádraig Ó Tuama - Masterclass: Spirituality & Conflict

Tuesday 9th May 2023, 9.30am - 4.00pm



Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Kardia Formation, Living Well Centre and WellSpring Centre are delighted to bring those with an interest in spiritual accompaniment, a joint professional development day with Irish poet and theologian, Pádraig Ó Tuama. Possible aspects of conflict that will be explored include:

- modes of understanding conflict from contemporary conflict resolution theories
- acknowledging conflict in prayer
- looking at narratives of conflict in sacred text; what insight do the Judaeo-Christian scriptures offer?
- love your enemies but resent your neighbour: high-scale conflict
- spirituality and power: tools for exploring the landscape of power in spiritual communities.



Pádraig brings interests in language, violence and religion to his work.

When : Tuesday 9th May 2023 9:30am - 4:00pm

Where : Wellsprings Centre, Asburton, Victoria.

The cost for this day is \$150 (including lunch and morning tea)

[For more information](#)

Spirituality Conference : **Christian Spirituality as a Pathway for the Modern Seeker** Wednesday - Friday July 5-7th 2023

This conference is curious about an alternative way, and seeks to explore and champion a Christian spirituality that responds to our time. What does it sound like when Christian spirituality becomes conversational, rather than didactic? Where is the expression of Christian spirituality being recognised as profoundly hopeful, transformative and relevant to everyday people from all walks of life? Is there a Christian wisdom that can speak to spiritual seekers today? Along with other questions.

This conference proposes and models a contemplative and transformative approach and as such offers an opportunity for an extended *Lectio Divina*. Our goal is for this conference to be and become a genuine experience of formation as well as a stimulus for the intellect and imagination. Therefore contemplative 'breathing' and creative dialogue spaces will be deliberately structured as part of the rhythm and pulse of the gathering. The conference seeks to listen to multiple voices in an inclusive atmosphere.

When: Wednesday - Friday July 5-7

Where: Adelaide, South Australia

[For more information](#)

Contemplatio: Spiritual Direction in the Light of Contemplation

Tuesday - Wednesday, August 22 -23rd 2023

This course will be offered face to face and online as an intensive over two days. Each day will consist of:

- Three teaching sessions of 90 minutes where, drawing on the original mystical texts within their respective contexts, Kerrie will guide a meditation and offer a teaching, explaining these texts in relation to their wisdom and praxis for spiritual directors as well as for deepening in the mystical life.
- Morning, afternoon and evening guided meditation developing and practicing ways of prayer that are an expression of this wisdom.
- Opportunity for small group sharing in confidential, trustworthy, sacred spaciousness where participants are safe to explore the depths of the Spirit's drawing.
- Two follow up zoom sessions to enable the integration and stabilising of the learnings. Dates for these session will be announced shortly



This year we are offering the course face to face and online. In person gathering at [Santa Casa Retreat Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria.](#)

[For more information](#)