

## From the National Chair

### Growing deeper into uniting through love

Recently I asked ChatGPT why there are so many songs written about love. In response, I found that love is a universal experience. Its ability to transcend cultural, geographical, and temporal boundaries makes it a theme that resonates with people across generations and cultures. Love is a timeless subject which is relatable, complex and endlessly fascinating, which provides endless inspiration for songwriters to explore various aspects like joy, heartbreak, longing and passion.

In our Catholic scripture readings over the past few weeks, Christ remains in us through love. It remains a theme through the scriptures.

Teilhard de Chardin also takes up the theme of love in the following quote :



The Conference of Spiritual Directors offered by the Australian Ecumenical Council of Spiritual Direction this year in July takes the theme "The Paschal Mystery" also includes parts of dying and rising, healing and new life.

In our listening, may we grow deeper into uniting ourselves with living beings.

With every blessing on your ministry  
Rita Malavisi rsj  
National Chair



Image - "Unsplash" Michael Fenton

# CSD Australia News

## Membership

Membership renewals will be due at the end of June. Renewal notices will be sent at the end of May. Certificates will only be issued once payment and renewal forms have been returned and approved.



## Reference Team

The newly formed Reference Team has met twice - in March and April. Together with Rita (Chair) & Karen (Communications), Kevin and Mark meet once a month for an hour. The conversation starts with reports from chair, communications and AECSD, guiding into conversation of upcoming events, ideas and information or challenges in the spiritual direction world. At our May gathering we will be reviewing the Renewal Form in anticipation for renewal taking into account last years feedback from our members.



Kevin Hennessy is the representative for CSD Australia on the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction. Mark Needham joined the Reference Team in response to an invitation to volunteer some hours for CSD Australia. Mark will liaise with new members, reaching out to see how best CSD Australia can support them along with simply having connection with another member.

Anyone is welcome to join the CSD Reference Team, please simply reach out to [Rita](#) or [Karen](#).

## Professional Development

Please note the following dates have been set aside for Professional Development for our members.

### June

Saturday, June 22nd - speaker TBC

### July

AECSD Conference (South Australia) Paschal Mystery - for those able to attend. More details on AECSD News Page in this newsletter.

### August

Saturday, 3rd August "What Works For Me"

### September

Saturday, 7th September - speaker TBC



# CSD Australia Members

## Voices of New Members

### Alison Tye

I am excited to join with other spiritual directors from across Australia - to hear what they are doing and learn from them as I embark on my first year as a spiritual director.



### Bruce Crowle

I joined CSD Australia as a newly graduated SD from Wellsprings in Ashburton, Melbourne. I am looking forward to the professional connection with CSD and for opportunities to develop professionally in this field.



### Dominique Galea

I began my spiritual direction ministry in 2008. Since recently retiring I now have more time to devote to spiritual direction and professional development opportunities like those offered by CSD.



## Profile of a Member

### Maureen O'Halloran

Hello everyone, my name is Maureen O'Halloran. I am a consecrated lay woman, living in regional Tasmania – and I love that. Most of my working life was spent as a Coordinator in a Women's Shelter – I retired a couple of years ago. In my earlier years I was very involved with Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and through that was drawn to the mystics. I've been involved in Spiritual Direction for almost 20 years, having completed my initial training at Emmanuel in Launceston in 2004. After that I pursued Theological Studies, then a Masters of Theology with a Specialization in Spirituality. I love daily walks on the beach, a good wine, being in nature, chocolate, and time with my great nieces and nephews (not necessarily in that order!). Alongside the ministry of Spiritual Direction I am involved in offering reflection days and retreats.



- Favourite Scripture:** The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14)
- Favourite Book:** To Kill a Mockingbird
- Favourite Movie:** Forrest Gump
- Memorable Moment:** Being present at the birth of my god-daughter

### Gerard Goldman

I didn't go looking for the ministry of Spiritual Direction. In a sense when a dramatic change to my ministry occurred, Spiritual Direction (and Pastoral Supervision) came looking for me! I first experienced SD in the year of 1987. That year proved to be a pivotal moment in my life and SD was an important part of it. I have stayed relatively close to SD for most of my life since then. When a couple of Directors mentioned to me that I might wish to explore becoming a Director, I was initially surprised. But the seed was planted, and through good timing (flow) I was able to join a fabulous group at Newcastle for the journey of formation in becoming a Director. I now work with people mostly from the Hunter Valley (where I am from), through a mixture of F2F (Newcastle) and online. Occasionally I have an opportunity to provide F2F sessions in some of the more rural parts of the Valley. I love the fellowship within the SD community and look forward to deepening these relationships in the years ahead.



- Favourite Scripture:** Deuteronomy 30:19-20
- Favourite Book:** Tim Winton's, Breath
- Favourite Movie:** Departures (2008) Director, Yojiro Takita
- Memorable Moment:** Rafting through the Grand Canyon with my eldest daughter, and being saved from falling into the rapids by an "angel guide!"

## Ottavia Pittella

I have been a spiritual director for twelve years. I have received my qualifications from Heart of Life and Wellspring Spirituality Centres, and I also hold a Certificate in Guiding Meditation from The Australian Catholic University. I see my dedication to Spiritual Direction as flowing naturally from my long-term practice of Meditation and Mindfulness in the Christian and other traditions. I bring a contemplative approach to my spiritual companionship, and I am grateful for my calling as I have a deep appreciation for the way the ancient Wisdom Tradition can help address the spiritual needs of our time. Spiritual Direction is for me a very sacred ministry of care for the soul, it is a source of grace and enrichment for both my pilgrims and myself, as I have the privilege of accompanying them on their spiritual journey. Witnessing the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in the depths of reality always fills me with awe and reverence. Currently I am co-facilitating a weekly Christian Meditation group and I am passionate about teaching a variety of Christ centred Meditation and Mindfulness practices to a wider community.



**Favourite Scripture:** John 15:1-8

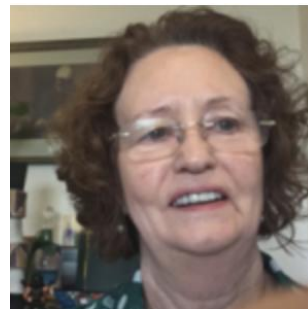
**Favourite Book:** Currently reading and loving Ilia Delio's "Christ in Evolution".  
An all time favourite: "Life of the Beloved" by Henri Nouwen

**Favourite Movie:** "As it is in Heaven"

**Memorable Moment:** Moments of love and creativity

## Mary B Murphy

To have received the call to follow and embrace the journey of spiritual direction is indeed a distinctive vocation. I have been on this journey for over twenty years now and I continue to wonder and be amazed about how and where this call, to this ministry, beckons. To walk with people, in such a profound way, never fails to remind me that we (directee and director) are, in this spiritual direction session, in a holy place (Ex 26:33).



**Favourite Scripture:** 1 Kings 17: 8-16

**Favourite Book:** One of many favourites, Book of Colours  
by Robyn Cadwallader.

**Memorable Moment:** Spending a whole week living at Tabgha, within the Benedictine Monastery walls and sitting with my husband every day, for best part of the day, by Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee).

# Retreat Review



## Joint Spirituality Centre Development Day: Padraig O Tuama - Poetry and Prayer

Over three wonderful sessions many gathered to sit under nourishing tones of Padraig O Tuama as he guided us to the deep place of intersection between poetry and prayer. Like any good spiritual director, Padraig used the power of question to draw us deeper, and to invited us there to listen give expression to the questions, pain, desire, longing, and uncertainty within us.



the  
the  
and

God help me –

the sea is so big

and my boat is so small

This Breton Fisherman’s prayer opened the first session. Pondering these words we were reminded that the way we believe in God is the way we believe in power. We are so small and God is so big – could it be that God ‘might’ just help us in a time of uncertainty? Do we dare to believe that our prayer will be answered or does our fear of the power and might of the one we call on leave us unable to cry out?

Padraig opened the space for us to strip back the layers and honestly contemplate our relationship with desire, where/what we cling to when faced with uncertainty, how to pay sacred attention to the moment, who we address our prayers to and how, and finally, the idea of absent presence. We listened to prayers/poems, considered the role of creed, wrote a collect (gathering prayer), shared reflections in small groups, and recognised the importance of blessings.

Having heard Padraig speak in Brisbane last year and hear that he had given up devotion, I was curious that he was offering teaching on prayer. Having been part of the three online sessions I was grateful for the opportunity to learn from him and was reminded again that we don’t have all the answers, the Kingdom is spacious, poetry is prayer is poetry - the stream of longing deep in our life where we continue to seek that ‘one thing’.

Reflection by Cassie Love



### Discover More

Explore a few resources from Padraig O Tuama

[Padraig O Tuama website](#)

[On Being Project](#)

## AECSD Gathering 2024

### **The Paschal Mystery: The wounds and the healing journey - the heart of spiritual direction**

**Date:** Friday 5th July 6.00pm until Sunday 7th July 12.00pm  
**Location:** Adelaide Hills Convention Centre  
145A Mt Barker Road, Hahndorf, SA 5245  
**Cost:** \$350.00 including Friday dinner, Saturday meals, Sunday morning tea.  
Note registration closes on the 21st June 2024  
**Registration:** <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1169992?>

Dying and rising.... death and new life... at the heart of spiritual direction lies the invitation to enter into the Paschal Mystery. Together we will explore this mystery through the lens of indigenous spirituality, transition and grief, and poetry, discerning together how this mystery may continue to inform and transform spiritual direction in Australia. Keynote Speakers include Garry Deverell, Dr. Rachael Lichfield and poet in residence, Bruce Warwick.

### **Supervision Conversation Formation Guidelines for Supervisors of Spiritual Directors**

**Date:** Monday 8th July 9.00am - 3.00pm  
**Location:** Adelaide Hills Convention Centre  
145A Mt Barker Road, Hahndorf, SA 5245  
**Cost:** Free  
**Registration:** <https://www.trybooking.com/CQKFY>

The Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD) has facilitated a ground-breaking conversation on spiritual direction supervision, resulting in draft *Formation Guidelines for Supervisors of Spiritual Directors*. Building on previous consultations, the updated draft names the diverse pathways that form supervisors of spiritual directors; describes supervisory needs at different stages of a spiritual director's development; and identifies core components of supervision formation.

We invite all spiritual direction supervisors, formators and interested spiritual directors into a facilitated conversation to be held the day after the 2024 AECSD Gathering on The Paschal Mystery. We will engage with the proposed Guidelines, invite feedback, and discuss how they could be used in practice. This will advance the conversation regarding appropriate recognition criteria for supervision formation programs.

For more information about the conference contact [Jo Brown](#)

## Other News

### Contemplatio - Mystic Heart: Spiritual Direction in the Light of Contemplation

Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th August 2024

Santa Casa Spirituality Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria and Online.



We invite practicing spiritual directors and those interested in contemplation to a weekend of drawing on great mystical classics from the Western and Orthodox traditions, in this Mystic Heart formation offering. We will explore the Christian tradition of mystical union, delving into language such as the prayer of union, transformation of the soul in God, the unitive way, ecstatic union, mystical marriage, oneing, living in Christ, Trinitarian indwelling, boundless fulfilment, beatific vision and deification.

Facilitated by Dr Kerrie Hide,

Location: [Santa Casa Spirituality Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria](#) and Online

[For more information](#)

### Heart of Life

#### Upcoming Day Events

##### Meditation & Mindfulness in the Christian Tradition

Tap into a deep spring of love, joy, peace and compassion at the centre of our being. Jesus called it Living Water, with which we will never thirst. Cultivate a transforming, healing awareness of the Divine presence, and learn how to mediate.

Facilitator: Roland Ashby (in-person)

Date: 8 x Monday evenings commencing 15th April until 3rd June

Time: 7pm - 8pm



*Heart of Life*

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

##### Feast of the Sacred Heart & Celebration of 45 years of Siloam

We invite you to join us in person to celebrate with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Feast of the Sacred Heart as well as 45 years of Siloam Program for the formation of spiritual directors. Light lunch included.

Date: 7th June 2024,

Time: 11am - 2pm

##### Going Beyond Multiculturalism to Interculturality

Interculturality is a theology and ideal calling us to embrace the rich diversities that God creates in our world. It is a vision of the kin-dom that Jesus preached, and the deep yearning for harmony among all the peoples in our globalised and interconnected world. Join in the exploration on how to recognise the need for intercultural living and ministry, the demands of becoming more intercultural and addressing the fears fuelling the many problems of our world today.

Facilitator: Catherine Solano (in-person)

Date: 3x Saturday - 29th June, 13th July and 27th July.

Time: 10am - 12.30pm

[For more information and booking](#)



## WellSpring Centre

### Living the Wonder - Embodied Kabbalah

We find in ancient traditions that a unique kind of consciousness enables us a different way of being. This consciousness implies awakening to the wonder. This consciousness implies awakening to the living pulsating stream of life, where nothing is static, nothing is separate, a world of infinite wisdom that invites humans to be co-creators.

Facilitator: Dana Ganihar and Baruch Brenner (Online)

Date: 7 x Wednesday commencing 15th May

Time: 7.30pm - 9.15pm AEST



### Aboriginal Spirituality with Brooke Prentis

WellSpring Centre is delighted to bring those with an interest in spirituality to gather together with Aboriginal nationally recognised Aboriginal Christian Leader, Brooke Prentis. Brooke will offer three interactive sessions, and you can come to one or two or all three. Each session would include a talk, workshop practical tasks, and Q&A.

Session 1- 10am to 12pm - The Dreaming: Aboriginal Spirituality and Country

Session 2 - 1pm to 3pm - Deep Listening: Connecting to Country

Session 3 - 7pm Reconciliation: Heartbeats Healing Country

Facilitator: Brooke Prentis (In-Person)

Date: 1st June

Time: Morning Tea starts at 9.15am - see above for times of other sessions.

[For more information](#)

## Eremos Institute

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



**EREMOS**  
EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY IN AUSTRALIA

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. See upcoming workshops, including our newest offering, *Introducing the Intensive Journal*, a 3 hour online workshop: available to view [here](#). More information about the workshops can be viewed [here](#).

[For more information](#)

## 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](#)