

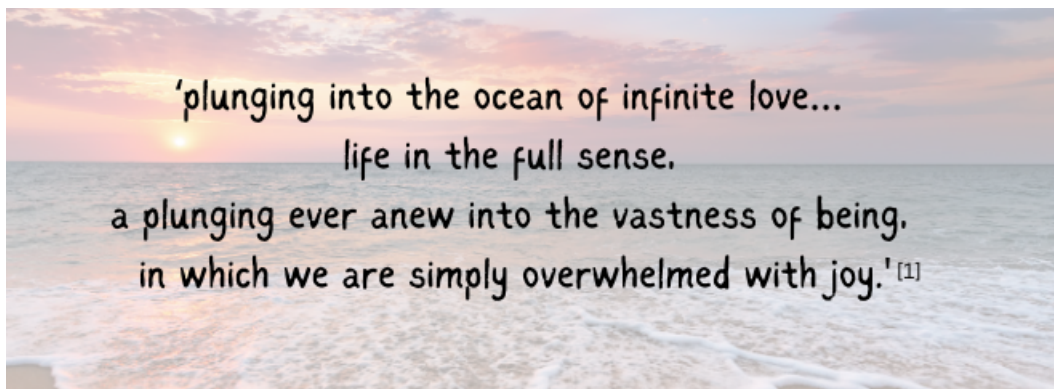
CONFERENCE OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AUSTRALIA

Newsletter November 2023

From the National Chair

Our Call to be saints

Pope Benedict once described the life of saints like,



The lives of those who have been named as Saints by the Church, are celebrated at the beginning of November, and we have the whole month of remembering those who have gone before us. Life is changed not ended – is part of the funeral liturgy. The lives of the Saints were marked by deep love, courage in the face of adversity, a willingness to forgive, a total commitment to Jesus or the other.

Their lives still inspire us today. All who follow Christ are called to be saints with a small 's'. To continue to live lives that are holy and directed towards God. We are surrounded by the communion of Saints.

Let us reflect on the way that God's grace works in every human life.

With every blessing on your ministry
Rita Malavisi rsj
National Chair



[Image by Alexander Gray from Unsplash](#)

[1] Encyclical Letter *Spe Salvi* (Saved by Hope) Pope Benedict, 30th November 2007

CSD Australia News

Insurance

All those members affected by Insurance Renewal would have received an email to advise that Ansvar have offered a 1-month extension on our policy to allow us time to find another insurer due to the fact it no longer has 'master policies'. You will receive another email in the coming weeks with further details. For now please note that CSD Australia insurance policy now *expires* on the **30/11/2023**. If you have any concerns or questions please reach out to [Rita](#) or [Karen](#).



Reflections Magazine

Hopefully all members have received this year's Reflections Magazine full of inspiration touching on this year's theme '*Faithful Times*'. If for some reason it never arrived please reach out to [Karen](#) who will get a copy to you. Once again thank you to all members who contributed reflecting the generous and deeply spiritual community to which we all belong. Thank you.

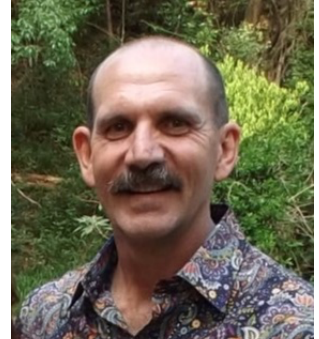


CSD Australia Members

Voices of New Members

Craig Sadler

As iron sharpens iron, being part of CSD Australia gives me a sense of accountability and collegiality. As spiritual directors it is incumbent upon us that we not travel alone.



Profile of a Member

Dale Keenan

I have been active in the ministry of spiritual direction both in the contemplative/evocative mode and as a Giver of the Spiritual Exercise of St Ignatius for 15 years. It is a blessing to companion someone both for individual spiritual direction or for the 35 week journey through the Spiritual Exercises. Since 2015 I have been the Director of the St Francis Spiritual Direction Formation Program, an initiative of the Ministry of Education Commission of the Anglican Diocese of Southern Queensland - located at St Francis Theological College, Milton, Brisbane. In this role I am privileged to train spiritual directors and supervisors in the contemplative / evocative mode.



Favourite Scripture: Is 40:31 “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Favourite Book: Adyashanti: Resurrecting Jesus

Favourite Movie: The Croods

Memorable Moment: Visiting the Cave of St Ignatius in Manresa Spain in 2014.



Carmel Tedesco

I grew up on the Mornington Peninsula and have a background in teaching and pastoral care in secondary schools. I have lived in Ireland and in Indonesia. On returning home to Australia I spent ten years in Gippsland, where I gave retreats at 'Bass Hill Hermitage'. I recently moved to Balnarring where I currently give retreats to people who stay at 'The Cliffs Retreat' in Shoreham. I see this as a very special ministry, as often people have never had Spiritual Direction, and yet feel drawn to take time-out to make a retreat. It is humbling to listen as people share something of their journey and their struggles and hopes. I always stand in awe as I see how God comes to them in the quiet and stillness of retreat. I have had Spiritual Direction most of my adult life, I have also had the opportunity to make a 30 day retreat and several 6 day retreats over the years. I read widely especially in the areas of spirituality and sustainability. I am working towards getting veggies and fruit trees planted in the garden!



Favourite Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11-13 "I know the plans I have for you..."

Favourite Book: The Dictionary of Lost Words

Favourite Movie: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Memorable Moment: Walking through Melbourne city centre, very early one winter morning, after having lived overseas for several years, and knowing, 'I was home.'

Vale Margaret Chandler

Sr Marg Chandler, a Sister of St Joseph from Tasmania died 29th October, 2023. Her ministry at MacKillop Hill at Forth, Tasmania was a significant time in her life. She loved the rural setting looking out across the valley to the coast and beyond. It was a soul space for her and for all those she accompanied along the spiritual life. Through her presence she was able to offer many spiritual opportunities especially for the people of North West area of Tasmania. Rest in peace.



CSD Australia Professional Development

Over the past months we have been blessed to have inspiring speakers to guide us in discussion and discovery. Below are a few reflections, along with resources from October's session.

Currently we are creating 2024 Professional Development sessions with international speakers and a few locals too. If there is a topic you think is fitting for our CSD community to break open more please do reach out and we will explore possibilities.

Next year's session dates and speakers will be announced in the New Year.

September Professional Development

Here are Gerard Bennett reflective words of thanks written after the session with Peter Hay.

Spiritual Direction from the perspective of Cosmogogenesis with Peter Hay

Gracious, invitational, gentle.

Shared his own struggles

And 'sang opera for us'.

Was open and generative.

Promised life; emerging, flourishing in living transformation.

He dropped ego, connecting us all as one.

So was co-creative.

Gave us a new energy.

From caterpillars, saw us becoming butterflies.

We will persist, we "are in"

Creation's mystery is our story.

Written by Gerard Bennett

October Professional Development

Encounter: The Essence of Interculturality with Cathy Solano

Cathy Solano shared a number of resources throughout our session, which we would like to highlight with the invitation to spend a little time dwelling in these resources.

Video

[Brene Brown: "Whole-Hearted People" and vulnerability](#)

Book

[Anthony J Gittens: *Living Mission Interculturally: Faith, Culture, And the Renewal of Praxis*; September 2015](#)

Pope Francis writing

[Fratelli Tutti](#)

[Working Intentionally for Cultural Encounter](#)

AECSD News



Australian Ecumenical Council for
Spiritual Direction

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Coolamon Journal Submissions

Inspired by the 2023 ANSD conference, the *Coolamon* journal team chose the theme ‘Awaking to love in an unfolding cosmos’ for issue 9 and invites your expressions of interest.

You may wish to consider offering an article, artwork, liturgy, interview, book review (recent publications only), or any piece that contributes to our gathering of wisdom for spiritual direction in Australia.

Please note, **we are not accepting poetry** for this issue. Instead, we will provide opportunities for three communal poetry writing projects in which you may wish to participate. Contact ANSD for more details.

This request asks to please email a 500-word expression of interest (no dot points) introducing your intended article to [Christine Gilbert](#) by 17 November.



Other News

Congratulations and Welcome Home

Heart of Life new location



Heart of Life

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

It is with great joy that CSD Australia sends congratulations to the Heart of Life community on the news of their new premises which they move into at the start of 2024. May it open up new opportunities to continue formation and ministry to all those who are blessed to gather with you at *Kewn Kreestha*.

News Released from Heart of Life:

From humble yet solid beginnings at Surrey Hills in 1983, to the Kildara Centre in Malvern in 2021, via premises at Canterbury, Wantirna, Box Hill, and St George's Malvern, Heart of Life has evolved and developed yet without a permanent home.

In its 40th Anniversary year, the Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation is delighted to announce that the Australian Province of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart has purchased a property that is to become the stable home for Heart of Life.

The Province has acquired *Kewn Kreestha* ('Quiet of Christ') in Alto Avenue, Croydon for Heart of Life. *Kewn Kreestha* has been the home for a ministry of the Family Care Sisters, previously known as the Grey Sisters, who have provided many decades of holistic care there for women who need rest and renewal of body and spirit. In more recent times, their ministry has been conducted under the auspices of the Mercy Sisters. Heart of Life will relocate to *Kewn Kreestha* towards the end of this year.

Advent 'At Prayer in An Unfolding Cosmo'

Online - Four Mondays of Advent

Join us online over four successive Mondays, from Monday November 27- Monday December 18, 2023, when we will be praying with Teilhard de Chardin - A Book of Hours, edited by Kathleen Deignan and Libby Osgood, Orbis Books, 2023. Facilitators: Judith Keller and Gerard Sullivan

[For more information](#)



St Francis College Spiritual Direction

Formation Program

Applications Open for 2024

Choose from

Certificate in Spiritual Direction - 4 Years Part time

The Art of Contemplative Listening - 1 Year Part time

Opportunity to foster a deeper listening to God along with companioning others to develop a personal conversation with the Divine. Applications close 19th February 2024.

[For more information](#)

