

From the National Chair

Season of Creation

From the beginning till now, the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth” (Romans 8:22)

Some ten years ago, I was introduced to a wonderful poem or reflection by Fr Christopher Gleeson of a human life described as a spider web.

If you touch a spider’s web anywhere
you set the whole thing trembling...
 The life that I touch
 for good or ill
 will touch another life
 and that in turn another
until who knows where the trembling stops or in
 what far place and time
 my touch will be felt.
 Our lives are linked.
 No man, no woman is an island.
The gift of friendship with others is contagious.



© pixabay/tbit

No matter how many times I have used this reflection, the learnings in my life do not stop. Our lives are linked – everything is linked – all of creation, every atom, every stream, every leaf, every person – the life that I touch for good or ill. Our lives are affected by so many things – for good or ill. We are invited to integrity to renew the face of the earth.

The global pandemic has shown us how we depend on one another. We depend on our health systems, our food systems and the supply chains. People and nature need to be held at the centre of the regeneration of our land, restoration of our land, and redistribution of all things.

With every blessing,

Rita Malavisi

CSD Australia News

CSD Insurance Policy Renewal

The current policy expires on 31st October 2022.

CSD Australia has a group policy for Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance with EA Insurance Service Pty Ltd (EAIS) which is a not-for-profit foundation in Australia.

The 39 members who currently participate in this policy and 2 more who have indicated they would like to join at the renewal date, will receive an email in early October advising of the premium due to renew for the coming year. The premium is recalculated by EAIS annually and CSD is advised of this figure usually late September. Last year it was \$155 per member.

Participation is open to all CSD Australia members who may not be covered by their workplace, their religious order, or in some other way.

Other members who would like to join please email the treasurer (Bernadette) for a “No Claims Declaration” form. Signing this simple declaration and paying the premium is all that is required.

For more information about the policy <https://csdaustralia.com/join-csd-australia/#insurance>

EAIS explains the Insurance types as follows:

- Professional Indemnity – If you provide professional advice and something goes wrong you may be held responsible. This cover provides protection if that ever happens.
- Public Liability – Covers you when you are legally required to pay for damages that your organisation has contributed to or caused. Damages can be personal injury, property damage or advertising injury.



Update on CSD Australia Memberships

Membership renewal requests were sent to 178 members on 31st May 2022. As 3 members had joined in May, that means there were 181 members at that time. A breakdown of the 181, as at the 31st August, is as follows:

145	current members
2	members who intend to renew
11	members yet to complete their membership renewal by returning the declaration form
5	new honorary members
1	deceased member
10	new inactive members
7	not continuing with membership

CSD Magazine Submissions

Our annual Magazine is starting to take shape and what an edition it is going to be! This year's theme is 'Redemptive Hope'. We extend an invitation to all members to submit a reflection, poem, art work or review to be included. Submit your contribution [here](#) or email communications@csdaustralia.com

SDI Conference - Engage 2022 From Trish Spiteri

I attended the Spiritual Direction International Engage 2022 Conference online and wish to thank CSD for supporting me and enabling me to attend. I have gained some rich insights from listening to the speakers especially on trauma, receptive listening, forgiveness and the use of the enneagram in spiritual direction. The presentation by Anne Dilenschneider on forgiveness being a two way street enriched my understanding of the relationship between repentance and forgiveness. The first step of forgiveness is repentance and the burden is on the part of the offender not the victim. The person who has been harmed has the opportunity to decide if they want to be in a relationship with the offender. The burden is on the offender and insisting that the person who was harmed has to forgive is not the case. In her presentation Anne Dilenschneider explains Jesus' demonstration on the cross of this relationship of forgiveness and repentance. Jesus does not forgive the offenders in this instance; instead he asks his Father to forgive them as the crucifiers have no intention of repentance or rectifying the relationship. Even Jesus turns forgiveness over to God in this situation with his crucifiers. As a Spiritual Director this is important to keep in mind as we accompany our directees on their journey of forgiveness and who might have been urged to forgive before there is any repentance on the part of the offender.



CSD Australia Administration Workforce

Over the coming months, CSD Australia will need to replace Bernadette Micallef as Treasurer/Membership Co-ordinator as she has submitted her resignation. At the moment we have two paid positions of Treasurer/Membership Co-ordinator and Communications Co-ordinator.

At this stage we will be looking to have a Deputy Chair/Membership Co-ordinator, and in a separate role a new Treasurer. (Karen will continue as the Communications Co-ordinator.)

If you are interested or know anyone else who might be interested or willing to be involved please contact Rita at [Chair CSD](#). More information such as job description/s will be developed shortly.

CSD Australia Members

Profile of a Member

Elva Neale

In 2010 I was invited to be part of the first formation group being offered by Irene Alexander and others (the contemplative Stillpoint SD program). I had no prior exposure to spiritual direction within my previous faith communities but my heart leapt towards the invitation, it seemed like the answer to my heart's desire to go further than I could in my being with others - which I was doing in my role as a relationship counsellor. Now retired from that role, I continue to make myself as the pilgrim and I journey with their desires and pain of heart, opening to the promptings of the Spirit with us. I have met with directees in various settings - my lounge room, on park benches, in coffee shops / church hall, on zoom. I've found God's hospitality has no limits, the Spirit's spark can light any space for the pilgrim and I. I am a grandmother of 7 precious children who keep me looking at the world through fresh eyes. I am blessed by wonderful relationships with family / friends; by opportunities to travel (most recently caravanning with my husband). I love to dive deep into nature wherever I am whether it be my own backyard or wilderness in a NP.



Favourite Scripture:

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Favourite Book:

Thomas Merton: *The Seven Storey Mountain*

Favourite Movie:

Of Gods and Men

Memorable Moment:

I love ancient history, so my memorable moment is when I placed my hand on a weathered column from a Roman temple, the column having been incorporated into the Syracuse cathedral built on the peak of the rise in Syracuse, Sicily.



Veronica McCluskie

I am a Sister of the Good Samaritan and have been involved in Spiritual Direction for over 20 years. I hold a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Sydney Centre for Religious Development as well as a Certificate in Supervision from the Mercy Centre, Burlingame, CA, USA. At present I live in Brisbane and am happy to meet in person or online. I meet with people at the Good Samaritan Offices at Nudgee. My preference for initial meetings is face to face, but I realise that this is not always possible. I am a member of CSD Australia and Spiritual Directors International. I delight in being able to journey with others in their faith journey and the Benedictine tradition of my Congregation supports the contemplative approach that I use. I encourage directees to have regular sessions about once a month, especially in the beginning. I believe that building the relationship between Director and Directee is very important.



Favourite Scripture:

Habakkuk 3:17-19

Favourite Book:

I don't have a favourite. I love reading all types but like Sci Fi and crime/mystery.

Favourite Movie:

No favourite movie at this time.

Memorable Moment:

Visiting the cave where St Benedict lived as a hermit.

Margherita Shakhovskoy

My deepest joys are having family time with our 4 adult children and our 5 grandchildren, being in nature and enjoying the fruits of my labour from the veggie garden to table. My spiritual journey took a dramatic shift when in 2006 my husband and I walked the Camino to Santiago to mark our 25 years of marriage and our 50th birthdays. It was a true Dadirri experience of entering into silence, deep listening and transformation. Upon returning I knew my internal work was not complete therefore I engaged in the 30 week Ignatian retreat. In time I completed my Spiritual Direction formation and now experience companionship as a very sacred space to participate in and continues to be my teacher of the landscape of the heart. More recently I helped facilitate an Ignatian Retreat of the First Spiritual Exercises and look forward to future work with the exercises. Having the support of the CSD professional development days are of great value.



Favourite Scripture:

Ps 46:10 Be still and know that I am God

Favourite Book:

Journeying with St Francis

Favourite Movie:

Under the Tuscan Sun

Memorable Moment:

2021 saw us on 6 months of training in preparation for a 15 day independent multi-day hike of the Larapinta Trail in Central Australia.



CSD Australia Professional Development

You are welcome to join all or any of the monthly sessions planned for 2022. There is no cost or need for members to book. A zoom link will be sent to all members in the preceding week.

Non members are welcome to join and book through the trybooking link for each session. Cost is \$20 per session for non members. <https://www.trybooking.com/CBFHS>

They will be sent a zoom link upon booking.

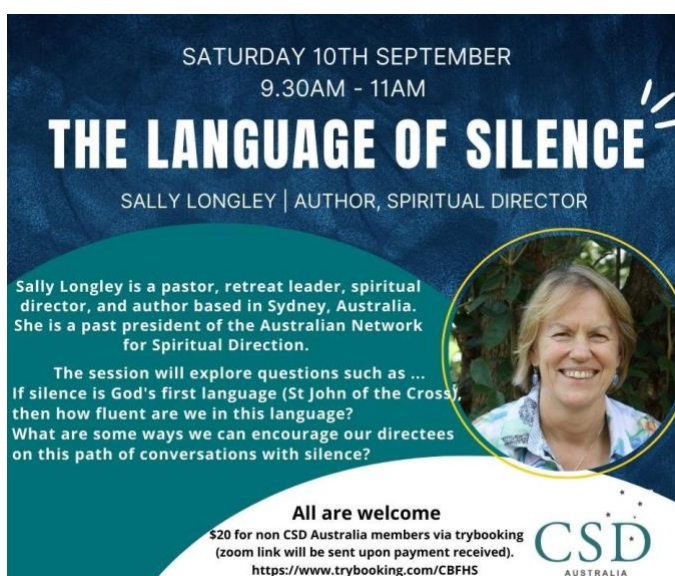
The Language of Silence - Sally Longley

Saturday September 10th 9.30am - 11.00am (AEDT)

Join Sally Longley for a morning zoom session titled “The Language of Silence”.

If silence is God's first language (St John of the Cross), then how fluent are we in this language? What are some of the ways we can develop our vocabulary and nuanced communion with the Divine through silence? And what are some ways we can encourage our directees on this path of conversations with silence?

Dr Sally Longley is a spiritual director and author of Conversations with Silence. Recently she featured on ABC National Radio speaking on Silence and Spiritual Direction in a Noisy World. [Click here](#) if you would like to listen to the episode.



October Professional Development

Exploring an article together: Spiritual direction, the Wonder of the Incarnation by Philip Carter

Saturday October 8th 9.30am - 11.00am

Join us for a morning of reflection, focusing on the article by Philip Carter featured in the June 2022 edition of Presence Journal published by SDI. The article will guide our conversation together using break out rooms creating spaces for small group sharing.

The zoom link, reflection questions along with a copy of the article will be sent directly to your inbox.

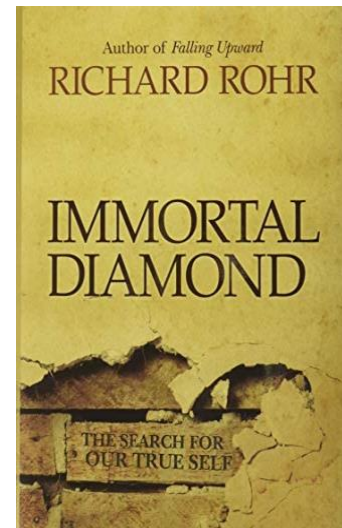
Book Reviews

“The Immortal Diamond: The search for the True Self” by Richard Rohr **Reviewed by Gerry Kalinowski : Brisbane, Queensland**

Rohr’s premise is that humanity is made for transcendence, but the ego limits the horizon to our defining ourselves from the perceptions of others. This book is a theoretical and experiential encouragement to seeking the true self. The true self knows who you are and whose you are. The true self is the treasure of an immortal diamond contained in each person.

Fans will find a lot that is familiar. This book is a deeper exploration on his *Falling Upward* book. It is a platform for Richard Rohr to espouse his broader theology and spirituality. His rambling style waxes lyrical with stories, supporting his argument with scripture and tradition. Rohr develops his belief in a participatory spirituality through our life in God, rather than it being a movement towards God. Interesting is his expounding an understanding of resurrection which is grounded in our lived experience. A point of debate is anthropology. This book has a raised perspective, as compared with one of a fallen world.

There are pearls for the patient, problems for those critical of his perspective. Rohr does emphasise that all is gift, and our coming to our true self is by the power of the Spirit.



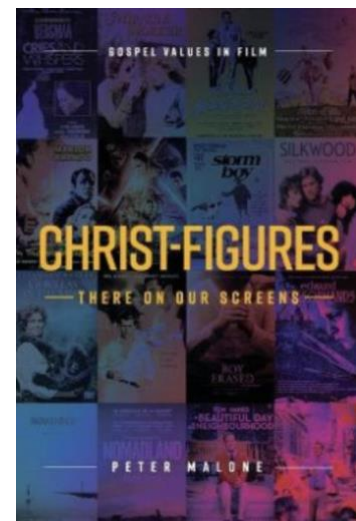
“Christ-Figures: There on our Screens” by Peter Malone msc

Reviewed by Rita Malavisi : Melbourne, Victoria

Told in a down to earth, descriptive and with sometimes a humorous touch, Peter candidly, takes the characters in movies and links them with the Gospel Jesus. This book is more than just film reviews. Peter has tremendous skill in retelling a movie without giving away any spoiler alerts. The focus is on the character that is portrayed, and it’s their likeness to the actions of Christ. He has challenged me to

The movies chosen by Peter display a wide range of issues, and you’ll find many genres included (sci-fi, romantic, biographical, documentary, war). Peter has highlighted the Jesus figure in some of my favourite movies, and now I have a whole new list for my “to watch list”. Peter aptly parallels the character’s actions, and Jesus actions through reference to scripture passages and stories.

In my spirituality sessions, I often use movie themes to help convey and uncover some deeper messages, so Peter has suggested these for deeper reflection, giving us another layer from which to see in-depth. This book is great to be able to suggest a movie with an inspirational character, in olden movies and also up to date ones. Thank you Peter, for giving us a book that reminds us that “each of us is called to be a Christ-figure in our lives”.



Other News

Conference for ANSD - Australian Network for Spiritual Direction 23-25 September 2022

The 2022 Conference is in Perth WA at St John of God Retreat Centre, Shoalwater. This year's theme is Listening at the Edges, presented by keynote speaker Pádraig Ó'Tuama.

Each one of us ends, and even before our ends, we are in contact with our edges: the edges of ourselves, of each other, of belief and of prayer. Through four sessions, Pádraig Ó'Tuama will consider how language can help us plot, navigate, and communicate with and to these edges. Expect poetry, questions without answers, story-prompts, story-sharing, and a search for language to describe what Emily Dickinson called "Finite Infinity".



For more information on the conference and how to book please see <https://ansd.org.au/>

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 please see <https://csdaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/Santa-Casa-3-fold-Mar22-FINAL.pdf>

From University of Divinity :



Enneagram

Friday 9th September - 9am until 3pm

The Enneagram offers a time-honoured system for understanding people in terms of their motivations and internal dynamics. Join Dr Lynn Moresi, a CSD Australia member, to explore this powerful tool to better understand your own personality and strengths, as well as that of others who live and work around you. This session is suitable for the beginner, and the practitioner looking to refresh their Enneagram skills.

For more information refer to University of Divinity website: <https://vox.divinity.edu.au/event/enneagram-1/>

From 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: <https://www.eremos.org.au/events> More information about the workshops is here: [eremos.org.au/intensive-journal--workshops](https://www.eremos.org.au/intensive-journal--workshops)

For more information please contact Kate Scholl on 0425 211 065 or email events@eremos.org.au

From Heart of Life : Emmaus Supervision Program

Application for 2023 intake closes 15th October 2022

The Emmaus Supervision Program has been developed in response to demand for professional supervisors for those in individual ministry. The lecturers and supervisors at Heart of Life foster a discerning approach whereby

supervisors-in-formation learn to attend to their supervisees and walk with them as they seek to recognise what may be hidden to them, opening their eyes to their potential for growth in their particular ministry. The program is open to women and men of varying faith and cultural traditions, who are drawn to support the ministry journey of others, and seek to discern whether they may be called to the ministry of supervision. The program will suit those who are looking to move into this area of work who have at least five years' experience in their particular ministry.

For more information please refer to Heart of Life website: www.heartoflife.melbourne



Heart of Life

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

From Kardia : Grace Upon Grace: Eight Day At Home Retreat

October 10th - 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, please refer to Kardia website: www.kardia.com.au

