



Winter 2018 - No. 24

## Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre e-News

### Winter –Pruning our lives leads to fruitfulness beyond our imagining



It is hard to believe when we recently pruned the rose bushes back to their stems, that after a short period of inactivity, the bushes will send forth new shoots, before producing roses of stunning colour.

Our lives also mirror this paradox of pruning and regrowth. When we let go of hurts and ambitions, we are often surprised by what emerges, whether it be a new friendship or a new sense of purpose and direction.

May the winter of our lives bear much fruit as we die to ourselves and wait for the transforming power of God's love to bring forth great beauty.



### Pentecost – Prayer for the Journey to Plenary Council 2020

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.*

*Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.*

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia  
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another  
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories  
and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other  
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,  
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.*

What do you  
think God is  
asking of us in  
Australia at  
this time ?



**Plenary Council 2020**  
*Listen to what the Spirit is saying...*

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.*

*St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*

### Evaluation comments from recent guests—we listen and seek to improve our service



-Thanks to the Archbishop and all involved for this gift (Youth Retreat)

-Surely Yahweh our God is in this place and time spent here gifts us with a real experience of the presence of God. (Parish Reflection Day)

-Food was delicious, very comfy bed (BCE Keepers of the Flame)

-It was the perfect place, full of warmth and grace (Courage and Renewal)

-Picnic rugs for sitting on the grounds would be appreciated (Retreat facilitator)



## Caroline Chisholm, the Emigrants Friend — A Woman of extraordinary vision and energy

If Captain James Cook discovered Australia,  
if John Macarthur planted the first seeds of its  
extraordinary prosperity — if Ludwig Leichhardt  
penetrated and explored its before unknown interior  
— Caroline Chisholm has done more ... she alone  
has colonised it in the true sense of the term.

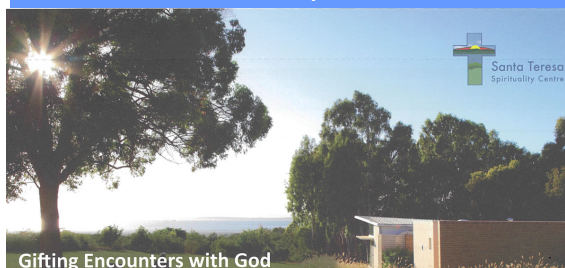
*The Empire, 15 August 1859*



Caroline Chisholm

Reading the new biography of this remarkable woman reminded me that great things can happen when one pursues one's mission or purpose in life with passion, energy and persistence; all qualities that Caroline personified in her quest to assist over 12,000 emigrants settle in this new land. May her life and witness inspire us to welcome all who come to our shores to find a new home.

## New donation envelopes available



Gifting Encounters with God



Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre seeks to provide a beautiful place to encounter God, through prayer, reflection and spiritual formation.

\$50 pays for a day retreat for one person

\$100 pays for 2 sessions of Spiritual Direction

\$150 pays for an overnight stay for one person

\$300 pays for a weekend retreat for one person

\$500 contributes to the costs of a Youth retreat

\$1000 supports parish leadership team retreats

The Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre is funded in part by fees and donations. It is generously subsidised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane.

A new envelope has been printed to receive gifts given to assist others to come and spend some time at Santa Teresa.

## Planting a garden in our hearts –Queen of Apostles prep class visit



It was a delight to welcome 65 Preppies from Stafford recently. The school is creating a prayer garden and wanted the young students to experience prayer amidst God's creation.

Learning to write prayers, listen to stories, meditate, walk the labyrinth and pray through movement helped the students to connect with God in a rich variety of ways.



## Parish Reflection Days 2018—An opportunity to spend some time in quiet with God

**Theme: 'Encountering Jesus'**  
**Exploring the Gospels through Imagery**

**-Friday & Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September**  
(Overnight 4pm Friday to 3pm Saturday)

**-Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December** (9am – 4pm)

**Overnight** cost \$155 per person

(includes accommodation, Friday evening meal, breakfast, morning tea & lunch)

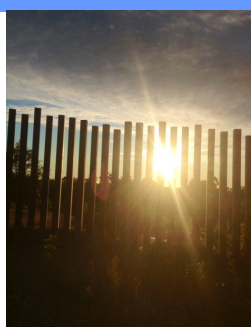
**Day** costs are \$30 per person (includes lunch box and morning tea)

Please register at: <https://ebab.weebly.com>

## Why go on a retreat ?

Here are a few reasons for making the time for a retreat.....

- ◆ Slow down your life, relax and let go of life stresses
- ◆ Deepen your faith and relationship with God
- ◆ Recharge your batteries with renewed energy
- ◆ Discover the power of contemplation to review your life
- ◆ Learn from the wisdom and insights of others
- ◆ Explore different styles of prayer and reflection
- ◆ Appreciate the gift of silence and quiet times



Contact us soon to organise your 2018 stay with us.

Whether it is a day, an overnight, a weekend or an extended stay, come and experience the beauty and peace of this special place.

*Blessings,*  
*Mike Humphrys (Coordinator)*