

# Welcome

**Santa Teresa** is a quiet and beautiful retreat and spiritual formation centre at Ormiston overlooking Moreton Bay with views to nearby North Stradbroke Island. It provides a quiet haven to come away and spend time in quiet prayer.

We welcome groups undertaking Christian spiritual formation and individuals who wish to make a silent retreat or want simply to spend a few quiet days in peace and reflection.

The natural beauty of the setting coupled with excellent facilities and an attentive staff provide a 'sacred space' to encounter God afresh.

Come and be refreshed by God's gentle Spirit as you take time to discover anew the mystery and generosity of God's abundant grace and love.

Mike Humphrys

*Coordinator - Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre*



## Our Story & Name

The land on which the Spirituality Centre sits was originally known as the Field of St Joseph and belonged to the Carmelite community next door before the Cenacle retreat centre was built in 1980. In 2006, the Archdiocese of Brisbane purchased the Centre from the Cenacle sisters who returned to New Zealand.

The name Santa Teresa was chosen by Archbishop Bathersby to draw upon the rich Carmelite tradition of prayer and spirituality. It is the Italian form of St Thérèse of Lisieux, a young Carmelite sister, who died at age 24. Her 'little way' of holiness was recognised by the Church when she was made a Doctor of the Church in 1997.

Our name is also linked to the Santa Teresa Indigenous Parish Mission outside Alice Springs. This connection with our indigenous people is significant, because the first Catholic mission to the Indigenous people in Australia was established on nearby North Stradbroke Island by Archbishop Polding of Sydney in 1843.

These sources can be identified in some of the art features within the Centre including the face of St Thérèse in a garden artwork and crosses and paintings from Alice Springs and Stradbroke Island.



**Santa Teresa**  
Spirituality Centre



**For further information and bookings contact us:**  
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### *Facilities include:*

- 30 modern en-suited rooms (19 rooms with double bed accommodation)
- Santa Teresa chapel accommodating up to 50 people for prayer, liturgy and spiritual formation
- Blessed Sacrament chapel for up to 10 people available at all times for silent prayer
- Outdoor labyrinth for prayer
- 3 formation spaces allowing for groups of 50, 30 and 15 respectively
- 3 dining spaces including the Cenacle dining room, the Moongalba verandah and an outdoor pergola space in Lisieux Place
- Catering by Mary-Clair's Gourmet Delicacies and Catering
- An enclosed verandah with majestic views of the Bay for relaxing over a cuppa
- Beautiful grounds overlooking Moreton Bay
- Walks to the Carmelite monastery, church and the historic Ormiston House next door

### *Comments from Participants...*

'This place is just heaven on earth'

'A delightful oasis of peace, a beautiful sense of the sacred. Great level of comfort and care! Thanks'.

### *What People Do at Santa Teresa:*

Groups or individuals can undertake a variety of spiritual exercises including:

- a parish one day reflection activity
- an ecumenical group weekend retreat
- an extended thematic retreat (3-6 days)
- teacher spiritual formation
- a lay association renewal program
- an annual clergy/religious retreat
- a few days of solitude and prayer

Staff can advise you about spiritual directors and facilitators to guide you on your spiritual journey.

