



Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre



e-News

Francis the Pope of Surprises

Autumn 2013 No 7

What a wonderful surprise that our new Pope is the first from Latin America, the first Jesuit and the first to embrace the name 'Francis'. Already he has demonstrated a fondness to do things his way in a simple, humble and prayerful manner as shown in his first greeting and blessing from the balcony of St Peter's (pictured) shortly after his election.

His affinity with the poor, his astute pastoral sense and simplicity of lifestyle has already endeared him to many. Our prayers are with Pope Francis as he begins his ministry as shepherd of the flock.

You can read his Easter Vigil homily at:

<http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-easter-vigil-homily--3>



Wisdom from Santa Teresa



'A soul that is burning with love cannot remain inactive'

'He launched me full sail with waves of confidence and love.'

'Love never sees anything as impossible, for it believes everything is possible and everything is permitted.'

'O my God, You surpassed all my expectations. I want only to sing of Your mercies'

'When the human heart gives it itself to God, it loses nothing of its innate tenderness; in fact, this tenderness grows when it becomes more pure and more divine.'

Quotes from *The Little Way of Advent meditations in the spirit of St Therese of Lisieux* by Fr G. Castor Servant Books USA

Soul Space Dates for 2013

Parish and Archdiocesan staff are invited to book their place at one of the Soul Space retreats on offer. The dates for 2013 are:

Soul Space 1: 9 April / 27 May / 5 Aug /14 Oct

Soul Space 2: 29& 30 April / 12&13 Aug /21 & 22 Oct

Soul Space 3: 12-14June / 28-30 Oct

'It was an extremely enlightening experience – I learned so much about myself and my faith' was a comment from a participant of Soul Space 1.

Pictured are four members of the Brackenridge parish team who attended the Soul Space program in 2012. For more information visit the website.



Website Developments—Watch the Santa Teresa DVD



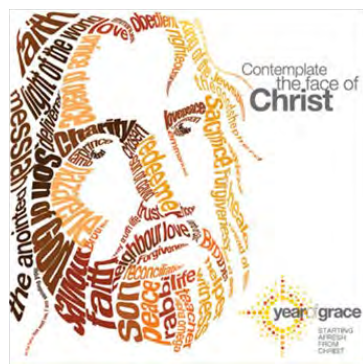
There have been some recent updates with new images added to the home and facilities pages and information about Soul Space now posted in its own section. Recently, a university researcher conducting a review of Spirituality Centres commented:

'I found the Santa Teresa website easy to navigate, informative, visually appealing and friendly. The DVD on the homepage helped me appreciate the Spirituality underpinning the Centre as well as its facilities and beautiful location. It made me want to come.'

Have you ever watched the Santa Teresa DVD? It is a great way to promote the centre as a venue for your next parish/school /group retreat. It can be found at:

www.santateresa.org.au

Contemplate the Face of Christ DVD



Contemplate the Face of Christ is an initiative of the Year of Grace National Planning Team seeking to help Australians spend some time 'contemplating his face'.

The DVD consists of 32 images sourced from Australia in a variety of forms – paintings, drawings, icons, Indigenous images, stained glass, statues, etc. Each image is on the screen for about 50 seconds, accompanied by a quiet, meditative soundtrack. The images can be viewed either on their own, or accompanied by a short text from the New Testament.

For information about ordering a copy of the DVD (\$10 a copy, incl. postage and handling within Australia), visit the National Year of Grace website at:

<http://www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/index.php/face-of-christ-dvd/about-the-dvd>

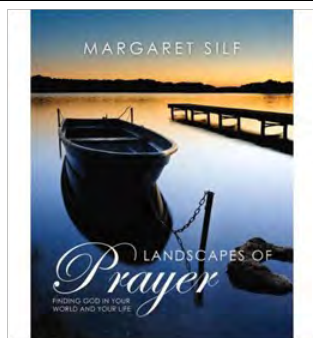
Catering Team — absolutely delicious

'The food was delicious and the service friendly, obliging and welcoming – could not expect better – well done' and 'Loved the freshly baked treats for morning tea' were comments on recent evaluation forms.

Whether it is catering for one or two individuals or groups of fifty or sixty, all meals are lovingly prepared and beautifully presented. Mary-Clair's morning tea treats of freshly baked cakes and biscuits are especially prized. We are grateful for the enormous efforts that our catering team make to ensure that each person is well nourished during their stay.



Prayer Resource



Prayer is often perceived as a difficult 'place-less' exercise. Prayer can have its own sense of place – landscapes which we can inhabit and explore, and meet God as tangibly as we might a fellow traveller.

In this beautifully illustrated book, Margaret Silf explores nine landscapes of prayer, both classic and modern: the garden, the mountain, the seashore, the forest, the river, the urban jungle, the desert, the cave, and the night sky. All are fruitful areas for self-discovery, inviting us to connect with the mystery of God in our lives. Margaret Silf is a prolific writer and retreat leader in the Ignatian tradition. Her books are available at Christian bookstores and online. Margaret has visited Santa Teresa several times.

Weathering the Storm

In 2012, over 2,800 people visited Santa Teresa, some in groups, others as individuals, some for a day of spiritual formation, others stayed overnight with the bravest completing the 30 day Ignatian retreat. Already in the first two months of 2013, we have welcomed 525 visitors, the majority of whom were teachers attending spirit filled in-service seminars.

The storms in late January resulted in damage to the roof of Lisieux Place and debris spread across the grounds. Thanks to the efforts of our cleaning and grounds teams, the Centre was quickly back in top shape.

Whether you can stay for a day, several days or longer, take some time for yourself this year to 'come aside and pray' with Jesus. May your Easter/Pentecost journey be filled with many surprises.

Grace and Peace
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