



**Santa Teresa**  
Spirituality Centre



**e-News**

## Nature Prayer Spaces—God’s Garden

Spring 2013 No. 9

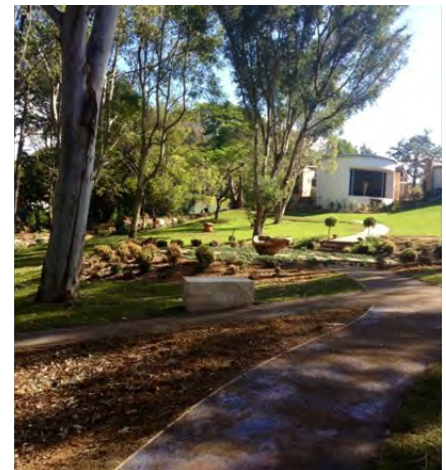
Following on from the creation of the prayer labyrinth last year, further landscaping work has been undertaken in the area below the Blessed Sacrament chapel.

Firstly a swale or creek bed (centre) that enhances the natural waterway allowing rain water to flow into the Bay has been created. Its river rocks and sandstone blocks together with its colourful plants along both banks provides a peaceful setting for quiet reflection. Special turf has been laid to ensure that this area remains accessible all year round.

Secondly, the gardens around the chapels (lower left) have been replanted with an array of plants giving both visual and aromatic interest. The camellias recently gave a brilliant display of flowers that delight the heart.

Thirdly, a decomposed granite pathway (lower right) has been installed providing safe access to the gum tree area leading down to the water’s edge. Along this path, 7 seating places (top right and upper left) have been created using 18 sandstone blocks.

This prayer path dappled in sunlight has already proved popular with retreatants. These spaces have already been well utilised for personal or small group prayer and reflection. Our thanks are due to Toni Sokolov and his team who have used their landscaping skills to create these beautiful garden spaces.



## Wisdom of Santa Teresa on the Book of Nature



Spring is in the air and the roses at the front entrance are full of fragrant blooms. Flowers and gardens were very dear to St Therese who writes:  
*Jesus was pleased to teach me this mystery. He put before my eyes the book of nature. I understood that all the flowers he has created are beautiful. The full bloom of the rose and the purity of the lily do not take anything away from the perfume of the tiny violet or the delightful simplicity of the daisy. I understood that if every flower wanted to be a rose, nature would lose her springtime adornment and the fields would not be bedecked with flowers. So it is in the world of souls which is the garden of Jesus. He wanted to create great saints who can be compared to lilies and roses. But he has also created smaller ones, who must be content to be daisies or violets, destined to gladden the eyes of the good God whenever he looks down at his feet. Perfection lies in doing his will, in being just what he wants us to be.*

## Visit of Apostolic Nuncio



On 4 July, Archbishop Mark, accompanied our new Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Paul Gallagher to Santa Teresa after visiting the Carmelite sisters next door. The Nuncio is seen here sitting on the seat in the centre of the labyrinth. In his first visit to Brisbane since his appointment in February, the Archbishop was impressed with the excellence of the facility, its idyllic setting and its availability for spiritual formation.

He thought it showed great forethought and vision on the part of Archbishop Bathersby to develop such a wonderful place for the spiritual nourishment of groups and individuals within and beyond the Archdiocese. It is just four years since his predecessor Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto officially opened Santa Teresa on 4 October 2009.

## Gifting a Prayer Seat



Both the beautiful sandstone blocks (far left) and the carved camphor laurel seat (centre) are available for donation in memory of a loved one. At a cost of \$500 each, you can gift one of these prayer seats and contribute to the further development of the outdoor prayer spaces at Santa Teresa. A simple plaque can be attached to either form of seating to acknowledge the person being remembered, if this is desired.

If you are interested in learning more about this gifting opportunity or are keen to donate a prayer seat, please contact Michelle or Patrick on Phone: (07) 3286 4011 or email: [Santateresa@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:Santateresa@bne.catholic.net.au)

## Cleaning Team



One of the recurring comments from those visiting the Centre is that it is such a clean and neat facility.

Our cleaning team (pictured left) led by Julie McNally does an amazing job of changing bed-linen, vacuuming, dusting and cleaning toilets and bathrooms in rooms as well as the common areas often with only a window of a few hours before another group replaces those leaving.

Cleanliness and hygiene are critical for the peace of mind and enjoyment of visitors. Our cleaning team provides a very efficient and thorough service that ensures that retreatants feel comfortable and 'at home.'

## Planning your Retreat for 2014—Book Now!

To the end of September, we have welcomed over 2,400 people to Santa Teresa. Of these, 1,401 have stayed overnight, while another 1,012 have attended a day retreat/spiritual formation activity.

Pictured (at right) are a group of teachers and staff from Lasallian Education Services and (below right) some high school students from Lindisfarne Anglican College, among our recent visitors.

If you are planning to organise a retreat for your parish /deanery / renewal group or school in 2014 or want to make a booking for a few days of personal prayer and reflection, please contact Michelle or Patrick (contact details below) soon to ensure that your preferred timing is available.

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