



**Santa Teresa**  
Spirituality Centre



## e-News

### Immersed in God's Playground

Winter 2013 No 8

This photo was recently taken by Toni Sokolov, the landscape artist who created our wonderful labyrinth. As we were planning the shape of a pathway that will open up new sacred spaces, Toni looked up and captured the brilliance of the morning light breaking through the gum trees, glistening with the recent rain. What was not immediately apparent but which Toni later discovered was that this light painted the outline of a cross on the ground.

This experience called to mind lines from Gerard Manley Hopkins famous poem *God's Grandeur*:

*There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;  
And though the last lights off the black West went  
Oh, the morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs -  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings*

We are indeed very blessed to live in such an idyllic setting. One retreatant described it thus: 'This place is just heaven on earth.'



### Santa Teresa Prayer Card

A new prayer card is available for those visiting the Centre.

The bookmark displays a prayer to St Therese as well as some quotes from her writings and a few points about her life.

May her simple wisdoms and love inspire us.

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus,  
teach us to follow your way  
of confidence and trust.  
Open our eyes to see God's love  
ablaze in the beauty of a single flower  
and found in the simplest acts of charity  
such as a smile and a kind word.  
May we radiate the joy and gladness  
that comes from knowing as you did,  
that everything is grace. Amen.



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### Place of Prayer

First and foremost, Santa Teresa is a place of encounter with God. Myriad forms and styles of prayer are used by various groups and individuals in a variety of spaces. Here is a taste of a few such prayer expressions.

Some of these include: silent prayer or adoration in the Blessed Sacrament chapel; thanksgiving prayer amidst the beauty of creation; a meditative pilgrimage walk on the labyrinth; celebration of morning mass in the Carmelite chapel; creative group prayer activities in the Bathersby room (picture of prayer setting); reflection on the Scriptures while enjoying a cuppa on the Moongalba verandah; spiritual reading from books obtained from the library; praying the Stations of the Cross or celebrating Prayer of the Church in the main chapel; or prayer journaling in the quiet of one's room.



### New Promotional Brochure



A colourful brochure resplendent with photos of the Centre has been printed to showcase the beauty of the place and the excellent facilities on offer for prospective visitors.

It also tells the history of the Centre and its close association with the Carmelite sisters living next door as well as the intention of Archbishop Bathersby in choosing the Italian form of St Therese (Santa Teresa) to provide a tangible link to our indigenous brothers and sisters on North Stradbroke Island and the community in Alice Springs.

Recently the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the three Passionists priests conducting the first Aboriginal mission was celebrated on the island across the bay from the Centre.

## Stations of the Cross



The Archbishop has organised the installation of a new set of Stations of the Cross in the main chapel. These beautiful wooden hand carved stations from the Stuflesser studio in Ortisei (Italy) provide a rich visual map for reflection on the passion and death of Christ.

They complement the more abstract stations (pictured right) found on the outside walls of the chapels.



## Grounds Team



Our beautiful grounds require regular maintenance and attention to ensure that they are a joy to behold and a pleasant place in which to pray. Sam McEwan (pictured above left) is responsible for our gardens while Pip and Jeff (above right) do an excellent job of the mowing and trimming. Michael Ryan cares for our rose gardens at the front entrance. Some pruning tasks (above centre) require a helping hand and Patrick is ever ready to assist with such tasks. Thanks for keeping God's garden so well tended.

## Bon Voyage

Both Patrick, our volunteer supervisor and Mary-Clair our caterer are heading overseas for well earned holidays in July. They are trading the crisp winter mornings at Ormiston for summer holidays in Europe and beyond.

We pray that their travels will be safe and they will return to us refreshed with lots of stories and precious snaps to share with us.



## Many Friends

One of the great blessings of coordinating Santa Teresa is meeting many our visitors who quickly become our friends. This year we have welcomed nearly 1,400 people till the end of May. This has included the Uniting Church Kairos group (pictured to right) and the Carmelites who held their Oceanic chapter with us. Other groups who have spent time here include: our seminarians preparing for their ordination, campus ministers from our schools, the staff from Jesuit parishes around Australia and members of Jubilee parish to name but a few. It is a great joy for us to share the beauty and peace of this place with you.

Grace and Peace  
Mike Humphrys

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