

Seasons in our Lives

As we leave Winter behind and embrace Spring, a time of blossoming into the full potential of what has lain dormant within nature's garden, we are delighted and surprised by the colours, fragrances and freshness of new life. The recent rains after a dry winter were a welcome refresher for our plants and showed our swale (pictured) in full flow. May we take some time to appreciate and share the sights, sounds and beauties of our Spring world and the gift of one another as we soak in the Divine Presence surrounding us.



We pray:
*Renewed in spirit by the freshness of this new season,
 may we give thanks and go forth with hearts of grace,
 with gentleness and with a warm appreciation of our companions.
 May great dollops of laughter sprinkle our way with the joy of living.*

Santa Teresa Library



Spiritual reading has long been understood as a vital element of the faith journey. "When we pray we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us." (St. Jerome) What better time to delve into the wisdom of various spiritual writers than when one is taking some quiet reflective time during a stay at Santa Teresa. Donna Longland (pictured) has completed the sorting and cataloguing of many new and recycled books that are sure to stimulate visitors. There is an assortment of themes including: prayer, spirituality, saints, history and even novels for visitors to leisurely read. If you are engrossed in a book and don't get it finished, a simple borrowing system allows you to take it home with you, provided it boomerangs back to us. Thanks Donna for your hard work in creating a spiritual treasure trove for us to mine.

Carmel Wing recognises our Carmelite connection

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in her role as patroness of the Carmelite Order. The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the late 12th and early 13th centuries. They built a chapel in the midst of their hermitages which they dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, whom they conceived of as the "Lady of the place." Archbishop Bathersby was keen to acknowledge and honour the rich presence of our 'prayerful neighbours' the Carmelite Sisters when refurbishing the Centre. One way we did this was the naming of the Carmel wing containing bedrooms 1-6, in honour of their Carmelite patron. We value the ongoing support and gracious hospitality of the Sisters who welcome us to join their morning mass and visit their chapel for prayer.



Carmelite community gathered with the Archbishop

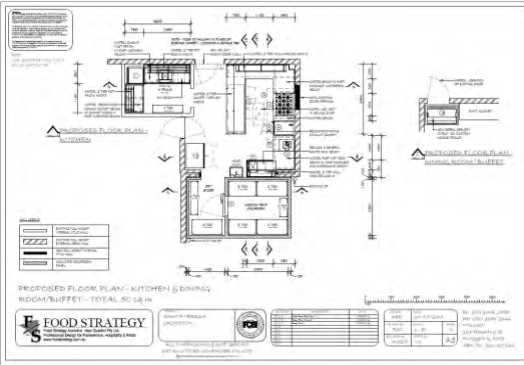
Ekka Award Winning Jams by Mary-Clair



Mary-Clair, our caterer, has long been acclaimed for her jams, relishes and lemon curd (just ask Sr Mary Franzmann!) but now it is official. For the first time, she entered the Brisbane Ekka food competition and won 1st prize for her strawberry jam and 3rd prize for her tomato relish. These products are available for purchase at Santa Teresa or via her website at: <http://www.maryclairs.com.au/> Justifiably very proud of these accolades, Mary-Clair and her team are committed to culinary excellence. Well done Mary-Clair!



Kitchen Upgrade



Plans have been designed for a kitchen upgrade that will provide a safer and more productive working environment for our catering team. Currently, hundreds of meals are prepared each week from a space that is not much larger than many domestic kitchens.

Despite purchasing additional fridges and equipment over the past few years, there is a need to create an industrial kitchen facility with a number of separate work stations, including more food preparation benches; a large cold room; a dry store; a washing and cleaning space; more shelving; a safer location for the oven and other appliances; as well as clear access to the dining room.

It is hoped that these improvements will occur by the end of the year and will provide a safer and more effective working environment for our dedicated catering team led by Mary-Clair.

Evangelisation Brisbane Director visits Santa Teresa

Mr Clyde Cosentino, the newly appointed Director of Evangelisation Brisbane visited Santa Teresa on Monday 24 August to meet the staff and see the facilities for the first time. After enjoying a delicious lunch, Clyde undertook a tour of the Centre before talking to Michelle, Patrick and meeting members of the cleaning, catering and grounds teams, who keep the Centre so clean and serve tasty meals.

Bowled over by the warmth of the welcome, the natural beauty of the setting and the excellence of the Centre facilities, Clyde quickly came to understand why Santa Teresa is fondly known as the 'jewel in the Archdiocesan crown'. Clyde promised he would do all within his influence to ensure that the prayerful spirit of Santa Teresa is preserved for all who come and visit this special place.



Donations large and small help to improve the Centre



Running a Spirituality Centre is an expensive concern as it requires not only covering the operational costs (food, cleaning, electricity & gas, rates, fire systems, insurance, pest control etc.) and the repair and maintenance costs (plumbing, electrical, painting, gardening etc) but also the capital costs of periodic replacement of items such as furniture, bedding & crockery. The Archdiocese of Brisbane generously subsidises these costs in order to keep visitor charges as low as possible. Ongoing improvements to the Centre (eg the labyrinth) need to be funded by donations.

Donations of any size are most welcome. They can include:

- A gift to the Archbishop Bathersby Endowment Fund to provide a long term funding source
- A donation to pay for a specific item/project (eg music keyboard for chapel \$3,000)
- A regular contribution used for ongoing improvements (eg \$50 quarterly)
- A bequest or gift in memory of a loved one (eg sandstone seating \$500)



For further information or to give a donation please contact Michelle our Centre Supervisor Ph. (07) 3286 4011 or email: santateresa@bne.catholic.net.au

Welcome to friends new and returning

July and August are our coolest, yet our two busiest, months of the year at Santa Teresa. It is a great joy to welcome new groups (eg pictured below left is the St John's Anglican Cathedral group) and those returning (below right the Italian Community).

Michelle and Patrick have cared for over 2,200 clergy, religious, teachers, parish groups, renewal groups, Church workers and private retreatants over the past 8 months. May your time with us be a blessing of peace, refreshment and surprise as you encounter the mystery and grace of God's love.

Mike Humphrys -Coordinator

