

Quandamooka Place

Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre acknowledges the Quandamooka people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We pay respect to the elders past and present on whose land we are, acknowledging the loss of lands, culture and treasures, knowing the consequences for people, communities and nations, but believing we can walk together towards a better future.

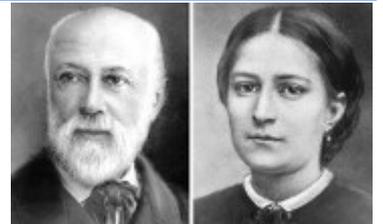
This beautiful area overlooking Moreton Bay provides a series of sacred spaces where one can take time to reflect on one's life journey and engage with a loving God who speaks to us in unexpected ways. These prayer places offer entry points into the mystery and wisdom of the Eternal One. May all who walk this land give thanks for the Quandamooka people who have cared for this land for over 20 thousand years.



Parents of St Therese of Lisieux to be first married couple canonised together



The parents of St. Therese of Lisieux will be canonised on 18 Oct 2015 at the Vatican during the Synod of Bishops on the Family. Louis Martin (1823-1894) and Marie Zelie Guerin Martin (1831-1877) will be the first married couple with children to be canonised in the same ceremony. Other married couples are among the blessed of the church.



Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, said the couple lived an "exemplary life of faith, dedication to ideal values, united to a constant realism, and persistent attention to the poor". The cardinal said the French couple serves as an "extraordinary witness of conjugal and family spirituality."

Married in 1858, the couple had nine children; four died in infancy and five entered religious life. During their 19-year marriage, the couple was known to attend Mass daily, pray and fast, respect the Sabbath, visit the elderly and the sick, and welcome the poor into their home. We rejoice that the parents of our patron are also being recognised for their holiness through the witness of their marriage and family life.

We hold in prayer Archbishop Mark and all who will be gathered in Rome for the Synod on the Family next month.

Some Comments from Visitors

Some recent comments from our guests include:

- ◇ 'Such a beautiful space to replenish my heart and soul for the work we do' (Palliative Care group)
- ◇ 'Santa Teresa – a true gem of the Archdiocese' (Clergy retreat)
- ◇ 'The Spirit of God is alive in this place. Thank you for your kindness, attentiveness and most generous hospitality' (RCIA group)
- ◇ 'Very prayerful and peaceful environment for personal discernment and discovery' (Individual retreatant)
- ◇ 'Grounds are very beautiful and getting better all the time' (Parish group)
- ◇ 'The new Cana and Hermitage sites provide sacred spaces for encountering God in the beauty of nature. The presence of koalas in the gum trees overhead is a delight.' (Guest from overseas)

Hermitage Prayer Fence

Since completion of the hermitage in February, many visitors have taken time to sit and write a prayer at the table before pinning it to the prayer fence, formed by the 52 cypress posts that ring the path to the hermitage.

The hundreds of colourful prayers in words or images reflect a rich variety of themes and experiences including the following forms:

- ⇒ *Reflections on the Scriptures*
- ⇒ *Petitions for a personal need*
- ⇒ *Intercession for others or for the world*
- ⇒ *Gratitude for gifts received*
- ⇒ *Inspiration from the saints who go before us*
- ⇒ *Expressions of deepest longings within the human heart*



Weathered by the sun, rain and wind, the prayer cards gradually fade and break down, yet remain a poignant symbol of our hope and trust in God. May the God of life and mercy satisfy the desires of our hearts.

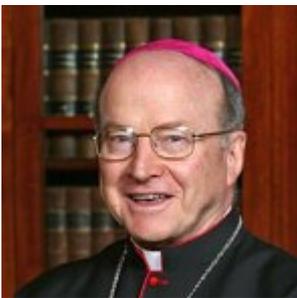
Caroline Chisholm Wing

Our front accommodation block was named after one of the unsung heroes of Australian colonial life, Caroline Chisholm, whose achievements were extraordinary. She was an advocate for women, awakening the colony's conscience to the lack of dignity with which many female immigrants were treated. Caroline achieved tremendous good in her own time with her concern for the welfare of over 12,000 women, families and individuals.

She was a prophetic voice in colonial Australia. Her concerns in the 1840s-1860s are issues that still concern church and society today, not only in Australia but universally. The principles she identified are as valid today as they were in her own time. Let us give thanks for an English woman without wealth and without assistance who has done more for this country than all the emigration societies and the British Government together – a simple woman who succeeded in her aims by force of character and vigour of soul. May her story continue to inspire our nation to be generous in caring for the needs of all who come to this ancient land.



Donations & Bequests to Archbishop Bathersby Endowment Fund



At the St Mary MacKillop Mass on 8 August 2011, the Archbishop Bathersby Endowment Fund was launched to provide a fund for the ongoing needs of the Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre. The intention was that over time, contributions, either by way of donations or bequests, would create a substantial fund, whose annual disbursement could assist in meeting the ongoing operating costs or be utilised for special projects at the Centre.

If you or anyone you know would like to financially support the ongoing development of the Centre, please contact the Centre Supervisor for further information. We remember in our prayers all our benefactors and are ever grateful for the vision and support of Archbishop Bathersby, who was instrumental in the Centre's acquisition and development.

Projects 2015

The key projects for this year are some roof repairs recently undertaken to the main building to overcome water leaks, and major renovations to the kitchen to provide a modern well equipped culinary space to serve the thousands of guests enjoying the delights of the Mary-Clair Catering team. As custom has grown (from 1347 in 2010 to 3,333 visitors in 2014) so has the need for a larger kitchen facility with more preparation benches, greater refrigeration capacity, increased food storage and shelving, improved cleaning facilities and space for a variety of cooking equipment. Now that design and tendering processes are complete and finance approval has been given, construction will take place during October.

Recently, the bench in the dining room was extended to provide more space for the delicious food prepared by our catering team. The Archdiocese continues to support the growth and development of Santa Teresa in pursuit of its mission to be a modern well equipped spiritual formation Centre that provides a place of peace and beauty where guests can encounter God.



Tracey in the existing kitchen

Visitors



This year we have welcomed many new and old friends with August being our busiest month ever with 586 visitors (285 day and 301 overnight). Among these was the new Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, who, accompanied by Archbishop Mark, visited the Centre and greeted the participants of the recent RCIA Queensland Conference.

I marvel that in any one week, we can welcome a great diversity of visitors from overseas, other states of Australia, other Christian churches, our schools and Church agencies and from our own parish backyards. Clergy, religious and laity have been lavish in their praise of the efforts of our staff to provide a welcoming home for them as they spend precious time apart from the busyness of their lives to be with God in the silence of their hearts. You are most welcome to come and visit this special place.

*Blessings,
Mike Humphrys, Coordinator*