

Pope Francis: Care for our Common Home – A prayer for our earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.



Dawn light against the hermitage prayer fence at Santa Teresa, Ormiston

Encyclical of Pope Francis: Laudato Si 'On Care for our Common Home' n.246

RCIA Conference 7-9 August



We welcome the 2015 RCIA Queensland State Conference to Santa Teresa in early August. The journey from Friday night to Sunday will follow the steps and phases of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). This provides ideal formation for parishes seeking to implement the RCIA.

For further information contact: Rob Cosgrove: (07) 3324 3442



Santa Teresa is an ideal venue for faith based conferences, gatherings, seminars, workshops, retreats, days of reflection, province chapters, renewal weekends and prayer experiences. With modern and well equipped formation spaces, two chapels for prayer and liturgy and beautiful outdoor sacred spaces, Santa Teresa offers a series of versatile reflective areas to meet a diversity of needs. Coupled with ensuited accommodation, excellent catering and stunning bay views, it is designed to foster a peaceful and reflective environment. Contact the Centre Supervisor (Ph. 32864011) to make an enquiry or booking.

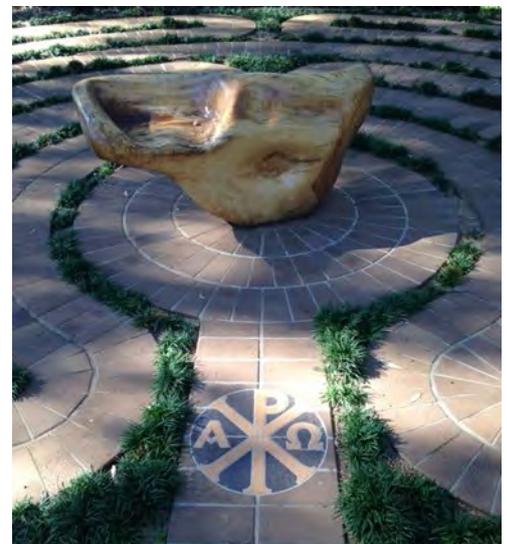
Labyrinth Christogram

Recently a Christ symbol was inserted into the labyrinth path. The purpose of a symbol is to act as a pointer to a deeper reality. This design holds two ancient symbols together, namely the **Alpha and Omega (A Ω) and the Chi Rho (XP)**.

Jesus Christ has been depicted with the alpha and omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, in the catacombs of Rome from the 4th century. This practice derives from the biblical text found in the Book of Revelation said by Jesus of himself "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" ([Revelation 22:13](#), also 1:8 and 21:6).

The Chi Rho is formed by superimposing the first two (capital) letters [chi](#) and [rho](#) (XP) of the Greek word "ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ" =[Christ](#) in such a way to produce a monogram. Widespread in ancient Christianity, it too has been a popular symbol of Christ.

Together these two symbols of Christ remind us that Jesus is 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' (John 14:6) who is our guide and companion on our journey of life.



MacKillop Administration wing



Australia's first saint is the patron of our administrative wing which includes the following areas:

- Reception with paintings of Mary MacKillop and Stradbroke Dreaming on its walls
- Coordinator's Office which Mike inhabits on his regular visits to the Centre
- Centre Supervisor Office is the heartbeat of the Centre where Michelle and Patrick work
- Administration Support Office where Mary-Anne attends to a myriad of admin tasks
- Library which houses our collection of spirituality resources for the use of our visitors
- Spiritual Direction room where a person's spiritual journey is guided and honoured
- Francis Rush formation room where individuals and small groups can dine in silence or meet.

Her practical spirituality is entirely appropriate for this part of our Centre, since it is here that the planning and organisation takes place to ensure the efficient running of Centre operations. A few of her wisdoms from *The Little Brown Book* (Sue and Leo Kane, St Pauls Publ.) include:

'Believe the whisperings of God to your own heart' (1868)

'See the hand of God in all that happens' (1871)

'There is no need for formal prayer, just silent contemplation and a quiet form of adoration as we enjoy the beauty of God in the wonderful creation we are immersed in.' (1873)

'We must often feel weary and tired, yet God brings us through all these things' (1874)

'Do what you can with the means at your disposal and leave all the rest calmly to God (1888)

'God's presence seems to follow me everywhere and makes everything I do, or wish to do, a prayer' (1890)



Painting hanging in Mary MacKillop Administration wing

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. Design and tendering processes are now complete and once finance approval is given, construction will begin. 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.



Poinsettia bush in flower for Pentecost

Tree Track – We take Workplace Health and Safety Issues seriously



Mike & Andrew discussing Tree Track

One of the projects undertaken in 2014 was to develop a management plan of all the trees on the property that might constitute a risk to persons or buildings. Andrew Stovell (pictured) from Redlands Tree Service, whose company regularly prunes our trees, has created a computerised program that records all work done and identifies potential risks as well as recommending any revegetation work for the long term benefit of the Centre.

This is particularly important as we are determined to keep our habitat friendly for our regular koala visitors. We now have a documented record of our trees as well as being proactive in ensuring that we minimise the risk to staff and visitors from falling branches as well as protecting the beautiful environment we have been given to care for.

Happenings at Ormiston



This year we have welcomed many new and old friends with May being our busiest month ever with 499 visitors (279 day and 220 overnight).

Mary-Clair, our caterer is off to Paris shortly to meet up with her daughter who has been studying overseas. Michelle, our hard working Centre Supervisor has been lured to the Gold Coast and the Far North to celebrate her milestone birthday on 5 July.

I am grateful for the generosity of our staff whose efforts make Santa Teresa such a special place, attending to the needs of all who come and spend time here.

*Blessings,
Mike Humphrys, Coordinator*