

# Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre e-News

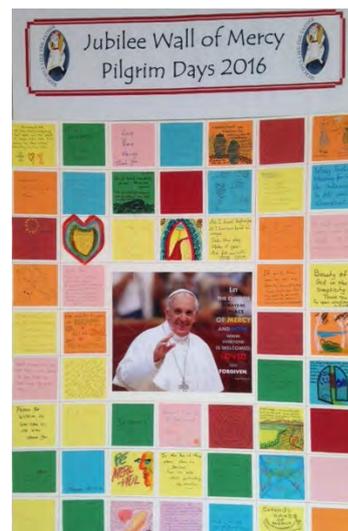
## Year of Mercy coming to an end or is it ?

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is fast coming to a close on 20 November, but the call to be merciful will always tug at our hearts because it is the very essence of the gospel and the practical way that disciples of Jesus demonstrate their love and compassion for others. Enriched by our understanding of 'mercy' as a verb, we can choose to keep mercying year in and year out through our willingness to forgive others and to embrace hope in our own lives, even when circumstances are difficult as these quotes remind us.....

*At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence and revenge are necessary conditions for living joyfully. (Pope Francis: The Face of Mercy n9)*

*Mercy is a vision of possibility. It sees that much more is possible. In that sense, mercy is the mother of hope. (Archbishop Coleridge, Advent Pastoral Letter 2015)*

*We have welcomed over 500 people to our 9 Pilgrim Days during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.*



## Santa Teresa Vision

A team day was held on 5 October to provide time for the staff to meet one another and to explore the Vision for the Centre. We are blessed with a wonderful group of staff who daily turn this vision into reality through their generous and loving service of all who come to Santa Teresa.

### The Vision of Santa Teresa is to be a place of:

- ◆ Quiet Prayer and Reflection
- ◆ Spiritual Formation
- ◆ Great Natural Beauty
- ◆ Hospitality
- ◆ Encounter with God
- ◆ Refreshment & Enjoyment
- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Rich Heritages



## Staff Changes



Since our last newsletter, Michelle McEwan and Patrick Cremin have both resigned after many years of dedicated service. We wish them every blessing.

Colleen Skubis (left) has started as the Weekday Supervisor (Monday through Thursdays) while Karren Strahan (right) serves as Weekend Supervisor (Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays). They are aided by a team of caretakers who work from 7pm to 7am. We welcome Colleen and Karren who have already greeted many guests and who are fast learning the many and varied tasks of running the Centre.



## John Bathersby Formation Space



This formation room is very popular with groups as it is a versatile space with great views of Moreton Bay and has modern seminar equipment. Whether it be configured for a group sitting in the round or at tables or relaxing in the bucket chairs, the Bathersby room provides for a range of spiritual activities.

The name of this room recognises the pivotal role Archbishop Bathersby played in establishing Santa Teresa as an Archdiocesan spirituality centre.



## Santa Teresa Crosses and Scarves

An ongoing way in which the Centre supports the indigenous women at the Santa Teresa parish mission outside Alice Springs is through the sale of their beautifully painted ceramic crosses and silk scarves. They make wonderful gifts as each cross and scarf is unique and reveals a profound spirituality.

It was the intention of Archbishop Bathersby for the Centre to keep connection with this indigenous community, who can teach us so much about faith and the ways of the Spirit. You can learn more about this work through their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/SantaTeresaSpiritualityCentre/>



## Improvements: Cottage changes and Key Cupboard

The cottage has had a number of improvements including new blinds, curtains and new furniture to make it more comfortable for our caretakers who stay overnight as well as making it more suitable for formation groups utilising the lounge and kitchen areas.

A new key cupboard has been installed in the Mary MacKillop Administration offices so that the many passes and keys used throughout the Centre can be readily located and kept secure. A key audit has been done and a key register is being created so that all keys can be accounted for at any time.



## Quandamooka Prayer Walk and Pathways



Thanks to our ongoing capital grants funding from the Archdiocese, the remainder of the Quandamooka Prayer Walk was concreted recently to provide safer access to these beautiful prayer spaces. The decomposed granite had eroded badly and was posing a safety hazard.

Toni Sokolov and his Figtree Landscapes team also installed paver paths across the front area and on the southern side of the Chisholm accommodation wing to give our staff and guests safer access to these areas.



## Map of the Centre

Recently, we had Joe Thorley, a graphic designer, create a pictorial map of the Centre so that guests coming for the first time could readily find where their bedrooms, dining and formation areas and prayer places are located. The map provides a ready reference for our day visitors and gives those checking our website, a visual overview of our Centre facilities.

Santa Teresa has welcomed over 3,000 guests till the end of September. It is a joy to see how spending some time at the Centre gives people refreshment and renewal as they encounter God in the midst of their life journey. Join us in 2017.

Blessings,  
Mike Humphrys - Coordinator

