



## Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre e-News

Rainbows –a sign of hope— reminding us of God’s presence in our lives



Rainbows have long been considered symbols of hope that spring up within the human spirit when they appear in the sky after storms. This rainbow recently appeared over Moreton Bay inspiring awe and wonder at its beauty and form. Within the biblical tradition, the rainbow is linked to God’s promise to Noah to protect and care for creation after the great flood.

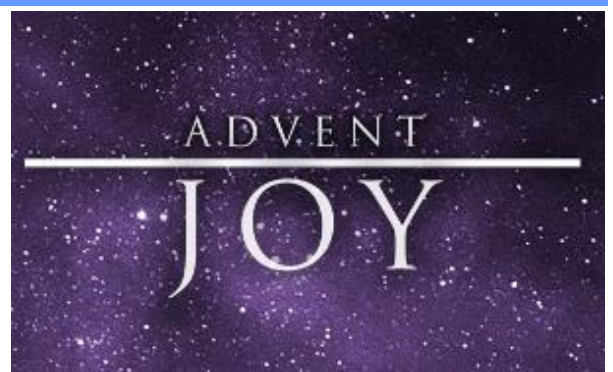
During the COVID lockdowns across the globe, rainbows have spontaneously appeared on windows, footpaths, banners, classroom walls, buildings, clothing, faces, social media and wherever the human heart finds a canvas. A universal symbol of hope, the colourful arch strikes a chord deep within the human psyche. At a time when many are exhausted, anxious, stressed over finances, employment and uncertainty and fearful of their mortality, rainbows are a sign of assurance that the pandemic will come to an end, things will improve and others are there to care and support us.

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit’ (Romans 15:13) and may each of us place our confidence in God’s love for each and every person.

### Parish Reflection Day Saturday 28 November

Come and join us for a day of prayer and reflection focused on the Advent theme of ‘Joy’.

- Date: Saturday 28 November 9am-3.30pm
- Cost: \$30 per person (includes lunch and morning tea)
- Register: Email: [ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:ebadmin@bne.catholic.net.au) or Ph. 3324 3440  
(booking and payment essential by 20 November)
- Venue: Santa Teresa 267 Wellington St. Ormiston



Access to Spiritual Direction <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/spiritual-direction/#what-is-spiritual-direction>

*‘The purpose of spiritual direction is to help turn our wandering into journeying.’ – Archbishop Mark Coleridge*

Spiritual direction is a conversation of the heart, a ministry of spiritual guidance and companionship, an ongoing one-to-one relationship of deep listening to the movement of God and the Holy Spirit’s “still small voice”, and a sacred and confidential place to tell the story of who you are and to give voice to your experiences of God. (Archdiocese of Brisbane website)

There is a listing of spiritual directors on the Archdiocesan website, where you can view the profile of over 30 people who are currently exercising this ministry. The profiles (see link above) provide a brief outline of their experiences, qualifications, spiritual journey and the style of spiritual direction offered and their contact information for your discernment.

## St. Therese's 'Little Way' – Simplicity

One of the qualities of St. Therese's 'Little Way' is that of simplicity. She approached God as a child with a certain naivety, directness, freshness and confidence.

As adults we can tend to complicate and intellectualise this relationship which can quickly become too formal and distant.

Let us pray that we can simply chat often to Jesus our friend and companion.

"I say very simply to God what I want to say, without composing beautiful sentences, and He always understands me."  
- St. Therese of Lisieux



## Sr Liz Wiemer's story in The Catholic Leader July 15



Pictured with Paula Turner, Liz Wiemers, a Good Samaritan sister, has spent the last 12 years as the parish assistant in the Santa Teresa community, 80 kms outside Alice Springs. Liz coordinates the spirituality centre where aboriginal women paint the beautiful crosses and scarves on sale at the Centre. 'I've been privileged to be taught their culture and language.'



## Wisdoms of St Teresa of Avila, Carmelite nun, reformer, mystic, and Doctor of the Church

EACH OF US HAS A SOUL, BUT WE FORGET TO VALUE IT. WE DON'T REMEMBER THAT WE ARE CREATURES MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE GREAT SECRETS HIDDEN INSIDE OF US.  
- TERESA OF ÁVILA -

"LET NOTHING DISTURB YOU. LET NOTHING MAKE YOU AFRAID. ALL THINGS ARE PASSING. GOD ALONE NEVER CHANGES. PATIENCE GAINS ALL THINGS. IF YOU HAVE GOD YOU WILL WANT FOR NOTHING. GOD ALONE SUFFICES."



## Shane Dwyer –Associate Director Adult Formation and Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre



Shane has worked in the area of adult faith formation, spirituality, vocational and tertiary sector course provision and resource development for the last thirty years. He was the Director of the National Centre for Evangelisation located in Canberra, prior to joining Evangelisation Brisbane as Associate Director for Adult Formation in September last year. 'It's a role I feel I have been preparing for my whole life, as I have sought to answer my own questions about our faith, and what living in response to that faith might mean in our lives as they actually are.'

Next year, Shane will also oversee the operations and offerings of Santa Teresa. We welcome Shane and are grateful for his gifts, experience and passion for all things pertaining to God.

## Gratitude and Memories

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have led the wonderful team at the centre for the past 10 years. We have welcomed over 35,000 guests in this time and provided a beautiful home for them to encounter God afresh.

As I joyously prepare to embrace retirement after working for the Archdiocese of Brisbane for the past 38 years: 15 years within Catholic schooling and 23 years with Evangelisation Brisbane, I carry many wonderful memories of faith, prayer and celebration as together we have sought to follow Jesus and share this precious gift with others. Thank you, Archbishops John and Mark for being champions of Santa Teresa.

*Blessings, Mike Humphrys (Coordinator)*

