

Companions

In the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

Conversar News: December 2021

Christmas Blessings



'The Gift', Aunty Robyn Davis (Waddi Waddi People, Australia)

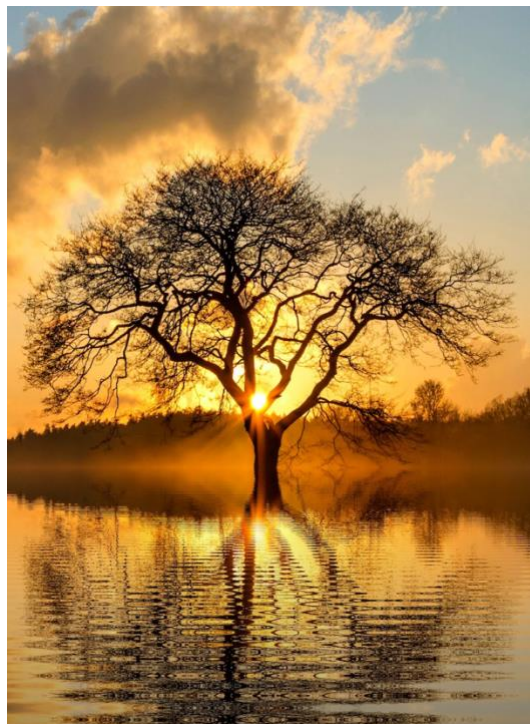
Blessings to all for a very Happy Christmas
and Joyous New Year
From the Committee of
Companions in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

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News from the Chair



Firstly I would like to thank you for the support and encouragement I have received since I moved into the role of Committee Chair at the AGM in August. Moving 'into the large shoes' left by Mary McInerney has been made much easier for me by the wonderful 'handover support' from Mary, for which I warmly thank her.

AGM

At the AGM we said farewell to Mary McInerney and Anne Pate. Both have been very committed and supportive members of the committee in various roles.

Mary has been a wonderful Chair who has guided and lead us during a time of growth and challenge with her wise steady counsel which has been of great inspiration to us.

Anne has chaired our membership committee and taken the lead in our Apostolic Plan and other strategic initiatives. Anne has been the Companions representative on the Australian Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD), a role that she will continue until 2023.

We said 'a tentative farewell' to Larry Cox, our treasurer, however following a period of discernment, Larry agreed to be co-opted back onto the committee as the treasurer for a period. I thank Larry for this decision.

We also warmly welcomed 2 new members to the committee, Anne Taylor rsc from Sydney and Annette Heinemann from Adelaide. Profiles of both will be included in our first 'Conversar News' in 2022.

New Members / Renewed Members

I would like to welcome new members who have recently joined and those of you who have renewed your membership for 2021/22. We continue to be gratified by the importance you place on your love and commitment to the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

Apostolic Plan

For a number of years, the work of the committee has been guided by an 'Apostolic Plan', a series of 'guideposts' that we follow to 'map' the activities for Companions consistent with our stated vision, values and core priorities. Through prayer and sharing in spiritual conversation, we develop and offer to the Companions Community opportunities to strengthen and enrich our ministry. We are currently working on a revised plan for the next three years which we will share with the wider membership.

Many blessings for a very joyous Christmas

Wayne

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Companions Connecting during 2021

During 2021 we have continued opportunities for 'Connecting' via Zoom. As Mary McInerney said in her Report to the recent AGM, 'Our vision has been enlarged as we have stepped out into new and emerging spaces of friendship, connection and professional development as a result of these Connections'. The first in March was facilitated by Joan Jennings (Melbourne) and focused on her experience of changes to her ministry that involved working with the aged. The second was facilitated by Angela Hazebroek (Adelaide) in July with the focus 'From Cannonball to Cardoner: Ignatius, the Soldier becomes a Pilgrim and a Mystic'. Our most recent was held early in December, 'The Nativity, Jung and Active Imagination', facilitated by Iain Radvan SJ. Iain introduced participants to some of Jung's key concepts, like 'individualisation' and 'archetype', and explained the archetype of the 'divine child'. In Ignatius contemplation of the Nativity, exercitants are able to tap into this archetype which can become an occasion for a renewal of self-identity at the beginning of the Second Week.



Our December 'Connection' participants

Prayer Reflections



At the initiative of Terry Fanning, monthly prayer reflections, held for one hour each second Friday of the month, commenced in May this year. These reflections have been a wonderful opportunity for us to share some quiet reflective prayer time during somewhat challenging times for our community. These reflections will recommence on Friday 11 February, 2022 from 9.30am – 10.30am AEDT. During this past year, there have been others who have assisted in facilitating these prayer reflections. If any of you would like to offer your support to assist in this role in 2022, Terry would love to hear from you. (fanning.terry@gmail.com).

Professional Development / Creative Connection Plans for 2022

Opportunities available for gathering during 2022 are still very unsure due to COVID uncertainties. A sub committee of Michael Smith, Anne Taylor, Murray Adam and Michael Ryan has commenced meeting to develop plans. We are proposing initiatives that are creative, challenging, prayerful and reflective and will keep you informed as these plans unfold. We thank the 'Delphine O'Shea Ignatian Spirituality and Outreach Fund' for providing support for these plans in 2022.

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Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia have advised of the following two international online events in early 2022, in celebration of the Ignatian Year, the 500th anniversary of Ignatius' conversion.

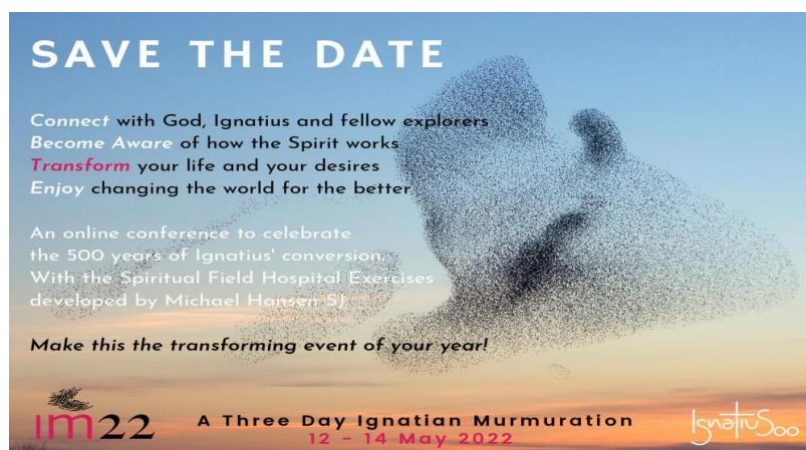
International Ignatian Ecospirituality Conference 25 – 30 April 2022



An online conference with presentations on an aspect of the environment from a global perspective, group sharing, immersing yourself in the nature of your local area, and planning some sustainable action for the Earth

[Book Your Place Now](#)

IM22 - A Three Day Ignatian Murmuration 12 – 14 May 2022



More details to come in the New Year

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ANSD Journal: 'Coolamon'

As a number of you would be aware, 'Coolamon' is the ANSD journal designed to resource the Spiritual Direction community across Australia. Since its beginning in 2018, they have produced beautiful editions that have included many reflective and academic articles, poetry and book reviews arising from this land. The last two years have seen Coolamon develop to include print as well as online editions. For those who have not seen a copy of this journal, I recommend you refer to the ANSD website (ansd.org.au) and consider subscribing. It is so refreshing to see a quality Australian 'spiritual direction' journal, rather than rely solely on international publications.

The Coolamon editorial team have asked if we might share the theme for the next edition in the hope that some of you might be encouraged to consider making a submission. The theme is 'Listening on the Edge' with further details below.

COOLAMON JOURNAL THEME for 2022: *Listening On the Edge*



Spiritual Direction and other contemplative practices often thrive on the edge of mainstream institutions and society in general. This decentralised (perhaps even queer) space brings freedom to be and explore away from spoken and unspoken expectations and conformity.

As we find ourselves listening on the edge:

- Where are we finding new opportunities to minister?
- What has been life-giving for us in these contexts?
- Practically, how can we have a sustainable ministry while serving beyond the support (income, insurance, recognition) of institutions?
- What are the challenges and what does self-care look like as we listen on the edge?
- What theologies and perspectives are emerging from this space?

Please consider sharing your experience by writing for Coolamon:

Intent to submit poetry/book review due: Friday, 25th February, 2022
Abstracts for Articles due: Friday 25th February, 2022
FINAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday 15th April, 2022
All intents to submit, abstracts and final submissions sent to editor.ansdjournal@gmail.com

Spiritual Direction Network in Australia

Every eight weeks, the leaders of the various "Spiritual Directors Associations" meet together online with the main purpose of the gathering together being to enable a wider and deeper perspective of the Spiritual Direction community throughout Australia. The groups represented at these gatherings are Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD), Australian Network for Spiritual Direction (ANSD), Companions in

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the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises (CMISE), and Conference of Spiritual Directors Australia (CSD). In addition, George Warren who is a former president of AECSD also is a part of this group. His current role is carrying forward the initiative and ongoing work of the funding provided from the Patrick and Anthony Wright Formation and Education Fund (PAWFED) to explore a National Register of Spiritual Directors, Supervision and the Unity in Diversity of the Spiritual Direction Community.

The coordination and collaboration within the wider Spiritual Direction Community in Australia is important, and as this project unfolds, and any other initiatives and information become available, we will keep you informed via 'Conversar News'.

Conversar News

Your committee are planning to update the style, content and regularity of 'Conversar News' in 2022 and are seeking some assistance and support for this. If any of you feel that you have some thoughts, ideas and time to assist us with assembling the material, please can you contact Wayne. (wayne.brabin@internode.on.net). The time involvement would be minimal as we are not necessarily seeking an editor, but support to assist.

Website

One of the challenges for any organisation is to maintain an up to date and user friendly website. During recent years we have upgraded our website to reflect an image that is appropriate for us. During 2022, we are proposing to add some additional benefits in the members folder and will keep you informed as these happen. In addition we would welcome any comments and suggestions you might have.

'Mailbox'



A new initiative we are introducing for members is what we are calling 'Mailbox'. This is simply providing you with an opportunity to write to the committee with suggestions, comments, proposals for professional development, requests, additional members benefits, possibilities for 'outreach' etc. Please send these to: wayne.brabin@internode.on.net