

General Editor:

Eileen Cassidy snd, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, 35 Scott Street, Glasgow, G3 6PE

E-mail: eileen.cassidy@iscglasgow.co.uk

Editorial

When the last newsletter was published, Pope Benedict XVI had just announced his resignation, and speculations about his successor were many. I think it's fair to say that few of those speculations would have included Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who was elected as Pope and who chose Francis as his name.

Pope Francis' election was greeted across the globe with surprise, smiles and delight. His chosen name was a 'first' for the papacy; his first greeting was a simple *'Good Evening'*; his first gesture was to invite the waiting and viewing crowds to pray for and bless him; his first reference to himself was as Bishop of Rome; and his first words of address were his own.

These simple 'firsts' spoke with an eloquence that could not be missed. They spoke of a leader whose missionary zeal was rooted in simplicity; who was on our level, spoke our language and wanted to communicate with us from the depth of his own person; who seemed to embrace us as equals, our prayer for him being as important as his blessing on us; and who saw himself as standing alongside rather than above his fellow bishops.

The heartening thing was that these firsts became seconds, thirds and fourths, experienced in the days that followed in concrete actions and encouraging words, the most eloquent surely being the foot-washing ritual of young men and women, Christian and Muslim, in a young offenders' unit in Rome. Here was something good and new that resonated within us, and that inspired confidence and hope. Here was an experience of God's self-emptying love and of Christ's servant leadership in someone who identified with us.

Many are intrigued by such 'novelty' in the leader of a church widely recognised for its pomp and ceremony, its hierarchical structure, and throughout its history for its sin, and they are asking questions about the Ignatian-Franciscan influences on the Pope. What do we see in this man? Among other things, we see someone who is free of pomp and ceremony, whose heart beats with God's compassion for the most vulnerable and

for the planet, whose security is in his relationship with God, who recognises and values communion, and whose authority comes from who he is as a person rather than from what he has in terms of goods or position. We see a man whose Ignatian-Franciscan way of life is now in the public arena. Yet there is nothing esoteric about this way of life. The Franciscan model has wide appeal and Ignatius arrived at his way of life while a layman.

On the closing day of our programme year, June 22nd, more than 40 people gathered at the ISC and 'met' Ignatius of Loyola! We accompanied him through the most formative periods of his life, as he shared with us how he learned to recognise God in daily life and to make decisions around those encounters.

Margaret Silf was sharing with us the process she used – imaginative conversation across the centuries - to write her latest book, *'Just Call Me López'* (see p.16). In Margaret's conversations with Ignatius we met Ignatius the soldier and dreamer, the enthusiastic 'convert' and wise discerner, the visionary and the man with a mission. He shared with us the tensions he experienced in life, and how he processed them. We heard him move from one degree of freedom to another until he arrived at an engaged surrender to God that enabled self-emptying love. In the reflective spaces between sessions, we identified parallels between Ignatius' experience of life and our own, and we aspired towards that same freedom and love that will lead to self-emptying surrender.

The contents of this newsletter reflect the practical steps that ordinary people take along the path towards surrender to God and freedom from all that impedes that surrender. It is the path of life, marked by stages that are common to all, but each with unique content. We are grateful to Ignatius for resourcing us to identify and live through these stages. And we are grateful to Margaret for a creativity that enabled a living encounter with Ignatius.

Enjoy your read, and happy holidays in whatever form they come!

Eileen Cassidy snd



Spiritual Conversation (Edinburgh) 2012-13

Slightly anxious about what lay ahead, nine of us came together in October last year for the first session of a course in Spiritual Conversation. We were a little uncertain about the course in terms of would it would be like, what would be expected of us, and about what exactly is spiritual conversation. But after seven months of thoughtful, wise, gentle, sensitive and sometimes humorous guidance from our three tutors, we emerged, following our final retreat weekend in May, with a new perspective on many things and a life-enriching experience.

The course was divided into 4 modules – on listening, prayer, discernment in the Ignatian tradition, and spiritual conversation - and took place on Thursday evenings. Each week we arrived a little preoccupied from a busy day, but were helped to settle into the evening with a stilling exercise that brought us back to our centre in God. The sessions were different, and were presented in a variety of interesting ways. They

included quiet reflective time, time for discussion and, as necessary, time for working in triads (groups of three) where we practised the relevant skills and learned from our own experience and from one another. These were challenging exercises, but were necessary to help us develop our practice, and, as shared experiences, they brought us closer together as a group. They were a very valuable part of the overall learning experience, as were the 1,500 word assignments that brought each module to a close. Although a bit daunting at first, the written work helped me to focus on what I had learned.

I will miss our Thursday evening gatherings, but I will carry with me into my everyday life this special experience of learning and sharing, together with a sense of fellowship which is my abiding memory of the course.

- - Tina Stevenson



[Spiritual Conversation is] *“that form of pastoral care whose principal purpose is to enable another to relate consciously to the Lord and to let the Lord relate to him/her, to grow in that relationship and to live its truth”* (Barry and Connolly).

Six Days Series

The 'Six Days' series, offered by the Epiphany Group in Edinburgh, began last Autumn and continued through till June, as indicated in the previous newsletter. I participated in four of those days. They helped me in my continuing journeys of faith, personal growth and healing.

Because I suffer from arthritis and have considerable discomfort when moving, I was hesitant about Jenny Williams' day on 'Praying with the Whole of our Being'. However, I decided to give it a try and am so pleased that I did this. The day turned out to be different from what I had imagined. It helped me relate to my body as a friend and not as something to be battled with; it helped me tune in to some personal fears; and, as I kept rhythm with the group, it encouraged me to get up and move again – and not to be afraid. In addition, Jenny connected everything to scripture and spirituality. This seemed to complete the topic and gave me a renewed sense of the wholeness of our beings. I am so grateful for this day.

In January I attended Margaret Silf's day, entitled 'Beyond Certainty'. I found her reflections to be very freeing. They helped me in my own experience and understanding of our church, and,



in retrospect, they helped me process the difficult and public experience of my Church with the resignation of our Cardinal from his duties.

In March Nick Thorpe encouraged us to learn 'the art of letting go', an art that seems appropriate for today and helps us deal with stress. Befriending the inner critic and taking positive steps towards healing sounds like good advice.

Finally in June Lynda Wright's day on 'Enneagram and Relationships' was not only helpful but also very humorous. It helped us all accept much of the negative or difficult elements of our experience. I enjoyed discovering new tools and having my awareness widened of what the Enneagram has to offer. I found the combination of Psychology, Spirituality and Faith to be extremely helpful. This was a very Spirit-filled day.

I should like to express my thanks to the Epiphany Group for this series of days that touch our daily lives. For information about the next series, consult the Epiphany Group's website, or email sixdaysedinburgh@yahoo.co.uk.

- - Christine Triay

Living and Working in an Ignatian Way (Loyola Hall, Nov 2012)

Are you looking for a place to consider the connections between your life and the Ignatian heritage? Seeking a refresher? Interested in how other spiritual influences can sit alongside the Ignatian way? Wondering if the Ignatian tradition is really for you after all? Just interested in learning more? I went to this 4 day course and found a place to explore all these things and more. Energising, clarifying and affirming, the course exceeded all my expectations.

From Ignatius story, to the lives of others who have been touched by his, on to our own story and then how we take mission and ministry to the world, these days covered a broad sweep and a lot of material – in papers, film, music and teaching. Through times of reflection, sharing, looking at the differences and overlaps between Jesuit and Ignatian spirituality, excerpts from the constitutions, an outline of Jesuit pastoral care, themes of Social Justice in a visit to a parish in Liverpool, meditations adapted from the Exercises, I came away with a renewed sense of gratitude for how much I have received from my Ignatian journey. The next course is 25th to 28th November. I would recommend it to all.



- - Elizabeth White



Welcome to John Eagers

We are happy to welcome Fr John Eagers as one of our ISC Team Associates. John is currently parish priest of St James Parish, Renfrew, in the Catholic Diocese of Paisley. He has had a great deal of experience in spiritual accompaniment, having been both a retreatant himself and also a valued visiting retreat director at St Bueno's Jesuit Retreat Centre in Wales. John has recently been Spiritual Director of students at the Scots College in Rome and has now returned to parish ministry in Scotland.



preparing and offering prayer workshops and retreats in daily life in their local area. Although he is a busy parish priest, John was keen to make contact again with the Ignatian Spirituality Centre and we have invited him to be as much involved with our work as he can. We hope that John can help us be aware of what people are hoping for and requesting as they continue to deepen their prayer and awareness of God in their lives. He is now a familiar face at the ISC and we look forward to a valuable collaboration with him and his own contacts and friends. Welcome John!

Already John and a small team of helpers, some of them associates of the ISC, have been

Spiritual Conversation Course 2013-14 An ISC/Epiphany Group Joint Venture

The ISC's former two year training course in spiritual accompaniment has been divided into two distinct one year courses, Spiritual Conversation and Spiritual Accompaniment. They will be offered from September 2013 and September 2014 respectively.

'**Spiritual Conversation**' is now a course in its own right, but is also a prerequisite for '**Spiritual Accompaniment**'. It will explore the range of skills necessary for good spiritual conversation, and will include modules on Listening, Ways of Praying, Ignatian Discernment and Spiritual Conversation in Practice. It will be held on a monthly basis on Friday afternoons (1:30 pm – 6:30 pm) and Saturdays (10:00 am – 4:00 pm), and we are delighted that it will be led by a joint team from the Ignatian Spirituality Centre and the Epiphany Group. There is a suggested donation of £550 (some bursary help may be available). Applicants should have completed the ISC foundation year, '*Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living*', or have equivalent experience.

If you are interested in details or an application form for this course at the ISC, please contact the Administrative Secretary.

It is worth noting that the Epiphany Group (www.epiphanygroup.org.uk) will also be running a Spiritual Conversation Course in the year ahead (2013-14). This will take place in Edinburgh on a weekly evening basis for those who would find that pattern more manageable.

We look forward to accompanying participants here at the ISC for some enjoyable spiritual conversations in the coming year!



DATES

| | | |
|------|------|-------|
| 2013 | Sept | 20/21 |
| | Oct | 25/26 |
| | Nov | 22/23 |
| | Dec | 13/14 |
| 2014 | Jan | 17/18 |
| | Feb | 14/15 |
| | Mar | 14/15 |
| | Apr | 25/26 |
| | May | 16/17 |
| | | 31 |

Journeying Together

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living 2013/2014

We met for the first time on 9th October 2012 to set off on a journey, an ecumenical group of Christians hoping to develop our sense of God's existence and presence. Each of us had our own and sometimes limited understanding of God. We wanted to learn to experience God in and around us, to know and love God. Perhaps a few of us were unsure about committing ourselves to a weekly course of 22 evenings and three full days which would last until 25th May 2013.

But from the very first meeting, as we reflected on the meaning of 'prayer' and 'reflective living' for each of us, we felt reassured that we were setting off on a special journey. We received a warm welcome from Eileen, Tom and Aileen, our leaders in the journey, and from each other. The structure of the sessions gave a rhythm to the evenings that we came to know and appreciate, especially the initial moments of 'stilling prayer' and the times for individual reflection in the peaceful, prayerful spaces of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre. The range of topics was presented thoroughly and imaginatively. The simple 'centrepieces' kept us focused! We will surely return again and again to the wealth of resources that we received, including practical suggestions for prayer and reflection. We laughed and we shared. We enjoyed our home-time work and eagerly anticipated each Tuesday evening.

It is impossible to do justice to the range of areas explored: different methods of prayer, such as *Lectio Divina* and Imaginative Contemplation; 'discerning' God's communication in consolation and desolation; discovering God's presence in the experiences of daily life through the *Examen*, a simple daily prayer of awareness; becoming aware of a parallel between the spiritual journey of God's people in the Old Testament and our own spiritual journeys; and learning the value of spiritual direction for growth in the spiritual life.

In this journey we travelled far



– into the outer parts of the Universe, and then deep into the atom. We went back in time to explore Celtic spirituality and found personal resonances there. Contemplative Prayer, including insights into the Ways of the Desert Fathers and some well-known mystics appealed to many of us. We learned to pray with icons, were inspired by prayers about God from eastern faith traditions, and were encouraged to reflect on and respond to issues of justice and peace, including environmental concerns. A session on praying with art was new to some and good for all.

Towards the end of the course, we had a chance – in groups - to lead a half-hour prayer session. These revealed that we had already begun to assimilate some of what we had learned: a prayerful use of all kinds of resources, including our own senses.

The full day sessions were opportunities to share meals, a very potent Christian symbol. On the first of these we reflected on the incarnation and nativity, becoming aware at the same time of the significance of the events surrounding them. Before Holy Week, we prayed with symbols and shared a Passover meal, with a new awareness of its relationship to the Christian Eucharist. And on the final full day we drew together our 'Endings' and saw them as 'Beginnings'.

We are so grateful to the ISC team for the wonderful journey they have taken us on and would like to say a big 'Thank You' for their hard work, support, sensitivity and gentleness. Our expectations of the course have been greatly exceeded. It hasn't always been easy for us – there have been challenging and sad moments - but every one of us has been strengthened, enriched and inspired. We recognize that this is only a stage in our spiritual journey and that we have to continue to pray and nurture our faith so it continues to grow as we journey further and face future challenges.

- - Participants in the 2013/14
GPRL Course



On-Going Formation

The On-going Formation Programme at the ISC is for those who have completed the training programme in spiritual conversation and/or spiritual direction. It consists of one day/weekend each term, and complements the participants' regular monthly small group meetings. The programme's aim is to reinforce foundations (Autumn), take a closer look at the Spiritual Exercises (Spring), and engage with more creative topics (Summer).

On October 20th last year a small group gathered at the ISC to reflect on 'Stages of Faith' with Helen Kinloch, a long-standing friend of the ISC. The day was very much experience-based.



After a brainstorm on the concept of 'stages', Helen invited us to reflect on our own faith journeys, with particular attention to our relationship with God during the key stages of development. We then identified the moments of transition, noted significant

'shifts' and changing horizons, and reflected on what may have triggered these movements. Changes in our patterns and understandings of relationships featured in the sharing that followed. Next we considered what the 'experts' had to say about stages of faith - Goodman, Erikson, Fowler, Scott-Peck, Rohr etc. We noted convergences and differences, in relationship to one another, to our own reflections, to the Gospel message and to the dynamic of the *Spiritual Exercises*.

All of the above helped affirm the 'stages' through which we travel as natural, good and necessary for our maturation as human beings-in-relationship-with-God. It helped us identify the signs of transition from one stage to the next and to reflect on how, as accompaniers, we might encourage the on-going birthing processes. And it left us thirsting for space and time to read more and further assimilate anything that will help us as accompaniers. Thank you, Helen, for an inspiring day and for leaving us thirsting for more!

On the weekend of February 23rd – 24th, Margaret Silf helped us engage with the dynamics of the *Exercises*, under the heading '*Becoming who You Are*'. Each session consisted of input, time to reflect on an invitation, question and promise related to a specific 'week' of the *Exercises*, and general sharing.

The structure of the weekend was retreat-like, thus enabling us to engage with our personal journeys. The invitations, questions and promises sharpened the focus of the different weeks of the *Exercises*. The invitations were clear; the

questions touched the depths of our relationship with God; and the promises were reassuring of God's continuing love, regardless of our response to the invitations, and of his ever continuing companionship as we risk and are inspired to be born! These will be an invaluable resource both within the context of the *Spiritual Exercises* and for spiritual accompaniment in general. Thank you, Margaret, for a creative experience of the dynamic of the *Exercises*. May this feed into our practice!



- - Eileen Cassidy

Finally, on April 27th, Stevy Reilly and Melitta Bosworth led participants into a time of hands-on prayerful creativity, gradually deepening our expression of God. This led to one-to-one reflection, an encouraging and enabling opportunity to use art as an aid to listening, and to finding God's life-giving presence. The day moved swiftly in stages, each stage giving just a few moments to express our



images. For a slow thinker like myself it would normally take me that length of time to choose my colours, let alone get something down on paper! However the speed of the day had its advantage: there was no time to produce a masterpiece, even if we could, and so no artistic ability was expected or required. This was an enjoyable and helpful day of meaningful and colourful space. I very much look forward to the next one!

- -Jane MacKichan

Seeing God in All Things

The *Divine Nobodies* on Our Oxen Team

Lately I have been pondering the words of a well-known chapter in the epistle to the Hebrews. It is chapter 11, oftentimes introduced to the reader as a litany of “the heroes of the faith”. Certainly we would recognize many if not all those mentioned by name: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Jacob, Rahab, David, Samuel, to name just a few. Still I am intrigued by the nameless, lesser-knowns of Hebrews 11. They are simply identified as “women” or “they” or “men” (11:35-37). They are nameless, anonymous. *Divine nobodies* “of whom,” declares the writer of Hebrews, “the world was not worthy” (11:38).



Thus I began to see God in the midst of my own ploughing, in the very presence of my own team of oxen. They are the *divine nobodies* in my life “of whom the world was not worthy.” Here are just three “oxen” in my line.

First there was “Max”, a young Navy officer dying of leukemia. Although he was leaving behind his wife and new-born son, he could declare his trust in God and that he had indeed “fought the good fight.”

Then there was “Banks”. I say with embarrassment that I never knew his first name. He was an African-American porter at the retail department store where I worked while a university student. “Banks” lived out servant leadership before me.

Lastly there was “Benny”, manager of his city’s local post office. He was quiet and unassuming and loved his Harley Davidson motorcycle. When he died tragically in an accident, a whole community came to mourn his passing. His widow was stunned when the funeral home director extended visitation hours explaining that hundreds of people were waiting patiently in line to be able to tell Benny’s widow how much her husband had demonstrated his care for them.

In that same spirit shared by Margaret Silf, I invite you to consider who in your life have made a difference to who you are. Perhaps you, too, will begin to see God in all things, even in a team of oxen!

- - Barry Greco

ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAMME, 2013/14:

Saturday, November 2nd, 2013

An introduction to Theological Reflection for Spiritual Accompaniers – led by Paul Nicholson, SJ

Saturday, March 1st 2014

‘God, Creation, and the First Week of the Spiritual Exercises’ – led by Anna Hainey CP and Margaret Rose McSparran CP

Saturday, May 3rd – Sunday May 4th 2014

Dreams and Spirituality – led by Paddy Greene SJ

The Second Vatican Council: 50 Years On



Fr Kevin Kelly



Stephen Smyth SM



Peter Scally SJ



Bishop Maurice Taylor



Professor Werner Jeanrond

From October 2012, the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow hosted a series of nine monthly talks on the Second Vatican Council. These were well attended, were thought-provoking, and were a great boon to me in my journey towards becoming a Catholic.

Kevin Kelly introduced the series with a talk entitled 'Vatican II and us?' He gave an overview of the Council and its vision, with a constant emphasis on his main theme - that we, the people of God are the church. This theme was taken up again and again by later speakers. Kevin was often radical, and he stimulated much animated discussion. He suggested that Vatican II took human experience very seriously, and, quoting Father Jack Mahoney SJ, proposed that the task of theology and church teaching should be 'to make faith-sense of experience and experience-sense of faith.'

The next five talks touched on faith, practice and outreach.

Drawing on the wealth of her own experience in interfaith work, Isabel Smyth gave a practical and deeply spiritual talk on *The Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (Nostra Aetate)*. Stephen Smyth and Sheilagh Kesting presented a dialogue on the important issues of *The Decree on Ecumenism (Unitatis Redintegratio)*. Jim Crampsey treated us to a fascinating presentation on *The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum)*. Maurice Taylor, former Bishop of Galloway, gave an excellent talk, I am told, on *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium)*. Unfortunately I had to miss that session. And Peter Scally gave an interesting and informative presentation on *The Decree on Social Communication (Inter Mirifica)*, important not just for the Church itself, but for its outreach to the rest of the world.

What fascinated me was the varying degrees of implementation of the documents. In particular I was struck by the improved relationship with the Jewish community, and the openness to other religions mentioned by Sr Isabel; the observation by Sheilagh Kesting that the younger generation could cross boundaries more easily than older people, and could not really understand the so called 'problems' in ecumenism; and, as Jim Crampsey indicated, the recognition of the importance of the Old Testament by the Roman Catholic Church, and the encouragement of the laity to read the Scriptures for themselves.



Isabel Smyth SND



Rev Sheilagh Kesting



Jim Crampsey SJ



Gerry O'Hanlon SJ



Dr Theodora Hawksley

The last three talks were about looking to the future: Gerry O’Hanlon addressed *The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)*, Werner Jeanrond *The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)*, and Theodora Hawksley *The Decree on the Laity (Apostolicam Actuositatem)*, a subject very dear to the hearts of all those present.

Gerry began by taking a look at the church’s recent past and present — at the failure of the Church to be ‘a sacrament or sign of intimate union with God and of the unity of all humanity.’

Dysfunctional clericalism, the lack of a ‘vigorous enough immune system’ and the prioritising of self-image over justice were factors in recent scandals. A memorable and hard-hitting quote: ‘We have a teaching authority that is increasingly ignored; a laity that feels disempowered; an anachronistic attitude to women; a lack of effective collegiality; and silencing of ‘dissident’ voices.’ Gerry sees hope in the example of Pope Francis, and in the reclaiming of the Church by committed clergy and laity in Ireland, for example, where the church may seem to have hit rock bottom, but where God seems to be ‘doing a new thing’. Key ideas from the Constitution on the Church were: episcopal collegiality; a laity with adult responsibility for exercising its baptismal gift of priest, prophet (teaching) and king (governance); a climate of debate, inclusion and consultation; a relationship of respect, not deference, between laity and clergy; recognition of the *sensus fidelium* (*sense of the faithful*); and the idea of *conspiratio* – ‘breathing together’ by laity and clergy of the one Holy Spirit in a shared search for truth (cf Acts 15:28).

Some of these points were reiterated by the final two speakers, in particular the need for debate and recognition of the laity’s distinctive role. Werner Jeanrond reminded us that the document on the Church in the Modern World was addressed to the world, not the church, as Christ died for all. His theme was hope in the modern world, in particular that radical hope which is a deep conviction that ‘all will be well; all manner of things will be well,’ to quote Julian of Norwich. This hope can be individual, but it can also be a



communal hope in a shared future and destiny. It is also vulnerable, since it allows us to face our mortality and accept deep mysteries. Werner pleaded for a ‘larger understanding’ of such concepts as salvation and eschatology, and for the practical recognition of the role of the laity in the church and the world: if we believe in a New Heaven and a New Earth, we must cultivate the world together, a theme which was also important to Dr Theodora Hawksley, our last speaker.

Theo began by tracing attitude changes towards the laity in the Church, from the view of Pope Pius X that they should be a ‘docile flock following their pastor’ to the *Decree on the Laity* which identified a distinctive lay mission and role. The focus was on what was shared by the one people of God who are the church, and who are responsible for the renewal of the whole temporal sphere, making the church present in the world and sanctifying the world from inside, by words, deeds and by the ‘glow of their hope, faith and charity.’ Theo was amused, as were we ourselves, that the document actually states that the faithful will have their work cut out! The laity’s mission is to find God in all things, and to bring Christ to all places. We spent a lot of time in discussion about how on earth we might actually do this, given the present climate re the laity.

Sadly, these last three documents still seem to be in need of implementation.

Those present at this series readily engaged in conversation and discussion with each speaker and with one another, and they showed a commitment to the church, albeit a frustrated commitment at not being heard. As one lady commented, ‘We can

debate and discuss till the cows come home, but it makes no difference.’ That said, there was interest in at least joining, or perhaps in even forming a lay movement for renewal in the church in Scotland, similar to what has happened in Ireland, England and elsewhere.

This was an excellent series of talks. Each one was illuminating, and it was a delight and a privilege to hear speakers of this calibre.

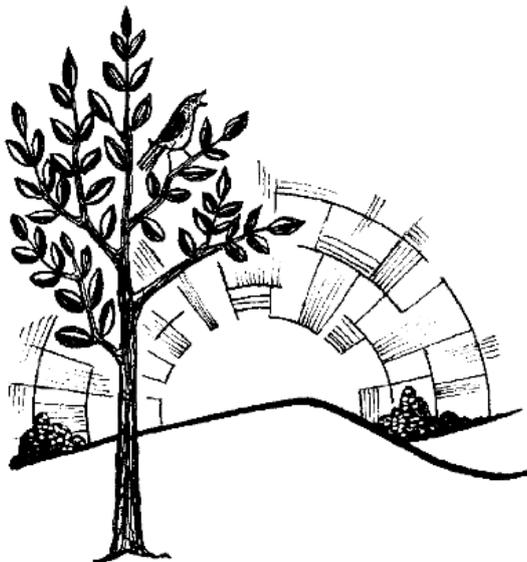
- - Jan Fisher



Weaving Prayer through Life

A beautiful Saturday at the end of May saw two ISC Team members, Jane MacKichan and Tom McGuinness, weaving through the lovely countryside linking Glasgow to Perth, Dundee and beyond on the National Express Gold Coach to Aberdeen. Our journey was at the invitation of the North-East corner of the Epiphany Group to lead one day in their series of Saturdays called 'Bread for the Journey'. These days had been held in a number of venues over the year with great success. For us from the ISC it was a magical journey north and also something of a journey back in time to Footdie, a fascinating corner of Aberdeen City, filled with memories of fishing and the community of people that lived and supported each other there. In the middle of the North Square is the old Footdie Mission Hall which was our venue for the day and we arrived there to warm hospitality and a welcome cup of tea after the journey.

During our day, entitled 'Weaving Prayer through Life' Jane offered reflections from the tradition of Celtic Spirituality with its sense of God intrinsically woven into every part of day to day life. Some of the lovely



prayers in the *Carmina Gadelica*, although collected from many years ago, are poignantly contemporary, giving a sense of God intimately involved in our lives. Tom complemented the input with song, scripture and some of the inspiration of Ignatius and his sense of finding God in all things.

Perhaps the best part of the day was the sun! It shone on the Square where we sat dotted around on the grass for quiet prayer and later sandwiches. It shone on the sea and shore just behind the houses around the Square. It shone warmly through the upper windows of the Mission Hall on to our circle of listening and friendship and, as a result, we all felt that it had shone in our minds and hearts as we prayed quietly or shared our thoughts in the group gathered there.

Congratulations to Carole, Judith and all the others who were inspired to create these days of *Bread for the Journey* – and thank-you from us for the invitation to be part of it for our day of *Weaving Prayer through Life*.

- - Tom McGuinness SJ

God, Creation and Human Becoming.

A small and dedicated group arrived at the ISC on a Saturday in May for a day that was both out of this world and firmly rooted in it! For a day we were able to welcome back Julia Ling from her sabbatical time to help us view our wonderful and fragile earth from space, from the far reaches of the cosmos and yet with a sense of our feet firmly planted on earth with compassion and care for our world. We reflected on different stages of human consciousness and development and prayed with a sense of how small yet how great we are in the context of the millions of years of our earth's story.



story. We realized that we are being invited to take into our consciousness a sense of a new turning time in our human and world life-journey. Thomas Berry calls this the 'ecozoic' era, in which we are invited to be open to see and care for everything with a new understanding that everything is completely interrelated. Such openness of mind and heart may even invite us to discover new and as yet unformulated ways of understanding God.

It was a fascinating and challenging day but one which we all found strangely peaceful as we opened ourselves to the ways in which God continues to co-create with us our precious world.

- - Tom McGuinness SJ

Julia introduced us to the thinking of Thomas Berry, Brian Swimme and the New Universe

ISC Retreats 2013

Spring certainly came late, but when it came it seemed to be greener and brighter than ever. Perhaps it was just the contrast, moving from cool March to the bright colours of May, a journey of trusting that Spring will come and appreciating its welcome arrival.



Our *Retreats in Daily Life* reflected something of that experience. The Lent retreat began in the dark of a winter evening and finished with signs of Spring, and the spring retreat moved into a time leading up to the wonder of Pentecost. We had a small group of participants for both retreats, with some able prayer guides and good feedback. It gave us all a chance to reflect on the deep meaning of Easter and to move into times of new growth. We have been encouraged with the interest in a Spring Retreat and shall repeat this opportunity next year, as well as the ongoing Lent one.

- - Jane MacKichan (Photo, Caroline Hunter)

Restful Waters, Green Pastures" was the theme of the *Taster Retreat* at the Conforti Centre in Coatbridge on the weekend of 26-28 April. Eight of us - of varied ages, backgrounds and spiritual traditions - gathered with two ISC leaders, Fr. Tom McGuinness SJ and Sr. Eileen Cassidy SND, for a weekend of rest, inspiration and spiritual guidance. We listened to music, pondered poetry and scripture, were guided through imaginative prayer, learned from icons, chatted in small groups and were gently encouraged in one-to-one meetings with our prayer guides, Tom and



Eileen. We even watched a film about the universe - Big Bang and atomic theory narrated by the velvet tones of Morgan Freeman!

This sounds like a busy schedule, but activities were calm and unhurried with plenty of time for snoozing, walking, reading and personal prayer. The weekend was marked by a loving, trusting and accepting atmosphere shared by everyone present and created by God, who was clearly in our midst. The one-to-one guidance we each received ensured that the retreat was tailored to individual needs.

On the practical side, the staff at the Centre were friendly and helpful, welcoming and directing slightly nervous, new retreatants to their rooms. The en-suite bedrooms were warm and comfortable, and the food was plentiful and tasty. The retreat experience was enhanced by clear, beautifully illustrated reflection sheets and a generous provision of tempting snacks.

The retreat was brought to a close at the end of our final prayer session, with one retreatant singing a blessing specially composed for the group and set to a spine-tinglingly beautiful arrangement. After a roast Sunday lunch we left the Centre possibly a pound heavier in weight and most definitely strengthened in our faith and ready to see and share God's blessings in our everyday lives. I cannot recommend this retreat highly enough. If it is offered again, I urge you to sign up quickly.

- - Laurene MacKenzie

The first of this year's *residential retreats* was held in the Bield at Blackruthven



Perthshire in May..... a beautiful month and setting for a three day, silent mid-week retreat. This new venture was a collaboration between the Bield at Blackruthven, whose Team offered us sole use of their Steadings and Gatehouse,

and the Ignatian Spirituality Centre Glasgow who provided three retreat directors. Nine people applied for the nine rooms available and we all met on a Tuesday afternoon to explore the lovely setting of the Bield with its comfortable accommodation, chapel, garden, art-room, grounds and swimming pool. The intention was to provide a silent mid-week retreat for a manageable number of days, particularly for those who are busy at weekends. We all agreed that it was an excellent venture. After an initial welcome on the Tuesday evening, we moved into a silent atmosphere which was held with great reverence by all throughout the retreat. Each retreatant had an individual prayer guide to reflect with every day.



The Bield community invited us into the contemplative atmosphere of the Chapel for a daily morning and evening prayer. With its wood-burning stove and intriguing centrepiece, the Chapel provided a warm gathering space for prayer in which we all felt at home, whatever our denominational backgrounds. The final evening prayer was held at the labyrinth in the grounds which we walked in silent support of each other..... a real miniature pilgrimage.

Many will have seen the striking river picture in the Chapel of the ISC in Glasgow. Its creator is

Melitta Bosworth, one of the resident team at the Bield. Melitta has helped to set up an Aladdin's cave of art materials that can be used by those on retreat. We were grateful for the use of this facility and a number of retreatants spent many hours in an atmosphere of silent creativity out of which beautiful works of art and prayer emerged.

An equal number valued the covered swimming pool as a peaceful setting for prayer, thought and silence. Floating quietly with sun (or moon!) shining through the windows felt like a space where heaven and earth are one.

No report of the Bield would be complete without reference to the wonderful but simple fresh food, much of it home-grown and beautifully home-cooked. We were very grateful to all the staff of the Bield who made us feel so much at home and who respected the silence of the retreat with great generosity.

More paragraphs could be written about the facilities of this lovely place but the most important resource was the simple and tangible presence of God among us throughout these days. It was so powerful and yet so peaceful that we had no hesitation in asking if we could book again. So . . .

The next retreat at The Bield will be October 14th – 17th 2014. For information and a booking form please contact the ISC either by phone or online (www.iscglasgow.co.uk), but for interest about the Bield have a look at the website: www.bieldatblackruthven.org.uk.

- - Tom McGuinness SJ



A Trip Across the Sea A New Venue for Silent IGRs



Since losing Skelmorlie as a venue for summer silent IGRs, both the ISC and the Epiphany Group have been searching for a possible alternative, which we are now delighted to say we have found!

On a surprisingly mild January day two intrepid ISC sailors, Eileen Cassidy and Tom McGuinness, enjoyed a calm and enjoyable crossing by P&O ferry from the shores of Scotland to Larne in Northern Ireland. We were met and made most welcome by Anna and Margaret Rose, Sisters of the Cross and Passion who, for many years, have been helping to make so many people feel at home at Drumalis Retreat Centre. What a beautiful and fascinating house this is, with an original heritage building joined and adjacent to a new wing of purpose-built, up to date en-suite rooms with views of the green of the garden, the sea stretching back to Scotland and a glimpse of the ferries quietly slipping in and out of the harbour. What seemed far distant was less than a two hour sail from our own shores.



As we were shown round the property, we were intrigued to discover the history of the heritage house, with its many intriguing rooms, corridors and corners, all renewed with generous grants from Northern Irish heritage funding to become a real reminder of its origins as a house built by a young Scottish businessman for his new wife, one of the Coates cotton family from Paisley. We found ourselves in a memory-bank containing echoes of an era of Scottish life created with the architecture of George Walton, a

contemporary of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. This was a visible reminder for us, visitors from Garnethill, of the close links between Northern Ireland and the West of Scotland.

Far more powerful reminders were the stories that Ann and Margaret Rose told us of the role of the house in subsequent years as a place of security and welcome for many people in the North at difficult times, not least the many women from different traditions who have found it a place of oneness and welcome: a place which many found to be a second home.

The purpose of our visit was to explore the possibility of establishing a link between Drumalis, the ISC and the Epiphany Group. To this end, we have planned in our new programme a six-day silent and individually-directed retreat at Drumalis from Saturday June 28th – Saturday July 5th 2014. Come with us on this new venture! It is a beautiful setting for a silent retreat and surprisingly easy to get to from the West of Scotland. But don't just come to see a beautiful and comfortable retreat venue: help us establish through this contact a strong ecumenical link with the many good people for whom Drumalis is a place that is committed to peace, to understanding and to allowing God to be at the heart of all we do.

In return Anna and Margaret Rose are coming to the ISC on March 1st 2014 to lead one of the ongoing formation days for those who have completed training in spiritual accompaniment.

We hope that these ventures will be part of a strong and fruitful collaboration between all who call Drumalis their spiritual home and all of us in the network of Ignatian friendship in Scotland.

- Tom McGuinness SJ

COURSE IN SPIRITUAL ACCOMPANIMENT at Garden Cottage Spirituality Centre

Kilgraston, Bridge of Earn, PH2 9HN
Tel 01738 812636
Email adminorchard@btconnect.com
www.gardencottagespirituality.org.uk

At the request of the Episcopal Diocese of St. Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, Garden Cottage Spirituality Centre, Kilgraston, is offering an Ignatian course in Spiritual Accompaniment from October 2013 – December 2014.

The course is for those with some background in spirituality who wish to deepen their personal prayer experience and to develop their capacity to reflect and to engage in spiritual conversation with others in the ordinary circumstances of daily life.

Participants will reflect on the ministry of accompanying others in a secular world in their on-going journey of faith, whether expressed explicitly or implicitly, will practise the art of listening in a discerning way, will consider ways of dealing with experiences of loss, trauma, sexuality, alienation from the church and other areas which may surface during accompaniment, and will develop a holistic, creative approach to expressing one's spirituality.

The course content includes Approaches to Prayer, Retreat in Daily Life, Training in different aspects of Spiritual Accompaniment and monthly personal sessions of Spiritual Direction.

Garden Cottage Spirituality Centre offers the Spiritual Exercises, both residential and in daily life. The two self-catering hermitages, the Apple House and Garden Cottage, are within a secluded walled garden and are an ideal setting for residential retreats. People come from every continent for silence and prayer, enjoying the extensive views of the Dron Hills and the opportunity for woodland and hill walks in the beautiful Perthshire countryside.



ISC RESOURCES: Books and Cards



Do you want a good read . . . or just to begin with a browse . . . in a comfortable venue with tea etc. readily available?

The ISC has a book room with quite a good stock of second hand spiritual books. Please feel welcome to visit the Centre and browse or purchase what attracts you. If you wish, you can recycle your purchases when finished, so that others can benefit from this resource.

The book room is open five days a week, 9:00 am till 4:00 pm, and when courses and events are running.

If you get round to doing a periodic clear-out of spiritual books, please keep us in mind. All will be gratefully received.



We also have a small stock of greeting cards, to help us raise funds. These too are available as above. If you know of suitable stockists to widen what we offer, please let us know. All suggestions will be welcome!

Thank You!

ANNOUNCING

Series, Events and Retreats: September 2013 – January 2014

See programmes and websites for further details. Please contact by telephone or e-mail

EPIPHANY GROUP

Training Course Coordinator

Alison Moody

Tel: 0131-229-4170

E-mail: malisonoody@hotmail.com

Courses

- GPRL Aberdeen, Nov 25th 2013 – Jun 9th 2014, Monday afternoons.. See website for details.
- GPRL Edinburgh, Oct 24th 2013 – May 1st 2014, Thursday evenings. See website for details
- Spiritual Conversation, Edinburgh, Thursday evenings, two weekends and one Saturday. Details on website. Deadline for application: August 23rd 2013

Retreats

2013

- IGR, St Durston's Lodge, Tarfside, Angus. Sept 23rd – 28th 2013

2014

- IGR at the Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, N. Ireland, June 28th – July 5th 2014 (See page 13).

Annual Conference

- *Sacredness of Life: St Ignatius and the Celtic Mystics*, Oct 4th – 6th

ISC, GLASGOW

The Administrative Secretary

Ignatian Spirituality Centre

Tel: 0141-354-0077

E-mail: admin@iscglasgow.co.uk

Courses

- *Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living*, Oct 5th 2013 – May 10th 2014, Tuesday evenings and 4 Saturdays (Oct 5th, Dec 7th, Apr 5th and May 10th). See website for details, flier and registration form, and/or contact us by phone or e-mail.
- *Spiritual Conversation*: Sept 20th 2013 – May 31st 2014 Monthly sessions, Friday pm and all day Saturday, plus one Saturday. See website for details, flier and application form, and/or contact us by phone or e-mail.

On-Going Formation

(For those trained in Spiritual Accompaniment)

- *An Introduction to Theological Reflection for Spiritual Accompaniers*. Guest presenter, Paul Nicholson SJ. Saturday, November 2nd (Full Day)

Drop-In (No Booking Required)

- Taizé Evenings, Third Monday of Month, 7:30–8:30
- Retreat Mornings, First Friday of month, 10:00–1:00
- Eat, Pray, Breathe, Every Tuesday 1:00-1:30 – a quiet reflective half hour
- Carers' Renewal Afternoons, Last Tuesday of month, 1:30-4:00
- Films and a Chat, Friday evenings, 7:00-9:30. Nov 1st, Dec 6th. See website for film title nearer to the dates.
- *Dancing in the Spirit*, first and second Mondays of each month, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, led by Isabel Smyth SND.

Series:

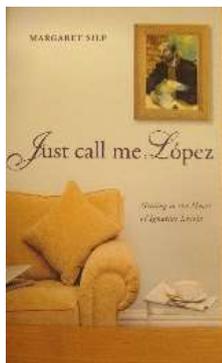
- *A New Moment for Church as Inspired by Francis and Ignatius*, Monthly on Sunday afternoons, 2:00 – 4:00, Oct 27th, Nov 24th, Dec 15th. Keep an eye on website for more details.
- *Supporting Interreligious Dialogue: Conversations in Faith* (see page). Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Oct 30th (Hinduism), Nov 27th (Islam).

Continued overleaf

**FREE Taster Day at the ISC
Saturday 14th September 2013**

Come to the ISC and taste some of what we offer as a regular part of our work – themed and creative workshops, experiential reflective space and opportunity for informal conversation. Come to as few or as many of the workshops as interest you. For details or workshop titles and times, contact us at 0141-354-0077 or through our website (www.iscglasgow.co.uk).

Just Call Me López: *Getting to the Heart of Ignatius Loyola* by Margaret Silf, published by Loyola Press and available from Amazon.



The intriguing title invites the readers to meet Inigo López de Loyola in person through his imaginary encounters with a modern-day writer, Rachel. Both are characters in Margaret Silf's new book. Their conversations highlight the life-journey of Ignatius as reported in his dictated Autobiography. Many know the story of Ignatius well, but these conversations give a sense of his character, personality, generosity, humour, foolishness and ultimately holiness.

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Events

- *Free Taster Day* – see opposite
- Opening Event of the Programme Year - *The Poetry of Place*, with guest speaker Ronnie Renton. Sunday Sept 22nd, 2:00 – 4:30 pm.
- *An Autumn Journey*: A reflective walk prepared and introduced by Susan Mansfield, Saturday, Nov 16th, 1:30 – 5:00 pm

Advent

- *A Word Announced in Silence*. Guest speaker Magdalen Lawler snd, Saturday, November 30th (Full Day)
- *The Re-Birthing of God: Christianity in Labour*. Guest presenters Ali & John Philip Newell, Sunday, Dec 8th (Afternoon: 1:30-4:30)

RETREATS

Non-Residential Weekends

- *Prayer in a Busy Life*, Sat 9th – Sun 10th November, 10:30 – 4:30 each day
- *Finding God in All Things*, Sat 22nd – Sun 23rd February 2014, 10:30 – 4:30 each day

Residential

- *A Midsummer Pilgrimage Retreat Weekend on Iona*, Friday June 20th (pm) – Monday June 23rd (am).
- Silent and individually guided, Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne, N. Ireland, June 28th – July 5th 2014 (See page 13).
- Silent and individually guided, Catholic House of Prayer, Iona, July 12th – 19th, 2014
- Mid-Week autumn retreat, The Bield, Blackruthven, Tues Oct 14th (pm) – Fri Oct 17th (am) 2014

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:

This newsletter, published three times a year, is free, and is also available on the ISC website: www.iscglasgow.co.uk. If you wish to subscribe to the e-mail edition, please send **your full name and e-mail address**, with the subject Newsletter, to admin@iscglasgow.co.uk. If you know of anyone else who may be interested in receiving it by e-mail, please invite them to send their details in the same way.

If you prefer to receive the newsletter by regular mail, please send **your full name and postal address** to: The Administrative Secretary, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, 35 Scott Street, Glasgow, G3 6PE. A donation towards printing and postage would be appreciated.

IGNATIAN GROUPS and ROLES in SCOTLAND

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|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Ignatian Spirituality Promoter | Gerald McLoughlin SJ, 28 Lauriston St, Edinburgh, EH3 9DJ | Tel: 0131-477-5782 | E-mail: gero@talk21.com |
| Epiphany Group | Barbara Buda (Coordinator) | E-mail: Epiphanygroup@yahoo.co.uk | Web: www.epiphanygroup.org.uk |
| Ignatian Spirituality Centre | 35 Scott Street, Glasgow, G3 6PE | Tel: 0141-354-0077 | E-mail: admin@iscglasgow.co.uk Web: www.iscglasgow.co.uk |
| The Lantern Group | Mark McHugh Pratt (Contact), | Tel: 01368-863866 | E-mail: mark.pratt@cantab.net Web: www.thelanterngroup.org |
| The Lauriston Jesuit Centre | 28 Lauriston St, Edinburgh, EH3 9DJ | Tel: 0131-477-5795 | Web: www.lauriston.org |