



# Catholic Spirituality Network

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK

NEWSLETTER EDITION 6

NOVEMBER 2018

CSN CONFERENCE 2019



### WINDING THE WAY

*Living a spiritual life with the help of Gerard Manley Hopkins and the Spiritual Exercises*

15 – 17 MARCH 2019

HAYES CONFERENCE CENTRE, SWANWICK, DERBYSHIRE.

Our 2019 Conference takes as its theme an exploration of the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins and ways in which it was influenced by the *Spiritual Exercises* of St Ignatius of Loyola. Although the *Spiritual Exercises* was written in the sixteenth century, this small handbook for guides continues to be a primary source of wisdom and guidance in retreat work today. As a Jesuit priest, Gerard Manley Hopkins was both influenced and formed by Ignatian spirituality. Michael Kirwan SJ, who is our keynote speaker for the Conference, says: *"...to anyone with a knowledge of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, it does not take long to recognise the Ignatian traces and inspiration in the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins"*. Michael will help us explore ways in which the themes of the Exercises appear in the poems. We hope that this exploration will deepen our appreciation of the poetry of Hopkins as a resource for prayer and reflection in our own lives and in the context of retreats and spiritual direction.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Michael Kirwan SJ** is a British Jesuit priest, currently teaching and researching at the Loyola Institute at Trinity College, Dublin. For twenty years he taught at Heythrop



College, University of London. He is interested in the dialogue between theology and literature, and has also researched in political theology and the work of René Girard. For several years Michael has conducted a themed retreat at St Beuno's, 'mapping' the poems, especially the best-known sonnets, onto the Weeks of the *Exercises*, and generally exploring how our experience of the *Exercises* and of Hopkins' verse can enrich each other.

### LITURGISTS



We are delighted that **Magdalen Lawler SND** and **Tom McGuinness SJ** have agreed to be joint liturgists for this Conference. Both are former Chairs of the Network and they are well known to many members. Magdalen and Tom will bring many years of experience of Ignatian spirituality, along with their giftedness in the fields of visual arts, poetry and song, to our times of prayer and liturgy at the Conference.

*Information and booking:*

<http://csn.retreats.org.uk/conference.php>

*Or contact Margaret directly in the CSN office - see last page for contact details.*



# Catholic Spirituality Network

## NEWS FROM THE NETWORK

Do send in any items of news that you would like to share with other members – reports of events, invitations, new ventures, or news about members. We can circulate flyers with our mailings, and include articles and longer pieces in the newsletter. This is your network!

## CSN DAY HOSTS

We are always looking for hosts for our CSN Days, especially in the areas of the country outside London. These days can help to raise awareness of the Network and encourage new members to join. It can be as simple as attaching the CSN name to one of the days on a retreat centre programme. Or you may like to host a day even without a venue. The Thames River and Hampstead Heath have already been enjoyed as fruitful venues for networking. Please contact us on the office email address if you would like to discuss this possibility. It could make all the difference in keeping us sustainable!

## SUSTAINABILITY SALE



We will hold another Sustainability Sale at the Conference in March. Our treasurer, David Shaw, told us how much of a difference even small amounts make to helping us keep going. More information nearer the time but do start looking now for 5 items (with some connection to retreats and spirituality) that you could bring to sell, and also come prepared to buy! The Sale was a great success at our AGM this year. If you have any other fundraising ideas, do get in touch.

## DAVID SHAW RIP

It is with great sadness the Catholic Spirituality Network shares the news of the death of David Shaw in August 2018. David had been treasurer of the Network since he was 'volunteered' by his wife Esme when we held our day conference at Heythrop College in 2012.



He was an outstanding and outspoken treasurer, often speaking difficult words to us in Executive meetings but always with the interests of the Network at the heart. His accounts were always clearly explained, ready on time and given with great love and commitment. He will be greatly missed.

David's funeral took place at Portsmouth Cathedral where the size of the congregation gave an indication of how much he meant to so many people. He was a well-loved family man and a loyal and respected parishioner. He gave so much in so many ways to so many different people. He and Esme were a great team in their family and among their friends. We offer Esme our support and friendship and thank her too for all she did in loaning David to us over these years.

*May he rest in peace and rise in glory.*

*Thanks to Margaret Palladino, our Secretary, for writing this article about David.*



# Catholic Spirituality Network

## RETREAT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE REPORT

### SOUNDING THE SILENCE

Many members of the Catholic Spirituality Network joined with fellow members of the Retreat Association for the ecumenical Conference which takes place every three years. This year the Conference took Silence as its theme. Patron Graham Sparkes opened the Conference. His address took a line by R S Thomas as its title: *'within listening distance of the silence of God...'* This line set the tone for the Conference as we sought to explore the depths of both stillness and speech.

Sara Maitland contemplated the silence of the desert in relation to the Hebrew Scriptures; Peter Tyler explored mysticism and mindfulness; Malcolm Guite accompanied us into the threshold realms of death and bereavement: they all helped us listen closely to what *'the silence of God'* was saying.

On the last morning our closing liturgy was creatively focused by resident artist Jacqui Lea of Hopeweavers, and ably led by Roman Catholic liturgist, Frances Novillo. A stream of participants came to the centre of the space to voice prayers for those who are silenced in multiple ways. A net woven with blue cloth and containing 250 silver fish spilled from the platform onto the floor like a river.



During the liturgy a new icon that has been specially written for the Retreat Association by John Coleman was hallowed and processed. The icon depicts the scene in which the Samaritan woman meets Jesus by the well in St John's Gospel.

## SPIRITUAL EXERCISES NETWORK CONFERENCE

### THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES IN A FRACTURED WORLD



The **Spiritual Exercises Network** held their Conference at Hinsley Hall in Leeds. Three speakers explored the theme. Julia MacDonald, from St Bede's Pastoral Centre in York, opened with a cosmic perspective, linking the Exercises with the visionary ideas of Teilhard de Chardin, and indicating the urgent need to take ecology and the sacredness of the whole world as our starting-point. Edel McClean went back to the wise ways of the first companions of St Ignatius - the early Jesuits who took *'spiritual conversation'* out into the streets and ordinary places of their world with great sensitivity and humility. Nick Austin SJ gave us an overview of competing contemporary moral perspectives and sought to root us in the traditions of the Church's ethical and social teaching.



CSN member, Shirley Taylor, created simple, reflective liturgies for the Conference. Each day included workshops, individual times of silence and small group work, and began and ended with shared times of prayer and reflection.





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## EVENTS

### WAITING, WATCHING AND WONDERMENT

*PRAYING THE ADVENT MYSTERY THROUGH ARTWORK, POETRY, AND THE RHYTHMS OF CREATION*



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23RD TO SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26TH 2018

AT THE KAIROS CENTRE, ROEHAMPTON, LONDON

LED BY SR MAGDALEN LAWLER & CHRISTOPHER CHAPMAN

There are still places available on our pre-Advent retreat at the Kairos Centre.

Booking forms are on the Kairos Centre website, and should be sent to Margaret in the CSN office to make the booking. <http://www.thekairoscentre.co.uk>. Email Margaret for further information.

## CSN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

15 – 17 MARCH 2019

**Winding the Way**, *Living a Spiritual Life with the help of Gerard Manley Hopkins and St Ignatius.*

VENUE Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

See front page for more information and contact Margaret in the office to book your place.

## CSN DAY 22 June 2019

Making Room for God – the Spiritual Path of St John of the Cross

In June 2019 Chris Chapman will be offering a CSN Day about St John of the Cross. The venue will be a return visit to the Urban Oasis, run by the Sisters of St Andrew in Lewisham.



<http://www.sisters-of-st-andrew.com/index1.html>

This follows the very inspiring and formative day on Julian of Norwich which Chris offered in May 2017. The Urban Oasis has a beautiful garden which is well worth a visit at midsummer! *More information will appear on the website in due course. Contact Margaret in the office for booking.*

## Catholic Spirituality Network

**Executive Committee:** David Lonsdale (Chair), Michael O'Halloran, Sr Teresa Kennedy, Fr Chris Thomas, Mary Groom (*co-opted*), Shirley Taylor (*co-opted*).

*We deeply regret the sad loss of David Shaw, our treasurer, and are grateful for all his hard work on behalf of the Network.*

*Thanks to Mary Groom and Shirley Taylor, who have agreed to be co-opted on to the Executive between now and our next AGM at the 2019 Conference.*

**Membership Secretary:** Margaret Palladino

**Newsletter and Development:** Jill Keegan. *Please send newsletter contributions to the email below.*

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