



Catholic Spirituality Network

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK

NEWSLETTER EDITION 17 SPRING 2024

SEND MY ROOTS RAIN

21-23 JUNE 2024

NOT LONG NOW until our 2024 Conference **SEND MY ROOTS RAIN**, led by Christopher Chapman and Avril Baigent.

AT ONE OF OUR OWN RETREAT CENTRES!



Mary Jo and Patrice are looking forward to welcoming us to Noddfa, at Penmaenmawr in North Wales. We can be sure of a warm welcome and wonderful home-cooked food.

Car arrivals preferably after 3 pm (as a day event may take up parking places till then!). Latest news is that Penmaenmawr is no longer a request stop on the train. So many have wanted to get off there that it has been made a proper stop! Do call the house for a lift up from the station.

CSN is supporting the Conference financially to some extent, to keep costs as low as possible. If you feel able to make an extra donation, it will of course be welcomed gratefully! In addition you can help by joining in with the Sustainability Sale.

SUSTAINABILITY SALE 2024

We will have a repetition of our popular **Sustainability Sale**. More information still to be circulated, but please do bring small spirituality-related items to sell to raise funds and some cash to buy with! Be ready to take away what doesn't sell. This has proved a good way to re-stock on reading or buy presents.

CONFERENCE STATEMENT

SEND MY ROOTS RAIN will explore ways of allowing the water of the Spirit to soak down to our roots. Our roots lie in our formation and experience – and



– and above all in relationship with our life-giving God. But our roots can become dry. In caring for others, we can neglect to look after ourselves. Yet we remain disciples, called to the intimacy of companionship with Christ and continued growth in the Spirit. Our spiritual, physical and emotional health matters to God, who calls each one by name.

Do contact Margaret in the office if you would still like to enquire about a place. The deadline is the beginning of June.

catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com

www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php



Catholic Spirituality Network

YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR SPIRITUAL PRACTICES: A SNAPSHOT!



What sort of prayer and spiritual practices appeal to younger people? For those of us who are silver-haired and of more mature years, a little story from the Covid lockdowns may give us some hope for the future!

When it became clear during March 2020 that we were all going into lockdown, my parish priest invited the leaders of parish groups to set up prayer groups – somehow!

I co-ordinate **The Raphaelites**, a Youth music group that plays, sings and reads at the 6pm Vigil Mass on the second Saturday of every month except August. I prepare the readers and, with another adult, also prepare the music, hymns and the psalm cantors.



Using the Youth/children's version of the **Wednesday Word** or the St Beuno's **Prego** leaflet as a basis, I got a plan together and organised a weekly Zoom call on Thursdays at 2pm. I set up my laptop on my piano with a centrepiece for focus behind me.

I lit candles and named everyone who arrived on screen: the youngsters (11–15-year-olds), their pets, their Mums! We prayed with the readings for the following Sunday; did word searches and anagrams; we sang the psalm and appropriate hymns – usually muted! The youngsters learned *Lectio Divina* and imaginative contemplation! They learned how to share their reflections on the readings. They turned up – some on their own – every Thursday from the beginning of April until they went back to school in September. Most of their Mums, and some Dads, also turned up!

During August I decided that I would take a break myself! I delegated the 4 Thursdays to 4 different families who carried on. They organized it themselves!

I have to say it was the most blessed time. Two of the older girls are now at the end of their first year at university; they have been to Lourdes with the Diocesan pilgrimage as helpers; and they went to World Youth Day in Lisbon.

Do I need to even ask whether there is hope for the future?

Mary E Nono

Thanks to Mary for this encouraging article, showing just what is possible and how seeds that are planted will grow!

The **Wednesday Word** and **St Beuno's Prego** are useful online resources which give the Mass readings alongside short reflections for the coming Sunday – to help us prepare alone or in a group.

<http://www.wednesdayword.org>

<https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/prego/>



Catholic Spirituality Network

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



As Pentecost marks our passage through the seasons, we might pause and welcome the Spirit's abiding presence in our network as CSN, mindful of all that is unfolding as a dynamic expression of spirituality for ourselves and those we journey with.

We continue to remain grateful for all the generous activity that our network engages in, all the inspirational chance moments and brief conversations alongside the faithful exploration of profound mystery and personal truth which awaken and restore us along the way.

Our world continues to reel in the wake of conflict, war, refugees and significant injustice. Alongside this I am mindful of the compelling image of a drop of water on a sponge that is Ignatius' recognition of the action of the Spirit in our lives. What we are about is an availability to catch the impulse of the Spirit in the midst of all that we do.

It remains inspiring to hear about all that our community is part of and all the extraordinary people that we encounter. I'm hoping that some of you who may not have been to our conferences for a while might be available to sit with us at Noddfa in June, and others to join the RA Summer Event online. Meanwhile, my prayer is that we may be open to a renewed outpouring of the Spirit's gifts and then both celebrate and nurture those gifts in each person we meet.

Shirley Taylor

SAVE THE DATE!

RETREAT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

16 – 19 JUNE 2025



Plans are underway for a face-to-face Conference at the Hayes in Derbyshire next year on 16 -19 June 2025.

The theme is **Creative Encounters – Exploring Imaginative Paths to God** and a range of contributors will help us explore this theme together.

CSN will hold a day event next year, so that we can support the Retreat Association Conference and meet our friends from across the ecumenical divides!



More information will be available in the autumn.



Catholic Spirituality Network

EVENTS

CSN CONFERENCE 2024



SEND MY ROOTS RAIN

21-23 JUNE 2024

VENUE: Noddfa Spirituality Centre

SPEAKER: Christopher Chapman

www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php

THOU ART INDEED JUST, LORD

... See, banks and
brakes
Now, leavèd how thick!
lacèd they are again
With fretty chervil, look,
and fresh wind shakes
Them; birds build – but
not I build; no, but strain,
Time’s eunuch, and not breed one work that
wakes.
Mine, O thou lord of life, send my roots rain.

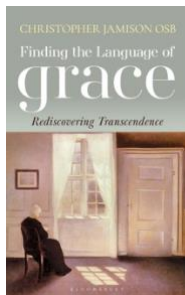


Gerard Manley Hopkins

RETREAT ASSOCIATION SUMMER EVENT

Friday 28 JUNE 2024

10 am – 3 pm



Abbott Christopher Jamison OSB will speak about his latest publication:

Finding the Language of Grace – Rediscovering Transcendence

Rev Graham Sparkes, RA patron, joins in a day of talks, discussion and prayerful reflections.

<https://www.retreats.org.uk/summer-event-2024>

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK

Executive Committee: Shirley Taylor (Chair), Eamonn Hamilton (Treasurer), Mary Nono, Fr Chris Thomas, Ruth Connor, Sr Marie Grogan FMDM, Fr Tomy Rockey CP (Passionist Spirituality rep), Jo Alstott (Youth rep), Canon Patrick Hartnett (Bishops’ Conference Spirituality Group rep), Christine Dodd.

Membership Secretary: Margaret Palladino.
Newsletter: Jill Keegan. Please send newsletter contributions to the email below.

Contact: Margaret Palladino, Membership Secretary, Catholic Spirituality Network (CSN), St George’s Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7HY Tel: 07756 864784

catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com

www.csnretreats.org.uk