
Hermitage News

July 2022

Volume 2



Welcome to this addition of our Hermitage news.

There is much still happening at The Hermitage, even with the trials COVID is presenting us. I hope you enjoy reading this latest newsletter.

Many thanks for your continued support & interest in the Hermitage.

Br Bill Sullivan
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Reflection

"In a recent retreat at Mittagong, I focussed on the theme of Compassion. It is a theme that is frequently on display in the Gospel and in the ministry of Jesus.

Joyce Rupp in her book 'Boundless Compassion' states;

"Compassion thrived in the heart of Jesus and in his teachings. If there is one virtue that most exemplifies his life, it is this one. When Jesus urged his followers to be compassionate, he knew what he was asking. Everywhere he went his awareness of people's suffering became evident. He poured out his love and gave generously of his time, his energy & concern to relieve their pain of body, mind & spirit."

Pope Francis also offers this reflection on the Compassion of Jesus;

"The love of God has been made visible and tangible in Jesus' entire life. His person is nothing but love, a love given gratuitously. The relationships he forms with the people who approach him manifest something entirely unique and unrepeatable. The sign he works, especially in favour of sinners, the poor, marginalised, the sick, suffering... are meant to teach mercy. Nothing in him is devoid of Compassion."

The parables offer us great insights into the person Jesus was and how he interacted with those he encountered. I found it useful sitting with these parables in prayer, reflecting on what they were offering me personally and where they were inviting me to go. Where am I being called to grow? What am I being invited to change? If we take these parables seriously I would suggest they are calling us to a radical change in our relationships with one another!

Ilia Delio writes that *"Compassion is the ability to 'get inside the skin of another' in order to respond with loving concern and care. One breathes in the pain of the other and breathes out compassion. The compassionate person identifies with the suffering of others in such a way that they make a space within the heart to allow the suffering of another to enter, not to heal them or remove their pain but to be with them in solidarity."* In other words to walk with a person in solidarity, not judgement. Quite a challenge isn't it!

The parables I shared in the retreat all had something in common. It was only in my sharing of these stories that I came to a clearer understanding of the invitation Jesus is offering each one of us. In all the stories there was a compassionate reaching out by Jesus but there was also an invitation for the person to trust and respond.

You might like to take some of these stories in your own prayer time and note the invitation being offered for you. I offer these four Parables for reflection;

[The healing of the Leper \(Luke 5:12\)](#)
[The widow of Nain \(Luke 7:11 - 17\)](#)
[The Good Samaritan \(Luke 10: 25 - 32\)](#)
[The Prodigal Son \(Luke 15:11-31\)](#)

"God's compassion is total, absolute, unconditional, without reservation. It is the compassion of the one who keeps going to the most forgotten corners of the world, and who cannot rest as long as there are still human beings with tears in their eyes." (Henri Nouwen).

The encounter Jesus had with these people is both reassuring and challenging. Jesus walks with us, accepting us for the people we are, but there is also an invitation to extend ourselves and move to the people we are meant to be.

In the Silence of Prayer: (Noel Davis)

*Come
Be still a while
Let me speak to your heart.*

*Dear God with us
You open our hearts to our best self
In choosing to live what they discern for us
Dear God with us
Teach us how to pray
To be ourselves with you
To listen and heed
What our hearts ask of us
In the silence of prayer."*

Hermitage Retreats 2022



We still have one remaining retreat for the year. If you are interested in joining us for this retreat please complete a booking enquiry form which can be found on our website.

Why not consider taking some reflective time in the beautiful environment Mittagong offers?

Care for the Soul Friday September 9th – Sunday 11th

The retreat commences at 5pm on Friday & concludes by 11am on Sunday.

An outline of all retreats can be found on our website.

Private retreats



Why not consider taking some time for a private retreat in one of our Villas? Accompaniment is available for those who would like to meet with one of our team or just take the opportunity to soak up the peace and quiet in the beautiful setting offered here on our property. You may choose to self-cater or have your stay fully catered.

Please just fill out a booking enquiry form from our website if you would like to take some reflective time at The Hermitage.

Spiritual Direction

The Brothers of The Hermitage are available to offer Spiritual Accompaniment for those interested in pursuing this place. Please contact us here if this is of interest to you

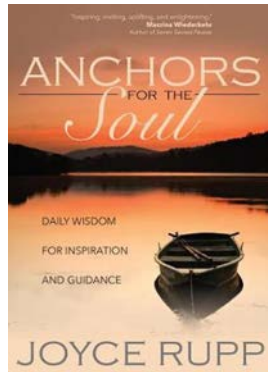
Spiritual Reading

I have profiled a few books that I have found helpful. These are all available from our Hermitage gift shop. You can make a purchase on line and we will mail purchases to you. We have close to 100 Spiritual books available, religious items and many gifts so there is plenty to inspire and support you on your spiritual journey.

Here are three books that I would highly recommend:

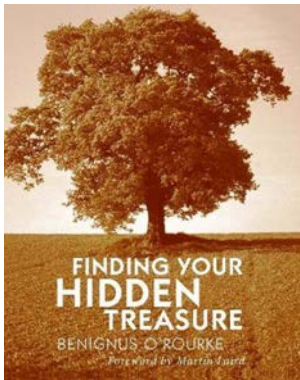
'Anchors for the Soul' Joyce Rupp

It's easy, as we rush from one important thing to the next, for our days to feel off balance, over-whelming, or even lacking in purpose. In Anchors of the Soul, Joyce Rupp helps you root each day in the Holy one's love and promise of his faithfulness.



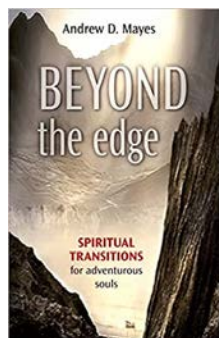
Finding your Hidden Treasure Benignus O'Rourke

A contemplative path inwards, to the depths of your own being. Through silent prayer and meditation, and by discovering this ancient way of finding God, O'Rourke provides insight and guidance for your spiritual journey. meeting!



Beyond the Edge Andrew Mayes

A powerful discussion of how each of us is invited by Jesus to 'come across to the other side', to move out of our comfort zone and there to encounter him. Wherever we are invited to go with him, there will be a meeting!



Donations

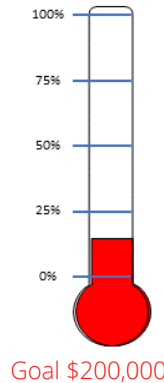
Our goal is to raise funds to install three new facilities for guests to experience. All funds donated will go directly to these three projects. My thanks to those who have already donated, your generosity is very much appreciated.

Renewal of the external Stations of the Cross.

The current Stations are deteriorating and are in urgent need of replacement.

A Pilgrimage Walk

Many guests have asked for a reflective walk across this beautiful property so this addition will hopefully provide a prayerful walk across the Hermitage property, incorporating our Marist History.



Goal \$200,000

Outdoor prayer space.

On the oval below the car park we are planning to have a small amphitheatre which will allow for a gathering space in the midst of the vibrant nature this property offers.

I am looking forward to these projects becoming a reality once our funds give us the scope to proceed. Thanks in advance for your support of these initiatives.

Many thanks again for your continued support of The Hermitage

*Br Bill Sullivan
Director*

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