



Catholic Spirituality Network

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK

NEWSLETTER EDITION 3

MAY/ JUNE 2017

DAY CONFERENCE 2018

DATE: SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2018

SPEAKER: CHRISTOPHER CHAPMAN

VENUE: ST ALOYSIUS CHURCH HALL,
LONDON NW1, near Euston Station

The Committee is making plans for the 2018 Day Conference. We are pleased to announce that Christopher Chapman, who led a very successful CSN day for us this May (*see report on p.2*), will be our speaker.

2018 is a Day Conference year, as we hope many of our members will also wish to attend the Retreat Association Conference taking place from 18 – 21 June at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire.

More news about these and other events in our November newsletter

CONFERENCE REPORT 2017

Participants gathered at the Hayes Conference Centre in March for our Conference, *The Word in the World: Reading the Scriptures in Hard Times*. Keynote speakers, Pádraig Ó Tuama and Professor Susan Docherty, enabled us to reconnect with Scripture from a contemporary perspective. Pádraig broke open the Gospels with imaginative and sensitive readings, helping us see more deeply who Christ is and what is happening in familiar texts. Susan asked whether the layered responses in the Bible to issues such as migration and welcoming the stranger could guide our responses now. Regula's liturgies offered simplicity and



holding for all that we had heard, and we were blessed with a beautiful reflection room prepared by Regula and Diane from the Sisters of St Andrew.

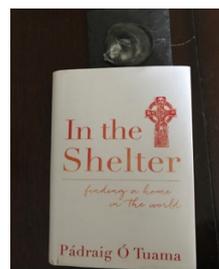
Special thanks were given by Tom McGuinness SJ to retiring Executive members, Sister Diane Reynolds and Bishop Brian Noble. Each has devoted many years of service to the CSN Committee alongside their joint work on the Spirituality Commission of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales which produced *Do You Love Me*.

We also remembered during the Conference the gifts and wisdom of Sister Cecilia Goodman CJ, who sadly died in February. As Tom said, those of us who made it through the January snow in 2010 will never forget the gift that she, with Keith Duke, gave us that year.

We are grateful to CSN members who led evening discussion groups and to the Committee for their hard work in planning and organising the Conference.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Pádraig Ó Tuama : *In the Shelter, finding a home in the world*. This book was flying off the shelf at the Conference. Theology, stories, poems and



scriptural reflections woven into themes such as welcome, the body, imagination, the shadow, change and power. A touchstone for reconnecting with all the insights Pádraig gave us.

Symon Hill: *The upside-down Bible, What Jesus really said about money, sex and violence*.

Published by Darton, Longman & Todd, this book was recommended by Susan Docherty for its radical and contemporary reinterpretations of Jesus' teachings, partly based on listening to reactions from people hearing them for the first time. Mark Oakley, Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral, says: *'Symon Hill reintroduces us to Jesus the teacher, whose stories don't always make easy sense because they are intended to make us instead'*.



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CSN DAY REPORT

Love is His Meaning: At Prayer with Julian of Norwich



On 13 May, some thirty attendees gathered at ‘the urban oasis’ of the house and grounds of the Sisters of St Andrew in Lewisham for a day of inspiration and prayer hosted by the Catholic Spirituality Network and led by Christopher Chapman, author and spiritual guide, who invited us in to a closer acquaintance with Julian of Norwich, anchoress, spiritual guide and theologian.

With brief periods of sunshine pouring colour through the stained glass windows into the circular chapel where the day’s sessions were held, Chris set the context to Julian’s life and times, before taking us deeper into the fruits of her ponderings and questionings following the ‘shewings’ or visions of the suffering Christ she experienced as a young woman in the throes of illness.

Chris’s talk illumined different aspects of Julian’s vision, like views out of the windows she would have had out from her anchor-hold, and he invited us to dwell on the theme that spoke most strongly to us, sharing our findings with our neighbour.

What stayed with me was Julian’s vision of the ‘motherhood’ of Christ who enfolds and holds and clothes us and in whom we are ‘endlessly born’; and this feeling surrounded me as I stood at lunchtime almost completely enclosed within the embrace of the huge tree on the front lawn. I will also take away Julian’s realisation that when we are at our most alone, confused and lost, like the servant who has fallen into a dell (i.e. Adam), there Christ is also,



and because of Christ’s allying himself with Adam, becoming inseparable with him, the place of pain and struggle becomes the very place of hope and resurrection.

We could have had no more knowledgeable, eloquent and thoughtful expositor of Julian’s witness than Chris, author of *Seeing in the Dark*, and no more welcoming and creative space in which to experience the day than that provided by the Sisters of St Andrew. Thank you to CSN for putting it on and I look forward to more of the same.

Reference: Chapman, C. *Seeing in the Dark*, (2013), Canterbury Press, Norwich.

Thank you to Susan Daniell, affiliate of the Retreat Association, for this report, and to the Sisters of St Andrew for hosting such a memorable day.



Creative table decoration at the Urban Oasis

Calling People of Goodwill: The Bible and the Common Good.

News from CSN member, Fleur Dorrell, about a new booklet from the Bible Society, offering reflection through selected Scripture passages on God’s call to live for the common good: a call that requires us to be people with the courage to ‘stay in the room’, who can negotiate and keep dialogue going by recognising the humanity of everyone, including those with whom we disagree. A timely resource to help us strengthen our communities in the face of all that divides us.

www.biblesociety.org.uk/commongood



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THE JOURNEY RELIGIOUS ART EXHIBITION



We are grateful for this news about long-standing CSN member, Peter Clare, and the generous donation of his art work to charity.

The Trustees of Westhill Trust have announced that the internationally-recognised artist Peter Clare has generously given his innovative and much praised cycle of paintings, **The Journey**, to the charity and that they are available for free hire.

The entire cycle of 42 paintings was completed over a 14-year period and has previously been shown in more than 20 major cathedrals, churches and other venues throughout the UK. The paintings have already been appreciated by over 50,000 visitors and, in giving the paintings to Westhill, Peter hopes that they will be accessible to an even wider audience. Peter is a committed Catholic with a strong enthusiasm for ecumenical engagement.

The Journey paintings reveal the spiritual journey of the artist as 'everyman', linked to that of Christ's way to the cross, death and resurrection. The acrylic paintings have been praised for their spirituality and honesty, their depth and range of emotion, as well as for their original, vigorous design and richness of colour. Typical of visitors' comments are 'powerful and persuasive', '...deeply moving and enriching...', 'full of myth and inner searching towards mental and spiritual wholeness' and 'Peter Clare puts into pictures what C S Lewis put into

words'. The cycle includes 15 paintings depicting the Stations of the Cross.

Welcoming Peter's generous donation, Richard Dickson at Westhill Trust said 'We're deeply grateful for Peter's generosity and we look forward to ensuring that these paintings continue to inspire people of all faith and none in their journey through life. By viewing and considering works of art like these, our experience is that visitors frequently leave the exhibition profoundly moved and appreciative that we have far more in common with each other than may appear to divide us.'

Peter Clare said 'My wife and I were aware of Westhill's experience in making works of art available to a wide audience. With our advancing years and declining health, we wanted **The Journey** to be seen by as many people as possible.'

The picture shows Peter and Carol Clare with Richard Dickson (left) and one of the paintings.

To hire **The Journey** paintings, either as a complete cycle or in part, contact Diane Webb at Westhill on 0121 472 8000 or email dlwebb@btconnect.com

Westhill Trust has several other works of public art available for free hire by faith bodies, community groups, schools, hospices, hospitals, retreat centres and museums. As well as paintings, these include sculptures, embroideries and garments on a variety of themes. These items are used to enable people to reflect on their own journey and to learn with each other.

<http://www.westhillendowment.org/home>

Visit Peter's website for more information about how **The Journey** has been used in residential retreats to help people reflect on their own journey with God.

www.peterclare.co.uk

SUSTAINABILITY AND FUND-RAISING

Please get in touch if you could offer any help with or ideas about fund-raising. CSN is always just about existing on a shoe-string! We are grateful to Helen Bamber who provided beautiful cards for sale at the Conference and to everyone who supported our successful Sustainability Sale. Both of these efforts gave a welcome boost to our funds.



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EVENTS

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK DAY

Saturday 10 June 2017

A midsummer CSN day: **Moments of Peace in Walking & Prayer** led by Shirley Taylor. We will gather at LSU school in Highgate for prayer and orientation, followed by a time of walking on Hampstead Heath just across the way.



Booking information on the CSN website:

<http://csn.retreats.org.uk/10-June-2017.pdf>

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK DAY

Saturday 14 October 2017



LOVE BADE ME WELCOME

Praying with Paintings and Poetry

In recent times, Sieger Köder painted many prayerful and thought-provoking images during his time as a parish priest. In the 17th century, George Herbert's own pastoral experience, in a remote parish near Salisbury, leaves us with his well-known poem describing God's invitation. The day will use these ideas as a launch-pad to reflect on our own prayer and experience. There will be input and time and space for personal prayer.

Led by Magdalen Lawler, a Sister of Notre Dame who has worked for many years in retreats and spiritual direction. She is the author of *Love bade me Welcome*, *Christ our Morning Star* and *Show us the Father* - all published by Pauline Media UK.



Venue:
Kairos Centre,
Roehampton
SW15 4JA

www.thekairoscentre.co.uk

Email us at CSN to book a place

RETREAT ASSOCIATION SUMMER EVENT

Friday 14 July 2017



A summer's day of talks, discussion, worship and networking at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine,

Limehouse, London. Revd Dr Andrew Walker will speak about Soul Matters. Emily Walker will lead the worship. RA patron, Graham Sparkes, will be taking part in the day. Come and meet members of other groups in the Retreat Association. Bookings through the RA website:

<http://www.retreats.org.uk/summerevent.php>

Catholic Spirituality Network

Executive Committee: David Lonsdale (Chair), David Shaw (Treasurer), Christopher Simon-Evans, Barbara Strong, Sister Teresa Kennedy, Michael O'Halloran.

Membership Secretary: Margaret Palladino

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