2026 Retreats & Reflection Days

Revised 28 October 2026

Mary MacKillop
Spirituality Ministry

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Registration Information

The Sisters of Saint Joseph, in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, have a long history of responding to spirituality and faith formation needs. After the Second Vatican Council, Spirituality Centres were established as the Sisters opened their hearts to the needs of the Church, other religious communities and the wider public. Our Centres span the country and have been beloved for many years.

As the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry enters a new chapter, we have endeavoured to diversify, broaden and increase our offerings for 2025/2026. We are delighted to be offering these reflection days, retreats and sabbaticals as opportunities to nurture one's spirit. These programs are an invitation to all to encounter the sacred in their lives.

How to Register

Please register for your desired reflection day, retreat or sabbatical directly with the relevant Spirituality Centre or via our website:
www.mmsm.org.au

Contact information for each Centre is available on pages 29–33.

Pricing Information

Mary MacKillop Fund

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry offers opportunities for everybody to experience spiritual enrichment and personal development in a peaceful, spacious. welcoming settings.

While working towards financial sustainability, we are committed to ensuring that nobody is prevented from attending a retreat or event due to the cost. Participants who are unable to afford the full fee may apply to the Mary MacKillop Fund for a discount or waiver.
You are welcome to contact your local Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre. All applications will be treated respectfully and confidentially

Early Bird Discounts

An Early Bird discount of **10% will apply to all Reflection Days and Retreats**. For Reflection Days, to gain an Early Bird discount, you will need to register more than three weeks in advance of the start date of the Reflection Day. For retreats, to gain a 10% discount, you will need to register at least six weeks in advance of the start date of the retreat. **Discounts do not apply to Sabbaticals and Workshops.**

Cancellations Guidelines

From time to time, there will be a need to make a decision as to whether or not a program will run. In the unfortunate situation where a Reflection Day, Retreat, Sabbatical or Workshop is cancelled by the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, a full refund for the amount paid for the program will be provided to registrants of that program.

If a participant who has registered and paid for a program needs to cancel their registration, a full refund will be provided if the participating centre (where the program is being held), is notified four weeks or more from the start date of the program. **Cancellations made within four weeks of the program start are non-refundable.** The same conditions apply if you need to change the date of the program you are attending.

Mary MacKillop
Spirituality Ministry

Retreats & Reflection Days

A Retreat in Daily Life - Directed

Start Anytime
This Programme is offered Online
Registration email:
spiritualdirection@sosjspirit.org.au

Experience the full Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius entered into at home while going about your everyday life. This can be done over approximately thirty-five weeks, or a ninety-day at-home retreat. You connect with the Spiritual Director weekly via Zoom, or when possible, in person. To decide to enter this journey means making a commitment to a dedicated time of prayer each day and connecting with the Spiritual Director.
The retreat is offered, using Marlene Marburg's contemporary expression of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in Grace Upon Grace. In this text, Marlene provides a rich, creative and fresh adaptation of the original Spiritual Exercises. Grace Upon Grace is not a book to read but a spiritual journey to take, being nourished by Marlene's poetry and the invitation of the arts.

Director: Annette Arnold RSJ

$88/ hour incl. GST

Discovering God's Plan for me

31 October 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Adelaide

Life can be overwhelming with life's changes coming at unexpected moments, new job opportunities, relationships shift over time, experience of loss, major milestones arrive, decisions that keep circling without answers — it all arrives whether we're ready or not.

In the middle of all the messiness, it's easy to feel weighed down: unsure of what you want, and unsure of God's plans for you.

Facilitators: Anne Slingo

Free, covered by the MM Fund

Directed Retreat

9 November - 16 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Central Coast, NSW

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what is God up to in your life.

Guide: Sr Ann Morrison rsj

$2365 incl. GST

Advent Journey with the Jesse Tree

7 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Adelaide

Prepare your heart for Advent through contemplative reflection, creativity and stillness. Drawing on the stories of the Jesse Tree and the symbols of Love, Hope, Peace and Joy, this day invites you to slow down, wonder and reconnect with what truly matters. Creative prayer, scripture, music, art and nature will guide the journey, and a take-home resource will support you throughout the season.

Suitable for all adults. Also approved by CESA as a System Accredited Module for teachers, requiring a 1500-word reflection paper.

Guide: Lillian Van Brussel

Free for pensioners

Sunset Spirituality

13 November, 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills

Adulting is a lot, and Sunset Spirituality is back for round two to talk about it. Work, rent, relationships, faith: it all piles up.

These twilight sessions bring life and faith back together through real talk and honest conversation, with facilitator Claire Thomas and keynote speaker Sr Monica Cavenagh. Group discussion, a young adults panel, and no pressure to have it all figured out.

Guide: Claire Thomas

Donations welcome

Directed Retreat

9 November - 16 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Central Coast, NSW

This is a time of silent contemplation, listening to God through the Scriptures of your life, with a daily opportunity of sharing with a Spiritual Companion, allowing a deepening of one's experience of God in daily life. It is about noticing what God is up to in your life.

Guide: Fr David King

$2365 incl. GST

Finding My Purpose

14 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Adelaide

The material and the spiritual are one — so finding your true purpose involves both. Don't climb your ladder only to find it leaning against the wrong wall.

Finding my purpose is a day to reflect both on your material and spiritual aspects and needs of your life and find a renewed sense of purpose and meaning with clarity and joy.

Facilitators: Br (Dr) Barry Donaghue

Free, covered by the MM Fund

Living as the Beloved

9 November - 16 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre
Central Coast, NSW

This retreat unfolds over six days with a spacious rhythm of morning and afternoon sessions, combining reflection, silence, prayer, journaling, and shared listening.

Together, we will explore life's deeper questions — identity, belovedness, suffering, peace, and how we are called to live — not to find quick answers, but to grow in awareness, compassion, and trust.

This retreat is especially suited to those longing for rest, renewal, and a deeper sense of God's presence in ordinary life. No prior retreat experience is needed — only a willingness to come as you are.

Come and rest. Come and listen. Come and remember that you are already deeply loved.

Guide: Sally Lavis

$1650 incl. GST

Directed Retreat

16 November - 23 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre,
Baulkham Hills

A six-day silent, directed retreat is an opportunity to enter a week of silence where you are able to be more present and listen to yourself and the ever-present God who seeks you always. Spiritual Direction daily allows you to share your life experience and see with fresh eyes the movements of God within you and around you.

Guide: Jennifer Scally RSJ

$2365 incl. GST

Life is a Journey

16 November - 20 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre,
St Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown, VIC

Life is a Journey Retreat is a reflective, prayerful excursion that contemplatively aligns our personal journeys with the journey of Jesus, focusing on transforming our past through the intimacy of God's love. It emphasizes healing, liberation, freedom, and spiritual growth by reframing our life experiences. The retreat aims to transform pain into love, leading to deeper intimacy and joy, love, in and through the heart of Christ Jesus.

Guide: Chris McPhee msc

$1320 incl. GST

Finding My Purpose

21 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Central Coast

It's a given that the material and the spiritual are one — so finding your true purpose involves both. Don't climb your ladder only to find it leaning against the wrong wall.

Called and Gifted is a day to leave 'either/or' behind for 'both/and' and find a renewed sense of purpose that holds your spiritual and practical life together.

Facilitators: Br (Dr) Barry Donaghue

$198 incl. GST

Men's Advent Retreat

21 November 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills

Life doesn't slow down to let you catch up. Career pressure, family demands, a restlessness you can't quite name — it piles up fast, and it's easy to let your faith get buried under all of it.

Men's Retreat is a day built to change that. Step out of the noise, get honest about what's really going on, and walk away spiritually refreshed to take the next steps in life.

Facilitators: Nehme Khattar

$198 incl. GST

Finding My Pathway

5 December 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills

Life doesn't pause for us to catch up. One day you're weighing a big decision, the next you're wondering if you've drifted from what actually matters to you.

Finding my Pathway is a day built for exactly that in-between space — a chance to step back, to look at your life in the context of spirituality and reflect on where you really are, find real clarity on what's next and make decisions that lead to a pathway of meaning and purpose.

Facilitators: Br (Dr) Barry Donaghue

$198 incl. GST

Women of Advent

29 November - 6 December 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Kilmolee, Safety Bay

Women of the advent invites us to reflect on the gems we have at our fingertips and discover the precious stories hidden in this season that bring our Christmas story alive. This silent, six-day contemplative retreat provides an opportunity to anticipate, honour and rejoice in the company of those close to the birth of Jesus, Mary the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth mother of John the Baptiser and Anna the Prophetess at the Temple of Jerusalem.

Guide: Ann Morrison rsj

$1650 incl. GST

Release, Restore, Reclaim

11 December - 13 December 2026
Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Safety Bay

As we progress through adulthood, life has a way of feeling overwhelming and messy: career and family pressures, relationships breaking down, stress pulling us in every direction, grief, and decisions we might have made that hurt others and ourselves.

These experiences are common in most of our lives but often go unaddressed and can continue to wound us. Left unaddressed, this can prevent us from deepening our relationship with God and finding peace in our lives.

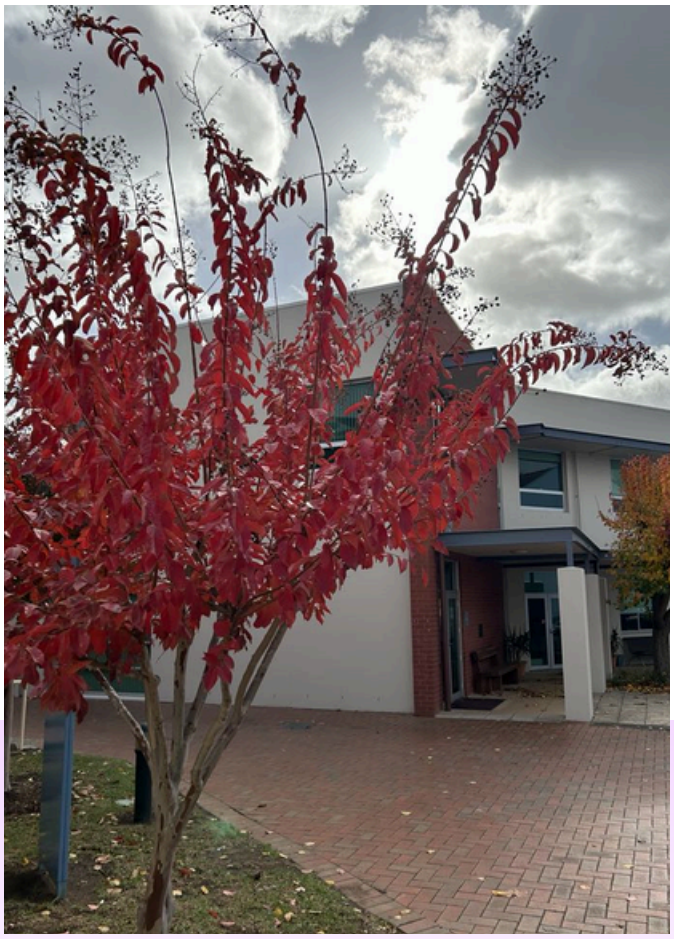
Facilitators: Br (Dr) Barry Donaghue

$440 incl. GST

Spirituality Centres

Registration Information via email

Please mark all email retreat correspondence **Attention: Retreats**.
Register online at: www.mmsm.org.au
Alternatively, some Centres can organise registrations over the phone.



Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Adelaide, SA

4 High St, Kensington SA 5068

Tucked away in the inner Adelaide suburb of Kensington, the Centre is located on the very site where Mary lived, worked, and prayed from 1872 to 1883. It is a welcoming place of spirituality, hospitality, education, and pilgrimage where Mary's legacy lives on.

Phone: (08) 8130 5910
Email: admin.mmpsa@sosjspirit.org.au

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Baulkham Hills

33 Barina Downs Rd, Norwest NSW 2153

Located beside Norwest Business Centre, this Centre sits in a perfect location, 40 minutes from Sydney's CBD. Founded in the spirit of Mary MacKillop and in the tradition of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the centre's hospitality and services reach out to everyone, everywhere.

Phone: (02) 9634 2317
Email: reception.sjc@sosjspirit.org.au

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre Melbourne

362 Albert St, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Heritage listed and in a prime location adjacent to Melbourne's CBD, Fitzroy Gardens, MCG and theatres, this Centre offers opportunities for all to experience and be challenged by the creative spirit and dynamism of Saint Mary MacKillop's life and work and the contribution of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Phone: (03) 9926 9300
Email: admin.mmhc@sosjspirit.org.au

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Josephite Mission, Hobart

67 Clare St, New Town TAS 7008

Established in 1907 as the Mother House of the Tasmanian Josephites, the former Sacred Heart Convent at New Town is steeped in the stories of Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods and the early Sisters. It is a beautiful and unique place to be inspired.

Phone: (03) 6228 1628
Email: admin.jmhc@sosjspirit.org.au

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Kilmolee, Safety Bay

182 Arcadia Dr, Safety Bay WA 6169

Situated right on the coast of Safety Bay with spectacular ocean views, splendid sunrises, glorious sunsets and beach walks, Kilmolee facilitates a deepening of relationship with God and Creation in a hospitable, peaceful setting.

Phone: (08) 9527 3240
Email: safety.bay@sosjspirit.org.au

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, Central Coast

8 Humphreys Rd, Kincumber South NSW 2251

Located in a natural bushland setting in a quiet corner of Kincumber South on the beautiful Central Coast of NSW, the spacious grounds from the Kincumber Broadwater create an atmosphere of tranquillity and peace, enhancing the spiritual and reflective nature of the Centre. Come and be recharged, re-energised and spend precious time connecting with each other and nature.

Phone: (02) 4368 2805
Email: reception.sjr@sosjspirit.org.au

Mary MacKillop Spirituality Centre, St Joseph's by the Sea, Williamstown

16 Esplanade, Williamstown VIC 3016

On the land of the Bunurong people, with views of Port Phillip Bay, St Joseph's by the Sea is only a short train ride from Melbourne CBD. It is a gathering place for all who seek to nurture contemplation, explore and celebrate the wonders of the universe and earth and nourish body, mind and spirit.

Phone: (03) 9397 6012
Email: admin.sjbts@sosjspirit.org.au

Facilitators

Annette Arnold RSJ

Annette is a Sister of Saint Joseph, a Spiritual Director, a giver of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and a Supervisor in the Kardia Heart Wisdom Program. Formed in the Ignatian tradition in the Kardia Heart Wisdom program, Annette brings the gifts and wisdom of her years in education, counselling and leadership to this role.

Anna Barber

After three rich decades of dedication to Catholic education and leadership, Anna has embarked on an inspiring adventure as part of the Education Team at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne. With a deep passion for sharing the remarkable legacy of St. Mary MacKillop, Anna is driven to reimagine the story of Australia's beloved saint, making her wisdom and spirit resonate in today's world.

Mary-Ann Casanova RSJ

Mary-Ann has been a Sister of Saint Joseph for 40 years. She has a passion for all things eco, and her work conveys complicated concepts in simple, engaging ways. She has held positions with Catholic EarthCare Australia, Rahamim Ecological Centre, and is currently the Josephite Laudato Si Action Plan Project Officer. Mary-Ann completed her Doctoral Studies in 2023. Her research looked into the relationship between mysticism and science in the lives of Julian Tenison Woods and Teilhard de Chardin.

Belinda Chapman

Belinda is an experienced spiritual director and giver of the spiritual exercises, based in George Town in Tasmania. She delights in providing space and opportunity for people to deepen their relationship with God in whatever form that relationship is best nourished at the time of life or season within which they discover themselves. Her style of spiritual direction is creative, engaging and inclusive.

Nehme Khattar

Nehme Khattar has worked across Healthcare, Aged Care and Education, with a focus on Mission, Formation and Wellbeing. He is currently Head of Mission at Catholic Healthcare and previously served as Director of Wellbeing. Nehme holds a Bachelor of Theology, a Master of Spiritual Direction and Teaching, and a Bachelor of Commerce, and was formerly a Deacon of the Maronite Church. A father, sports lover and community-builder at heart, Nehme brings both lived experience and deep formation to every session he leads.

Mandy Cox

Growing up in Melbourne, Mandy has worked in ministry with her husband around Australia whilst raising their three children. Settling in Newcastle, NSW in 2019, she now runs her own business, Urban Sparrow Counselling & Supervision Services, providing counselling, supervision and spiritual direction to her clients. Mandy also facilitates workshops and retreats, focusing on grief, loss and transformation.

Val De Brenni

Val De Brenni, a Covenant Josephite, is a trained spiritual director and supervisor. She is the Director of the Spiritual Director Formation Program for the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide and a member of the Ignatian Heart Spirituality team. Val has a special interest in the spiritual formation of teachers and leaders in Catholic schools.

Vicki Hancock

Vicki is passionate about nurturing people to well-being and inner wisdom through offering experiential reflective retreats. She has experience and qualifications in meditation, relaxation, movement, mindfulness, contemplation, imagery, soul collage and teaching. She's a practising spiritual director who is committed to her own spiritual journey.

Fadi Elbarbar

Fadi Elbarbar is a husband and father of two young boys. Secondly, he is an experienced teacher of Religious Education, heading several Religious Education faculties across Tasmania and Victoria. He also has a long history of coordinating social justice programs. Fadi came to the Catholic Church via the RCIA process in 2015, after falling in love with the Good News via his introduction to it in his first teaching round. Since then, he has fervently studied theology, including his Master's in Theology. He is currently a teacher of Religious Education at Antonine College, St Joseph Campus, Pascoe Vale South.

Dr Pina Ford

As a team leader in Catholic Education WA (CEWA) over the last 25 years, Dr Pina has provided adult faith formation in scripture, theology and spirituality to a wide range of participants. These include catechists, school staff and leaders participating in CEWA's leadership programs and retreats.

Trish Fairley

Before she retired Trish was a director of her own training and development consultancy and has always had a passion for facilitating processes where people discover how to live life to the full, with purpose and meaning. No wonder her role as Interplay Australia's Coordinator of Professional Development & Training was such an exciting one for her! Together with her husband Peter Lee, she has been a key leader in the South Australian InterPlay community over the past 25 years. For many years she was Chair of the board of InterPlay Australia. She leads monthly InterPlay sessions at the Sophia Ecumenical Feminist Spirituality Centre in Adelaide.

Peter Hay

Peter Hay is a passionate explorer of ecological spirituality as a way of bringing us into a more authentic way of living in these critical times. He is a spiritual director, professional supervisor and a lecturer at Heart of Life.

Liz Lewis

After spending 25 years in real estate, I chose to follow my true vocation in guiding others on their journey to inner healing. My introduction to personal development began in 2004, when I realised how significantly our mindset influences our lives. I believe that true transformation starts from within, connecting with our inner spirit. My mission is to inspire others to invest in themselves, understanding that shifting our perception can create a ripple effect of positive change in all areas of life.

Fr David King CP

Father David King C.P. is a priest of the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ, most commonly known as The Passionists, founded to contemplate and preach the passion of Jesus as the most overwhelming sign of God's love for us. He has ministered in faith education and spirituality for most of his 34 years as a priest and hopes to affirm fellow travellers on this journey amidst the demands of the modern world. He is passionate about ministry in spirituality, assisting others to explore and deepen their relationship with God.

Sally Lavis

Sally Lavis is a pastoral carer, spiritual director, retreat facilitator, and mother of six. Her work is shaped by many years of accompanying individuals and groups through grief, transition, and spiritual searching. Inspired by the compassionate spirituality of Henri Nouwen, where people are invited to slow down & listen deeply.

Eamonn Pollard

Eamonn Pollard is presently the Director of Spirituality Ministry for the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry. He has previously worked as a teacher, principal, formator, facilitator and lecturer. Eamonn recently submitted a PhD on the importance of spirituality to wellbeing.

Mary Ryan RSJ

Mary Ryan RSJ has ministered in the areas of primary and secondary education, parish development, adult and young adult spirituality/retreats, university chaplaincy, and also in several leadership roles in both Victoria and NSW. Since she arrived in South Australia in 2013, Mary has co-ordinated the establishment of Mary MacKillop Precinct, the redevelopment of Mary MacKillop Museum and the creation of the Kensington-Norwood Mary MacKillop Walk. She is currently the Assistant Director of Formation for the Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry. Aware that Mary MacKillop is a 'Saint for ALL Australians' (Max Harris), Mary is keen to work with and support school leaders and staff of all schools to help deepen their understanding of the legacy of Mary MacKillop and her relevance to all school communities today. "Think of Mary MacKillop and learn from her to be a gift of love and compassion for one another, for all Australians, and for the world." (Pope John Paul II – Sydney, 1995)

Christine Sage

Christine Sage has lived in the Macedon Ranges for over 30 years and has exhibited extensively around Victoria as an Artist. She has had over 30 years in the classroom as a Senior Art Teacher, before moving into the realm of Religious Art. In 2009, Chris left the classroom and became a Retreat and Seminar Day Facilitator using Art as her basis for workshopping with students and staff across the Catholic sector. She was employed by several schools as a much sought-after Artist in residence. In 2013, Chris was asked to produce a commissioned St Brigid for a school in Victoria and since then has produced many bronze sculptures which are installed in numerous schools across Australia. Chris travels now between Melbourne an ADeliade, continuing to add to her professional skill st and sharing her skills in workshops where inner landscapes and diverse ways of praying through visual imagery and personal story are explored.

Jennifer Scally RSJ

Jennifer is a Sister of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, with 30 years of experience in the spirituality space. She has worked in many schools, in the diocese and as a spiritual director, retreat facilitator and supervisor in various ecumenical settings. Jennifer's work focuses on the need to listen within to allow for continual growth in every aspect of life. She is committed to assisting others as they grow in awareness of their own ever-deepening relationship with their God and their personal growth.

Br (Dr) Barry Donaghue

Br (Dr) Barry Donaghue cfc has studied and taught in 13 countries around the world and has completed degrees in arts, teaching, education, adult religious education, theology and group dynamics. He was Director of Prariewoods EcoSpirituality Centre and Providence Spirituality Centre in the US. He is an experienced retreat facilitator and a qualified spiritual director and labyrinth presenter.

Frances Maguire RSJ

Frances is one of Mary MacKillop's Women, born in Kalgoorlie and educated by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. She has been a teacher and leader in Catholic secondary schools, then in adult faith and personal development throughout WA, including 6 years as Director of Mirrilingki Spirituality Centre in Warmun in the East Kimberley. Frances has been involved in spiritual accompaniment and leading retreats online and in person in Australia and Peru. She is growing in awareness of the oneness, interconnectedness and interdependence of Earth and all her creatures, especially those made poor and on the margins.

Rita Malavisi RSJ

Rita has been a Sister of Saint Joseph for over 30 years. Originally a primary school teacher, working in city and country schools, Rita is currently involved in adult faith formation at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in Melbourne. She is a trained Spiritual Director and is the current National Chair of one of the Spiritual Direction Networks.

Maureen McDermott RSJ

Maureen is a Sister of Saint Joseph in the New South Wales region. In 1995 – 96, she trained in Spiritual Direction at the Centre for Religious Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Since returning from Boston, Maureen has been involved in programs at Baulkham Hills and spiritual direction and retreats in other centres throughout Australia. In recent years, Maureen has been involved in Mission Ministry in Aged Care and Parish Ministry in small parishes where there was no resident priest.

Chris McPhee MSC

Chris McPhee MSC, is a former Parish Priest, Novice Master, Provincial Superior, and General Councillor for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. He has conducted numerous retreats, both contemplative and preached, across Australia and internationally. His retreats are dedicated to spiritual growth, reflection, and renewal, emphasising the core values of compassion, love, freedom, justice, and community. Drawing on his extensive experience in religious formation, parish ministry, leadership, and retreats, he creates a welcoming and contemplative atmosphere that unites participants with their faith and spirituality. These aspects are integrated with prayer, meditation, and reflective conversation.

Ann Morrison RSJ

Ann is a Sister of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, currently residing in the beautiful Blue Mountains at Katoomba, NSW. Ann's main ministry is retreat facilitation, spiritual direction and adult faith formation. Ann endeavours to use educational, pastoral, scriptural and life experiences to develop more deeply her call to be aware of the activity of God in life and use it to live more authentically.

Anne Slingo

Anne is a teacher with nearly forty years of experience in Catholic primary and secondary classrooms. She works with Catholic organisations, opening up charism, teaching new ways of praying, discernment, sacred listening and conversation. With a background in Ignatian Spirituality and as a giver of the First Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, Anne brings an approach to formation that enables receivers to make sense of who they are, as they are gently accompanied.

Lilian Van Brussel

Lillian Van Brussel has taught in Catholic schools for over twenty years, whilst leading the religious identity and mission. She currently plans and implements prayer and reflection days and experiences for teachers, school leadership teams, students and other sectors. Lillian currently gives spiritual direction, accredited through the Spiritual Director Formation Program in the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide. Her prayer and reflection experiences provide input to ponder and opportunity to creatively reflect, slow down and connect with PRESENCE, along with take-home resources for the everyday toolbox for slowdown from the general busyness of life on a more regular basis.

Mark Walsh

Mark Walsh is a creative facilitator specialising in formation, spirituality, pilgrimage, biblical studies and retreats, with extensive experience across schools, religious congregations and parish groups in Australia and internationally. He is also a pilgrim, pilgrimage leader and spiritual director, with experience leading pilgrimage in the Holy Land and walking the Caminos de Santiago de Compostela, the Aussie Camino and the Way to St James Cygnet. He has volunteered with Camino Companions in Santiago de Compostela and accompanied Australian pilgrims as they prepare to walk the Camino.

Andrea Grant

Andrea Grant is a Spiritual Director and Retreat Facilitator with an extensive background in education and staff formation. Her work has involved engaging with schools all over Australia, leading programs including Spiritual Direction for school leaders, mission-centred retreats, overseas pilgrimages, board and council formation, and leadership formation and mentoring.

Donnie Velasco

Donnie Velasco is a family man, married to Mei and proud parent to their son, Jonathan. He finds joy in sharing story, being invited into the sacredness of another's experience, and engaging in the conversational reality of life. With a background in business administration and psychology, Donnie spent 12 years working in mission, evangelisation and ministry with the Diocese of Parramatta through adult faith formation, completing a graduate certificate in secondary religious education and a Master of Theological Studies along the way. Since early 2026 he has worked with Caritas Australia as an animator and diocesan director. His specialty areas include mission, spirituality, biblical hermeneutics, evangelisation, ministry skilling, and youth and young adult engagement.

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