

Profiles of Facilitators 2020

Carole Carmody rsm Carole is a Sister of Mercy and an experienced spiritual director with a special love for creating sacred spaces, and a reflective atmosphere. Carole believes in the capacity which each person has to depth their experience, and to discover the unique treasure within.

Cath Connelly: When not performing, composing or teaching the Celtic harp, Cath leads workshops and seminars on spirituality. In 2008, she completed her Master of Arts thesis in Spirituality through the Melbourne College of Divinity. During 2008 Cath also completed a four-year Spiritual Direction course offered by the Living Well Centre in East Melbourne. Consequently, Cath is now a qualified Spiritual Director, involved with the Leadership Team in providing spiritual direction training. In 2013 Cath became the co-director of the Living Well Centre in Melbourne. This is a position that she continues to hold. Her work increasingly involves leading retreats and facilitating workshops.



Madeline Duckett rsm is a qualified teacher, spiritual director, retreat facilitator and has written articles and books in the area of spirituality. Beginning as a secondary, then tertiary teacher and adult educator, she now works in the area of spirituality, offering retreats, spiritual direction and spirituality programs at Santa Casa, and elsewhere in Australia and overseas. She believes in creativity and the power of imagination to facilitate access to the spiritual. In 2012 she studied under Ilia Delio and continues to draw upon evolutionary and mystical underpinnings in her retreat work.

Robyn Fitzgerald is a spiritual director, facilitator of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and retreat giver working in private practice in northern NSW. Her work draws on the wisdom of the mystics for entering and living into contemplative life. Robyn enjoys involvement with the Contemplative Evolutionary Network. Prior to working in spiritual direction, she worked as an academic specialising in the rights and wellbeing of children and young people in law, ethics and education. Her doctoral work was grounded in critical hermeneutics and conversation. Robyn holds a Masters in Spiritual Direction degree and postgraduate qualifications in supervision.

Kerrie Hide Kerrie has been a spiritual director for more than 30 years. She has a background in Mystical Theology and completed her PhD *Gifted Origins to Graced Fulfilment*, on salvation as oneing in the Showings of Julian of Norwich, which was published as an award winning book. She has written many articles on Prayer and Spirituality

Fr Chris Hope ordained in Rome in 1966 is the Parish priest at Kingston-Channel Parish in southern Tasmania. He is involved as well in promoting an understanding and love of the Word of God at various levels in Tasmania and beyond. From 1973 – 1979, Fr Chris was on the Staff at Corpus Christi College Clayton and lectured in Sacred Scripture at Catholic Theological College. For many years he has given retreats based on biblical themes.

Margaret Moore rsm trained in spiritual direction at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Chicago and completed her Masters at Loyola University, Chicago. She has also completed further training in retreat-giving and the Spiritual Exercises at St Bueno's Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Wales.



Colleen Rhodes rsm has a wide and varied experience in ministry. She has been a teacher in Australia and Papua New Guinea, a formation director, a retreat giver and spiritual director, and a pastoral worker with the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. Colleen's real love is accompanying people on their journey into the heart of God. She began this privileged ministry of giving retreats and spiritual direction in 1985

Nicole Rotaru rsm is a Sister of Mercy. Her background is in Education, Social Work and Creative Arts Therapy. For several years Nicole has worked intensively in family violence under the auspice of McAuley Community Services for Women. She has witnessed the impact of violence on women and children. This has given her a practical and deep understanding of the complexity of family violence and the devastating impacts on children and their mothers, as well as their remarkable capacity for resilience and strength to heal.

Liza Stewart Liza is a wife and mother and grandmother whose background is education. Her spiritual direction formation was at the Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Melbourne. She is passionate about encouraging the exploration and integration of all aspects of life.

Fr Peter Varengo sdb is a Salesian of Don Bosco (sdb). Peter is engaged in full time Retreat Ministry and Adult Faith Education in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. A member of faculty at Catholic Theological College, he has published a number of commentaries on the Sunday Gospels and the Liturgical cycle of the year, and a collection of Gospel reflections, such as *“We Want to See Jesus”* and *“The Kingdom is here – An Exploration of Discipleship through the Gospel Imagery of the Kingdom”*.

Fr Hien Vu is the Parish priest of St Brendan’s Parish Flemington within the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He is a spiritual director and completed his studies at the Heart of Life Spirituality Centre, Melbourne.

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