



Newsletter February 2012

*"In my more rebellious days I tried to doubt the existence of the sacred, but the universe kept dancing and life kept writing poetry across my life."
[David N. Elkins, 1998, Beyond Religion, p. 81]*

CATCH-UP DAY

Each year we have three or four Catch-Up Days. Their purpose is to enable those who have attended Aquinas programs to continue engaging their minds and their hearts together with others.

The format is simple. There is some pre-reading. We meet at 10am on Level 5, have some quiet time together, speak a little of what life has been asking of us and offering us since we last met, followed by conversation arising from the pre-reading.

Our next Catch-Up Day will be at Aquinas on Tuesday February 28.

You will need to [register](#) in order to receive the pre-reading.

[Contact Aquinas Secretary](#)

JULIAN OF NORWICH AND HER *SHEWINGS*

Sheila Upjohn



Julian of Norwich wrote in the 14th century yet her writing is startlingly relevant in the 21st. This course introduces Julian's book and explores the nature of many of her profound insights - among them the nature of sin, of forgiveness, of God's anger, and of the motherhood of God. There will be readings from Julian and time for discussion and reflection.

Sheila Upjohn is the author of *In Search of Julian of Norwich*, *All Shall Be Well* and *Why Julian Now?* She also translated the extracts from Julian's book for the best-selling anthologies *Enfolded In Love* and *In Love Enclosed*. Like Julian, Sheila Upjohn is a Norwich woman, and for most of her life has lived in the city where Julian wrote her book. She now lives in Australia and is delighted to share with us her knowledge and enthusiasm for Julian.

WHERE? AQUINAS ACADEMY, Level 5, 141 Harrington St, SYDNEY

WHEN? 4 Wednesday mornings, 10am - 12 noon, **March 7 - 28 2012**

COST? \$110/person
Enrolment and further information

KINCUMBER RETREAT

Marie Biddle RSJ and Michael Whelan SM

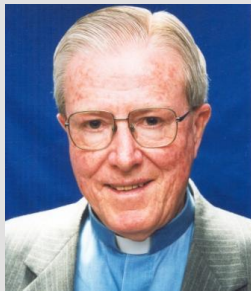


This will be a silent, live-in retreat at the Sisters of St Joseph Spirituality Centre, Kincumber from **Tuesday evening April 10 through Sunday morning April 15 2012.**

For information and registration contact the Sisters at **02 4368 2805.**

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE TODAY

Bishop Geoffrey Robinson



In this course Bishop Robinson will select passages and stories out of each of the Gospels - Matthew, Mark and Luke to reveal their multi-layered richness. It is an introduction to the gospels that will encourage people to want to study them more deeply and experience the liberation of the "good news" on offer.

WHEN? 3 Tuesday mornings, 10am-12noon, **April 24 - May 8**

2012

WHERE? Level 5, 141 Harrington St, Sydney

COST? \$70/person

Enrolment and informaion

AN INTRODUCTION TO MARIST SPIRITUALITY

Michael Whelan SM



Michael has been a professed Marist for more than 44 years and a priest for nearly 40 years. He is the Principal of the Aquinas Academy and his special area of expertise is foundational spirituality. He is the author of four books and a number of articles in this field. His love for and understanding of Marist spirituality is central to his life, both as a man and as a priest, in the world today.

The Founder of the Marist Fathers, Jean Claude Colin, lived and worked in France immediately following the French Revolution. He saw first hand both the ravages of a society that had turned

against the Church and the impotence of a Church that had, in many respects, lost its way. He set out with his companions - including St Marcellin Champagnat, Jeanne-Marie Chavoin and Francoise Perroton - to found a society of men and women, laity, religious and clergy, who would be present in the Church as Mary was present in the Church at Nazareth, at the foot of the Cross and most especially at the first Pentecost. This brief course will be personal and practical in nature, developing that theme of transforming presence that Mary the Mother of Jesus exemplifies.

WHEN? 3 Thursday mornings, 10am-12noon, **April 26 - May 10 2012**

WHERE? Level 5, 141 Harrington Street, Sydney

COST? \$75/person (Including notes)

Enrolment and information

LENTEN PROGRAM AT HUNTERS HILL PARISH

Marie Bidde RSJ and Kev bates SM

Marie Biddle and Kevin Bates will combine to offer a series of evening reflections based on the teachings of Jean Vanier.

5 Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm-9.30pm, February 28-March 27 2012.

[Contact Villa Maria at Hunters Hill](#)

CATALYST EVENTS

October 11 this year will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second vatican Council.

Catalyst for Renewal is organising a number of events to celebrate that anniversary:

CLIFFORD LONGLEY LECTURE TOUR - a series of lectures presented by Mr Clifford Longley, specialist writer for the London *Tablet*. **The lecture in Sydney will be at Customs House on the evening of Wednesday May 9.**

Q AND A IN THE CRYPT - a series of Sunday afternoon conversations in the Crypt at St Patrick's Church in The Rocks.

SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB - see the [Catalyst website](#) for venues and schedules.

REFLECTION MORNINGS - the first Reflection Morning at Hunters will be Saturday March 3, 9.30am-12noon, with **Bishop Geoff Robinson** (Info: Carole - 9869 1036 or Michelle 9958 5963) and the first Reflection Morning at Blackheath will be on Saturday March 24, 10am-1pm, with **Bishop Anthony Fisher** (Info: Carmel - 4787 8706).

CATALYST DINNER - Friday March 23, 7pm for 7.30pm at the Villa maria Parish Hall in Hunters Hill, with **Fr Frank Brennan SJ** (Message bank: 9990 7003). Reservations are essential for the Dinner.

OTHER EVENTS

LECTURE BY FR EDMUND CAMPION - The Camino Committee of Our Lady of the Way

Parishes North Sydney invite you to hear Fr Campion on Thursday evening February 23 at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Miller Street North Sydney. (Info: Rosemary - 9436 4146 or Margaret 9955 4119)

POLITICS IN THE PUB - thei new series for 2012 has already commenced. The next evening will be 6pm on Friday February 17 at The Gaelic Club, 64 Deconshire Street Surry Hills. The topic will be "The Australian Health Care System" and the speakers will be Prof John Dwyer and Dr Con Costa. Go to [Politics in the Pub](#) for more information.

A FRIENDLY GUIDE TO PRAYER

John Garratt Publishing in Melbourne has just released the latest in their Friendly Guides series.

Copies of this book are available from Aquinas Academy - [online shop](#) or by visiting us or by requesting that we post it to you.

The book costs \$24 and postage is \$5.

[Contatc Aquinas](#)

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