



The Mystical Heart: Spiritual Direction in the Light of Contemplation

A Formation Offering Guided by Dr Kerrie Hide

Monday 4th- Tuesday 5th May, 2020

St Bartholomew's Church, Alstonville, NSW.

This formation offering will draw on the wisdom of the mystics to assist spiritual directors in entering into the depthless ground of the heart with directees, as they seek to discern the stirrings of Spirit and the infusing of contemplation that is beyond language. Classic texts by mystics such as Julian of Norwich, the Cloud of Unknowing, Meister Eckhart, Gertrude of Helfta, Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete, John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Teilhard de Chardin, Beatrice Bruteau, Ilia Delio will be drawn on to shed light on some of the more complex issues that arise in spiritual direction as we journey into the deep inner heart. Emphasis will be on claiming the ontological space of contemplation and the heart wisdom that arises in stillness and silence. Topics will include ways of contemplation, discernment, the knowing of the mystical senses, the grace of darkness and unknowing, the gift of being wounded, sacred sensuality and sexuality, surrender and annihilation, dying and giving birth, unitive Christ consciousness, ecological consciousness and an evolutionary vision.

The course will assist directors in being able to go deeper into their own inner journey so that they can support their companions to risk the necessary surrender that this way of love involves.

We will create a confidential, trustworthy, sacred spaciousness, a communion of seekers where participants are safe to explore the depths of the Spirit's drawing. There will be communal meditation, formal input, group discussion and spiritual direction sessions. Participants will be encouraged to prayerfully read texts in the way of lectio divina and to keep an ongoing journal including writing, art, dance or drama.

It is essential that participants have a routine of contemplative prayer, are in ongoing spiritual direction, have some background into the art of spiritual direction and are prepared to take a 6 day silent retreat.

We invite practicing spiritual directors or anyone who is committed to the depths of the inner journey.



About Kerrie Hide

Kerrie has been a spiritual director for thirty-four years. She currently enjoys offering spiritual direction, giving retreats (6, 8 and 30 days), teaching, researching and writing. Kerrie began her career as a teacher before she lectured in Theology at ACU Canberra for eighteen years where she developed and taught units in Christian mysticism and initiated and coordinated a Spiritual Direction Master's program. She then became a fulltime spiritual director at St Mary's Towers Douglas Park for nine years.

Kerrie is a published researcher with the retreat from her Master's thesis published as *A Woman's Healing Song*. Her PhD, *Gifted Origins to Graced Fulfilment* (published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville), won first prize in the US Catholic Press awards and explores an understanding of salvation as oneing, drawing out implications for spiritual growth. She has also published numerous articles on prayer and spiritual direction in Australian and internationally. Among her most recent publications are "Salvation as Oneing" in Justine Holcombe ed. *Theologies of Salvation* and "The Ecstasy of Agape" in *Personal Transformation and New Creation*, Ilia Delio ed.

Booking Details

The course will begin on Monday 4th May at 9.00am and conclude on Tuesday 5th May at 8.00pm. The cost is \$425.00 and includes two days of teaching, two follow up zoom sessions, course materials, lunch and dinner on both days (locally sourced, fresh, organic vegetarian meals prepared on site).

Please register your interest by Friday 29th November by paying a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 at: www.trybooking.com/BFVXX. Or type "Mystical Heart Formation Course" into the Try Booking search page. Final payment is due Monday 3rd February. Please contact Robyn if you have any difficulty with registration.

Numbers are limited to enable the creation of a safe and sacred space for this course.

Course Location

We will gather over two days in the beautiful contemplative space of St Bartholomew's Church in Alstonville.

Participants are invited to make their own accommodation and travel arrangements. We encourage you to book these early as this will ensure a reasonable rate. The nearest airport is Ballina/Byron Bay, with Jetstar, Virgin and Rex offering a regular service. Alstonville is a quiet little town in the northern rivers of NSW and located close to rainforest and the beach. It is half an hour from Byron Bay, and makes a great base for exploring the historic villages and beautiful scenery of the region.

About the Australian Network for Spiritual Direction

This formation offering is supported by ANSD Northern Rivers. In tune with the work of ANSD, our Group encourages spiritual directors in their work, and nurtures enquirers interested in spiritual direction and those drawn to its practice. You do not have to be a Spiritual Director to be a member of ANSD. We welcome as members all those who are supportive of this work. For more information about ANSD, please visit: www.ansd.org.au.

For further information about this course please contact Robyn Fitzgerald at: ansdnorthernrivers@gmail.com

