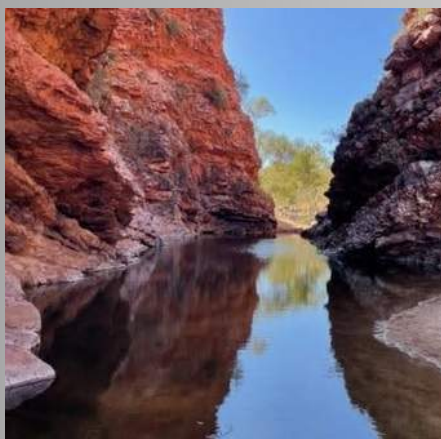


Mind the Gaps

11 - 16 August 2024

Alice Springs / Mparntwe



Practicing Christian Meditation is a way which takes both space and time. It means creating gaps, separating our imaginings, thinking, planning from our being. In the words of John Main "we let go of them because we know we must enter into total silence." The silence, too, is a gap for "at first it seems an emptiness and an absence."

"In meditation we stand back from all our questions and, in that very process, we discover a harmony and an integration that become the basis of all our subsequent use of the great human gifts we have been given. The peace, the stillness and the harmony that we experience in meditation becomes the basis for all our action. All our judgments are now illumined, inspired by love because we know that that love is the very ground of our being."
(The Way of Unknowing)

The landscape in which Alice Springs and Campfire of the Heart are set, with the East and West McDonald ranges and the various Gaps: Simpsons, Emily, Jessie, Honeymoon.... And Pine Gap! In them and through them, give rise to reflections about the gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the deeper mysteries of life: its beginnings its conduct and its endings.

These gaps in our knowing and the 'gaps' in the location, offer us a wonderful opportunity to reflect more deeply on what really matters, when it come to the past, the present & the future of humanity.

You are invited to join our retreat conscious of the importance of our search for God, our setting is the evocative landscape of Central Australia, including an excursion into the East MacDonnell ranges. The days will be marked by a rhythm of prayer, meditation and silence, with input from Fr Bernard supported by Susan Sullivan, a long-time member of the meditation community www.wccm.org, reflecting on the day and sharing around the campfire in the evenings, with an opportunity to share in the Eucharist, and to walk the labyrinth, as well as an introduction to dadirri and other contemplative practices.

PLACE [Campfire in the Heart Retreat Centre, Alice Springs/Mparntwe](#)

DATES & COST Sunday 11 August afternoon until Friday 16 August afternoon

There will be 3 levels of accommodation offered, numbers are limited in each level, all-inclusive prices for the 5 nights are

- * Private room \$995 per person
- * Shared room \$695 per person
- * Swag camping \$555 per person
- * It's possible to come daily (non-residential) \$400 for all sessions and meals

Free accommodation (in a caravan) is reserved for one volunteer, in exchange for their assistance throughout the event, ideally arriving a few days before the retreat and staying on afterward to assist with clean-up and preparing for the next guests. Minimum 2-week volunteering stay.

Applications to volunteer: <https://forms.gle/zgS5Z9f4EKDtXcbp9>

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS Around 15

ENQUIRIES Susan Sullivan soosully@icloud.com
Bernard Leslie McGrath OSB bmcgrath1048@gmail.com

To enquire about possible scholarship assistance taylor.judi@outlook.com

REGISTRATION Registrations can be made by completing and submitting the on-line form

[**CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION**](#)

A 50% deposit will be required within seven days of the confirmation of your registration to secure your booking. Please feel free to pay the full amount at this time, or full payment is due by 28 July (two weeks prior to the retreat).

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If the retreat is cancelled, all payments will be refunded. If you are unable to attend for other reasons, a full refund (less 10% to cover costs) will be provided up to 28th July; after this date, refunds are only possible if your place is able to be filled.

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are God's judgments and how inscrutable the Lord's ways!

For who has known the mind of the Lord? (Romans 11)