

Desert, Dangers and Divine Disinterest ... the Need to Pray Without Ceasing

25-30 August 2024

Alice Springs/Mparntwe



“The inattentiveness of the desert provides inexplicable healing”
Belden C. Lane

From the wide ribbon of coastal habitations around our nation and beyond, journey to the Centre!

To a landscape characterised by dry sandy creek beds and giant caterpillar shaped ranges: yellow, red, brown: both light and dark.

To some, a fierce landscape, to others Country.

In the traditions of Christian Meditation and Desert Spirituality imbedded in Biblical narrative, in a world characterised by the “indifference of God” and, one might add, of humanity, you are invited to a retreat in the heart of our nation.

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The 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 with Bec Smith member of our 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.

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“A 50% deposit is requested 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 two weeks prior to the retreat.



PLACE

Campfire in the Heart Retreat Centre,
Alice Springs/Mparntwe
www.campfireintheheart.com.au

DATES & COST

Sunday 25th afternoon -Friday 30th August 2024
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
- Extra nights can be requested on the registration form
- As well it's possible to come daily non residential, \$400 for all sessions and meals

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

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

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS around 15

ENQUIRIES

Bec Smith becsmith01@hotmail.com
0466 262 434
Bernard Leslie McGrath OSB
bmcgrath1048@gmail.com

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

REGISTRATION

Registrations can be made by completing and submitting the online form.

CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

If the retreat is cancelled, then all payments will be refunded. If you are unable to attend for other reasons, then a full refund (less 10% to cover costs) will be provided up to 2 weeks' prior, after which refunds are only possible if the place is filled.

Coming out of the shadows may be a painful business. We all have our favourite hiding places where we can take refuge. Where we can go when we want to rest up for a bit. But coming into the light is a surrendering of all those hiding places because we take as our one place of rest, the pure light of the Lord God. We need to be very simple about this, very childlike. Don't complicate. Simplify.

**The Heart of Creation by
John Main**