

ADVENT

The Way • Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2019



Inspired by our Blessed Mother and John the Baptist who pointed the way to Jesus, *The Way*, produced by the Diocese of Wollongong, provides a wonderful opportunity to take a quiet daily walk with our Lord and listen to him guide you on the way to holiness through his Son.

The Way is an 84-page pocket-size book containing short, spiritually rich daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (1 December 2019) through to the Baptism of the Lord (12 January 2020) primarily for personal use, but also appropriate for group use such as parish, Church agency, religious community and school staff/class prayer.

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Advent Calendar

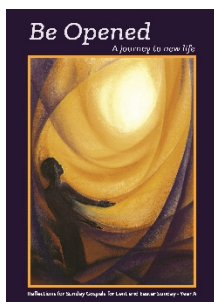


This simple to use Advent Calendar produced by Evangelisation Brisbane is designed for families and children to journey through the Advent Season. Download the free PDF and print as many copies as you want.

[Free PDF Download](#)

LENT 2020

Resources for Lent and Easter Sunday 2020



For 2020 the Evangelisation Brisbane' Lent resources have taken on a new 'look' and there will be some helpful 'additions' for next year (see below).

The year A readings include the wonderful 'dialogue' stories of the man birth blind, the Samaritan woman at the well and Mary, Martha and Lazarus. This year the resource includes a seventh session based on the Easter Sunday gospel.

The stunning artwork from Sr Mary Stephen CRSS provides an inspirational backdrop to each session.

New resources include:

- 32 gig USB card as an alternative to the DVD and CDs
- An app for personal use on phones and tablets
- Staff Prayer Pack provides all the resources necessary for 7 meetings for 10 people. The individual sheets will provide a simple prayer (10-15 minutes) for each of the 7 sessions or meetings. The prayers are based on the texts in *Be Opened – A journey to new life*.

The Gospel Reflections have been written by Dr Michele Connolly RSJ (Catholic Institute of Sydney) and Dr Ian Elmer (Australian Catholic University) and background – cultural, geographic and religious – to each of the Gospels. For a sample click here for the [Gospel Reflection for Week 1](#).

The team has done a fantastic job inviting seven people to tell their personal story. Each story, 'Be Opened to a Personal Encounter', that relates to one of the seven themes. For a sample click here for [Jessica Laidler's story](#).

Further information at www.lentprogram.com

Contact Evangelisation Brisbane: Ph: 07 3324 3440, email: eb@bne.catholic.net.au.

Samples on our [online store](#)

WEBSITES

Advent



Loyola Press has a wonderful Advent page on their IgnatianSpirituality.com website.

There is an online retreat: *Small Simple Ways to Open Mind, Heart and Spirit*.

There are also video commentaries on the Sunday Gospels.

Finding God in the Quiet Centre



A weekend opportunity for women to leave behind the chaos and clutter that can be a part of life and enter in to quiet in community. Come and experience a time of prayerful reflection in the beauty of God's good creation.

Facilitated by Grace Harwood (Dragonfly Ministries)

- Dates: Friday 13 December 6pm to Sunday 15 December 3pm
- Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Wellington Street, Ormiston
- Cost: \$370 (\$340 for pensioners, f/t students and unemployed)
includes all accommodation, meals, resources and facilitation.
Santa Teresa requires an additional \$30 fee for those with special diets.

Contact Grace Harwood, Dragonfly Ministries: grace@dragonflyministries.net.au or 0409 524 283

Contemplative Arts Circle • God's Gift of Love (Advent)



Contemplative Arts with Lynne Head-Weir. In a sacred space together, combine creative arts with Ignatian Spirituality in contemplative prayer. Opportunity to creatively deepen our relationship with God, each other & ourselves.

- Date: 14 December (9.30am to 12.30pm) (2nd Sat of each Month)
- Venue: The Faber Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, 111 Sir Samuel Griffith Drive, Bardon
- Bookings and more info: www.faberspirituality.org.au or 3368 2450

Emmanuel Home Night



Ignite Home Mass is followed by dinner and a night of inspired teachings and worship from our home for mission - Emmanuel Community. The whole family is welcome!

- Date: Held monthly - Sunday, 15 December 2019 (5pm-8:30pm)
- Venue: Blind Eye Centre, South Brisbane 19 Merivale St South Brisbane
- Contact: (07) 3217 5199, hello@igniteyouth.com

[Website](#)

Youth Gathering • God's Gifts



The Sisters of St Paul de Chartres invite 15-35 year old men and women to attend a Youth Gathering to prepare and welcome the birth of Jesus. This is a free event.

- Date: Sunday 15 December 2019 (9am to 5:30pm)
- Venue: St Paul de Chartres Convent, 28 Fedrick Street, Boronia Heights, Brisbane
- RSVP: by 8 December to Sr Inede Pham spc - (07) 3809 0535 or 0417 798 808,
Email : srinede@gmail.com or Sr Theresa Maria Dao spc - (07) 3495 5102 or 0478 351 576,
Email: theresamariaspc@yahoo.com.au

[Download Flyer](#)

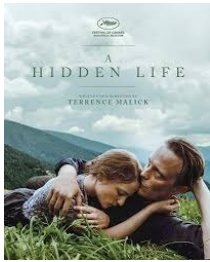
Traditional Ignatian Retreat



This is an individually-directed, silent, residential retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola. It is tailored to your personal needs and the movement of the Spirit within you.

- Dates: 29 January – 6 February 2020 (Wednesday 5pm to 10am Friday)
- Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Wellington Street, Ormiston

[Download Flyer](#)



Put this date in your diary: 31 January 2020. This will be the release date for what promises to be an inspiring film about Blessed Franz Jägerstätter.

If you have never heard of him the film title is a clue. Franz wrote no tomes of spirituality or theology in his life. He doesn't begin any wonderful spiritual movement, charitable works or social justice. He was a devoted husband to his beloved wife Franziska and father to their three girls. He was a farmer who hoped to live out his fairly simple life in the beautiful Austrian valley where he was born.

Until the rise of Hitler in Germany, and Austria, he believed he could live 'a hidden life'.

The film is directed by Terence Malick.

Malick is renowned for dealing with themes of religion, spirituality and existential meaning. But often his writing and direction is so symbolic and metaphorical it can be almost incomprehensible. Fortunately this film is completely driven by the narrative. That said the film is almost three hours long. Many reviewers have said this is at least 30 minutes too long! However Sr Rose Pacette ([Sr Rose at the Movies](#)) writes: 'I can't escape the feeling that the endurance is part of the film's point. Franz Jägerstätter must endure, and so must we. It's so easy to see Franz walking towards his death and want to beg him to turn back. The townsfolk tell him to do so. So does his legal advisor. Even the priests urge him to swear the oath even if he doesn't mean it.'

Despite the dramatic subject, lovers of music and visual beauty will be almost overwhelmed.

The film ends with this quote from George Eliot's *Middlemarch*:

The growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs.

[Trailer](#)

INSPIRATION FOR THE ROAD AHEAD ...

In 2013 Archbishop Mark declared that *The Joy of the Gospel* (Evangelii Gaudium) be the Charter of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

Many dioceses around the world have also looked to this document for inspiration and vision. For me personally, it has been the most significant Church document written in my 41 years working for the Church. I believe we can return to its 'well' many times and discover the 'current' is flowing strong and clear. Below are some 'springs of inspiration' for our time.

Rob Cosgrove

In our time humanity is experiencing a turning-point in its history, as we can see from the advances being made in so many fields. We can only praise the steps being taken to improve people's welfare in areas such as health care, education and communications. At the same time we have to remember that the majority of our contemporaries are barely living from day to day, with dire consequences. ... We are in an age of knowledge and information, which has led to new and often anonymous kinds of power. (52)

Every form of catechesis would do well to attend to the 'way of beauty' (via pulchritudinis). Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendour and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties. Every expression of true beauty can thus be acknowledged as a path leading to an encounter with the Lord Jesus. ... So a formation in the via pulchritudinis ought to be part of our effort to pass on the faith. Each particular Church should encourage the use of the arts in evangelization, building on the treasures of the past but also drawing upon the wide variety of contemporary expressions so as to transmit the faith in a new 'language of parables'. We must be bold enough to discover new signs and new symbols, new flesh to embody and communicate the word, and different forms of beauty which are valued in different cultural settings, including those unconventional modes of beauty which may mean little to the evangelizers, yet prove particularly attractive for others. (167)



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