

**2025 Retreats and Reflection Days**  
**Mary MacKillop Centre**  
**Te Punanga o Maria MacKillop**



*There where you are  
you will find God.  
Mary MacKillop 1871*

**TAIZE EVENING PRAYER throughout the year**  
**Friday evenings from 7pm to 8pm**

**Dates** February 14;  
April 11;  
June 13;  
August 15;  
September 26;  
and December 5

**Leader** Jill McLoughlin rsj

*Prayer expressed in song remains one of the most essential expressions of our search for God. Brother Roger Schütz (Founder of Taizé) 1915 – 2005. This meditative candlelit service will include singing chants, listening to the Word of God, intercessory prayer and ample time for quiet prayer in an atmosphere of silence and peace.*



## RETREAT DAYS, COURSES AND RITUALS

### \*\* February \*\*

#### LENTEN REFLECTION EVENING

**Date** Tuesday 25 February: 7pm – 8pm  
**Venue** Chapel  
**Leader** Jill McLoughlin rsj

*In an atmosphere of silence and stillness we are encouraged to listen deeply, discerning what our God most desires in us as we journey towards Easter.*

### \*\* March \*\*

#### REFLECTIVE WORKSHOP: The Humility and Gentleness of Jesus

**Date** Saturday 8 March; 9.30am - 1pm  
**Venue** Meeting Room 2  
**Leader** Eamon Butler

*The practice of Humility and gentleness are central to Christian spirituality. Jesus is the model of humility and gentleness. He invites his followers to become likewise. Why does Jesus encourage these virtues and why are they so important? Together, we will have an opportunity to grow in our understanding of humility and gentleness with the goal of cultivating these virtues into spiritual practices.*



#### CELEBRATING ST JOSEPH: Ritual and Light Tea

**Date** Wednesday 19 March;  
5.30pm  
**Venue** Chapel  
**Leaders** Sisters and Josephite  
Companions

*A time of prayer to honour Joseph and how his life is an inspiration for us today.*

## **SILENT RETREAT: Hospitality of the Trinity**

<b>Date</b>	21 – 23 March (Friday evening to Sunday lunch).
<b>Venue</b>	Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre
<b>Facilitator</b>	Eamon Butler
<b>Cost</b>	\$320

*How can we live in the midst of a world marked by fear, hatred and violence and not be destroyed by it? Henri Nouwen says that contemplation of the Icon of the Holy Trinity offers us an opportunity to live in harmony and peace with ourselves and the world. This retreat will offer you prayerful time to reflect on the three persons of the Trinity and an invitation to live your life from a place of safety and peace in the life of God.*

Contact email: [eamon\\_david@hotmail.com](mailto:eamon_david@hotmail.com)

**\*\* April \*\***

## **TWO-SESSION REFLECTION DAY: A Day with Thomas Merton via Zoom**

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 2 April; 1st session 10am; 2nd Session 4pm
<b>Facilitator</b>	Lyndall Brown rsj
<b>Cost</b>	Koha

*"We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent,  
and God is shining through at all times."*

*Thomas Merton*

*A day to savour the inspirations of Thomas Merton through some of his writings using contemplative practices, music, and silence.*

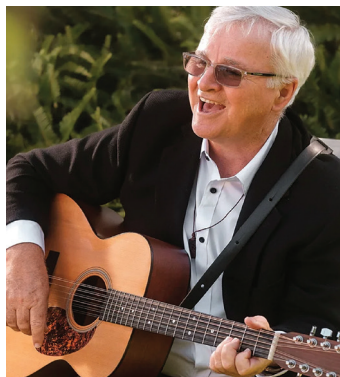
*There will be a morning and afternoon session with a handout for reflection.*

Registrations to [lyndallb19@gmail.com](mailto:lyndallb19@gmail.com) 021 185 6750

## **MUSICAL CONCERT with Chris Skinner SM**

<b>Date</b>	Sunday 6 April; 2pm
<b>Venue</b>	Mary MacKillop Chapel
<b>Cost</b>	Suggested Koha \$10

*Come and join us for a feast of musical entertainment.*



## REFLECTION DAY on Creation and the Incarnation (Part 1)

**Date** Saturday 12 April; 10am - 1pm

**Venue** Meeting Room

**Facilitator** Ann Neven rsj

From **"An Astonishing Secret"** – by Daniel O'Leary

### **Session One – Love Changes Everything**

*This is an opportunity to reflect on an aspect of Fr Daniel O'Leary's book, An Astonishing Secret. He helps us to look anew at the story of Creation and Incarnation as a story of God's unconditional love for us.*

## CARD-CRAFTING WORKSHOP with Fun, Fellowship & Creativity

**Date** Saturday 26 April; 10am - 3pm **To Be Confirmed**

**Venue** Meeting Room

**Facilitator** Meg Hills rsj

*This workshop is for those who have a small degree of experience in card-making. It provides an opportunity to design and create a variety of handcrafted all-occasion cards that recipients will treasure. All materials are supplied. A maximum of eight people can attend this workshop.*

**\*\* May \*\***

## REFLECTIVE EVENING: Pilgrims of Hope

**Date** Tuesday 6 May; 7pm

**Venue** Chapel

**Leader** Jill McLoughlin rsj

*2025 is a Year of Jubilee! "For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope." Pope Francis*

*Hope is transformative. It widens our vision and fills our hearts, inspires our imagination and creativity, strengthens our resolve and helps us to live differently. Come along for an evening of reflection on the call to be pilgrims of hope.*



## REFLECTIVE WORKSHOP: Wisdom of the Body

**Date** Saturday 24 May: 10am – 2pm  
**Venue** Meeting Room  
**Facilitator** Lyndall Brown rsj

*This day will draw on the wisdom of Celtic Spirituality and from the book 'Wisdom of the Body' by Christine Valters Paintner. It will offer a contemporary journey into the Wisdom of our bodies recognising that our bodies and Earth's body are sacred vessels. The themes will be developed through Sacred Word, Music, Poetry, and Contemplative practices.*

## **\*\* June \*\***

## REFLECTIVE WORKSHOP: God is faithful to the Promises

**Date** Saturday 14 June: 9.30am - 1pm  
**Venue** Meeting Room  
**Facilitator** Eamon Butler

*The Bible records many promises made by God to people. Living our lives according to God's promises will help us live more authentic and dynamic spiritual lives in the light of the revelation of God's love for us. We will reflect on God's 'promises,' and there will be prayerful time to ponder on your promise to commit and surrender to God's promises.*

## **\*\* July \*\***

## SILENT RETREAT: Formed by God in the Marketplace

**Date** 4 - 6 July (Friday evening to Sunday lunch)  
**Venue** Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre  
**Facilitator** Eamon Butler  
**Cost** \$320

*In His ministry, Jesus went into the marketplace meeting, listening and engaging with people in their ordinary circumstances of everyday life. This is the place of revelation and encounter with God's love - the place of transformation. This retreat will offer you silent reflection time to help you ponder on the marketplace you live in and how you encounter God there. Contact email: [eamon\\_david@hotmail.com](mailto:eamon_david@hotmail.com)*

## REFLECTION DAY on Creation and the Incarnation (Part 2)

**Date** Saturday 19 July; 10am - 1pm  
**Venue** Meeting Room 2  
**Facilitator** Ann Neven rsj

From **"An Astonishing Secret"** – by Daniel O'Leary

### **Session Two – The More Human We Are, the More Divine We Become**

*This is an opportunity to reflect with Fr Daniel O'Leary on a further Chapter of his book – An Astonishing Secret.*

*He quotes Pope Francis who wrote: "The Son of God becoming (hu)man summoned us to become our truest selves."*

**\*\* August \*\***

## TWO-SESSION REFLECTION DAY: Spirituality of Eldering via Zoom

**Date** Wednesday 6 August; 1st session 10am; 2nd Session 4pm  
**Facilitator** Lyndall Brown rsj  
**Cost** Koha

*Discovering the wisdom of Eldering its blessings and its invitation to journey from aging to sage-ing will be reflected on during this day. The day will draw on the writings of Joan Chittister and other wise mentors.*

*There will be a morning and afternoon session with a handout for reflection.*

**Registrations to [lyndallb19@gmail.com](mailto:lyndallb19@gmail.com) 021 185 6750**

## CELEBRATING MARY MACKILLOP:

### Ritual and Light Tea

**Date** Thursday 8 August; 5.30pm onwards  
**Venue** Chapel  
**Leaders** Sisters and Josephite Companions

*A time of prayer to honour Mary MacKillop and how her life is an inspiration for us today.*



## PILGRIMAGE to Sacred Josephite Places in Auckland

**Date** Saturday 16 August; 10am to 3pm  
**Leaders** Jill McLoughlin rsj and Ann Neven rsj

### **The Pilgrimage will begin at Mary MacKillop Centre, Mission Bay**

*A pilgrimage is a journey to and from a place of significance where we immerse ourselves in the story of God's action in and through the people of faith associated with the place whose lives continue to inspire us.*

*Using the booklet **With Mary MacKillop in Auckland**, participants will be invited to reflect on Mary's life, journey and spirituality as we travel together to these places of significance.*



**\*\* September \*\***

## REFLECTIVE WORKSHOP: God and Pets

**Date** Saturday 20 September: 9.30am - 1pm  
**Venue** Meeting Room  
**Facilitator** Eamon Butler

*Pets are a special gift from God! They offer gifts of unconditional love, comfort and loyal friendship. They somehow reflect the nature of God's love and they naturally embody how Christians aspire to be. As we come together, we will ponder on the gift of pets and how they have impacted on your life. This reflection is an opportunity to deepen your love for God and creation.*



## **SILENT RETREAT: Silence and Solitude: Be still and know that I am God.**

<b>Date</b>	3 - 5 October (Friday evening to Sunday lunch)
<b>Venue</b>	Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre
<b>Facilitator</b>	Eamon Butler
<b>Cost</b>	\$320

*Silence can lead you to solitude and help you detach from the busy world and be alone with yourself and God. There are many physical and spiritual benefits in finding solitude. This retreat will offer you time to learn about the value of silence & solitude and offer opportunity through practice to deepen your relationship with God.*

Contact email: [eamon\\_david@hotmail.com](mailto:eamon_david@hotmail.com)

**\*\* October \*\***

## **CELEBRATING JULIAN TENISON WOODS: Ritual and Light Tea**

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 7 October; 5.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	Chapel
<b>Leaders</b>	Sisters and Josephite Companions



## **REFLECTIVE WORKSHOP: The Art of Forgiveness**

<b>Date</b>	Saturday 18 October; 10am – 3pm
<b>Venue</b>	Meeting Room
<b>Facilitator</b>	Ann Neven rsj

*"It is one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself, to forgive."*  
Maya Angelou

*What does it mean to forgive and to be forgiven? During the workshop we will use Scripture and stories to explore forgiveness and how the capacity to forgive and to be forgiven frees us to live more fully and in peace with ourselves and other.*

## **\*\* November \*\***

### **REFLECTIVE WORKSHOP: God and Devices**

**Date** Saturday 8 November: 9.30am - 1pm  
**Venue** Meeting Room  
**Facilitator** Eamon Butler

*Devices allows us to be more connected than ever and used correctly can give glory of God. But there is a negative side to this technology as it can become addictive. We will look at the current research on how devices have negatively impacted our lives. We will explore ways to create healthy habits with this technology and avoid compulsive addictive overuse. Awareness is the key!!*



## **\*\* December \*\***

### **ADVENT REFLECTION DAY: Waiting in Wonder**

**Date** Saturday 6 December - 10am – 2pm  
**Venue** Meeting Room  
**Facilitator** Jill McLoughlin rsj

*We come with an openness to allow God to transform our hearts while contemplating the wonder and mystery of the Incarnation. Experience stillness, peace and light as we prepare for the joys and blessings of Christmas.*



Other Retreats taking place at Mary MacKillop Retreat Centre organised by Ignatian Spirituality NZ are as follows:

July 20 – 28;

August 17 -23;

September 22 -28

November 9 - December 12 (30 Day Retreat)

For more information and bookings please contact  
[info@ignatianspirituality.nz](mailto:info@ignatianspirituality.nz)



Living in harmony with God and with nature gives  
us full happiness and purpose.

Julian Tenison Woods 1887



## RETREAT AND REFLECTION DAY REGISTRATION

Jill McLoughlin rsj  
Coordinator of Retreat Centre Programme  
ph 021 063 3246  
email: [MBSpirituality@sosj.org.au](mailto:MBSpirituality@sosj.org.au)

## REFLECTION/WORKSHOP DAYS INFORMATION

\$35 waged person per day  
\$25 unwaged person per day  
Longer retreats' cost provided in blurb.  
Tea and coffee provided for reflection days  
Please bring your own lunch each day.  
It is important to check the time frames for each day as they differ.

Other reflection days may also be offered throughout the year. These will be advertised via email through our Retreat Centre database and Parish newsletters. If you wish to be added to our database, please contact

Sr Jill McLoughlin  
[MBSpirituality@sosj.org.au](mailto:MBSpirituality@sosj.org.au)

Please be aware that dates could be subject to change this year due to Congregational Chapter commitments. You will be notified early if dates need adjusting. Thank you for your understanding!

**If you wish to book a private or group retreat at Mary MacKillop  
Retreat Centre please contact Sr Julian Langton**  
[marymackillopcentre@sosj.org.au](mailto:marymackillopcentre@sosj.org.au)



SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH  
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Cover Photo: Ann Neven rsj  
Photography: Ann Neven rsj