



# COMMUNITY OF THE HOLY NAME



Summer 2018/19  
Newsletter

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We look at the life and work of an extraordinary family, the Traills of Black Rock.

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Editor: Liz Johnstone

### Community of the Holy Name

*We are a Community of Anglican Sisters who have been living, praying and ministering in Melbourne for more than 125 years. Nowadays, our main ministry is hospitality, offering a place of spiritual renewal and refreshment.*

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## The 'Trail blazers'

A visit to St Agnes church in Black Rock, Melbourne will help you to discover one of Australia's pioneering families.

George Hamilton Traill and his wife Jessie Francis Montague moved to Black Rock in 1888. Mr Traill had been manager of the Oriental Bank and was the owner of a vanilla plantation in the Seychelles. Mrs Traill was distressed by the lack of a Sunday school for children and the nearest church was a good two miles' walk away. So, she began the first Sunday School in Black Rock, in the front room of a house. Unfortunately, in 1893 she died at the age of 45. Mr Traill endowed the building of St Agnes Church



*First Church of St. Agnes, 1899*

and gave two stained glass windows in memory of his wife. Their four daughters finished their education in Switzerland, becoming fluent in French and German.

The youngest was the artist Jessie Constance Alicia Traill (1881-1967) who bequeathed several of her works to CHN. Indeed, the Traill Room in Esther House is named after her. Shy and softly spoken, Jessie was a talented and innovative painter and printmaker who carried her paints in a

cereal box tied with string. An extraordinary woman of her time, she travelled far and wide throughout Australia, as well as visiting the Seychelles, USA, Canada, Java and much of Europe. She was a devoted Christian who gave generously of her time and resources. She always preferred *plein air* work, having been introduced to it as a young girl by Tom Roberts during one of his trips to Port Phillip Bay. They became lifelong friends.



*The first night, Turret Theatre 1929, held by the NGA*

Jessie attended the National Gallery schools under Frederick McCubbin and Bernard Hall. She travelled to London and studied etching with Frank Brangwyn and enrolled with the Académie Colarossi in Paris.

*Continued on page 3*



*Evening Mallacoota, West 1924, held by the National Gallery of Australia (NGA)*

*Dear friends,*

*This will be my last letter for 2018. It has been a very blessed year for us as we celebrated our first year in Esther House and have gone forward in faith with the new Spirituality Centre.*



*There has been quite a lot of anxiety around the new centre but God has been with us and with the generous help of volunteers and hard work by the team and of course not forgetting our cook Meagan, we are very satisfied with the way the year has gone. Of course, there is always room for improvement but the groups and individuals who have come and used the facilities have had nothing but praise. This does not mean we are ready to 'rest on our laurels' but it is very encouraging for us. We remember these words from Proverbs 3:5-6*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight."*



*We have our new signage on the front of Esther House so everyone now knows who we are and that it is not a Nursing Home. Even after living in the house now for 12 months there is still work going on. However, the defects list is getting smaller. We are looking forward to the bell tower being completed so we don't have to use a gong for the Angelus. I guess some of the neighbours will be delighted and some not so pleased once they can hear the bell being rung.*

*We cannot thank Liz enough for the great work she has done with our Newsletter, Web Site and Prayer Notes. She is always*

*looking forward and comes to me with lots of ideas and I sometimes need to say "Slow down Liz. You are moving too fast for me" but then she is younger than I am. Liz has also recently been received as an Oblate of our Community and attends the Offices with the sisters when she is here.*

*My thanks also go to Anne our Office Manager. You know sometimes we think we can do it all but no one can and Anne has been such a help not only to me but to all the sisters. She is a lovely Christian woman and that love of God shines in everything she does (unless the workmen are late!)*

*More good news for us was that Kezha and Zhano have been granted a 4-year visa and they will continue to stay in the house on our property. Kezha will continue to look after the grounds and gardens with the help of Colin Murphy. Zhano is hoping to be able to study so she will be qualified if and when they return to Nagaland. Their daughter, Avi, will begin her education in an Australian school when she is five. She is now speaking in both languages and is a delight to have around.*



*Sr. Avrill has recently celebrated her 80th Birthday and her 50th Profession Anniversary with the sisters and friends. Bishop Garry Weatherill celebrated the Eucharist and Bishop Graeme Rutherford delivered the sermon. It was a very happy occasion for Sr. Avrill.*

*We are all looking forward to 2019 and all the blessings that it will bring. We continue to seek God's blessings in our lives as we once again celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. May you all have a wonderful Christmas celebration with your families and friends.*

*My love and blessings to you all,*

*Carol CHN.*



## The 'Traill blazers', continued from front page

By 1914, her work was on display in the Salon de la Société des Artistes Français, Paris, and the Royal Academy, London. She also found time to paint murals for the Children's ward of a Melbourne hospital and for a tableau in aid of Red Cross funds.

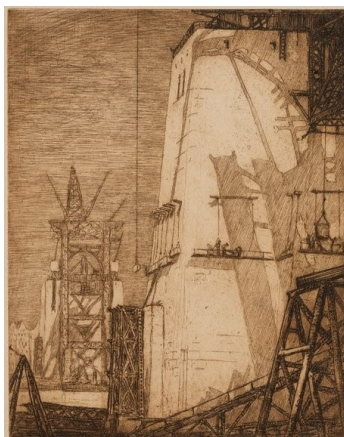


*The Soup Kitchen, Quay, Paris 1930  
Held by the NGA*

When WWI broke out, she trained as a nurse and served three and a half years in Rouen, France. She then worked for the Red Cross in decimated French towns until after the Armistice, and organised an appeal to rebuild the village of Feuchy in France.

In 1919 Jessie returned to Australia and continued her art career. To achieve a 'worm's eye view' of God's creation, she would often lie in the bush, gazing upward. For the opposite outlook, she made several journeys in a flying boat in the 1940s, sketching as she flew. In true pioneering spirit, she ventured into Central Australia to paint the desert and exhibited her watercolours by pinning them to blankets at the police station in Alice Springs.

Her style of painting was broad, fluid and neo-impressionist, with trees and moods of the landscape influenced by Whistler, Monet and Japanese woodcutters. She was a subtle and skilled technician with a sound knowledge of engineering and architectural detail, as seen in her works devoted to the achievements of industry. She treated great man-made structures with a



*Building the Harbour Bridge III, the  
granite workers April 1929, held by the  
Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney*

sense of awe and wonder, not with the dark foreboding of some of her contemporaries. She is best known for recording the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which she regularly visited from 1927. In 1929, Jessie sketched behind-the-scenes at Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova's show in Melbourne.

During her later years, she lived in country properties, in England and France, but mostly at the cottage she shared with her sister Elsie near Berwick, Victoria. Her artworks are held by all State and many regional galleries and the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



*From panelling on altar  
at chapel in the House  
of Mercy, Cheltenham.*

Elsie Margaret Traill (1876-1946) was an accomplished woodcarver and a significant figure in the history of the University of Melbourne. As she donated £5000 to their Janet Clarke Hall, the Traill Wing was named in her honour. She carved the entrance plaque to the new wing and the wall plaque hanging in the Verdon Library.

She carved mainly ecclesiastical pieces, including panels, tables, chairs, rails and doors in St Agnes, Black Rock, All Soul's Sandringham and the Canons' Stalls in St Paul's Cathedral, as well as beautiful works for CHN.

Elsie is distinguished by her philanthropy and for the time she gave to serving various organisations. These included the Lyceum Club, Victoria League, Mission to the Streets and Lanes of Melbourne and the Red Cross. The Australian Branch of the Red Cross was set up shortly after the declaration of war and Elsie established their first shop, in suburban Sandringham. The shop assisted servicemen by providing an outlet for their handicrafts.



*Glastonbury Chair &  
desk in situ at the old  
CHN Children's Home,  
Brighton.*

*Continued on page 7*



## Advent Quiet Day address—on saying Yes!

The Oblates' Advent Quiet Day was on 8 December 2018 and led by the Revd. Ken Letts.

We are made in God's image, so we share in his creativity and we have imagination. But what we do - our choice of good or bad; to be creative or destructive – is our free will. The Hebrew term *yetzer hara* refers to the evil imagination of humanity, based on Genesis 6:5; 8:21. It is not a demonic force but a predilection to confuse. It made Eve offer Adam the fruit and Cain slay Abel. It means to not do the will of God, as revealed in Scripture and supremely in Jesus Christ. Yetzer hara can confuse a basic necessity for life – food – into gluttony; money into avarice and procreation into sexual abuse or depravity. These choices we make in our daily lives. As Paul put it, For I do not do the good I want to do...(see Romans 7:19-20)

The Hebrew term for the good imagination is *yetzer hatov*. God, in his freedom-giving grace, does not compel us to choose either. It is the human condition, to choose either side knowingly and willingly. As we know our Lord more, we discern what we are choosing.

Let's imagine a picture with two panels. In the first panel, allow the Holy Spirit to help us see God's viewpoint as he looked upon our world before the Annunciation. With great sadness, he sees the condition of human beings, their greed, suffering, pain and death. Now try to imagine the Trinity's response and let the miracle of divine love unfold. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.* (John 1:14a) This was the planned response to the groaning of the universe. Emmanuel, God with us, incarnate.

In the second panel, is the Annunciation. Try to get to know Mary as a person whom God uses as part of his plan to redeem the human race. Look upon her surprising ordinariness, a girl of meagre means. Is she sewing? Sweeping? Praying? Into this scene comes the divine intrusion - Gabriel, the messenger of God. What is her response? Does she think it's a hallucination? She asks a practical question, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34) She doesn't seem to be confused or frightened.

Being born and raised as a human proves that Jesus is the Son of Man. He did not just appear from on high. When we understand Mary's role, we know he is greater than a spiritual being: he is the Son of God incarnate.

We should not romanticise the Annunciation. Mary was there. The angel comes and she is deeply troubled. She did not say Yes because she fully understood, or had all her questions answered, but in faith and trust. She had no divine knowledge. She was just a young woman with extraordinary faith. She modelled faith for us, as trust, commitment and obedience. Like Mary, the really significant Yes's in our lives require faith and trust. When we respond to God's call in our lives with faith and trust, he takes us where we cannot predict.

Allow the stories of the bible to shape our minds and hearts. Strive to embody their viewpoints and visions, to make them our framework through which we interpret the world. They will mould and shape us in line with our Lord. Following Jesus Christ is the business of our lives. Get to know him through our imagination. Pray imaginatively, allowing the Lord to touch our hearts and inflame our feelings. Prayer makes the Jesus of the gospels to be our Jesus, in personal relationship with him. Imaginatively pray the Scriptures. Read the bible slowly and meditatively for he is more than a historical figure in a book: he is a living person, the living Christ. Consider the Samaritans' response to the woman in John 4:39-42. They wanted to spend time with Jesus himself.

Think of Mary in the scriptures - at the Annunciation, during the Nativity, the flight into Egypt, searching for the child in the temple, the miracle at the Cana wedding, at Calvary, at Pentecost. She was doing nothing. She was just there, being a faithful and committed mother and disciple. Paul tells the Ephesians we will be presented to Christ *as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* (Eph. 5:27) As the Spirit works in us, trust is created, openness and obedience. We put sin to one side, so that we can be truly free. Saying No to God is sin. Saying Yes to God is true freedom. We are no longer slaves to sin but servants of Christ (Romans 1:1; 6:6-7) At the Annunciation, in the strength of the Spirit, Mary said Yes. This was part of God's plan. Her cooperation was necessary, as it is with us. Say Yes to God's call.

*Born in Malden and educated in Melbourne and England, Ken has served as school chaplain in Melbourne and priest in Albert Park before being called to ministry in France. He was Archdeacon of France from 2007 to 2012 and Canon Emeritus of Gibraltar Cathedral in 2013.*



## Thank you, Sister Elizabeth Gwen

When Sister Elizabeth Gwen took on the role of Oblates' Coordinator, it was only supposed to be a temporary position– that was over 30 years ago. Sister EG, as she is affectionately known, is a remarkable woman with a quiet spirit who has blessed us with much gentle wisdom and discernment. Handing over the reins to Sister Valmai, she said it has been an honour to serve the Oblates. Thank you so much for your precious time with us, Sister EG.

*(pictured left to right: Sr. EG, Oblates Irene & Sue, Sr. Valmai)*



## On mission with God – a life of learning to do mission His way

At the Associates' Corporate Communion on 10th November 2018 the celebrant and preacher was the Revd. Andrew Lake, and the guest speaker was his wife, Pam, whose talk is printed below, reflecting on 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.

**'...We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us...' (verse 20)**  
Strap yourself in, sit back, relax and enjoy the ride OR being Christ's ambassador. This is doing mission God's way.

As Christopher Wright puts it, 'Fundamentally, our mission means our committed participation as God's people, at God's invitation and command, in God's own mission, within the history of God's world for the redemption of God's creation.' (The Mission of God: 2006, pp. 22-23)  
It's all about God and his purposes. It is not about me – all I have to do is strap myself in for the journey! And do it with commitment – 100% commitment.

That all makes sense to me. As a child our minister explained that if you look carefully at the Cross you will see that it is an 'I' crossed out. When we give ourselves to Jesus there is no longer me.

Since making a commitment to Jesus as a teenager I have felt a calling to mission work. What began as a short term nursing stint in India 40 years ago continues on today whilst working in administration for mission. And it is all connected. The intervening years taught me many things about participating in God's mission.

There is the wonderful Australian attribute of 'having a go'. But this requires trust that the conviction God has placed on my heart is what He wants me to do; despite not feeling properly equipped. When an idea clings and develops I have to squash the niggles, "But I can't...I haven't done that before." I need to trust God and have a go.

In India it was working in an Operating Theatre with no training. In Tasmania it was managing a mission branch without previous management training. In Syria it was setting up a language school for refugees without ever having been taught grammar. God has always provided the skills and people that were needed to accomplish his mission during that time and in that place. And that makes trust in him stronger.

There were the difficult visa situations, the border crossings and finally being told to leave all behind in Syria just as our hearts were embedded with the people in the midst of their difficulties. We had to trust in these somewhat scary times rather than relying on ourselves. Prior to going to Syria, Christ challenged me with what I call a 'Peter challenge'. Three times within a week, through different people unknown to each other, Luke 19:20 was read to me.

**Do you love me more than your children? Would you trust them to me? (Matthew 10:37?)**

Allegiance to Christ is a 100% commitment. He demands no less. That was hard – both leaving my adult children behind and moving to Syria. Allegiance is not always easy. Spiritually the Holy Spirit has prompted, provided and encouraged me through all sorts of people and readings and in different ways. The Bible has become very precious as a source of nourishment and encouragement. There are times and seasons for expressing our spirituality. Whilst in Indonesia with a group of women I spent time delving into and practising the spiritual disciplines. These disciplines provided strength during the days of civil uprising and uncertainty. Now that I work in Australia those hours spent seem a luxury. It is another season now.

Being Christ's ambassador is a whole life mission. There was a time when I perceived that the only way to do mission was as a missionary in foreign lands. Now 100% commitment is sharing God's love in all I do. Whether it is helping the poor or sick, encouraging others to be involved in mission or asking people for money for mission. God is making his appeal through me in different ways.

And when I do God's mission he provides. There were friends who provided a house in the country that could be our Australian home so the children knew their room was waiting for them. God knew that we would be evacuated from Jakarta for several months. He had a place for us to go to. And the insurance claim that paid for a required renovation on an investment property that we could not have afforded. Such overflowing provisions were always a surprise and received with a grateful heart.

Jesus taught us to pray a specific prayer. He implies that we will commit ourselves to the Father's way. We ask, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done." It is way too easy to miss the mission imperative. As Christ's ambassadors we are the ones doing God's kingdom work on earth. He provides what we need each day and strengthens us through the Holy Spirit.

Mission is not something that I go to do on occasions – it is living God's way, sharing his love through the daily activities and opportunities that arise. It is trusting God with 100% commitment.

We are therefore ambassadors as God is working through us. What a privilege and a challenge.

Strap yourself in – definitely. The ride will not be smooth or easy. Sit back and relax –let go and let God. And enjoy the ride! – that's doing mission God's way.

*Pam and Andrew have four children and two grandchildren. Pam was a nurse with BMMF in India (1981), pastoral worker with CMS in Jakarta (1996-2004), State Director of CMS Tasmania (2006 -09), pastoral worker with CMS in Syria (2010 -2011), then Relationship Manager with The Leprosy Mission (2013-18) and is currently fundraising for the Carmelites.*





## OBLATES' PROGRAM 2019

Lent Quiet Day: Saturday 2nd March,  
10am - 3:30 pm. BYO Lunch  
Conductor: The Reverend Dr. Garry Deverell  
Vicar of St. Agnes' Black Rock

Combined Oblates'/Associates' Day: Saturday 1st June  
Midday Office at 12:45, followed by lunch provided by the Sisters.  
Speaker: Mrs. Joy Freier **(Please book in.)**

Retreat & AGM Thursday 26th – Sunday 29th September  
Arrive at 4:00 pm.  
Retreat ends after lunch on Sunday 29th September.  
Conductor: The Right Reverend Bishop Garry Weatherill

Advent Quiet Day: Saturday 7th December  
10am-3:30pm. BYO Lunch  
Conductor: The Reverend Canon Dr. Colleen O'Reilly



## ASSOCIATES' PROGRAM 2019

- 2 Feb. Annual General Meeting  
10.30 Morning Tea  
11.00 AGM  
12.45 Midday Office  
1pm Lunch provided **(Please book in.)**  
2pm Our guest speakers will be Kezha and  
Zhano Angami (see the article on the  
front page of the CHN Spring Newsletter  
2018)  
3pm (approx.) Afternoon Tea

As usual the election of office bearers will be on the AGM agenda. Please think about whether there is someone you would like to nominate for the office of Treasurer or Secretary. Before you nominate anyone, you must obtain their permission. Office bearers need to be able to attend most meetings and the Treasurer also needs to visit CHN regularly to keep the books up to date.

A reminder: Annual Subscriptions (\$15) are due at the AGM, or round about that time for those Associates who are unable to attend the meeting.

As it is now the CHN Newsletter that you receive, and there is no longer a separate Associates' Newsletter, any donations towards its production will go to the Community, not the Associates as formerly. Anyone wishing to make a donation specifically to the Associates will need to make that clear in an accompanying note.

- 6 April Lent Quiet Day, led by Bishop Kate Prowd. We are very fortunate that our newest Bishop, in the midst of her busy schedule, is making time to lead a Quiet Day for the Associates. Please do make every effort to come.  
10.00 Morning Tea  
BYO Lunch  
3.30pm Afternoon Tea
- 1 June Combined Meeting with Oblates  
12.40pm Midday Office  
1pm Lunch provided **(Please book in.)**  
2pm Guest speaker: Mrs Joy Freier, wife of Archbishop Philip Freier. Joy's presentation will be dynamic and entertaining. Not to be missed.
- 6-8 Sept. Annual Retreat, led by Val Dyke, Th.A., Dip. Pastoral Ministry, B. Theol. Spiritual Director and Retreat Conductor. Val is a member of St Mary's parish, Mt. Waverley  
6pm Evening Meal, Friday—start  
1pm Midday Dinner, Sunday—end
- 9 Nov. Corporate Communion  
Celebrant and preacher to be announced.  
11.45 Arrive for 12 noon Eucharist with address  
1pm Lunch provided **(Please book in.)**  
2pm Guest speaker: to be announced  
3pm (Approx.) Afternoon Tea

### Calendar 2019



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Please note that all Oblates' and Associates' meetings and Retreats will be held in the CHN Spirituality Centre.

## Sister Avrill's big day

*By Sister Andrea, CHN*

On 22 November 2018, Sr Avrill not only turned eighty years old but also celebrated her 50th profession anniversary. Because of work demands in the Spirituality Centre that day, the big party/celebration was held on Tuesday 27 November.

Mass started at 11am and was held in the chapel at the Spirituality Centre, where Bishop Garry Weatherill celebrated and Bishop Graeme Rutherford gave the homily. Avrill had invited those who have been important to her over the years.

This was followed by a finger food lunch in the dining room. There was much merry making and lots of laughter. Towards the end of the meal, Sr Carol gave a lovely speech and opened up the floor for others: many affirming and good things were said about the part Avrill has played in the lives of those who spoke. One common theme was Avrill's devotion to her God through her vocation. A good time was had by all.

N.B. It did occur to me that I was six months old when Avrill was professed!



## The 'Traill blazers', continued from page 3



*Sister Kathleen with Cocky, 1933*

The eldest of the four daughters, Kathleen Mary Traill (1874-1952), joined CHN and was professed on 28 October 1904. Most of her working life was spent at the House of Mercy where she and Sr. Christina shared the joys and sorrows of that very difficult work. She had a large share in the girls' spiritual development.

She radiated happiness and cheerfulness, springing from her joy in God. Whatever the weather, be it freezing cold or scorching hot, to Sr. Kathleen it was 'a beautiful day' and if she were going out, no extremes of cold or heat would deter her. Her love of nature, too, was an outstanding characteristic and she had a great knowledge of birds and flowers. One of the 'menagerie of animals' that lived at the HOM was Cocky, "...a jolly naughty fellow", according to Sr. Elizabeth Gwen, "who would only obey Sr. Kathleen."

When she had to leave the HOM, she came to the newly built Community House, in 1936.



*Sister Minna looking after the little ones c. 1917*

Minna Nelly Traill came to CHN in 1910. Sr. Minna learned church embroidery at St Saviour's Priory in England, which she put to good use in the Community. She spent several years at St Ives Hospital and at Darling Babies' Home.

The last 20 years of her life were spent at Community House where she was the first Sister in Charge, caring for the household. She originated the idea of making wafers for sale to the parishes.

Sr Elizabeth Gwen remembers her "as a quiet, gentle soul who went about her household duties so unobtrusively. I recall when I was a young Novice, we would return home from a long, weary day to find supper all laid out for us. Sr Constance Agnes, our Novice Mistress, told us that was Sr Minna's doing, quietly and thoughtfully looking out for us."

She was quite studious too and left full notes from all the Sisters' retreats from 1921-1940.

Sources include *Stars in the River; the prints of Jesse Traill*, Robert Butler (ed.), National Gallery of Australia, 2001, <http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs>, CHN archives

## New in the Library by our Librarian, Philip Harvey

Our personal reading of artworks, especially the vast choice present in twenty centuries of Christian art, is a regular part of our understanding of Scripture and our life of faith. We are engaged in interpretation whether as a deliberate conscious act, or simply as a reminder of our shared inheritance in daily life. Images meet us at every turn, so how we give them priority and time becomes important.

In recent times the popularizer Sister Wendy Beckett has made a name for herself by writing short meditations on paintings. Her television series have introduced this mode of biblical interpretation to a wider audience, many of whom would not be trained in this practice, or even go to church. The Library holds several of her books.

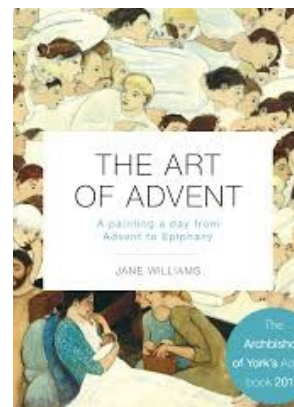
A comparable technique has been adopted by Jane Williams in her new book 'The Art of Advent : a painting a day from Advent to Epiphany' (SPCK, 2018) Like Wendy, Jane moves easily from observation of salient, unexpected and even secret details in a painting to their significance in the Advent and Christmas stories, before raising questions that need asking, leaving the reader with an enlarged awareness both of the artwork and our own life.

Wendy, a hermit living in Norfolk, brings to bear the experience of enclosed religious life, with its rounds of homilies and prayers. Jane, a scholar in the world, displays

her scriptural, theological and historical knowledge in these readings with a considered lightness of touch. Wendy is, at times, given to quirky personal reactions. Jane's responses are more measured but nonetheless deeply felt.

Both authors have lively creative minds that enjoy the creativity before them; both offer their own insights while showing how we too can engage with artworks, for our own and others' benefit. They are models of how we may proceed in this practice.

In the Foreword to 'The Art of Advent' the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, writes: "The author shows how certain paintings can help us to understand different aspects of our most holy faith, often in surprising ways. We look at how a painting by Dürer helps us to see Advent not as a time of fear, but as a season when we learn to long for God. We are prompted to reflect with wisdom and insight on our lives by the exploration of a painting by Bosch and of how the choices which we make have eternal consequences."



## Days of Prayer and Reflection 2019

The Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name Invite you to Days of Prayer and Reflection at the Spirituality Centre, Cheltenham, from 10am—3 pm.

The Eucharist is celebrated at mid-day and there are opportunities to sit quietly, to use our library and to wander in the gardens.

Some input is given, and suggestions for using the silence.

BYO lunch. (Tea and coffee are provided.) There is no charge for these days but a donation towards costs is appreciated.

For further information, contact Sister Josephine Margaret, CHN, on 03 9583 2087

### DATES FOR 2019

7 March  
4 April  
2 May  
6 June  
4 July  
1 August  
5 September  
3 October  
7 November



**"Be still and know that I am God."**