

STUDIORUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE JESUIT COLLEGE OF SPIRITUALITY



Education and Research in Ignatian Spirituality - Empowering Leadership

Key Dates

Semester 2 results
Fri 13th December

Office closes
Fri 20th December

Office re-opens
Mon 6th January

In Jesuit History...

3rd December 1552:
Death of Francis Xavier
on Sancian Island, off
the coast of China

17th December 2013:
Canonisation of Peter
Faber by Pope Francis

Studiorum is the community newsletter of the Jesuit College of Spirituality and, as such, we relish the opportunity to include contributions from our alumni, students, staff, faculty, and members of the wider community. If you would like to contribute to Studiorum please contact us at: enquiries@jcs.edu.au

From the CEO-Principal

The past year has been one of hard work, successful outcomes and positive developments for the College that has continued to deliver on its vision of “Education and Research in Ignatian Spirituality – Empowering Leadership.”

The College has experienced consistent growth in the last three years. We have further enhanced our teaching and learning, offering a unique student experience of cultivating the mind, the heart and the spirit through study and prayer.

Our strong performance gives us the means to embark on new projects in 2020. Plans are well advanced for adding new pathways of study in 2020 in the areas of Spiritual Care and Ignatian Education in response to the growing needs across our Province and the wider community. And we have improved our capacity to offer a diversity of learning experiences.

It is always a delight to see our graduates fulfil their deepest desires by using the education, experience and skills acquired at the College to serve the greater good.

I thank all of our students, our faculty, staff and benefactors for their generous contributions to JCS that enhance the sense of community and the rich learning experience of which we are proud. My heartfelt thanks to my leadership team, Katica Buccheri, Micheàl Loughnane and Sarah Cook for their support and hard work and to our wonderful faculty for their dedication, loyalty to the College mission and commitment to student success.

To our graduates leaving us this year, I wish you every success in your future ministries and to our students returning in 2020 I wish you a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

May the light of the Christ child shine brightly on you and your families.



Deborah Kent,
CEO - Principal



From the Academic Dean An Advent Thought

When reading Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, a particular comment leapt out at me: "Today's world is increasingly becoming more elitist and cruel towards the excluded." A simple straightforward statement, but I was struck by it. Firstly, because it rings true, and secondly, because it is tragic. Shortly after reading this I opened up an article by Barbara Smith on the Global Sisters Report, and she was lamenting the state of indifference that pervades contemporary America. "What has happened to our moral compass?" she asks. "It seems that the needle is stuck on indifference, lack of compassion, blindness to the degrading and intolerable conditions at the border, and an unwillingness to speak out or to stand up to this injustice." By the time I had finished reading I was feeling decidedly dispirited! Then I stopped myself and gave myself a little talking to. Yes, it is true that on a macro level, things are looking pretty bleak, but I also know that on the ground, at a day-to-day-here-and-now level, things look a whole lot better. One of the consequences of blanket 'bad news' reports in the media is that we can end up thinking that everything is disintegrating; we can easily develop a doom and gloom perspective on the world.

I am not advocating denial of reality; however, I think it is good to remind ourselves that there is much good in the world and that there are enormous numbers of people all around us doing their utmost to live decent, honourable and generous lives. One of the programs that I regularly watch is Australian Story on the ABC. I love the program because I am introduced to ordinary Australians, some of whom live exemplary and heroic lives. One of the many powerful episodes I watched recently was the story of Shanna Whan, a recovering alcoholic who lives in the country ("Last Drinks" <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/australian-story>). Shanna is now working to support other country people who want to deal with their alcohol addiction and has founded an organisation called 'Sober in the Country'. Her story of suffering was candid and authentic, but what was most touching and uplifting was the palpable sense of inner transformation she has experienced – her body, her expression and her speech now exude a spirit of joy and freedom. At the end of the program my abiding

sense that this was a Fourth Week experience of the Spiritual Exercises – a journey from suffering and death to new life. "My greatest shame became my life's purpose," she declares brightly at the end. Immediately the line from the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son leapt to mind: "For this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:24) Now, she uses her experience of addiction to help liberate others from their suffering.



*Micheál Loughnane,
Academic Dean &
Research Coordinator*

This Advent, I am going to attach myself to stories like Shanna's – not as an escape – but as a way of preserving my own hope. I read this as God saying to me "You see? I am very active in the world, and people all over are responding to my call". Stories such as Shanna's can be our 'great star in the East' that lights our way to the manger at Christmas. When I look back on my second year at JCS I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude – for the people I have met, the stories I have encountered, and the richness of what I have learned about Ignatian spirituality. I hope that all who read this will enjoy an Advent Season that is full of expectation and promise, and a Christmas Season to follow that brims over with companionship, joy and hope.

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An Amazing Grace

In the 2019 season of The Amazing Race (broadcast on Channel Ten), two JCS students competed in a race around the world. Judy Bowe is currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma of Supervision, and Therese Mills completed a Graduate Certificate in Leadership in 2015.

Studiorum spoke to Judy about her unique experience.

Why did you decide to sign up to participate in The Amazing Race?

Therese and I are Missionaries of God's Love Sisters, and first considered going in this crazy Amazing Race because it seemed like God's answer to our need for interesting low-cost sabbatical ideas. MGLs are always into creative means of evangelisation, but this was taking it to a whole new level. We were trying to point to God on reality TV. We hoped it might be a positive connection with non-Churched TV viewers and hopefully give a witness of semi-normal, adventurous, God-lovers.

Alas! We didn't win, which was good because I am studying supervision at JCS and had to get back for my second intensive! Apart from that, I don't recommend doing televised travel adventures when you are studying; its distracting, especially when they put you under contract not to talk about it at all.

What was your experience on the show like?

We were quite overwhelmed by the unexpectedly warm and enthusiastic reaction we received from people across the country within and outside of the Church. Quite a few people were outraged that someone stole one of our dumplings and many were disappointed when we were eliminated, so we were happy with the way we were lovingly embraced. Apart from developing ADHD and a social-media addiction, the experience taught me deeper trust in God, (who leads us through even the dark valleys of reality TV), and who may have just wanted to give the Church a big collective laugh in a difficult era.



Judy Bowe (left) and Therese Mills (right)

Is there anything you learned from your many years of JCS study that served you well?

My studies in supervision this semester inspired me to consider the non-judgemental, encouraging stance of supervision, that challenges a person to flourish in their vocation in life, as a great model of leadership. What kind of leadership was I modelling on TV? Authenticity hopefully, trust in God perhaps, and willingness to be a fool for Christ?

I hope my studies will help me to encourage people to live at their best under amazing GRACE, rather than to live like they are competing in the Amazing Race. Life is indeed meant to be a daring adventure, who knows what God will ask next?





Thank you from JCS

Thank you to outgoing JCS Council members Peter Johnstone, Peter McDonnell, and Joel Hodge who have generously provided their time, experience and knowledge over many years to serve JCS. Peter Johnstone as Chair of Council, Peter McDonnell as Chair of the Finance and Risk and Building and Maintenance sub-committees, and Joel as a member of the Academic and Research sub-committee. We congratulate Joel Hodge on joining the Jesuit novitiate in 2020 and wish Peter, Peter, and Joel well with their future endeavours.

On the Spot! *Monika Lancucki*

Monika Lancucki is the Director of Jesuit Communications (JesComm).

What do you most enjoy about your role?

I get to spend my days with incredibly interesting, wise, kind, deeply spiritual people doing amazing things, things that make a difference - and have the privilege to serve them in that work. What's not to love?

What is your favourite place that you've travelled to?

I've yet to visit a place that I haven't loved. But the one that stands out most is Damascus; the layers of history, culture, religion all one on top of the other. Peering through the ruins of the temple of Zeus to the minaret of the Umayyad Mosque - which contains a shrine said to hold the head of St John the Baptist, and in the compound of which lies the tomb of Saladin. Also the warmth and hospitality of the people, the smells, sights and sounds of the souk, the hakawati reciting poetry mid-afternoon to a packed coffeehouse of water-pipe smoking locals and visitors, the chaos and colour of the streets at night. The fabulous company I had while travelling there, the charming place in which we stayed and the way in which this city really brings biblical history to life. Besides the connection to St John the Baptist, you can see the wall which is said to be the one over which the disciples lowered St. Paul in a basket to escape the city, the secret chambers in which the early Christians worshipped. All up - an unforgettable experience... It breaks my heart to see what has happened there in more recent times and hope and pray for a restoration of peace and order and an end to the suffering in Syria.

What's your favourite season? Why?

Summer: sun, sand, surf. I was a beach baby and while I still love the beach, I now love nothing better than to kick back in the cabana with a good book after a dip under the gumtrees in our backyard pool. Summer is also my entertaining season. I love having people over and enjoy the creative challenge of an unplanned dinner party for 10-15 family, friends and neighbours when a crowd descends for an afternoon swim and find themselves still there at dinner time. I'm constantly amazed at what can be conjured up from whatever I happen to find in the pantry/fridge/freezer.



From the Registrar

2019 has been another busy, challenging and interesting year at Jesuit College of Spirituality, a year filled with enthusiasm. I am always delighted to be part of a student's pathway and fortunate to see the progress from enrolment to graduation. I wish all JCS students completing their awards this year the very best in their future work.

There have been many highlights this year but the one that stands out for me, personally, is the Inaugural Australian Jesuit Province Communications Conference. I was blessed to have attended this conference on behalf of JCS as it was formative and I feel very lucky to have met many wonderful people across the Province.

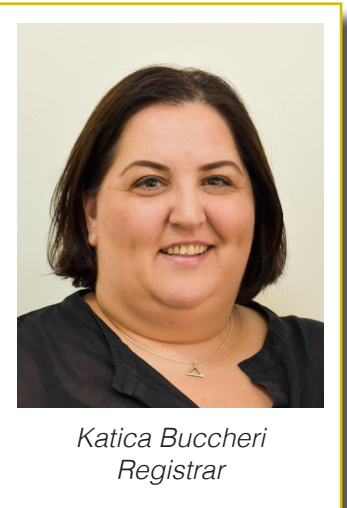
The conference brought together over 50 people who are involved in various forms of communication from across all ministries of the Province. Even though I have been with JCS for almost four years and feel I have had quite a lot of exposure to other ministries, I was in awe of the vast and important work being done across the Province, the dedication and passion Jesuits, employees and volunteers bring to their roles; and the absolute commitment these amazing people bring to all they do. The conference was well organised by the team at Jesuit Communications and had a great mix of presentations, group discussions, spiritual conversations, reflection and social activities

It was advantageous that in a room full of 'communicators', conversation was not lacking. There

was a definite energy and mutual respect in all sessions amongst the vast backgrounds of those in attendance. I found the social ministries absolutely inspiring. The day-to-day of what Jesuit Social Services, Jesuit Mission, Jesuit Refugee Services and the Cardoner Project do (just to name a few) is exceptional. The conference discussions also made visible that other ministries, such as the schools and JCS, provide a very important contribution to the education and the wider community.

I left the conference refreshed, invigorated and excited for the future, eager to further build on the networks and relationships formed. I would like all associated with JCS to take away from this that we are part of a wider network that is doing important work across the wider Australian community and the world. That the family of JCS is part of a large, loud, proud and important extended family of the Society of Jesus and all its ministries. We look forward in the future to sharing in this newsletter more about the other Province ministries and the important work they do.

May this joyful season greet you with health and happiness and be filled with the blessings of Christmas.



*Katica Buccheri
Registrar*



Communications practitioners from across the Australian Jesuit Province gathered as a group for the inaugural Communications Conference in Sydney

HDR Update

This year we farewelled Jinhyuk Park SJ and RB Hizon SJ from JCS. Jinhyuk completed his Master of Philosophy in August, and RB has returned to the Philippines to finish out his PhD. We've also had the pleasure of having Kevin Dobbyn FMS with us here at JCS for the year. Kevin is completing a PhD on Marist formation and will now return to New Zealand, before embarking on the next stage of his ministry.

We have three students who have just completed, or, are at the end stage of completing their Minor Thesis. The minor thesis is generally a prelude to further HDR studies, so we hope that we will continue to grow our engagement with HDR here at JCS. It is a great joy to observe and accompany students as they negotiate their way through research and rewrites with their supervisors.

At JCS we offer the [Master of Philosophy](#) and the [Doctor of Philosophy](#). Please feel free to contact me should you wish to learn more about HDR prerequisites and procedures (academicdean@jcs.edu.au).

From the Student Engagement Officer

It is again that time of year when we commemorate the birth of Jesus, and thus, we celebrate the incarnation of God into the humble form of a human.

The Christmas stories are some of the most beloved biblical narratives, and of course these traditions associated with Jesus' birth originate in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

Luke's Christmas story is much treasured; with its Marian narratives (the angel's annunciation to Mary, her visit to Elizabeth), Jesus' birth in a manger alongside the animals, and the visit from the angels and the shepherds. It is a glorious and touching account of the first Christmas; God's humility in his incarnation symbolised so memorably. For Luke, the saviour of the world enters it in the most lowly way, anticipating the Lukan Jesus' preoccupation with the outcast and underprivileged of society.

Matthew's account is quite different from Luke's, and somewhat less popular on its own. In Matthew, an angel appears to Joseph (not Mary) only in a dream, Jesus is born in a house, is later visited by the magi, and the Holy Family flee to Egypt to escape Herod's massacre of the innocents. Matthew's strong Jewish connections are clear in this narrative, and the much-awaited Messiah comes completely within the Jewish tradition. For example, the genealogy which opens the Gospel makes it clear that Jesus comes from the Jewish royal line, and several aspects of the Matthean

infancy narrative parallel to biblical or first-century accounts of Moses' birth. And yet it is the magi, the Gentiles, who first recognise and pay homage to the newborn child; a theme we see played out throughout the rest of the Gospel.

The infancy narratives are thus intentional introductions to Jesus' ministry. The Lukan Jesus goes on to focus on the marginalised in his society, and the Matthean Jesus continues to be presented completely within the Jewish tradition, with the ultimate result of opening up to the Gentiles. The evangelists thus used their infancy narratives as previews of Jesus' entire earthly ministry.

There is perhaps a larger lesson here. Likewise, we can see these Christmas stories – and Christmas time more generally – as conveying key introductory truths about the rest of our ministries. These truths will vary from person to person, but I think mine would be; take time for God, receive the Good News with joy, and make an effort to relax and enjoy the company of those you love.

As Charles Dickens' Ebenezer Scrooge said, "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year".

Merry Christmas, everyone!



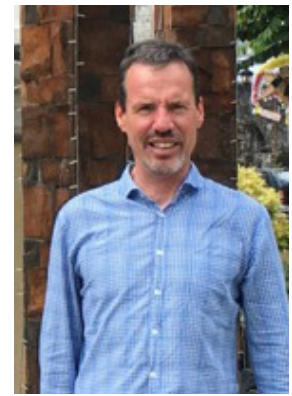
*Sarah Cook,
Student Engagement
Officer*

Where Are They Now?

Studiosum chats with Peter Hay, who graduated with a Master of Spiritual Direction from JCS in 2015.

What are you doing now?

As I write this profile I am in the Philippines working with Edmund Rice Ministries in Maasin and Kabankalan as part of my role as the Edmund Rice Formation Coordinator for Christian Brothers Oceania Province. In the Philippines I have been working along with a team of Christian Brothers to develop local formation teams at each of the Edmund Rice ministry sites. Through this program it is hoped that these teams will feel empowered to develop and facilitate formation experiences in Edmund Rice spirituality for their staff and communities. Witnessing the passion, energy, creativity and effectiveness of these newly formed teams has been inspirational. The whole cross-cultural encounter in the Philippines has affirmed the principle that there is much to learn through mutual generative engagement and dialogue, which is an endorsement of the deep listening for the voice of the spirit that was so much a part of my studies of Ignatian Spirituality through JCS.



Peter Hay,
a 2015 JCS graduate

My role for the Christian Brothers of Oceania Province involves the formation of Edmund Rice Ministry staff and communities. Apart from this work of building the formation capacity within each Edmund Rice ministry, I work towards enabling partnering across the various Edmund Rice entities so that there is a greater sense of unity in spirit and an ongoing capacity to reflect on ministry action in terms of Edmund Rice ethos and spirituality. It is fulfilling work that is based on deep listening, the building of relationships and hearing and responding to both the cry of earth and those made poor.

What is your best memory of JCS?

The most memorable aspect of my studies at JCS was the encouragement I received to explore an ecological spirituality that was supported through the Ignatian principles of discernment of spirits, deep listening and the revelation of divine mystery in all of life.

What are your plans for the future?

In the future I look forward to furthering my studies in spirituality and ecology. As part of my studies I wrote a paper on how Bill Plotkin's ecological insight into the stages of the human life span can be an effective tool in Spiritual Direction. I have continued to use Plotkin's analysis in my spiritual direction practice. There is no doubt that we are called to live more in-tune with the earth; valuing the revelation of the natural world. My experience of using an ecological spirituality in spiritual direction, where appropriate, has proven a valuable way of enabling a directee to enter the sacred presence in their life.

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The Membership you can enjoy all year round!

An advertisement for JCS Entertainment Books and Memberships. It features a stack of books, a smartphone displaying the membership app, and a circular badge that says "Just \$70 giving you over \$20,000 of value!". The background is a blurred bokeh of lights.

OR

Just \$70 giving you over \$20,000 of value!

You can help support Jesuit College of Spirituality by purchasing the NEW 2020 Entertainment Books and Memberships!

Click [here](#) for details.

2020 LENTEN PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Jesuit College of Spirituality is proud to host four public lectures during Lent. The public lectures may be attended individually or as a series. Please RSVP one week in advance of your intention to attend by email to enquiries@jcs.edu.au

Venue: Jesuit College of Spirituality, 175 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC 3052

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Cost: Gold coin donation

RSVP: Telephone: (03) 9448 8276, or by email: enquiries@jcs.edu.au

Lecture 1: Thursday 12th March 2019

Composition of Place: Ignatian Spirituality and the Mind of a Historian



Shane Carmody is a historian with a great love of libraries and archives. Shane has worked for the National Archives of Australia, the State Library of Victoria and the University Library at the University of Melbourne. He

has presented papers at many conferences, leads annual tours of Great Libraries of England, and has managed major international exhibitions.

Lecture 2: Thursday 19th March 2019

Exploring Michael Leunig's Prayer for Balance – Aligning Our Inner and Outer Lives



Fr Chris Gleeson SJ has spent most of his working life as a teacher and administrator in Jesuit schools, nearly 21 of which as Principal of both Xavier College in Melbourne and St.

Ignatius' College, Riverview, in Sydney. In 2016, he took on the new role of Provincial Delegate for Ignatian Formation. Chris currently serves on the Jesuit College of Spirituality Council.

Lecture 3: Thursday 26th March 2019

The Years of the Suppression of the Jesuits



Fr Michael Head SJ joined the Jesuits in 1967. He has worked in secondary schools, university colleges and the Jesuit Theologate. Michael is currently Province Archivist for the Australian Jesuit Province and

superior of Campion House, which is a community of retiring Jesuits. He is the author of several history books, including *The Vine and the Branches: The Fruits of the Sevenhill Mission*.

Lecture 4: Thursday 2nd April 2019

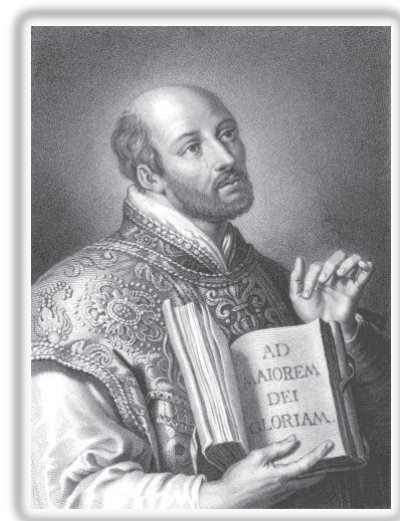
The Spirituality of Aging: A Paschal Experience



Professor Maryanne Confoy RSC is a Religious Sister of Charity and is a Fellow of the University of Divinity. Maryanne has completed a Bachelor of Arts; postgraduate studies at Boston College and Harvard Graduate School of Education;

and a PhD in Theology and Education from Boston College. Her publications include articles on spirituality and ministry, a biography on Morris West, books on spirituality and the contemplative life, priesthood, religious life and Christian ministry.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPERIENCING THE *SPIRITUAL EXERCISES**?



Retreat in Daily Life (19th Annotation)#

A commitment to

- Daily prayer (*approx. 1 hour*)
- Making a Daily Examen
- Meeting once a week with a Spiritual Director (*We can connect you with Ignatian Spiritual Directors (interns and graduates) who have completed Arrupe® formation and training, a program recognised by the Australian Province of the Society of Jesus.*)

If you wish to take the journey please email us at enquiries@jcs.edu.au with the following information; name, short biography, location, briefly state why you want to do the Exercises, and your openness to Spiritual Direction via video conference and/or in person.

JCS also offers units of accredited study focused on the theory and practice of the *Spiritual Exercises*

More information is available at www.jcs.edu.au or call (03) 9448 8276

* **THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**

The *Spiritual Exercises* are practiced by many as a means of spiritual formation and discernment. So, what are they?

St Ignatius (1491-1556) wrote a set of meditations, contemplations, and prayers based on his own spirituality and experiences. This text is known as the *Spiritual Exercises* and is the the basis of the rich tradition of Ignatian Spirituality.

The *Exercises* were written as a manual, designed to be “given” to an individual by a Spiritual Director. They are intended to help the “receiver” deeply experience God, and to discern His will in their daily lives.

#The *Exercises* can be experienced in two ways; either as a 30-day Retreat (known as the 20th Annotation), or as a Retreat in Daily Life over 30-36 weeks (known as the 19th Annotation).