



BEING WITH GOD IN NATURE

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dew drop, in a poor person's face.

Pope Francis. *Laudato Si*, N.233.

For many years, I have been a bushwalker, experiencing different parts of the Australian landscape—from the High Country to the Outback; coasts, islands, ancient trails and sacred places; alone and with my adult children. Every year, I make a silent retreat in Nature in different parts of Australia. Gradually I have come to know the Presence which is God in the Australian landscape and to appreciate what the Australian Indigenous people have known for some 50,000 years: that the land is sacred.

After a pilgrimage to the Flinders Ranges with Catholic Earthcare Australia in 2014, I was inspired to offer walking retreats into the Australian wilderness from Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, where I work as a Spiritual Director. I raised the idea with the Campion Spirituality Team—Iain Radvan SJ, the director at Campion (also a bushwalker) offered to assist, as did Helen Lucas who had recently walked the Ignatian *Camino* in Spain.

To encounter God in Nature can expand our image and experience of God, 'letting God out of the box.' It can help participants to reflect on their relationship with OUR sacred Earth and how they want to live with her in their life.

Our first offering was the Wilderness Retreat in November 2015, a five-day walking retreat in Wilson's Promontory National Park. Out of this Campion has developed a ministry team for *Being with God in Nature*. We invite all people to spend some time walking contemplatively in nature.

This year we will offer six prayer day walks around Melbourne and Victoria, a Stillness Weekend at Pallotti College, Milgrove, the 5 Day Wilderness Retreat in the Grampians National Park and a 7 Day Emmaus walking retreat along the South Gippsland Trail. As well we will offer prayer days and weekends of reflection at Campion, including the Sacred Earth in May. We try to offer events that cater for people of different interests and fitness levels.

The Prayer Day Walks and the Wilderness Retreats have attracted people from different age groups—from young adults to people who are retired including people who don't go to church. Feedback has been hugely positive.

Here is how a couple of participants described experiencing the Wilderness Retreat in the Grampians last year:

What did I learn or re-learn from this retreat? I am loved by God often through the care and kindness of others but also in the beauty of mountains, valleys, wild flowers, waterfalls, rocks and soil, charred gum trees, new growth shooting from wilderness scrub, birds and butterflies and a furry caterpillar. – Sandra.

This retreat was a gift in my busy world, recharging the batteries, and assisting in reordering priorities for life. Best of all it helped me reconnect with God, and God's Creation. – Maria.

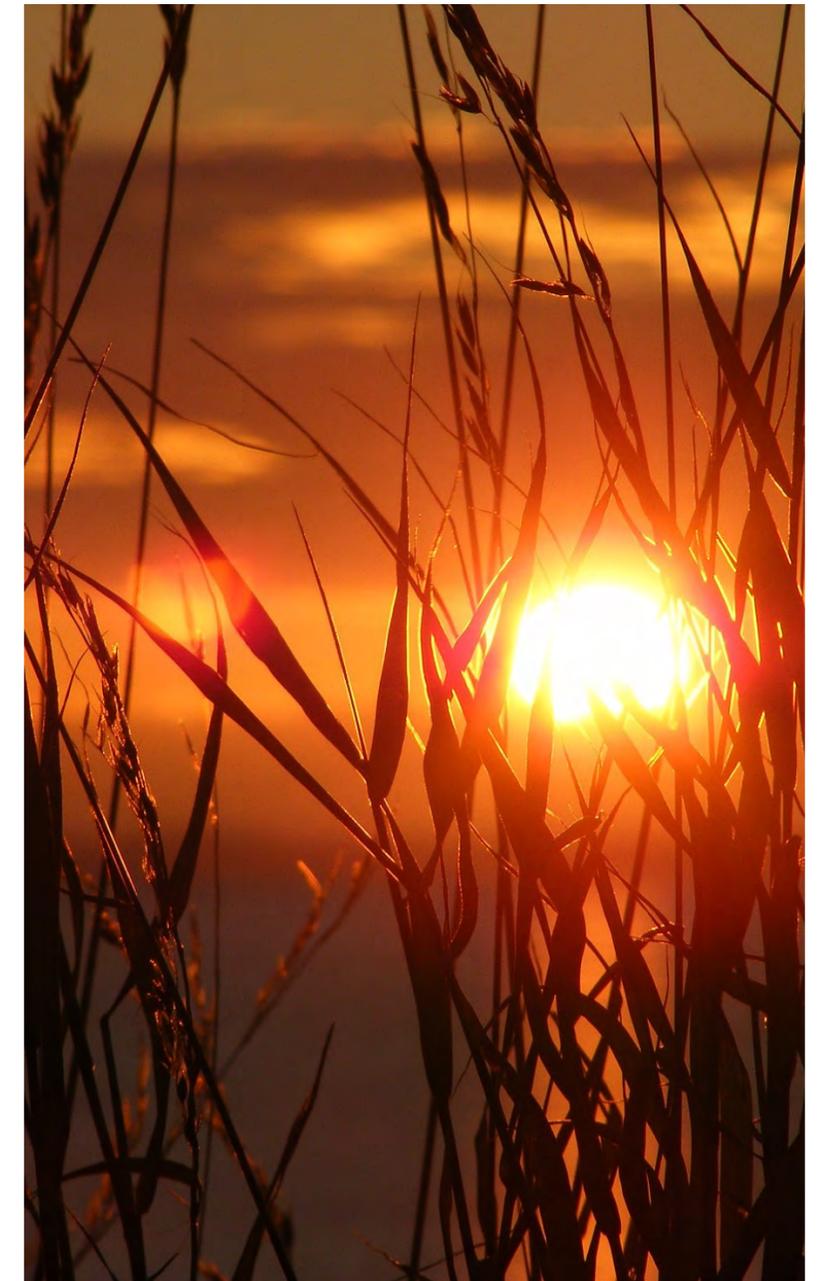
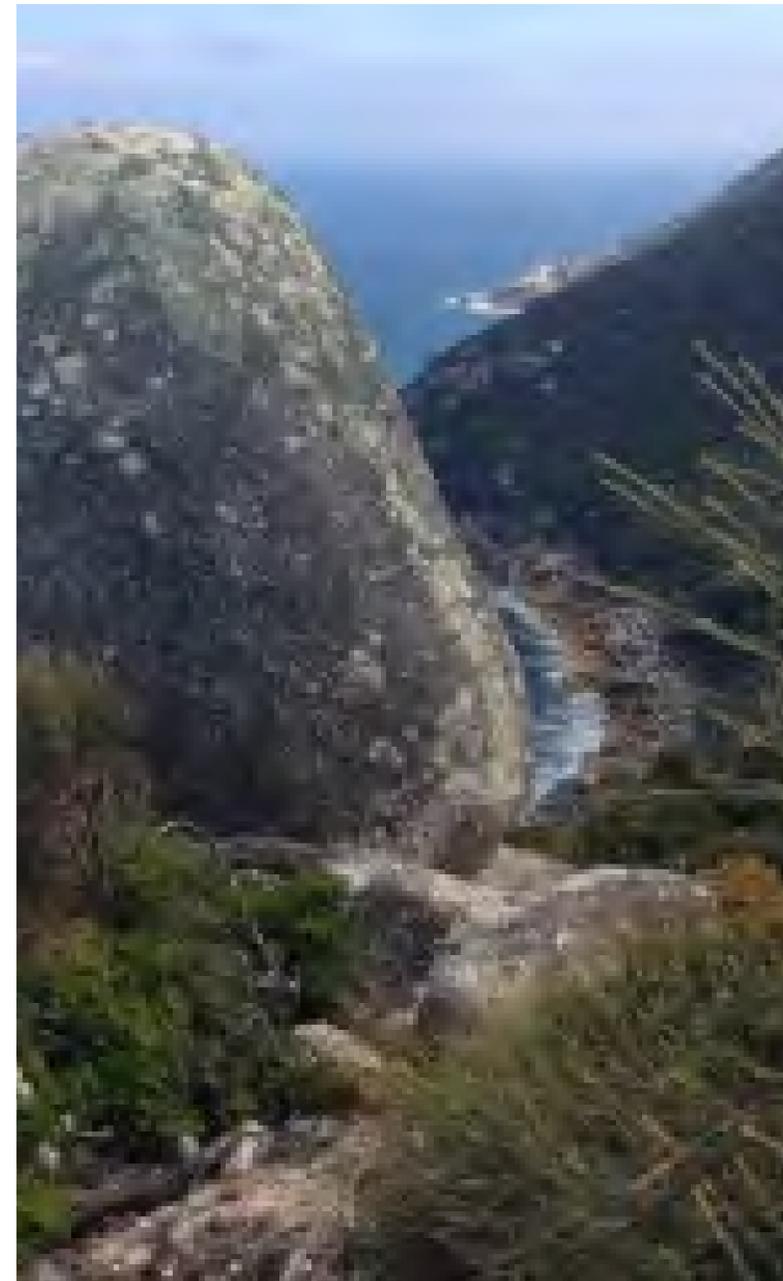
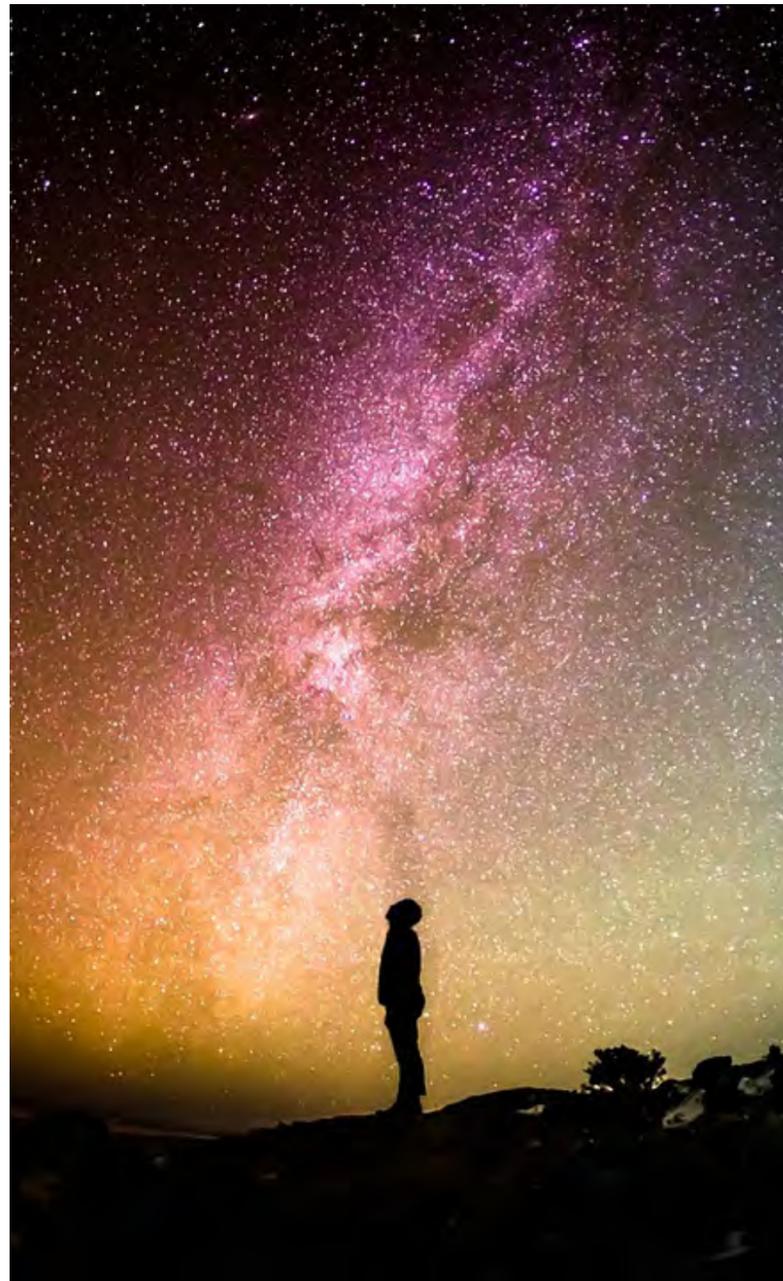
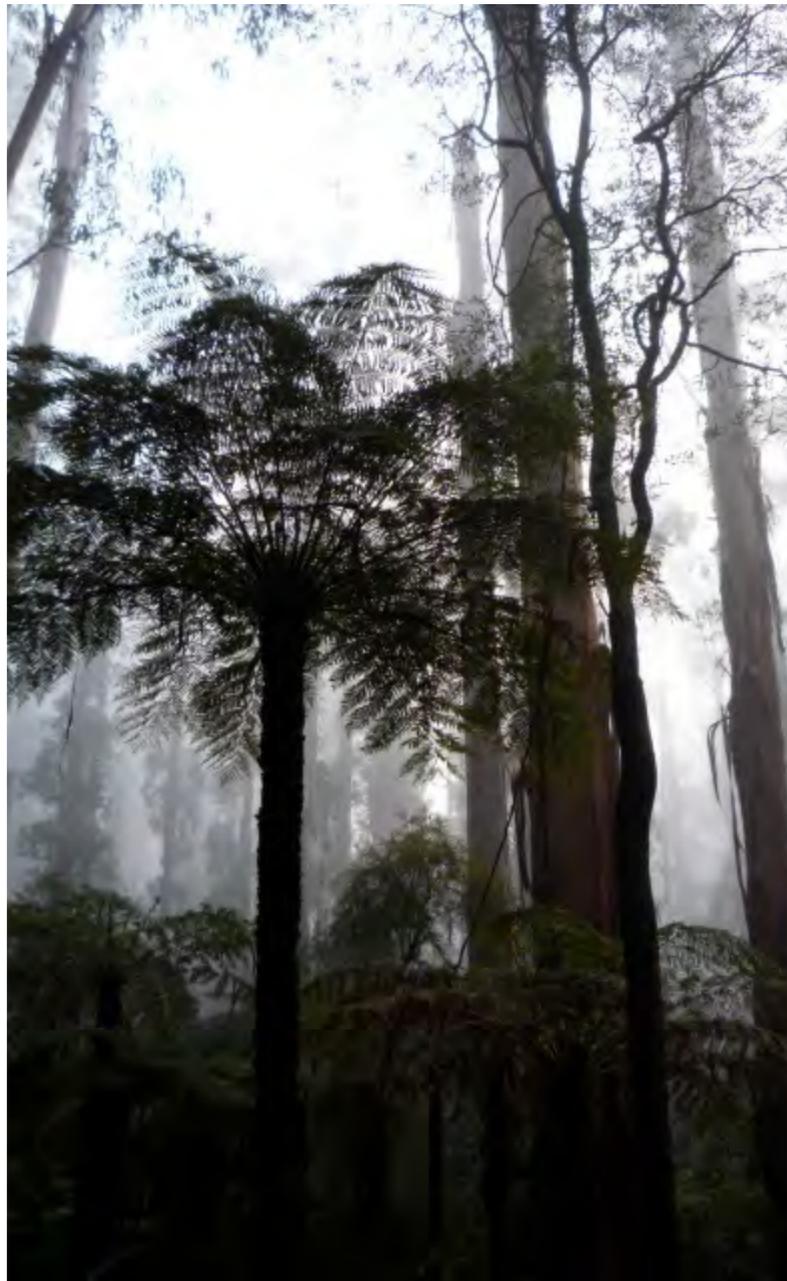
For more information visit: www.campion.asn.au/

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2018 Program can be read below.

BEING WITH GOD IN NATURE

2018 PROGRAM



Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality

With the rise of the industrial world over the last couple of centuries we have become urbanised and as a result more disconnected from Nature. We have come to see ourselves as the masters of nature, with the Earth being an object for us to use to make our lives more comfortable. In this process, we have lost our connection with God's Presence in the Universe. Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, invites us to reunite with God in the Earth, in the whole Universe. In this ministry, Being with God in Nature, we provide a variety of opportunities for people to spend time in a group, at times in silence, listening to God's presence in Nature. We will do this by taking people out into the Australian wilderness as well as experiencing Nature in our urban settings.



TELL ME YOUR STORY : JOURNEYING WITH THOMAS BERRY

Venue: Champion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Kew

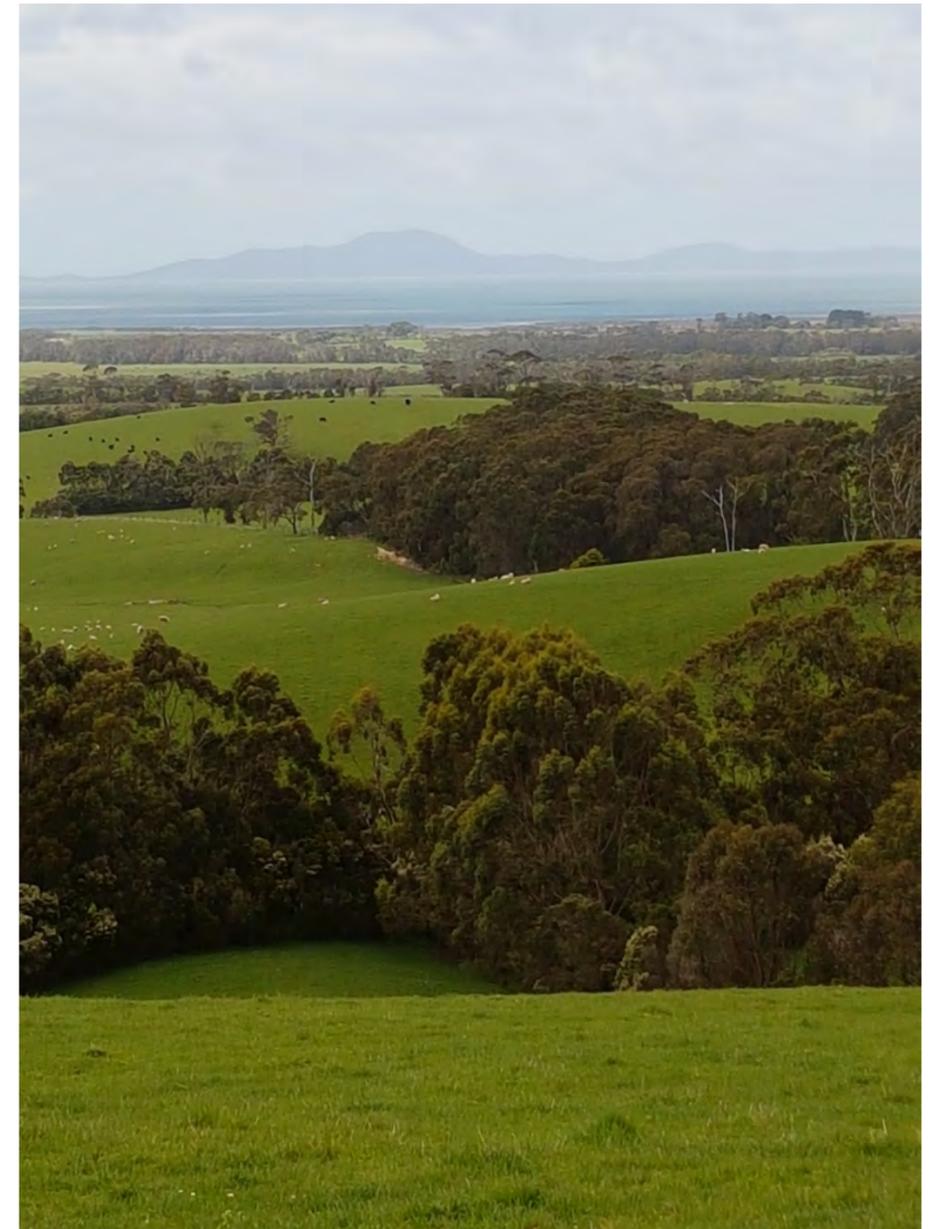
Facilitator: Tim Moloney CFC

Saturday, 17 February: 9.30am - 5pm

Thomas Berry wrote:

"It was an early afternoon in May when I first looked down over the scene and saw the meadow. A magic moment, this experience gave to my life something, I know not what, that seems to explain my life at a more profound level than almost any other experience I can remember."

This day provides an opportunity to be present in nature and allow it to speak to us.



LISTENING TO TURNING EARTH

with Tim Moloney CFC

Venue: Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Kew

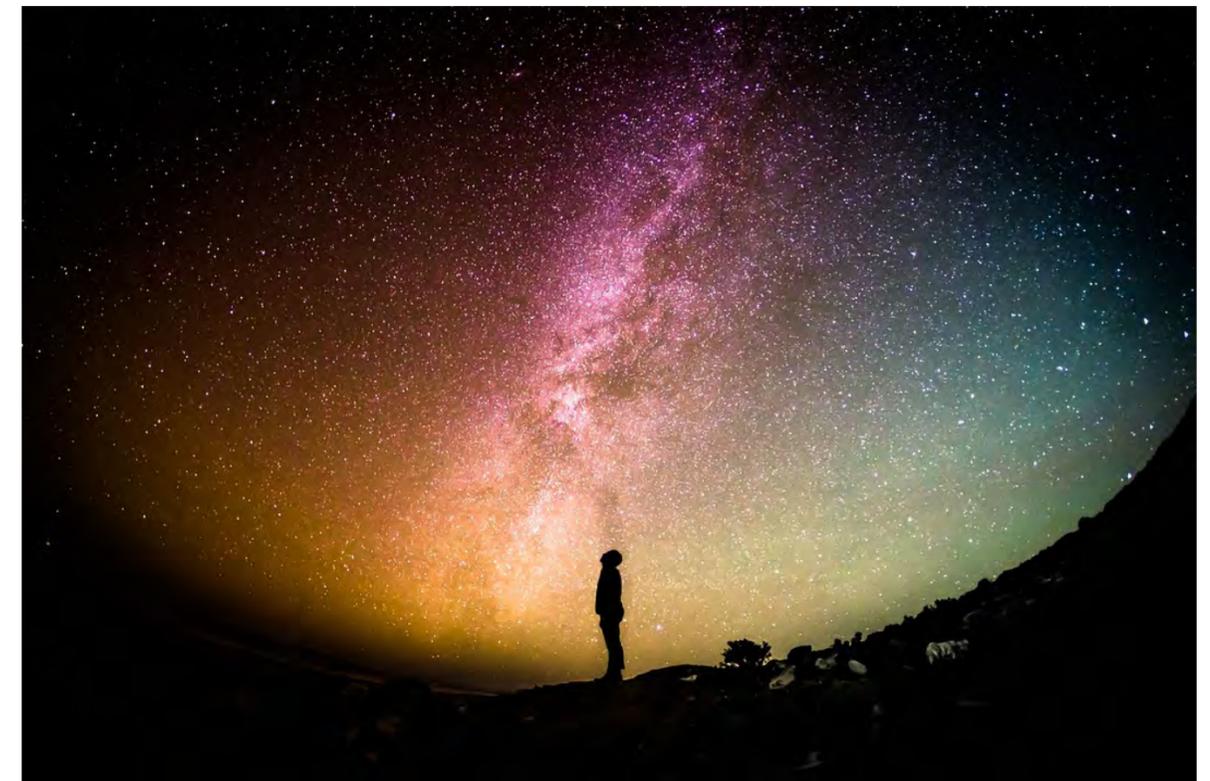
Tim will offer four afternoon sessions inviting you to sit and contemplate the Seasons of our Earth. Using images and reflections from writers in the field, we will sit prayerfully to honour the Earth and its evolving changes in our temperate climate.

21 March: 1.30 to 3.00pm

13 June: 1.30 to 3.00pm

19 Sept: 1.30 to 3.00pm

12 Dec: 1.30 to 3.00pm



CARE OF CREATION - A QUIET PRAYER DAY

Venue: Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality , Kew

Facilitator : Peter Saunders

Saturday, 1 September - 10.00am to 3.00pm.

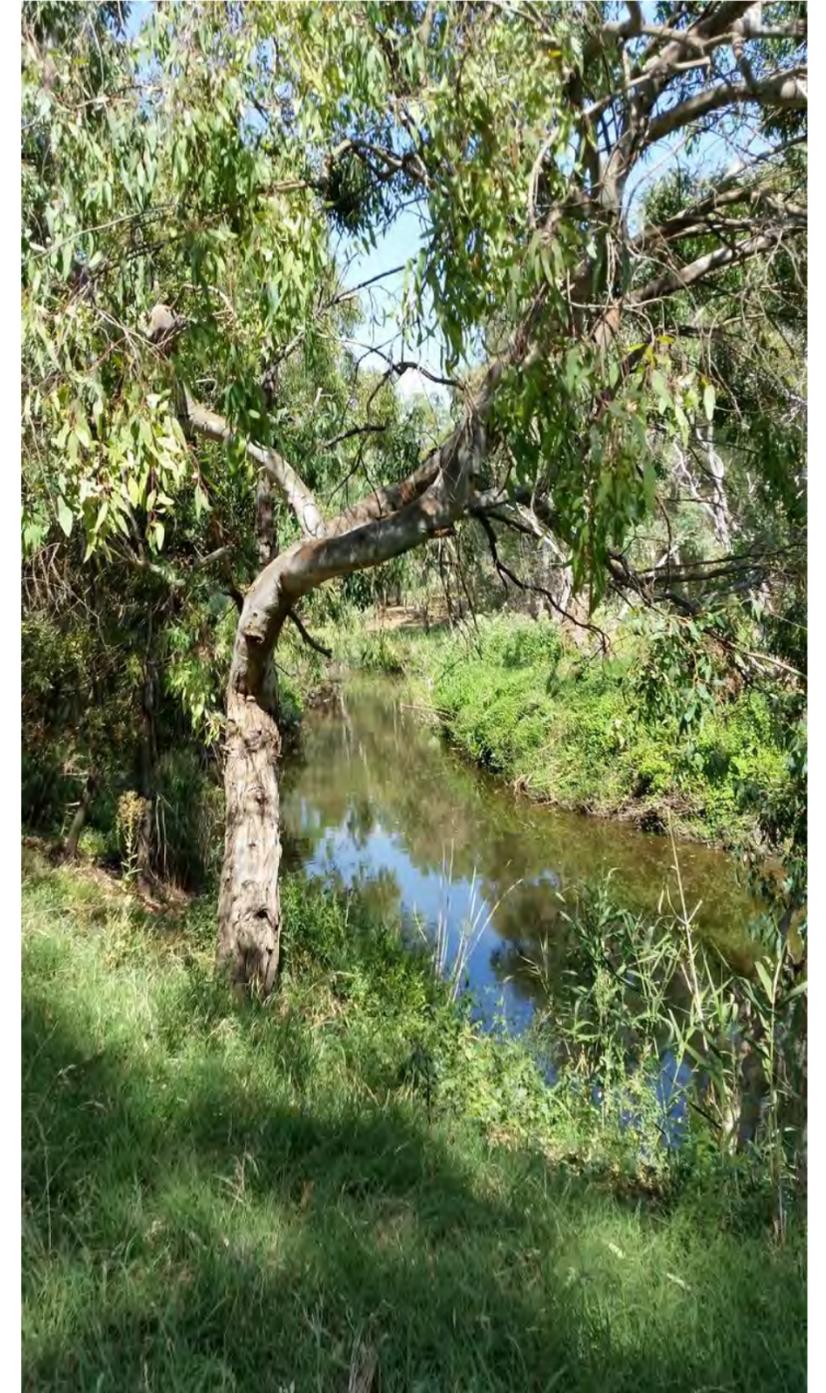
Pope Francis has joined with Patriarch Bartholomew of the Eastern Orthodox Church to declare the 1st September each year as a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

This Day offers “individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation” (Pope Francis).

Participants are invited to a quiet day of prayer to reflect again on our connection with Creation and the Presence that is God in all of it.

“The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dew drop, in a poor person’s face” (Laudato Si, n.233).

How are we being invited to live with Creation today?



SEASON OF CREATION: LAUDATO SI - CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Venue: Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Kew

Four-Week Reflective Seminar

Facilitator: Peter Saunders

30 August: 1.30 to 3.00pm

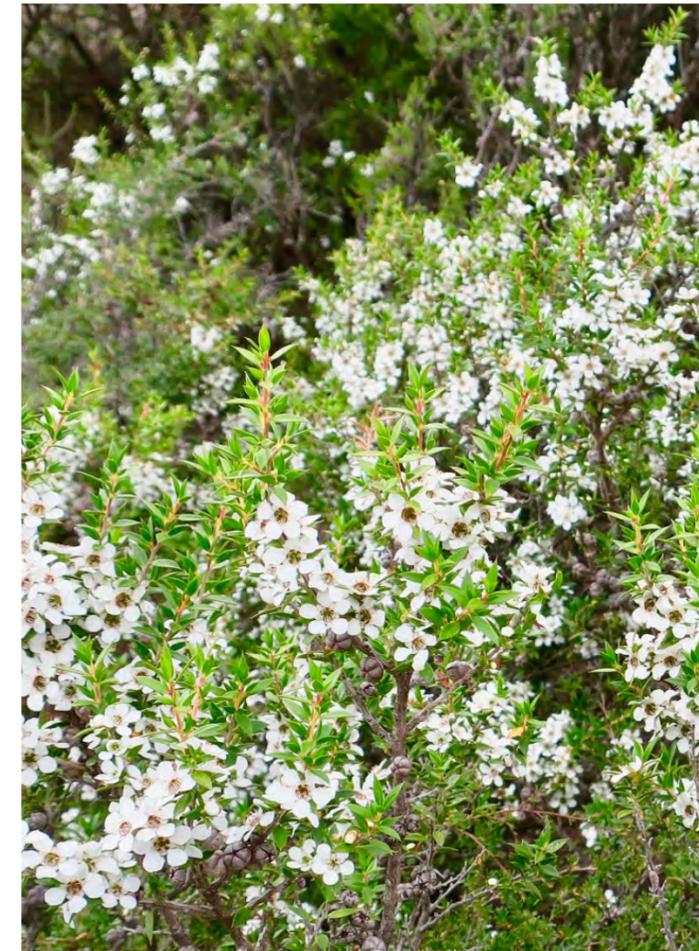
6 September: 1.30 to 3.00pm

13 September: 1.30 to 3.00pm

20 September: 1.30 to 3.00pm

"The entire material universe speaks of God's love, God's boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God." Pope Francis - Laudato Si.

This small group seminar will prayerfully reflect on Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment - Laudato Si - and how it can apply to our lives.



WALKING THE STORY OF THE UNIVERSE

Venue: Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Kew

Facilitator: Tim Moloney CFC

Saturday, 17 November, 9.30am - 5pm

Mary Coelho writes: "We're told that the Earth is 4.6 billion years old and the elements of the Earth and of our bodies are even older than that. We're told that the Universe is 12-14 billion years old so that the stuff of which we are made is unfathomably ancient. This story challenges and informs our most basic, often unquestioned assumptions about how things are. We need great acts of imagination, of intuitive perception and celebration to help us embrace the revelatory material being offered us."

This day offers us a chance to attend, through prayer and reflection, to our place in the universe.



WEEKEND RETREATS

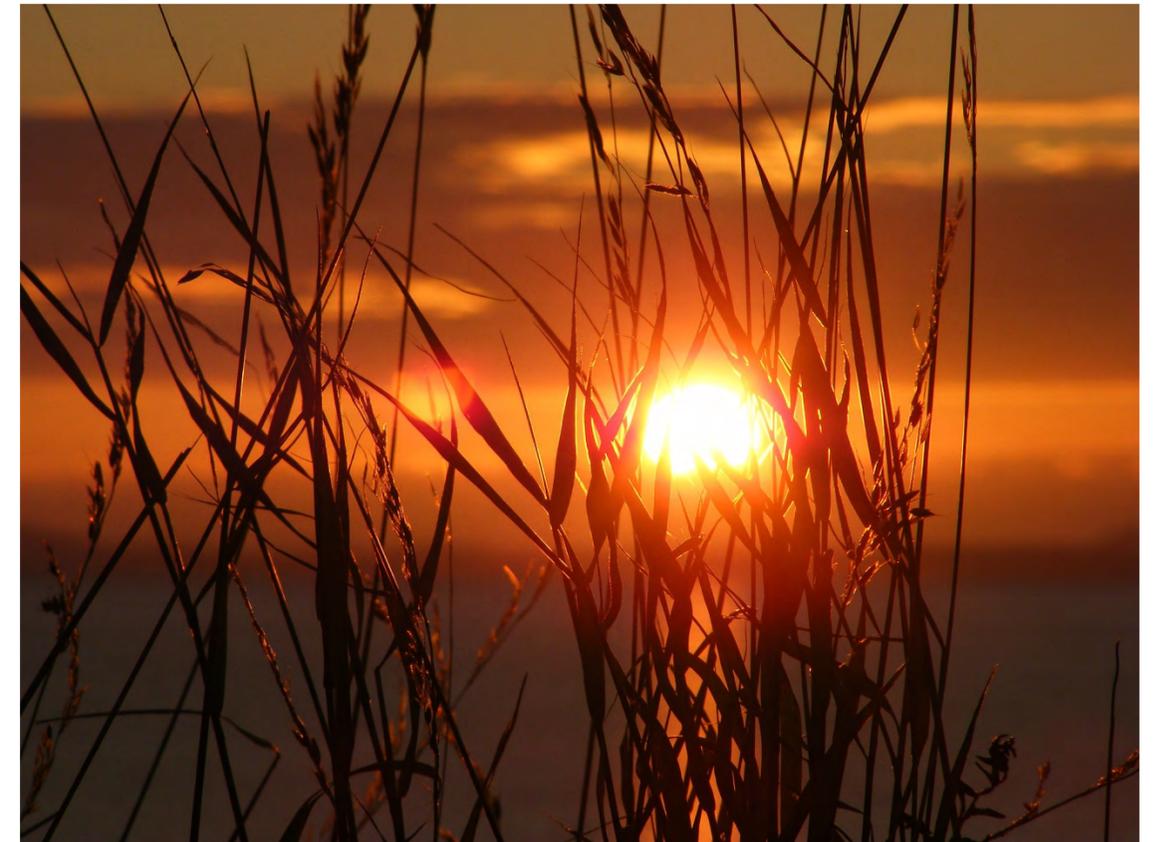
SACRED GROUND

Venue: Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality, Kew
Facilitators: Anne Boyd & Pat Long from EarthSong
Friday, 18 May at 7.00pm - Sunday, 20 May at 3.00pm

"...there is a divine manifestation in the blaze of the sun and the fall of night".

Paying attention to this manifestation, we learn to see ourselves in relation to all other creatures. Laudato si' # 85

This reflective seminar invites participants into an exploration of the interconnectedness of all life and the place of the human within it. A range of processes will be offered which may assist our attentiveness to the mystery permeating the heart of Earth's creativity and deepen our experience of the sacred in our midst.



A STILLNESS WEEKEND IN NATURE

Venue: Pallotti College, Millgrove

Facilitators: Helen Lucas & Peter Saunders

Friday, 9 November at 7.30pm - Sunday, 11 November at 3.00pm

This weekend will offer a time of quiet and stillness in Nature. The retreatant is invited to listen to how God speaks to their heart through Nature. During the weekend, retreatants will have the opportunity to relax and contemplate the beauty of Nature and God's presence in the cosmos calling them to new life.

"Earth is calling us back to itself, and not only to us but to all its components, calling them into an intimacy with one another and to the larger community within which all earthly realities have their existence..."
(Thomas Berry)



PRAYER DAYS - WALKING WITH GOD IN NATURE

"In every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks. Take a walk to feed the soul." (John Muir).

This is an opportunity for you to spend some reflective time walking in silence within a group in Nature. The group will meet at the location at the beginning of the day. The walks will be in a variety of places in Nature within the outskirts of Melbourne and beyond. BYO lunch and appropriate walking gear.

- 24 March:** Mt Macedon
- 28 April:** Cape Schanck
- 5 May:** Merri Creek
- 20 October:** Doongalla Forest in Dandenong Ranges National Park
- 25 November:** Royal Botanical Gardens in Cranbourne
- 8 December:** Werribee Gorge



Wilderness Retreat: The Grampians/Gariwerd, Victoria

23-29 September 2018 : Walking Retreat in the Grampians/Gariwerd NP
5 Day Walking Retreat

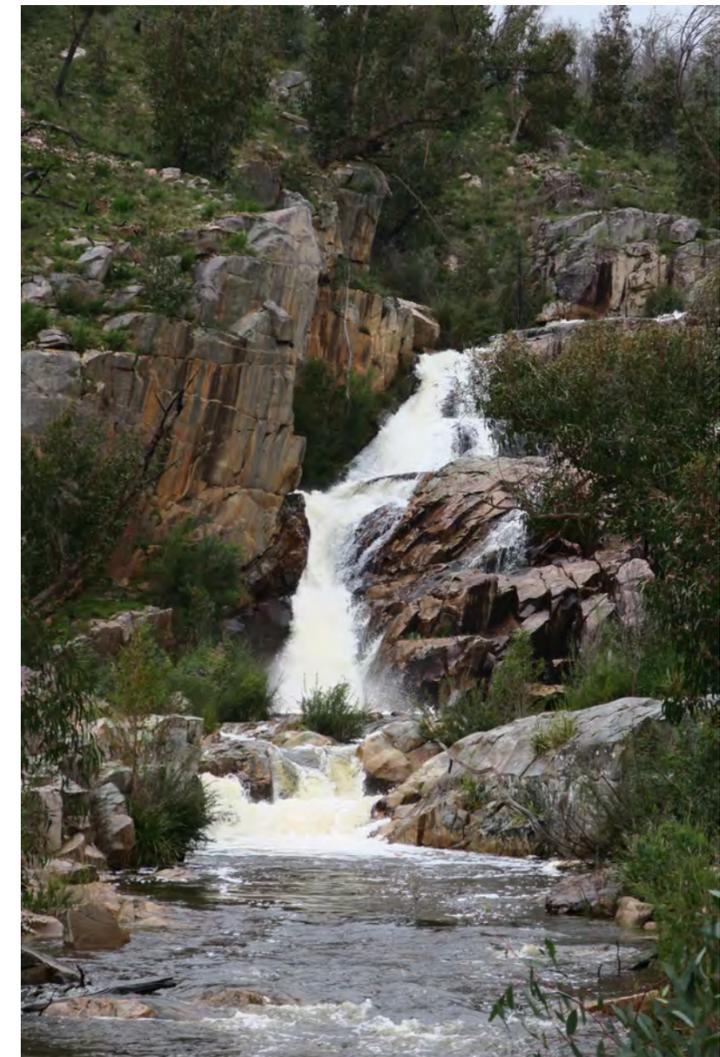
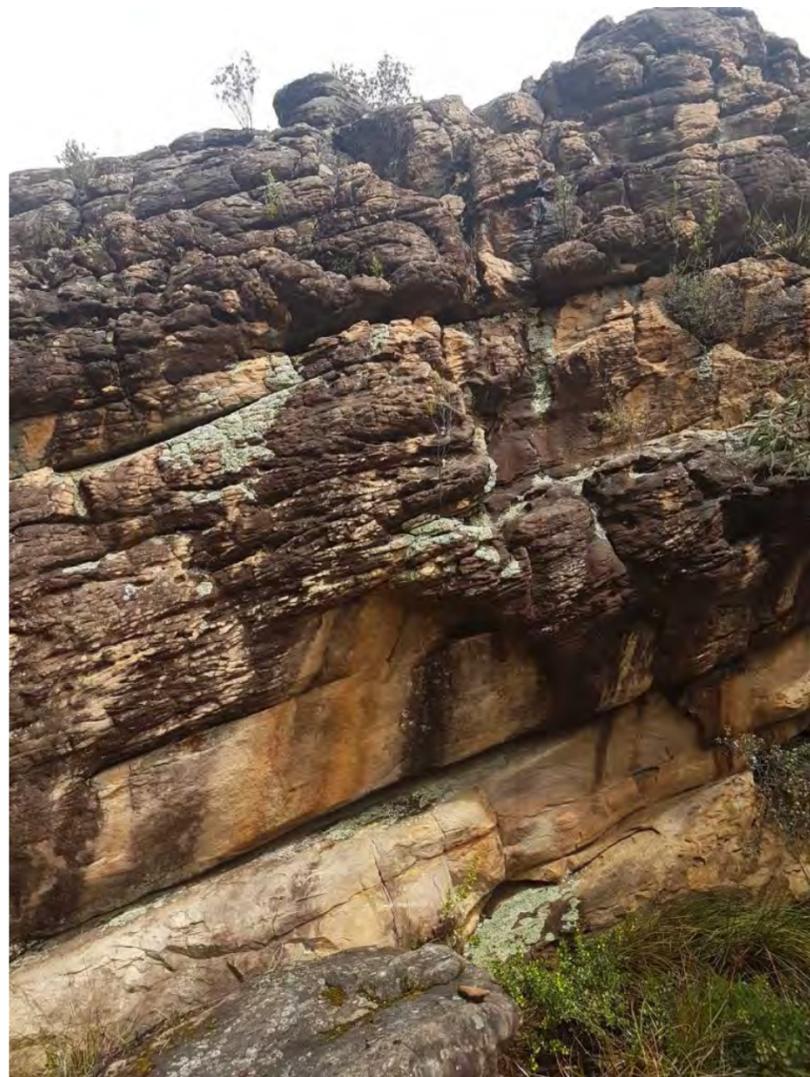
Venue: Bradshaw House - Halls Gap

Facilitators: Helen Lucas & Iain Radvan SJ & Peter Saunders

**21 July: Information Day - Champion Spirituality Centre., Kew,
10.00am-3.00pm.**

*"In God's wildness lies the hope of the world, the great, fresh,
unlighted, unredeemed wilderness." (John Muir).*

This Wilderness Retreat will be based at Halls Gap and we will make contemplative walks in silence into different parts of The Grampians where you will be invited to listen to God's Presence in Nature speaking to you. At the end of each day's walk, you will have a chance to share your experience of walking in Nature. We will draw on the wisdom of Ignatius of Loyola and Teilhard de Chardin and other contemporary writers on the spiritual dimensions of Nature. A good degree of fitness is required for the uphill Grade 4 walks on this retreat,



Walking with Jesus as on the road to Emmaus South Gippsland

Registration required by 1 July 2018

The Emmaus Walking Retreat is a seven day Walking Retreat in South Gippsland Victoria, from San Remo to Welshpool. The walk takes us along the George Bass Coastal walk, Bass Coast Rail Trail and the Great Southern Rail Trail. This Guided Retreat is an opportunity to spend some reflective time walking as a small community. The disciples on the road to Emmaus contemplated their own journey, having walked with Jesus in their lives. In a similar manner participants are invited to explore their own spiritual journey, walking with Jesus. A reasonable degree of fitness is essential with average daily distances between 15 and 24 kms. Participants all receive a copy of the walk's Itinerary and Prayer Guide. Accommodation and transport are provided, while meals are not included.

Venue: South Gippsland

7 Day Walking Retreat

Facilitators : Geraldine & Larry Naismith

Date: 14 - 21 October 2018



Walking with Inigo: The Ignatian Camino SPAIN

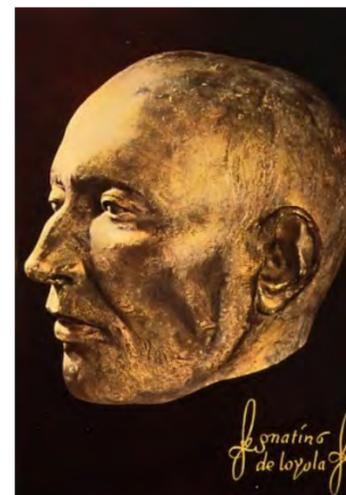
Guided by Fr Josep Lluís Iriberry, SJ.I

8-24 May 2018 : Ignatian Camino - Spain

20 September -19 October 2018: Ignatian Camino - Spain

In May and September-October 2018 a group of pilgrims will walk sections of the route taken by Íñigo López de Loyola (who later became Saint Ignatius of Loyola) in 1522. The “Camino Ignaciano,” or the “Ignatian way” begins at the birthplace of Ignatius at Loyola, in Spain’s Basque country and proceeds through picturesque mountains, deserts and plains, before ending in the town of Manresa near Barcelona. It was in Manresa that Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises. Pilgrims will have opportunities for silence, prayer, personal reflection, spiritual conversation including sharing in small groups and Mass.

The Ignatian Camino will be led by Josep Lluís Iriberry, SJ, a Jesuit priest from Spain, a biologist, counsellor and theologian.





To make a Booking,

Contact: 03 9854 8110 or

Email: secretary@champion.asn.au or

Book online: www.champion.asn.au/nature