



Dear Meditators

Bonnevaux Retreat Centre

WCCM's vision of creating an international retreat centre is coming into view. In this newsletter, Fr Laurence reports on the progress of the purchase of the property, the planning, and the fund-raising. We have also received messages of encouragement from several patrons of our community, including Cardinal George Pell at the Vatican, whom I quote below.

Dear Father Laurence,

As you know, I have for many years now felt close to and supportive of the work of the WCCM in bringing contemplation back to the heart of the Church's life of prayer and action. I particularly feel the importance of introducing the practice of Christian Meditation to children at the beginning of their life journey of faith.

Thank you for sharing the vision of your proposed international new centre at Bonnevaux. It is a beautiful and inspiring place; and the sacred history of the site, with the monastic foundation there in the twelfth century, makes it for me, as I think for many others, especially attractive and spiritually significant. I feel you will be able even better to renew our great tradition there for our time, as well as build a centre of contemplation that will be welcome to all.

Bonnevaux will be in my prayer and I would love to visit and pray and meditate with you there one day. I would urge all to support this brave and inspiring venture.

Cardinal George Pell

Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy
00120 Città del Vaticano/00120, Vatican City State

Contemplative Leaders' Get-together

In his letter, Fr Laurence also reports on his recent meeting in Snowmass, Colorado, with other contemplative leaders – Fr Thomas Keating of Contemplative Outreach, Fr Richard Rohr from the Centre for Action and Contemplation, and Fr Edward Tilden from the Shalem Institute. Our Singapore community remembers well Fr Keating's visit in the year 2000 when he spent Holy Week teaching and inspiring us with his talks on the Contemplative Dimension of the Gospel.

WCCM Singapore Office Bearers (2016-17)

WCCM Singapore held its AGM on 19 September 2016, at which meeting the following office bearers were elected:

President:	Peter Ng
Vice-President:	James Galvin Loh
Secretary:	Cecilie Dee
Treasurer:	Florence Kwee
Auditor:	Francis Heng & Emily Lee

Recommended Reading

I would like to recommend the books described below. The open and generous sharing by priests in *Prayer and the Priest* will encourage and inspire anyone struggling on the spiritual path. The book also makes an excellent gift one could offer to one's parish priest. *Living with the Mind of Christ*, written by an oblate of WCCM helps us see the link between contemporary secular meditation with the meditative practices of Christian saints through the ages.

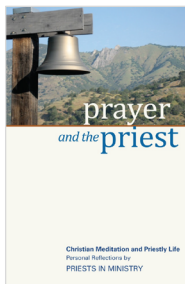
May the Lord bless you and your loved ones.



PETER NG

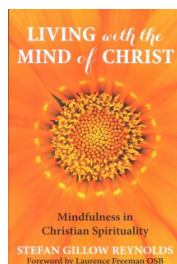
Recommended Titles

Prayer and the Priest *Christian Meditation & Priestly Life* Personal Reflections by PRIESTS IN MINISTRY



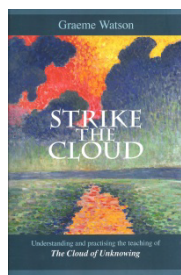
Priests everywhere today find their zeal worn down by overwork, tensions in communities, and the social climate. In this book, they share very personally how they found the spiritual depth they needed in the practice of Christian meditation. While the stories vary according to the experiences of the writer, there emerges from this collection of voices a single affirmation of the transformative power of meditation. The deeply personal stories show how meditation has penetrated their lives, their relationships, and their faith, and helped to shape and regenerate their vocations. Anyone struggling with their prayer life – priests, those training for ministry, and lay people – will find this book a source of hope, inspiration, and practical wisdom.

Living with the Mind of Christ STEFAN REYNOLDS



Fr Laurence describes this book as the 'bridge' between today's interest in Mindfulness and Christian contemplation as practised through the ages. Dr Stefan Reynolds shows how Mindfulness can be an entry point into Christian meditation and the riches of mysticism. The book speaks from a solid Catholic tradition yet is accessible for everyone. He shows that the Mindfulness of Christ sets us free from unnecessary worry. Stefan Reynolds is a Benedictine oblate of the WCCM and an associate of the Irish Cistercians. He gives regular retreats and seminars on Christian mysticism.

Strike the Cloud *Understanding & practising the teaching of The Cloud of Unknowing* GRAEME WATSON



This book presents the main themes of the 14th-century classic *The Cloud of Unknowing* in a contemporary form. G Watson helps us discern whether we may be called to contemplative prayer, explores the effectiveness of the one-word prayer, explains the significance of the 'cloud of unknowing' and the 'cloud of forgetting', and shows how active and contemplative approaches to God are complementary. He then reflects on humility and charity as two virtues fundamental to human living, explores how contemplative prayer deals with the roots of sin and examines whether such prayer may be considered Christian in the fullest sense. This book will be helpful for anyone wishing to know more about contemplative prayer. Excerpts of the talks are available on CD under the title *Talks on the Cloud of Unknowing*.