The Centre for Ethics Newsletter
Volume 76 - Term 1, 2015

Ethics and spirituality
From the beginning, the Centre for Ethics has been conscious of the link between ethics and spirituality. In our case, the context is that of liberal Catholic and inclusive Anglicanism. It works for us. A similar approach to spirituality has been taken by Rosalind Bradley, the editor of A World of Prayer: Spiritual Leaders, Activists and Humanitarians Share their Favourite Prayers.

Rosalind Bradley
In July 2005, four home-grown terrorists detonated bombs in the London Underground and on a double-decker bus. Fifty-two people were killed; hundreds injured. Rosalind Bradley was staying in London at the time. She knew that her response had to have something to do with prayer. Returning to Australia, she wrote to 450 prominent people inviting them to share spiritual resources. More than 160 people responded and the result was a beautiful book called Mosaic: Favourite Prayers and Reflections from Inspiring Australians (published by Harper Collins). Men and women from a variety of backgrounds and faiths contributed to Mosaic. In collecting material for the book, Rosalind aimed to build bridges, foster mutual respect and assist in the “dialogue of living” in Australia’s multicultural and spiritually diverse society. It is a little gem.

A World of Prayer
Two years ago, Rosalind edited A World of Prayer published by Orbis Books. Orbis endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourishes the spirit and challenge the conscience. It seeks to explore the global dimensions of Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. Again with this collection, more than 100 people from a very wide background responded. They most often contributed a favourite prayer, sometimes simply a scriptural text or a poem, and almost always added some insightful remarks about the choice they made. These remarks are fascinating and add great depth to the book.

International perspective
Prayers, texts and insights are from Christians, Baha’is, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs and Taoists. We hear from men and women in Rwanda, Kenya, Nigeria, Turkey, the United Kingdom, El Salvador, the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Nicaragua, Israel, Cambodia, the Philippines, Syria, Mali, Thailand, Pakistan, India, Samoa, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Germany, Korea, Ireland, South Africa, Denmark, Malaysia, France, Burma, Switzerland, Norway, Peru, Costa Rica, Bhutan, Greece, Indonesia, Poland, Haiti, China and Afghanistan.

Love, harmony and beauty
The first prayer, which is included as an epigraph to the collection, is from Hazrat Inayat Khan who founded the Sufi Order of the West in London in 1914. His message of divine unity (Tawhid) focuses on the themes of love, harmony and beauty. Khan taught that blind adherence to any book rendered religion void of spirit. He wrote:

Your light is in all forms,
Your love in all beings.
Allow us to recognise You
In all Your holy names and forms.

Nobel laureates
Five Nobel Peace Prize laureates have made contributions. His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, selected the following from the eighth century Buddhist scholar Shantideva:

For as long as space endures,
And for as long as living beings remain,
Until then may I, too, abide,
To dispel the misery of the world.

The Dalai Lama’s remarks are brief, profoundly simple and enough: “I say this prayer daily because it gives me great inspiration and determination.”

“The most powerful prayers are the ones that touch, inspire and bring out the best in us, the goodness that we all have.”
The Prayer of St Francis
Mairead Corrigan Maguire was awarded the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize. She selected the Prayer of St Francis. Sogyal Rinpoche, author of *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*, chose two pieces. The first was that chosen by the Dalai Lama and the second that selected by Maguire. Sogyal Rinpoche writes:

“I have chosen these prayers because they capture the essence of love, compassion and altruism that lie at the heart of all the great spiritual traditions. The words from these two great traditions, one Buddhist and one Christian, seem to come from the same source and convey the enactment of compassion at the most profound level. The most powerful prayers are the ones that touch, inspire and bring out the best in us, the goodness that we all have. Buddhists call it bodhichitta, or the heart of the enlightened mind. If we can truly embody the meaning of these great prayers, we can bring such benefit both to ourselves and to others.”

I cannot help but feel that he has captured in his comments the very vision that was Rosalind Bradley’s when she edited both *Mosaic* and *A World of Prayer.*

Father James Alison
I was particularly taken by the contribution of Father James Alison. Alison is a Catholic priest and theologian. In writing theology and in lecturing around the world, he draws on the work of the French historian, literary critic and philosopher Rene Girard. Alison is known for his firm but gentle persistence in promoting dialogue and understanding within the church. He quotes from St Teresa of Avila. You can read the Spanish version in the book. The following is his own liberal, rather than literal, translation:

May nothing wind you up,
Nothing affright you;
Everything comes and goes
God, still, just there;
Through patience
All will be achieved.
If you have God,
You lack nothing:
God alone will do.

Alison describes himself as “someone who lives with a deep sense of panic just below the surface of things.” He is driven to agitation by any crowd and finds Teresa’s pithy call back to God very comforting.

Sufism and activism
There are several selections from the Qur’an. Amina Wadud is an academic who focuses on feminist scholarship, Sufism and activism for gender sensitive policy reforms as they relate to the lives of Muslim women. She chose a passage that asks God not to demand too much of us:

Do not place a burden upon us like you
You placed upon others before us
Our Lord: Do not place upon us what we cannot endure
Pardon us.
(Qur’an 2: 286)

Tariq Ramadan, Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at Oxford, opted for a few lines from the Al-Bukhari Collection of prophetic traditions:

O God, we ask you to provide us with God-consciousness, human detachment, spiritual richness and love of the poor.

Women for Women International
Zainab Salbi is the author of *Between Two Worlds – Escape from Tyranny: Growing up in the Shadow of Saddam.* She founded Women for Women International, a humanitarian organisation that helps women survivors of wars rebuild their lives. She has two quotes from Jalal al-Din Rumi. The first includes these words:

Out beyond the ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing,
There is a field. I’ll meet you there.

Zainab believes in the oneness of humanity and the power of joy. She remarks: “It is joy that makes me grateful for all I have been through and all that I have become and may still become. It is with joy that I choose to live.”

“May we all recognise the preciousness and precariousness of everyday life.” Dr Deborah Weissman
The preciousness and precariouslyness of life
Dr Deborah Weissman is the first Jewish woman to be elected President of the International Council of Christians and Jews. She chose some lines from the Unetaneh Tokef, a liturgical poem from the Middle Ages. She says: “May we all recognise the preciousness and precariousness of everyday life.”

Rowan Williams
Christina Rees looks to Julian of Norwich. Rowan Williams quotes from an old Lutheran hymn, Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, by Johann Franck. The Archbishop prays these words every day. Kirsty Sword Gusmao selects a Taoist meditation. Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, (inset) a teacher, artist and writer from Daly River community in the Northern Territory who has made two visits to our School has written her own reflection on inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness. She writes:

“There are deep springs within each of us. Within this deep spring, which is the very spirit of God, is a sound. The sound of Deep calling to Deep.”

Many contributors
Contributors include Brother Alois, Prior of Taizé; Robina Courtin, founder of the Liberation Prison Project; Zoya Phan, a Burmese human rights activist; and Dr Sunitha Krishnan, an anti-human trafficking campaigner in India. Others are Archbishop Elias Chacour, Nelson Mandela, Lech Walesa, Desmond Tutu, Father Richard Rohr, Sister Joan Chittister, Father Timothy Radcliffe, Sheila Cassidy and Swami Nirajan Saraswati. ‘Blasts from the past’ include Father Daniel Berrigan SJ, Pete Seeger and Canon Paul Oestreicher.

I love this book and thoroughly recommend it. It is full of great riches from people who are trying to make the world a better place, and whose spirituality comes out of an extraordinary variety of religious experience within so many traditions.

God Is Not One
Some readers will be familiar with Stephen Prothero’s book, God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions that Run the World – and Why Their Differences Matter. It is a work that makes a fresh and provocative argument that, contrary to much popular understanding, all religions are not simply “different paths to the same God.” Prothero asks us to consider the uniqueness of each religion, and to acknowledge that they ask different questions, tackle different problems and aim at different goals. On the other hand, many will be familiar with Karen Armstrong’s Charter for Compassion, a document which urges the people and religions of the world to embrace the core value of compassion, which she believes is found in every religion. A World of Prayer is closer to Karen Armstrong than to Stephen Prothero. It is well worth having all three on your shelf.

Professor Chris O’Brien
A final word goes to the renowned surgeon Professor Chris O’Brien, who died in 2009 after a long and valiant struggle with a brain tumour. Australian Story filmed a program about him. He had helped many people as they faced cancer. During his own illness, Professor O’Brien received a visit from the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who presented him with some rosary beads that had been blessed and given to him by Pope Benedict XVI. Professor O’Brien had agreed to contribute to A World of Prayer and chose the Hail Mary:

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee,  
Blessed are thou amongst women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners now  
And at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

Best wishes,

Frank Sheehan  
School Chaplain  
Director of the Centre for Ethics
Luke Ryan


Inspiring, engaging and with a unique comic edge, Luke brings years of stand-up, storytelling and speechmaking experience to bear on topics as diverse as handling adversity, bullying, discovering perspective, getting the most out of life and finding one’s vocational direction.

Luke was born and lived in Perth until he moved to Melbourne when he was 21. He went to John XXIII College and then began a Law-Arts degree at the University of Western Australia. “In short, my upbringing was what you might describe as ‘painfully unremarkable’. Oh, except for getting cancer when I was 11. And 22. That was certainly something,” he said.

“As someone who took eight-and-a-half years to finish their undergraduate studies (across three universities!), my non-writing, non-comedy resume is depressingly scant. I idled around in bookshops in Perth and Melbourne for a while, did a bit of tutoring and worked a whole bunch of data entry jobs while travelling through the UK. On occasion, the fact I have made it to the age of 29 without having ever held down a real job unnerves me greatly.”

His career highlights include selling out most of his run at his first comedy festival with *Luke’s Got Cancer* and “convincing a reputable publishing house to let me write a funny book about cancer and then actually putting it out into the world.”

Luke is passionate about making people laugh and think at the same time.

Professor Patrick McGorry

When we see young minds breaking down, what real help or hope is there? Former Australian of the Year and mental health expert Professor Patrick McGorry returns to Christ Church in 2015 to present the second in a public lecture series on new trends in mental health research and treatments.

Professor McGorry, Professor of Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne and Executive Director of Orygen Youth Health, has put Australia at the forefront of research innovation in prevention and treatment in youth mental health worldwide. He will tackle some of the most difficult issues in youth mental health today such as: Is there a crisis in youth mental health? Are early intervention and prevention programs helping young people transform their lives? What are the latest trends in youth mental health in Australia? How should we talk about youth suicide? What should young people, parents, teachers and others in the community do?

The series is organised by Meeting for Minds, which strives to improve mental health in the community by building strong partnerships and harnessing the creative thinking of neuroscientists, researchers in mental health, clinicians, people with lived experience of mental illness, their families and carers.

For more information, please see www.meetingforminds.com.au
Rabia Siddique will speak to students at Hadley Hall, Methodist Ladies’ College, on Thursday 5 March.

Rabia Siddique is a Perth-born criminal and human rights lawyer, a retired British Army officer, a former terrorism and war crimes prosecutor, a humanitarian, a professional speaker, facilitator, coach and published author. In 2006, Rabia was awarded a Queen’s Commendation for her human rights work in Iraq. In 2009, she was runner up for the Australian Woman of the Year UK and in 2014, was named one of the Australian Financial Review’s Top 100 Women of Influence as well as a Telstra Business Woman of the Year finalist.

Rabia’s best selling memoir, Equal Justice, was published last year and is currently in its fourth reprint. She has been invited as a guest at several Australian writers’ festivals.

Rabia is committed to serving the community and her profession. She is a board member of Kids Are Kids! Therapy and Education Centre, and an ambassador for the 100 Women Project, Esther Foundation and Ishar Multicultural Women’s Health Centre. She is also a member of the Australian and British Red Cross; National Committee for UN Women; Law Societies of WA, England and Wales; Women Lawyers of WA; the International Institute for Humanitarian Law; and is an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Rabia has run the London Marathon for charity, undertaken human rights and community aid work in the Middle East, South America, UK and Australia, and is a mother to six-year-old triplet boys.

Dr Jonathan Redmond
Associate Professor Russell Grigg


Jonathan is a lecturer at the Australian College of Applied Psychology. He holds degrees in Communication and Cultural Studies, Clinical Psychology and Psychoanalytic Studies. He is the author of numerous articles on psychoanalytic theory.

Russell is a Lacanian psychoanalyst and academic at Deakin University. He is the author of Lacan, Language and Philosophy (SUNY, 2008) and the translator of a number of Lacan’s seminars including Seminar III The Psychoses and Seminar XVII The Other Side of Psychoanalysis.

Jonathan’s book examines psychosis. "How do we recognise it? Is it treatable? These deceptively simple questions point to complex problems that have occupied clinicians for centuries. In today’s consulting rooms – perhaps more than ever before – clinicians are faced with a broad array of difficult to diagnose patients with demanding treatment challenges. One response to the problem of diagnostic uncertainty is to revisit the rich psychiatric and psychoanalytic literature on milder psychosis, a category marginalised in today’s psychiatry."

The book draws on contemporary theories of psychosis developed by Lacanian theorists in the World Association of Psychoanalysis to examine body disturbances in milder forms of psychosis. By focusing on body phenomena in conjunction with three practical elements of treatment – the onset of psychosis, psychotic states and stabilisation – he shows that the problem of embodiment made evident by psychosis should be central to clinical assessment and treatment possibilities.

Dr Jonathan Redmond will launch his book, Ordinary Psychology and the Body: A Contemporary Lacanian Approach, and speak alongside Associate Professor Russell Grigg to the wider community on Thursday 5 March.
In the early 1960s, when it was still legal, Dr Charles Slack began experimenting with the drug Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD). American psychologist Timothy Leary and others at Harvard University obtained the drug from Sandos Laboratories in Switzerland, initially administering it under controlled conditions. “However, as history relates, things got out of hand.”

Dr Slack, who is well known in Australian recovery circles, said the results for him personally were disastrous. “I took other hallucinogens and graduated to opiates, barbiturates and large quantities of alcohol. “Working my way down the academic ladder, I finished up in Alabama writing test items for a medical school.”

“Through drug-addict doctors, I got the supplies my habit demanded. Finally, I lost that job, spent nights in the drunk-tank of the Birmingham City Jail where I amused guards with stories about once being a Harvard professor.”

After finding his way into 12-step programs, he managed to become completely alcohol and drug-free and has been since 3 March 1976. “To date, facilitating my recovery, I have attended over 5000 meetings and spent considerable time helping others to stay clean and sober.”

In October 1976, he migrated to Australia to work in Victoria’s Welfare Department. In 1980, he became a born-again Christian, received the Holy Spirit and found great comfort and release from compulsion.

For 38 years, Dr Slack has devoted himself to helping others and worked extensively in rehabilitation programs and groups of all kinds, including drug rehab centres and the Department of Corrective Services of WA. He has a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Arts in Psychology and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Psychology from Princeton University.

Dr Charles Slack will speak to students on Tuesday 10 March.

Christ Church Credo

A group of students, led by Matt Smith (Class of 2011) from Dalkeith Anglican Church, meets every Thursday at 12.45pm in the Centre for Ethics office (Q1). To help understand how to be a Christian in everyday life. They go through a passage of the Bible, try to understand its meaning and how it makes an impact on them. The participants are interested in evaluating the claims that Jesus makes about himself. The group’s name, Credo, comes from the Latin for ‘I believe.’
World Book Day

The English Department, in conjunction with the Centre for Ethics, has planned a day of events to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 12 March – a celebration of reading, writing, speaking and film. We are delighted to welcome world-renowned novelist Craig Silvey and AJ Betts, who will speak to students about their work and approaches to writing.

Other events planned include performances of poems and Shakespearian speeches by a number of staff members, as well as a Speaker’s Corner for students and staff to air their thoughts as if they were on the corner of Hyde Park in London. The day promises to be a great deal of fun but will also prove the power of communication and language.

Craig Silvey and AJ Betts will speak to students on Thursday 12 March.

About the Boys

The nature of boys and how to motivate and develop their character is something Christ Church Headmaster Garth Wynne has been involved in for more than 30 years. In this talk, Garth will reflect on that experience and share his insights on how to help those around boys help them to become young men of substance and character. Being a father of daughters as well, Garth brings particular and unique experience to this conversation.

Garth will suggest practice for parents and carers, as well as approaches for families, schools and the community as we seek to grow men of integrity.

In addition to his role as Headmaster at Christ Church, Garth is currently a Director of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA), having previously been Chair of its West Australian branch. He also represents AHISA as a board member and is Chair of the Australian Boarding Schools Association.

Garth is the Regional Vice-President (Australia/New Zealand) and one of four Australian Trustees of the International Boys’ Schools Coalition; a foundation board member of the Western Australian Anglican Schools Association; and beyond the education sector, a board member of AnglicareWA.

Garth Wynne will speak to the community on Wednesday 18 March.

We are always delighted to welcome back speakers whose talks have been so interesting and helpful. For more information on any of our speakers please contact Teresa Scott at tscott@ccgs.wa.edu.au
Please contact Teresa Scott on 9442 1705 beforehand, in case there is a change to the program. A map of Christ Church Grammar School is available on our website www.ccgs.wa.edu.au/about-us/our-location/campus-map

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<td>Every Thursday</td>
<td>Christ Church Credo</td>
<td>Matt Smith</td>
<td>12.45pm</td>
<td>Q1</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3 February</td>
<td>Embracing Fatherhood</td>
<td>Facilitator: Frank Sheehan</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>RSVP: <a href="mailto:fsheehan@ccgs.wa.edu.au">fsheehan@ccgs.wa.edu.au</a>, or click here</td>
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<td>Monday 16 February</td>
<td>A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Chemo</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17 February</td>
<td>Hope and help for young people experiencing early signs of mental illness</td>
<td>Professor Patrick McGorry, Australian of the Year 2010 (presented by Meeting for Minds)</td>
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<td>RSVP: <a href="http://www.trybooking.com/GPKD">http://www.trybooking.com/GPKD</a>, or click here</td>
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<td>Ethics Book Club</td>
<td>Facilitator: Frank Sheehan</td>
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<td>Thursday 5 March</td>
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<td>Thursday 5 March</td>
<td>Book launch: <em>Ordinary Psychosis and the Body</em></td>
<td>Dr Jonathan Redmond and Associate Professor Russell Grigg (presented by the Lacan Circle of Melbourne)</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
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<td>Trip of a Lifetime</td>
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