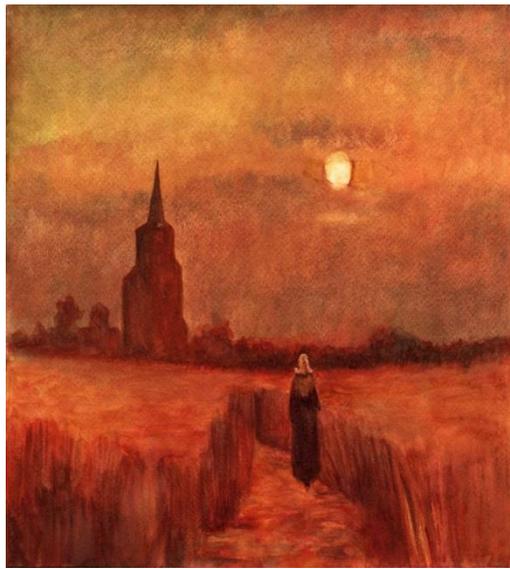


*MEET ME IN THE
MIDDLE:*

The Little Girl Hope



Van Gogh "The Old Tower in the Fields"

*"Hope's point of impact is the wound in
each person's heart that leaks out its soul's
blood"*

Jeane Bastaire Preface to "The Portal of the Mystery of Hope"

Inspired by and based on:

- Charles Peguy's: "*The Portal of the Mystery of Hope*"
First Published in 1911
William B. Birdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids Michigan 1996
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- Kierkegaard's reflection: "*Anxiety and Despair*"
"Provocations" Plough Publishing House 2002
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<https://www.plough.com/en/topics/faith/discipleship/provocations>

- Abbot Primate Gregory Polan OSB: "*The Biblical Meaning of Hope*"
American Benedictine Review March 2020
Used with permission

- *The collective need of the peoples of the Covid world.*

NOTE: It is not essential for participants to have their own copies of these works as there is sufficient information within the written material provided for each conference.

ABOUT THE RETREAT

“For years hope has suffered the fate of the middle child. On either side of her are her two more popular sisters, faith and charity, leaving hope invisible, or ignored, and frequently misunderstood.”

Doris Donnelly “The Season of Hope”.

Quoted in: “The Biblical Meaning of Hope” American Benedictine review March 2020

Hope is both a virtue and a mystery. It is desirable yet elusive. Many dismiss it, misunderstand it, shrug it off and turn their backs on it, extolling faith and charity instead. And whilst faith and charity are absolutely critical in these times of uncertainty and fear in society, and of course at any time and at all times, there is a need for hope as never before since WWII.

What the world needs now is hope

Hope transforms you, and it transforms me, and it is only as transformed hope-filled people that we will be able to bring such urgently needed hope to the world: to our own personal world of family, friends and acquaintances, but also to the world as a whole. One little drop of hope has far reaching consequences for all of humanity.

*“Hope sees what has not yet been and will be.
She loves what has not yet been and will be.”*

Charles Peguy

But what is hope? Do any of us really understand it?

This retreat is a reflection on what is possible when all seems dark, confusing, frightening, impossible. There are six conferences altogether with two being uploaded each week. Thus you may want to complete the retreat in three weeks or alternately you may want to take six weeks or even six months. The timing is up to you.

We will be asking the questions:

- What is the Biblical meaning of hope?
- How does hope become possible amid the improbable and unforeseeable?
- Is despair the opposite of hope? (Or is hopelessness hope's opposite?)
- What are the dynamics of despair?
- How do we make the journey from hopelessness to hope? How can hopelessness be transformed into hope?

Anyone of any denomination and state in life is invited to make this retreat.

The retreat is for you:

- If you simply want to explore the mystery of hope.
- If you feel despairing about the future: your own and that of the planet.
- If you are feeling hopeless.
- If you want to care but are unable to right now.
- If you want to find a way to hope
- If your desire is to give hope to the hopeless and despairing
- If you do feel hopeful.

What you will need:

- A Bible
- A journal
- Coloured pencils or paints for drawings.
- If possible a special prayer space in your home or elsewhere for you to enter into the retreat.

OVERVIEW OF THE RETREAT

➤ Your Commitment

You will need to be able to commit yourself to one hour of prayer/meditation/*Lectio Divina* daily, whichever of these is your practice

➤ The Structure Of Each Conference

Each conference contains:

- A video talk by Sr Antonia
- Transcript of the talk
- Quotes from scripture and other sources
- Suggestions for prayer and *Lectio*
- Questions for you to consider
- Suggestions for journal work
- Links to download material

➤ ONE ONLINE FACE-TO-FACE MEETING WITH SR. ANTONIA

There is an opportunity for you to have one Zoom session of one hour or less with Sr Antonia during the retreat. This session can be anything you choose: a clarification of the material, a sharing of your journal, seeking spiritual guidance, or simply talking about it all.

These online meetings are optional. Appointments with Sr Antonia are limited and need to be arranged well in advance. Please email onlineretreat@jamberoabbey.org.au to book a time.

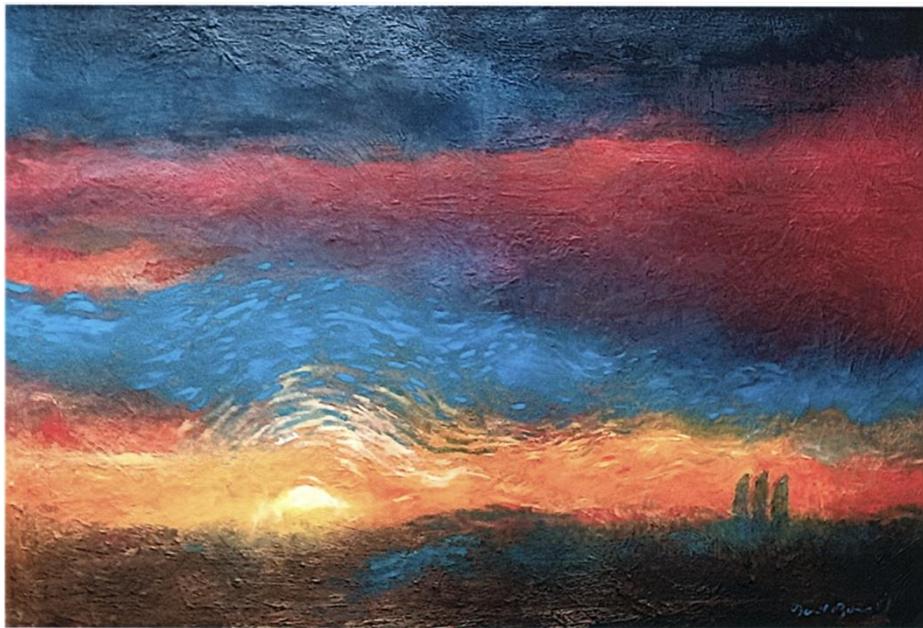
THE PROGRAMME OUTLINE

CONFERENCE ONE

THE BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF HOPE

“Hope is a virtue deeper and more profound than its everyday usage”.

Abbot Gregory Polan OSB



Daniel Bonnell "The Road to Emmaus"

CONFERENCE TWO

PEGUY'S LITTLE GIRL HOPE: WHO IS SHE?

“Hope’s point of impact is the wound in each person’s heart that leak’s away its soul’s blood.”

Jean Bastaire: Preface to “The Portal of the Mystery of Hope”



George Frederick Watts “Hope”

CONFERENCE THREE

HOPE'S BIG SISTERS

“The two older ones don't walk except for the youngest.”

Charles Peguy “The Portal of the Mystery of Hope”



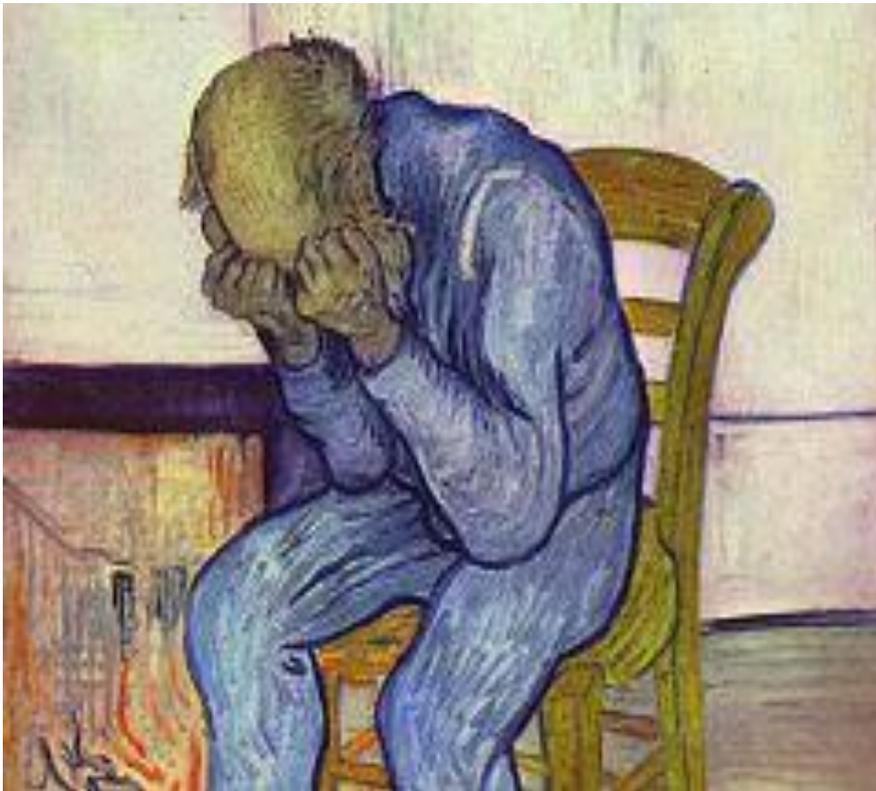
Vincent Van Gogh: “Two Sisters”

CONFERENCE FOUR

THE DYNAMICS OF DESPAIR

*“In spite of everything
I shall rise again:
I will take up my pencil
Which I have forsaken
In my great discouragement,
And I will go on with my drawing.”*

Vincent Van Gogh



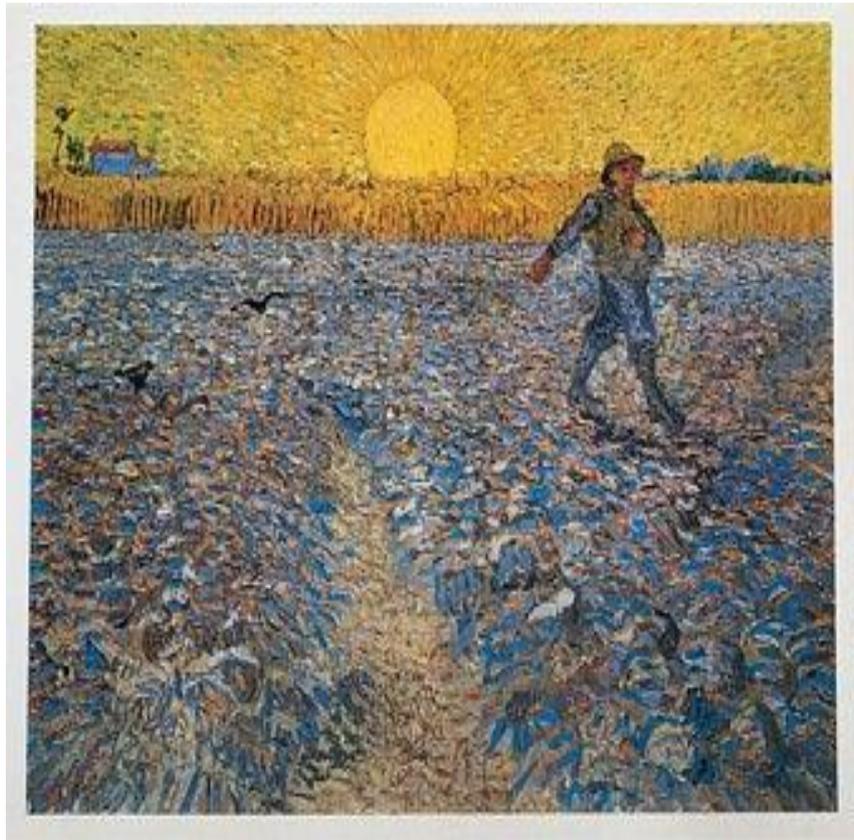
Van Gogh "At Eternity's Gate"

CONFERENCE FIVE

A FUTURE AND A HOPE

“When we approach God from the depths of our being, from the bottom of our painful experience, from point zero, from the level where hope seems to be lost, we find most radically hope’s meaning and significance.”

Abbot Gregory Polan OSB



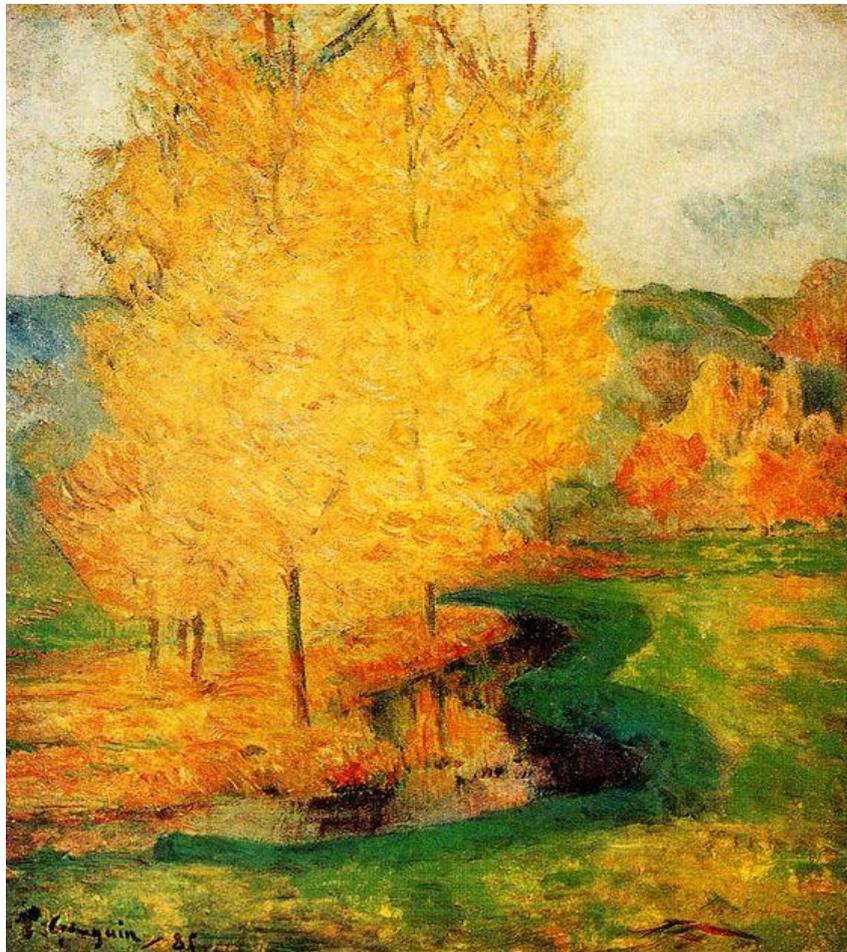
Vincent Van Gogh: "The Sower at Sunset"

CONFERENCE SIX

A TONGUE OF FLAME

*“She holds man by the heart,
at a point that only she knows,
and she does not let him go.”*

Charles Peguy “The Portal of the Mystery of Hope”



Paul Gauguin: “Autumn by the Stream”