

# *Hospitality: a versatile charism*

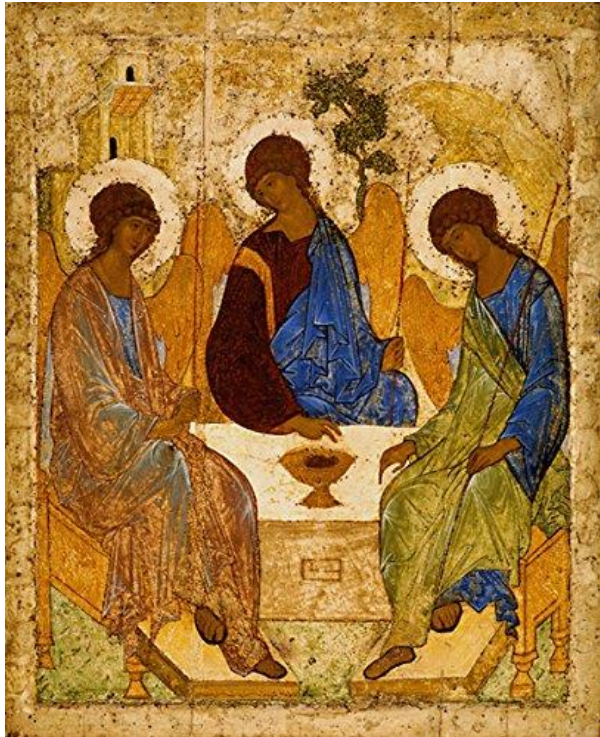
*You have been invited to meet  
The Friend*

*No one can resist a Divine  
invitation*

*That narrows down all our  
choices  
To just two:*

*We can come to God  
dressed for dancing,  
or be carried on a stretcher to  
God's ward.*

*Hafiz*



*Hospitality – a versatile charism*  
*A four-week retreat with*  
*Sr Magdalen osb*

***ABOUT SR MAGDALEN***

Sr Magdalen entered the Benedictine Abbey at Jamberoo, Australia in 1996 and made her Solemn Monastic Profession in 2001. Since entering Sr Magdalen has studied for an MA (Theol.) which she completed in 2006. She has been certified in the formation of Prayer Companions program from Mary McKillop centre in North Sydney (1999) and has guided guests in spiritual direction for the last 21 years. She is currently studying with the Global Online Benedictine Spiritual Direction Program, taught from Benet Hill Monastery in Colorado USA, as ongoing formation in the area of spiritual direction.



In 2008, she participated in the three-month Monastic Formators program in Rome and has worked with sisters in formation in various capacities since 2005. Since 1998, Sr Magdalen has led retreats and offered regular weekly meditation and centering prayer sessions for our guests. During this time of COVID-19, Sr Magdalen has offered reflections which are posted on our website, and is currently working less as the designer of our graphics in the Craft department in order to give more time to developing online retreats. As chantress her love of music and song finds expression in the praise and prayer offered in the Divine Office and she is privileged to have the care of one of our dogs, beautiful Keira, our four-year-old German Shepherd.

# ABOUT THE RETREAT

In the days since Covid 19 pandemic, when our daily lives were fraught with enforced isolation and social distancing, many of us have found that our securities have been destabilised. There is much that we can learn from and practice with the Benedictine charism of hospitality. Our society has made hospitality a huge industry which comprises a sizable part of our economy, yet hospitality is so much more than that.



There is an invitation in these uncertain times to go deeper, a call to a deeper contemplative living. Living in the unconditionally hospitable embrace of God we are more enabled to embrace ourselves with unconditional hospitality and there is a natural flow which extends to the embrace of others – as our very self. From this perspective, in this retreat we are invited creatively to explore some ways in which this versatile charism can nourish, sustain and stabilise us in a deeper security that is rooted in faith, in hope and in love.

The retreat explores the nature of hospitality which is so much a part of the teachings in the Scriptures, both Old and New. It is also an intrinsic part of the Benedictine way of prayer and living. The retreat is divided loosely into three parts which are both a reflection of and a reflection on the most important commandment of all:

“Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as your self.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

This retreat is for all those whose desire is:

- ✓ to embrace the invitation and opportunity to go deeper within, that has been offered by the current pandemic;
- ✓ to abide in the hospitable and unconditionally loving Divinity within;
- ✓ to practice abiding in the presence of the indwelling God through daily reflection and meditation;
- ✓ to explore hospitality as taught in the Scriptures, especially in the teaching of Jesus, in poetry and in the writings and teachings of the mystics;
- ✓ To open to flow of the Spirit breathing within you and extending out into each moment of your day;



All are warmly invited to make this retreat. It would be helpful if you had an established daily prayer and meditation practice and are familiar with the practice of *Lectio Divina* – although these are not essential to the retreat.

It would be helpful though not essential if you could set each Saturday aside as a retreat day.

## *THE STRUCTURE OF THE RETREAT*

The retreat will consist of the following:

- **Introductory Material**

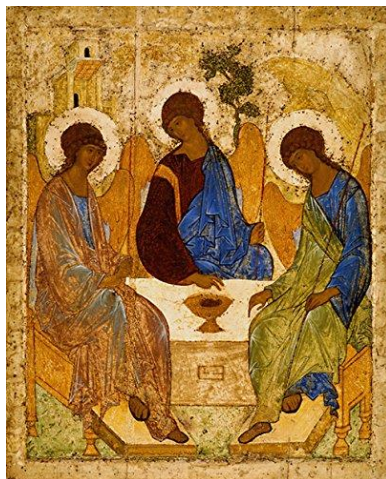
The introductory material will include the method of *lectio divina* and centering prayer, which you are invited to use as a way of reflection and prayer; suggestions for preparing for the retreat and a number of readings which will be useful throughout the retreat.

- **Conferences**

There will be four conferences, one per week. The conferences will focus on a different aspect of hospitality each week and will be the focus of the daily reflections for the coming week. The conferences will be in the form of a video talk which is available on the first page of each session material.

- **Daily Lectio and Reflections**

For the six days following the conference, material will be available offering questions and reflections. These will be available on the online retreat website (Ruzuku). You are encouraged to explore journal work or other creative expression for the week ahead.



## CONFERENCES

WEEK	SESSION
0	Introductory Material
1	<i>Conference: Hospitality: A versatile charism</i>
2	<i>Conference: The Hospitality of God</i>
3	<i>Conference: This being human is a guest house - hospitality to self.</i>
4	<i>Conference: Love one another as I have loved you - Hospitality to others</i>

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ You will need to be able to commit to either one hour of prayer/ reflection/ *Lectio Divina*/ or meditation every day, whichever of these is your practice;
- ✓ In addition, you will need to have an hour for the weekly conference each Saturday afternoon and an hour for the sharing and conversation on a Saturday morning (see the retreat structure for the details);
- ✓ A space within your home, or elsewhere, for making the retreat. Make it your own special prayer space, ensuring you can have as much space and silence as possible;
- ✓ A journal;
- ✓ Coloured pens or pencils for drawing.

