

THE PRODIGAL
MOTHER & DAUGHTER

MARY AND EVE



Christine Bingham

Prodigality is lavishness and extravagance in spending.

In the Hebrew the word 'prodigal' can mean extravagant and lavish and it can also mean undisciplined and wasteful. We will be looking at Mary's lavish and extravagant love, compassion, gift of self and trust. In these areas of her life she was prodigal. We will be looking at Eve too, who was also prodigal but in a different way. Eve was undisciplined and extravagant in her curiosity, and in her ambition to know good and evil; in her desire to be like God.

In this retreat, *The Prodigal Mother and Daughter*, we will be imagining what it might have been like had Mary and Eve met. We are aware that no such meeting is recorded in scripture but we are interested here in a process of *wondering* what might have been. What might they have said to one another? And what the consequences of such an encounter be would? Separated by the centuries, how could such a meeting even be possible?

This wondering will open up for us a way to learn more about ourselves and our own conflicting prodigal tendencies. We will be wondering about the possibility of there being a Mary and an Eve within ourselves and if so what that might mean for our spiritual life. We will be asking the question: How does the Eve within me present herself; how does Mary? Is one stronger than the other? And what must this recognition mean for my relationship with God?

FORMAT OF THE RETREAT

This is a weekend retreat encompassing two conferences on the Saturday and one on the Sunday.

The format of the retreat consists of two written conferences on the first day,

- one in the morning with reflection questions for your private hour of prayer after the Conference, and
- one in the afternoon, again with reflection questions for your private prayer time after the Conference.

On the second day, the Sunday, there will be a

- video talk by Sr Antonia in the morning with a PDF file of the talk available for download.
- The rest of the day, Sunday, is yours for personal prayer and reflection.
- Questions and suggestions for reflection will be available at the end of each conference.
- There will be a brief video talk later in the afternoon to sum up.

THE RETREAT IS FOR YOU IF YOU DESIRE:

- To find different avenues of breakthrough to self- knowledge.
- To deepen your relationship with God
- To reflect and be still
- To better identify the contradictory voices which vie for your attention in your heart and mind
- To explore unknown interior territory
- To enjoy wondering

Your Commitment

You will need to be able to commit to two hours of prayer time each day.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

-A Bible

-A journal

-Coloured pencils, pens, paints or tools for another medium you would prefer such as clay or photography.

-A prayer space either in your home, or elsewhere such as a church or chapel, a garden or park where you can be in silence to pray and meditate without interruption.

ONE FACE TO FACE MEETING WITH SR. ANTONIA

There is an opportunity for you to have one Zoom session of a half hour 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. This is optional.

To book a zoom session, please email onlineretreat@jamberoabbey.org.au.