



Catholic Spirituality Network

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY NETWORK

NEWSLETTER EDITION 22

AUTUMN 2026

CSN CONFERENCE

17-19 May 2027

EVERY GRAIN OF SAND

exploring an understanding of the Earth and the Cosmos from Franciscan perspectives.



BOOKINGS OPEN!

BOOKINGS are now open for our 2027 residential Conference at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell in Godalming, Surrey, led by Karen Eliassen. Please contact Margaret Palladino on catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com to book. A poster with more information is available on our website: www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php The Society of Retreat Conductors is generously offering grants towards the cost if needed. Book with us and then apply directly to them for a grant. <https://thesrc.org.uk/grants.php>



Karen Eliassen has been working with the Jesuit Province here in the UK for nearly two decades, first on the team at Loyola Hall, near Liverpool, and now at St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in

North Wales. Her geographical background includes longer stints in Denmark, Canada, Greenland and the UK; and her formal educational background includes Chemistry, English Language Teaching, Old Testament Theology, and Spiritual Direction. The fun stuff includes walking and on-going ponderings on the gifts of her geographical and educational backgrounds.

Karen has sent us this Conference statement: *'The phrase "heaven and earth" appears in Scripture over a dozen times as a wonderful figure of speech combining opposites to describe the entirety of God's created universe. In our own 21st century, extraordinary inroads are being made in how we understand and relate to what exactly constitutes this "heaven and earth". Over these days we will explore how we can fruitfully draw on both contemporary cutting-edge science and ancient Christian wisdoms to shed light on our own sense of that entirety of the universe – from starry skies to grains of sand.'*

Numbers are limited so please book early to secure your place. We have 20 residential places (or more if sharing) and spaces for 15 non-resident. The full cost is £330 per person (£290 each sharing) or £100 non-resident (lunches bookable). Deposit payable on booking: £100 resident/£50 non-resident.



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LADYWELL RETREAT CENTRE



Ladywell is a Franciscan retreat centre set in the heart of Surrey. It is a place of peace inspired by the spirit of St Francis and St Clare of Assisi. The Centre is the work of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood.

We had a wonderful welcome last year from Ladywell and were very aware of the atmosphere of Franciscan spirituality all around us – which we were eager to explore further, so we are grateful that the centre has agreed to host us again in 2027!

My Journey with CSN



THE LAKE AT SWANWICK

The Committee would like to invite newsletter contributions telling the story of our personal journey with CSN. *How did you first find out about the Network? Did someone bring you along? How has CSN nourished you? What are the significant moments or*

Conferences that stand out for you? And what does CSN mean to you now? It's a way to get to know each other better, and to encourage us in our mission to ask others to join.

Please send contributions to the CSN email address marked for the attention of the newsletter editor. Maximum 500 words and a small photo of your choice. If there are no volunteers, we may need to start headhunting!

MONTHLY MAILINGS

The Committee has come up with another new initiative during our awayday at the Dupuis Retreat Centre at St Paul's Convent, Selly Park, Birmingham this September. Starting in Advent, we will send a Monthly Mailing by email to all our members.

The mailing will be a resource sheet to support prayer and reflection during the month, following the seasons and themes of the Church's year. It will be compiled by differing members of the Committee so you may notice some creative variation, and we will review as we go along.



STATUE AT MANRESA RETREAT CENTRE, DUBLIN

This will be a CSN membership benefit, so we won't be uploading the monthly mailings to the website. We would like more parishes to join CSN, and having a regular mailing like this to support spiritual life and faith formation may be helpful for parish groups. We hope that individual and retreat centre members may also find it to be a helpful resource. *Look out for the first mailing prior to 1st December*



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AGM REPORT

The AGM in September each year is now a regular busy and reflective Zoom gathering. CSN is fortunate to have such a core of committed members to help the Executive negotiate the way ahead.



Face to face Conferences have been very much a part of our story. Our last Conference in the newly refurbished Ladywell Centre gave us much to build on, and we are delighted to be returning again next year for a Franciscan- themed Conference.

Our financial reports are not always easy reading, but members are realistic and encouraging in the support of new initiatives, building on the positive commitment and hard work of those in office on the Executive. I am encouraged when I remember long conversations with Rosemary Moffat, and her desire to support CSN with a financial gift for times such as these. We are constantly grateful for the offer of now regular online reflections following the Church calendar. Small contributions towards the cost of these events help us keep our finances stable and afloat, but we also would not want to turn anyone away. Do get in touch if you wish to join in them.

We look forward from Advent to providing regular monthly mailings for members to support those in parishes. We also hope to encourage parishes to join us as new members, following Deacon Keith's initiative among the Permanent Deacons through the Bishops' Conference. Challenges, I am sure, will continue, but CSN has shown itself willing to make fruitful changes. I certainly hope this coming year will see us continue to grow and strengthen the Network in all areas.

Margaret Palladino



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As CSN moves into the autumn, we reflect on a fruitful year enriched by our Conference at Ladywell, where Christine Dodd led us to the edges of our experience to find God. We were blessed with the glorious setting of the Franciscan Centre in April and the riches of encounter with friends old and new.

Despite the shift to smaller gatherings in person or online, there are signs of the quality of engagement that CSN continues to promote with networking sharply in focus. Following the recent online AGM with a review of the year and the not unusual financial challenges, we heard of the desire of membership to continue to adapt to the changing spiritual needs of the Church in life today. We remain keenly aware of the issues impacting retreat centres with inevitable closures over recent times, while other centres continue to thrive. We are mindful of the life-giving work of those centres, and of individuals and parishes who continue to support CSN through membership. We now ask all members to reflect on their capacity for some measure of outreach, particularly as we approach Mission Sunday. In sharing your story of CSN, others in your parish or through your ministry may be open to joining our network as we seek to shape our future.

We invite you to book soon for our 2027 Conference, **Every Grain of Sand**, with Karen Eliassen. Meanwhile do consider joining our online events following the seasonal Feasts across the year. We give thanks for the richness of the spiritual life and our participation in knowing Christ. We pray for the well-being of Pope Leo, that he may continue to fulfil his mission to lead us into a future full of hope.

Shirley Taylor



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EVENTS

Monday 2 November
10.00 am – 12.00 pm
Online Celebration of
SAINTS & SOULS

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
Online CSN ADVENT DAY
10.30 am – 3.30 pm



Feast of the Presentation
Monday 2 February 2027
2.00 – 3.30 pm online

CSN ANNUAL CONFERENCE
17-19 May 2027
EVERY GRAIN OF SAND



FRANCISCAN CENTRE LADYWELL

Canticle of the Creatures *(adapted)*

Be praised, my Lord, for
our Brother Sun, for
Sister Moon, for our
Brothers Wind and Air.

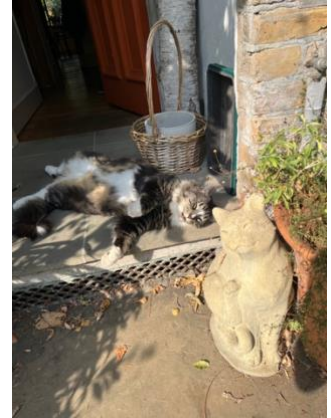
Be praised, my Lord, for
Sister Water, for Brother
Fire, for Sister Earth, our
Mother.

Be praised, my Lord, for
those who forgive for
love of you; and for
those who bear sickness
and weakness in peace
and patience – you will
grant them a crown.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death, who we must all
face.

I praise and bless you, Lord, and I give thanks to you, and
I will serve you in all humility.

St Francis of Assisi



Catholic Spirituality Network

Executive Committee: Shirley Taylor (Chair),
Eamonn Hamilton (Treasurer), Christine Dodd,
Deacon Keith Ballard, Eileen McLaughlin, Sr
Margaret Mattison, Mary Nono (CSN Vision), Fr
Chris Thomas (Conference of Religious rep).

*Warm thanks to Fr Tomy Rockey CP for being our
Passionist spirituality rep and wishing him well for the
future. We are grateful to new Committee members, Sr
Margaret Mattison and Eileen McLaughlin who were
elected at the AGM in September. Mary Nono has
completed a six-year term as Committee member and is
now coopted to help us focus on our Vision for the future.*

Membership Secretary: Margaret Palladino.

Newsletter: Jill Keegan. *Please send newsletter
contributions to the email below.*

Contact: Margaret Palladino, Membership Secretary,
Catholic Spirituality Network (CSN) Tel: 07756 864784

catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com

www.csnretreats.org.uk