

Immersing in the Good Samaritan Story



STAFF RETREAT Good Samaritan Schools, 2005

KEY AIMS

That this Retreat is an opportunity for staff

- To nurture their own spiritual journey with God
- To deepen their connection with the Good Samaritan Story including the traditions of the past and the ministries of the present
- To be empowered by the Good Samaritan Story to build a platform for their own ministry within their school communities

RETREAT OUTLINE

Wednesday, August 10

10.00 Arrival and Morning Tea (Nice coffee requested!)

10.45am – 12.15

Session 1 – Welcome and Introduction to the Retreat (Lucie / Mark)

Welcome, introductions and house keeping **Lucie**

Gathering Prayer **Lucie**

Introduction to the theme and style of the retreat – an invitation for slowing down, renewal and learning. Personal Interactions – Where have we come from? What do we leave behind for the next three days? What do we hope to give and receive from the next three days? Icebreakers **Lucie**

Celebrating our common heritage – our network of schools. A powerpoint reflection on the network of schools followed by interaction about each others schools
Facilitator answers any questions about the network of schools and affirms the contributions they each make to the Good Samaritan Story. After the break we will delve into their common heritage and reflect on its relevance to us today. **Mark**

Lunch 12.30pm – 1.30pm

Free Time to unwind – 1.30 – 2.30pm

2.30 – 4.00pm

Session 2: The Foundation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritans of the Order of St Benedict (Sr Marilyn Kelleher and Mark)

Sharing of the stories of the first five sisters and Arch-Bishop Bede Polding – gaining a sense of who they were.

Interactive sharing of stories (which will be bunched) with their words and deeds as well as reflection on the values that they stood for and lived out in their ministries. The stories will link into the theme of compassion.

This will include some small group chats, question and answer, reflection time on the stories. These will focus on relating the stories – how are they relevant to me/us today, how am I challenged?

Facilitator will finish by linking their stories to Benedictine Spirituality and the next theme of the retreat – the Benedictine value of Compassion **Mark**

4.00 – 4.30 Afternoon Tea

4.30 – 5.30pm

Session 3: Benedictine Spirituality - Compassion (Mark)

Intro to Benedict and Benedictine Spirituality and its link to the Good Samaritans (powerpoint)

Reflection on the Benedictine value of compassion – powerpoint input, leader shares some insights into how this was lived out by the first 5 and Polding and how it can be lived out in our school communities today. This will include reference to Polding as a voice for our time. How he took on the role and how this took him out and took him in.

Small group chat on the input – report back to the whole group

Reflection – personal journaling time on the theme of compassion

These chats and reflections will focus the theme into our own lives. When have I experienced times of compassion in my life? When have I been called to be compassionate? **Mark**

5.30 – 6.30 Pre Dinner drinks and free time

6.30 – 7.30pm Dinner

7.30 – 8.30

Session 4: A Sacred Reading of the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Catherine)

Sharing of the importance of the parable to the Sisters and their ministry

Link to the previous theme of compassion

Reflection on the artwork

Lectio Divina on the parable **Catherine**

8.30 Free time, supper, drinks

Thursday, August 11

8am Breakfast

8.45am – Morning Prayer - Lucie

9am – 10.30am

Session 5: The Call to Education (Marg Walsh / Lucie)

Sharing of the story of how the Good Sams were called to an involvement in Catholic education – how did it happen? What values did they demonstrate in embarking on their education ministries?

Interactive session including questions, small group chat and possibly journaling time

Lucie

10.30 – 11.00am Morning Tea

11.30 – 12.30

Session 6: Reverencing the Journey (Lucie)

Reflection on our ministry in education

Linking the Benedictine value of listening (for the presence of God within others)

Possibly some key points on powerpoint plus personal sharing by leader

Possibly a Buddy chat and Individual reflection time (when have I experienced a sense of listening?) Buddy chat to follow a listening technique known as mutual invitation. **Lucie**

12.30– 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 3.30pm

Session 7: Benedictine Spirituality Workshops (Mark)

Prayer / Reflection Opportunities based on Benedictine spirituality

Workshop options explained by facilitator

Theme of the workshops – Slowing Down to Listen - Where am I at in my journey?

Approach:

Choose at least two of the following options – moving from one to the other when you feel you would like to move on:

- clay
- painting
- library – reading, stillness
- reflective walk in Silence
- personal prayer – scripture reflection “under a tree”

Whole group regathers around 3.15 and shares their thoughts / insights from the workshops **Mark**

3.30 - 4.30pm Afternoon Tea

4.30 – 6.00pm

Session 8: Good Samaritan Ministry Today – Cross Cultural Learning (Geraldine and Lucie)

Sharing of the story of Good Samaritan Ministries today – what, why, how

A particular emphasis on the theme of cross-cultural learning

Group activities aimed at sharing some cross cultural learnings – crossing my garden

6.00 – 6.30 Free Time and pre dinner drinks

6.30 – 7.30 Dinner

7.30 – 8.30

Session 9 – Humility (Lucie / Mark)

Reflection on the Benedictine value of humility – linked to previous session on cross cultural learning **Lucie**

Sharing of an encounter with humility in East Timor – Sr Rita and Sr Michelle **Mark**

Individual Reflection Time (when have I experienced humility in my life? When have I been challenged to live with humility?) Sharing in small groups. **Mark**

8.30 – 9.00pm

Session 10 – Liturgy (Lucie)

In convent chapel

Evening prayer (Sr Therese may lead the singing of the psalm)

9.00pm Free time, supper, drinks

Friday, August 12

8am Breakfast and pack up rooms / luggage

8.45am Morning Prayer - Tai Chi (**Catherine**)

9am – 10.30am

Session 11:

Our call to ministry Today – ministry as accompaniment (Catherine)

Revisiting the parable of the Good Samaritan – “the man in the ditch”

Reflection by Catherine on ministry as accompaniment

Linking this to the Benedictine theme of humility from last evening

Possible buddy chat and individual reflection time (when have I been the man in the ditch?)

10.30 – 11.00am Morning Tea

11.00 – 12.00

Session 12: Sending Forth (Lucie / Mark)

Small group chat re what they would like to remember most from the retreat **Lucie**

Facilitator draws out some themes that emerge **Lucie**

Individual reflection time (what do I want to remember most) **Lucie**

Affirmation Ritual – each person is given the name of another to thank for their contribution to the retreat and then each person walks up and lights a candle for their buddy which is kept as reminder of the retreat **Mark**

Final blessing **Mark**

Thanks **Lucie**

Evaluation **Lucie**

12.00 – 12.30 Free Time

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch

2.00 Departure

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