Tree of Life

Centre for Christian Belief,
Spirituality and Australian Culture

Graduate Enrichment Programme

in Christian Spirituality Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction

A Residential Programme for lay people and clergy using the St John of God Retreat House, Gloucester Crescent, Shoalwater

The Tree of Life Graduate Enrichment Weekends Programme

Purpose

The Graduate Enrichment Program is envisioned as a **continuation of the Tree of Life journey** — a way for graduates to stay connected and deepen their spiritual practice within a familiar rhythm of theological education, prayer and reflection.

It invites ongoing growth in contemplative depth and community life, offering renewed formation and belonging for alumni while strengthening the vitality and continuity of the wider Tree of Life community.

Program Vision

Many Tree of Life graduates express a desire to stay connected with the contemplative rhythm, prayerful community, and spiritual dialogue that shaped their formation.

The Graduate Enrichment Program invites them to return — not as students, but as **fellow pilgrims** — engaging in presentations, shared reflection, discernment, and prayer within the familiar rhythm of the weekends.

Group and Format:
Concurrent with 2027 Tree of Life Spiritual Formation Weekends

The program would run alongside the regular Tree of Life weekends, with a **small group of 6–12 graduates** participating in shared presentations, group sharing, prayer, and Eucharist. This scale allows for intimacy, depth, and continuity.

Each graduate would have the opportunity to share personally and specifically for group reflection **once per year** — offering a spiritual issue or question of significance to them.

With twelve participants, three would present at each of the four weekends of February, May, August and November, at the St John of God Retreat Centre.

Benefits

- Sustains the Tree of Life alumni community and strengthens long-term engagement.
- Provides a reflective, supervised setting for ongoing spiritual formation.
- Adds vibrancy and viability to Tree of Life weekends through graduate participation.
- Builds bridges between current trainees and experienced graduates, fostering intergenerational wisdom and shared prayer.

Participation:

The Programme operates under the auspices of the Anglican Church, but lay or clergy persons from any Christian tradition may apply to participate in the Programme. Further enquiries may be directed to the Programme Director:

The Revd Judy Van Rossum
E-mail: judithaclay1@bigpond.com

Programme Staff:

Director:	Judy Van Rossum	judithaclay1@bigpond.com
Graduate Facilitator:	Steve Runciman	srunciman@iinet.net.au

Tree of Life Weekends Programme

Dates and Presentation Topics for 2027

12-14 February	"Exploring Spiritual Direction in a Contemporary Context" with the Tree of Life Team
21-23 May	"Benedictine Spirituality" with Sister Hilda Scott (Formerly Abbess of Jamberoo Abbey NSW)
27-29 August	"The Spirituality of Thomas Merton" with The Revd Sylvia Grevel
19-21 November	"Sacred Fire" Exploring Discipleship with The Revd Stephen Gibbs

Fees:

$2400 (for the year)
$600 (per weekend)

Accommodation and meals with Tuition.

- A non-refundable deposit of $50 is required with Registration.
- A payment plan may be negotiated with the Programme Director.
- Fees are paid before the commencement of each weekend.
- Bookings for the Weekend at St John of God Retreat Centre, Shoalwater, are made 30 days before the weekend. Once a booking is made the payment must be paid and is non-refundable.

Payment by EFT to:

The Perth Diocesan Trustees
BSB 706-001
A/C 3000 3481
Ref: "ToL Weekends"

Email judithaclay1@bigpond.com to advise the Director when payment has been made.

For all inquiries or to register for any of the programs, contact
The Revd Judy Van Rossum, Director of the Tree of Life
0409 116 622 | judithaclay1@bigpond.com