



11 May 2022

### Greetings from the Arrupe® Coordinator



Dr Micheál Loughnane  
Arrupe® Coordinator

Greetings everyone,

As we move ever closer to winter, I thought we might reflect on the value of poetry and the intimate connection between spirituality and poetry. This is the focus of our editorial as well as the podcast offerings for this month. We have also introduced a ‘Poem of the Month’ which will feature in all future newsletters. We take this opportunity to invite you to our public presentations; the next will take place on **Saturday, June 11, 2022, 9.00am – 11.00am**. The Presenter is the Rev Dr Michael Smith SJ, and the topic is: **Spiritual Direction: An Ignatian Mysticism of Service**. We also alert you to many other offerings that are available to you, and we draw particular attention to the [Ignatian Murmuration Conference](#) which is about to begin tomorrow – so if you wish to join you will need to register tonight!

**We hope you will find something that will interest you, engage you, and nourish you spiritually in this edition.**

### Editorial: Poetry and Ignatian Spirituality

*“There’ll always be religion around while there is poetry...”*  
(Les Murry, [Poetry and Religion](#))



Australian Poet  
Les Murray

I like Robert Frost’s observation that “a poem begins as a lump in the throat, a sense of wrong, a homesickness, a lovesickness”. That too, may be the experience of the reader of poetry - perhaps it is also a good description of the experience of prayer. No wonder Fr Pedro Arrupe believed that “it is the artist who holds the key to the mystery”. This is surely true of the poet. Like prayer, a great poet’s words can come to us in the form of a blessing, like “rapture breaking through on the mind” (Stanley Kunitz). It is for this reason poetry and spirituality are in deep sympathy with each other. Poetry and prayer can be challenging in that they both offer us what Harold Bloom terms “difficult pleasures”, yet, when embraced generously, each persuades us to learn good discernment by abandoning pleasures that are too easy. Henry Newman went as far as to say that “with Christians, a poetical view of things is a duty.” And two of the greatest 20th century theologians – Karl Barth and Karl Rahner – also emphasised the connection between faith and poetry. Barth believed that the poet “witnesses to humankind and, by this witness, gives witness to God”; and Rahner argued that poetry is requisite for theology; that is, that poetry is a necessary condition for receiving and articulating the truths of faith. He explains:

*And so it is true that the capacity and practice of perceiving the poetic word is a presupposition of hearing the word of God ... the poetic word and the poetic ear are so much part of man [sic] that if this essential power were really lost to the heart, man could no longer hear the word of God in the word of man. In its inmost essence, the poetic is a prerequisite for Christianity.*

Poetry is about perceiving something of reality as it truly is; and this is also what authentic spirituality is about – the illumination of ordinary possibilities, and such an experience is surely a creative, even explosive, force in the universe. Poetry can liberate listeners and readers from conventional ways of seeing, so that we are freed up to grasp the patterns by which the world is transfigured. Through such experiences we are led to encounters with the divine.



Amanda Gorman

We felt the compelling power of poetry when we witnessed Amanda Gorman's commanding delivery of her poem, ['The Hill we Climb'](#) at President Biden's inauguration. The sad fact, however, is that poetry has now faded into the background of contemporary consciousness, as it is no longer read by a large audience; in the main, it is only read by a small percentage of devoted disciples – even within religious belief systems. Back in 1991 the American poet and critic Dana Gioia created waves when he wrote an article for the Atlantic Monthly entitled, "Can Poetry Matter?" He argued that the intellectual and spiritual influence of poetry has eroded to such an extent that there is little coverage of poetry or poets in the general press. This has led to a situation where there is superabundance of poetry within a small

circle, and an impoverishment outside it. Poetry, he argued, no longer enjoys a common readership leaving no bridge to the general culture – a culture which, in the words of the literary critic Terry Eagleton, celebrates "the depthless, commodified, instantly legible world ... with its unscrupulous way with signs, computerised communication and glossy packaging of 'experience'." Most of us now inhabit a lifeworld where "we are distracted from distraction by distraction/Filled with fancies and empty of meaning ..." (T. S. Eliot, ['Burnt Norton'](#)).

In such a context Eliot's lament-like rhetorical questions in 'The Rock' seem more plaintive than ever:

*Where is the life we have lost in living?  
Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge?  
Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?  
([Choruses From The Rock, Chorus I](#))*

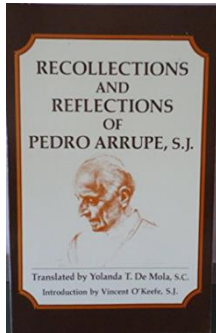
There is a sense in which, each time we seriously engage with a poem, we recover something vital in ourselves, which is another reason why and how poetry intersects so intimately with spirituality; it is a language that most truly reflects the life of the soul; through poetry we can capture those feelings which we can hardly even feel, because we have no words for them. Poetry doesn't give us mere information; it forms us by drawing us back to a vitally metaphorical way of thinking and being.

I could say so much more about poetry. Many poems I treasure so much I carry them in my heart (literally 'by' heart), and each is a kind of talisman. When I recite them to myself, I feel understood, protected, and consoled – I am reminded of who I really am. I know my life would be so much the poorer if I didn't have those poems – not only that, but my faith would not be as real or as rich. If you are a person who is not engaged with poetry, or if you have had bad experiences with it at school, (which is all too common), then the best advice I could give would be simply to engage with poetry on your own terms. Love for poetry, (like any art), is 'caught' rather than 'taught'. But reading or hearing, people who have a deep love for poetry can be infectious, (see below for a section of excellent podcasts of poets speaking about their life and work). A good poem and a good interpreter of that poem can help you to reimagine your own life and illuminate possibilities for renewal and regeneration within your own being. See, for example, this beautiful poem ['The Bright Field'](#) by R.S. Thomas and then read [Nathan Koblantz' insightful interpretation](#), or this reflection on [Gerard Manley Hopkins' identity as Jesuit priest and poet](#). The other option is to get your hands on some good generalist poetry anthologies, (for example, [Poetry Please](#), [Good Poems](#), or [A Book of Luminous Things](#)), and just start reading – and don't stop until you find a poem that speaks to your heart – and then you will fall in love! As T.S. Eliot observed, we "learn what poetry is – if we ever learn – from reading it".



## Pedro Arrupe SJ: His writings, his inspiration

Since Pedro Arrupe SJ is the inspiration for our Arrupe Program, we will present a segment from his writings each month.



As I write this, the war in Ukraine has now been raging for 75 days. Every night we witness the unimaginable suffering of innocent women and children as well as the total devastation of total war. The great danger for all of us at this point is that we all become desensitised to the horror and the terror the people of Ukraine are experiencing – and that we are witnessing. The temptation is to turn away and stop feeling and stop the empathy, – to surrender to ‘compassion fatigue’. In the past month I have found the writings of Pedro Arrupe to be an enormous support in helping me to ‘stay with’ my own sense of empathy and compassion. This [excerpt from \*Recollections and Reflections of Pedro Arrupe\*](#) is not an easy read, but I believe it is timely and relevant at this moment in time.

## What is the Arrupe® Program?

Please refer to our [website](#) for a full overview and description of the Arrupe Program.

You will find there a program overview, the formation process, selection criteria and application process. If you wish to contact us, please email Elisa Cugliari at [ea@jcs.edu.au](mailto:ea@jcs.edu.au).

## Open invitation to Online Presentations

All Givers of the Spiritual Exercises as well as those who have a particular interest and engagement with Ignatian spirituality are welcome to join us for the following workshops. If you wish to participate in any of these workshops, please contact Elisa Cugliari at [ea@jcs.edu.au](mailto:ea@jcs.edu.au) to register your interest.

### Online Presentations



**Saturday, June 11, 2022  
9.00am – 11.00am (AEST)**

**Spiritual Direction: An Ignatian Mysticism of Service  
(Presenter: Rev Dr Michael Smith SJ)**

In this workshop we will explore the relationship between the mystical and the political dimensions of life. Why? Because the Church's pastoral life has suffered from its benign neglect of the enormously rich Christian mystical heritage. We will explore the relationship between the human longing for holiness, for active participation in the sacred, for union with God and the human longing for compassionate justice, for the alleviation of poverty, suffering, and oppression, for a more equitable sharing of resources and opportunities. We will ask the question: How do spiritual directors accompany directees as they incarnate their consolation?



**Saturday August 6, 2022**  
**2.00pm – 4.00pm (AEST)**

**Ignatius as Giver: “Spiritual Exercises in the Eternal City: Ignatius and Rome”.**  
**(Presenter: Dr Camilla Russell)**

This workshop we will explore the early fortunes of the Spiritual Exercises in Rome. It follows Ignatius of Loyola's formative period in the city and the first people to whom he gave the Spiritual Exercises, who went on to become key supporters in helping to secure the papal ratification of the Society of Jesus in 1540. The workshop uses this lens to trace a two-way influence, identifying how the Exercises touched a nerve in the religious reforming ferment and spiritual currents of mid-sixteenth century Rome (both heterodox and sanctioned), and how the city in turn shaped Ignatius and his companions in their many works around the city, providing a window onto the stratified nature of the Spiritual Exercises, their contexts, and legacy.



**Saturday October 8, 2022**  
**2.00pm – 4.00pm (AEST)**

**“The transformative power of the dialogical processes in Imaginative Contemplation on God-image and self-image.”**  
**(Presenter: Dr Annemarie Paulin-Campbell)**

This session will look at the power of imaginative contemplation to facilitate significant shifts in image of God and image of self and at the spiritual and psychological mechanisms underpinning those shifts. It will examine dialogical-self theory which allows us to better understand how imaginative contemplation opens the space for God's grace to work especially powerfully in the Spiritual Exercises. We will look at examples from research done with women in the South African context.

## Podcasts Worth Hearing

### Podcasts of the Month: Listening to Poets



I could recommend many podcasts and other resources, but the three I have chosen are deeply engaging and closely related to the Ignatian view of the human person – the *cura personalis* way of seeing and relating to each person. Ultimately, while there may be much pain in the experiences recounted and represented, great poetry is ultimately consoling. And that's how I would describe each of these podcasts, each is a consolation – a healing balm.

### Pádraig Ó Tuama: The pain and poetry of reconciliation



What does peace require? And how can a fractured society begin to weave a new story? Meredith Lake is joined by Irish poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama to think through these questions. From the divisions brought on by Brexit, to the power of poetry and language in reconciliation, Pádraig shares his reflections and experiences.



<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/soul-search/padraig-o-tuama-the-pain-and-poetry-of-reconciliation/12046852>

### Mary Oliver: 'I got saved by the beauty of the world'



The late poet Mary Oliver is among the most beloved contemporary poets. She won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award among her many honours — and published numerous collections of poetry. Krista Tippett met with her in 2015 for this rare, intimate conversation.



<https://onbeing.org/programs/mary-oliver-i-got-saved-by-the-beauty-of-the-world/>

### Gregory Orr Shaping Grief with Language



“Gregory Orr is a poet and a teacher on how language can become a tool for carrying what feels unbearable. When he was 12, on a first hunting trip with his father he accidentally shot and killed his younger brother. Yet he has wrested a lifetime of gentle, healing, life-giving words from one of the most terrible traumas imaginable.”

This is really a beautiful encounter. Gregory Orr is a real healer. He has managed to craft beauty out of extreme grief and trauma.



<https://onbeing.org/programs/gregory-orr-shaping-grief-with-language/>

### The Poetry Unbound

If you are interested in Poetry, why not sample [Poetry Unbound](#) with Pádraig Ó Tuama. He will engage you in a close reading of a single poem. Pádraig is a sure guide — he is “unhurried, contemplative and energising”. There are new 15-minute episodes every Monday and Friday.



<https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=bbb8b537-9e3e-4f5b-96df-ddd8f31dd8cf>

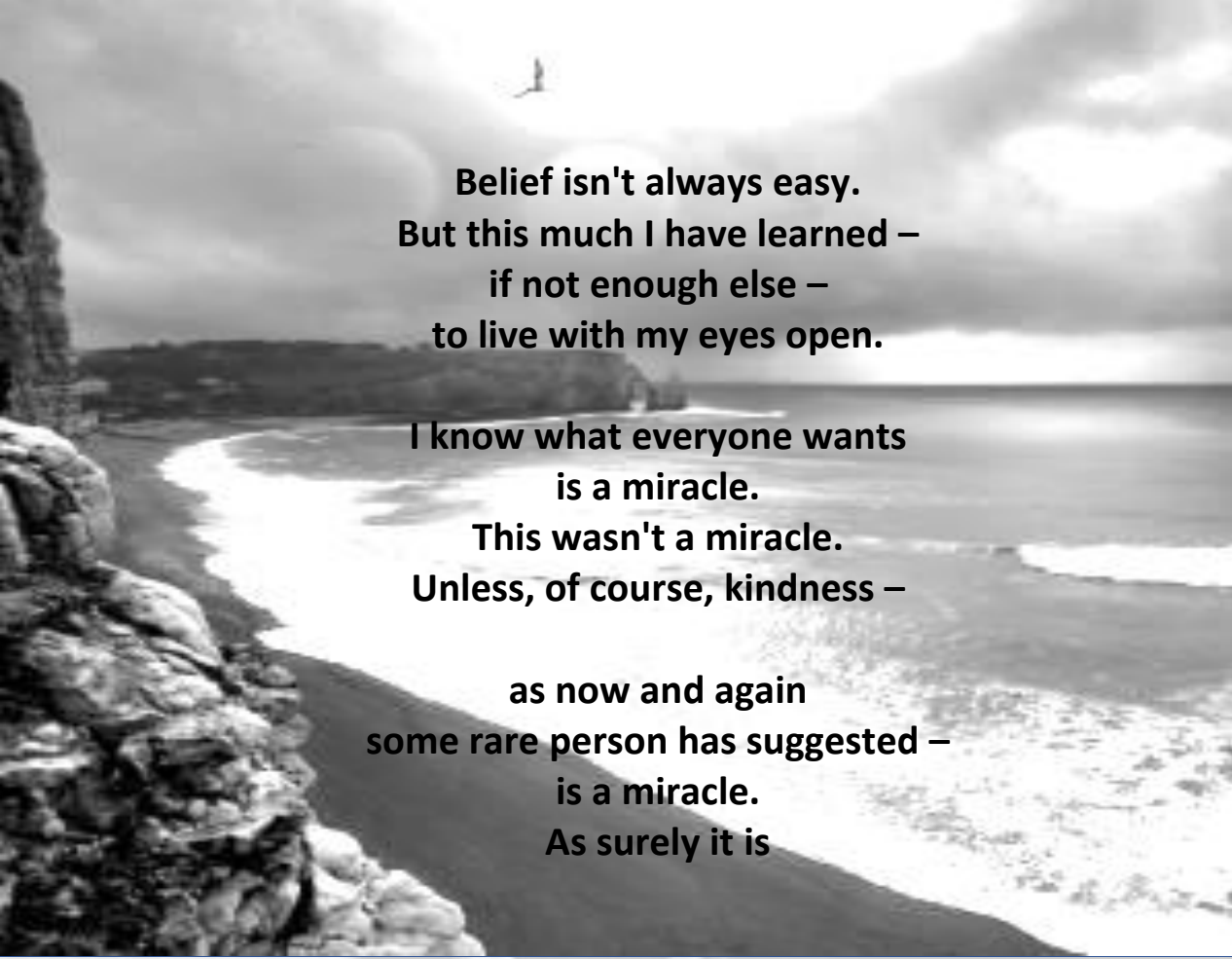


## *In the Storm* by Mary Oliver



Each month I will suggest a poem for contemplation. This month I have chosen [\*In the Storm\*](#) by [Mary Oliver](#). What I love about this poem is its simplicity. At one level it is just a description of a striking scene from nature, at another, it is powerful meditation on the potential for kindness and mercy that seems to be built into the very nature of creation itself. Oliver invites us, through her remarkable observational powers, to contemplate with her, this remarkable scene, with the implicit invitation to apply this to our own lives, our own reality, right now – ‘to live

with our eyes open’. Let us reflect again, for example, on ‘the storm’ that is raging in Ukraine, and of the enormous number of people who are offering shelter to the victims of that storm. Are we able to credit this as a kind of miracle? The last three stanzas invite us to meditate on this question:



**Belief isn't always easy.  
But this much I have learned –  
if not enough else –  
to live with my eyes open.**

**I know what everyone wants  
is a miracle.  
This wasn't a miracle.  
Unless, of course, kindness –**

**as now and again  
some rare person has suggested –  
is a miracle.  
As surely it is**

There are many more excellent podcasts I could recommend, but I will space them out over future editions of our newsletter. Next month we will focus on the great Ignatian theme of [pilgrimage](#).

## More Offerings that may be of interest


Events	
	<p><b>IM22 International Conference online:</b></p> <p><b>Conference May 12 – 14, 2022</b>            Read <a href="#">more</a>   Register <a href="#">here</a></p>
	<p><b>A JCAP Flagship Project</b>  <b>Integrating Laudato Si' with Provincial and Regional Action</b></p> <p>In response to the urgent call of poverty and reconciliation with creation in Asia Pacific, and guided by the Universal Apostolic Preferences and the <u>JCAP Apostolic Plan for 2021 to 2025</u>, JCAP takes concrete steps through a flagship initiative dubbed "Caring for Communities and Creation".</p> <p>Read <a href="#">more</a></p> 
Ignatian Spirituality Retreats	
	<p><b>Ignatian Spirituality Retreats</b>  <b>What Is Attracting You?</b>            not in the wind...            not in the earthquake...            not in the fire...            Finally, there was a gentle breeze and when Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his coat. He went out and stood at the entrance to the cave.            I Kings 19:11-13            What excites and attracts you, how do you find yourself drawn at the start of this year? We invite you to consider these pathways for nourishing your spiritual life.</p> <p>View Full Range of Retreats            T: 1300 392 636   E: info@jisa.org</p> 
	<p><b>Spiritual Exercises and prayers for you at home</b>  <b>New to Ignatian Spirituality?</b></p> <p>Are you at a crossroads, searching for meaning, looking for healing or needing help to make decision?  <a href="#">Try a Spiritual Exercise</a></p>
Companions Workshops	
	<p><b>Saturday 25 June 2022, 10.30am to 12.30pm (AEST)</b></p> <p><a href="#">Why God representations matter: the intersection between psychology and spiritual direction.</a></p> <p><b>Facilitators: Murray Adams and Michael Smith SJ</b></p> 

	<p>Saturday 27 August 2022, 9.00am to 11.00am &amp; 2.00pm to 4.00pm (AEST) Saturday 28 August 2022, 9.00am to 11.00am (AEST)</p> <p><a href="#">Healing False God Representations.</a></p> <p>Facilitators: Anne Pate, Annemarie Paulin-Campbell and Michael Smith SJ</p>
	<p>Saturday 29 October 2022, 10.30am to 12.30pm AEDT)</p> <p><a href="#">Imaginative contemplation and colloquy: How the Exercises facilitate shifts in images of God and self.</a></p> <p>Facilitators: Anne Taylor RSC and Michael Smith SJ</p>
<h2>JISA Retreats</h2>	
	<p>JISA Retreat Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">JISA Sevenhill</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JISA Faber</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JISA Campion</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Peter Canisius House</a></li> </ul>

## Jesuit Mission Appeal


### Ukraine Appeal

**Jesuit Mission invites you to the Gratitude Webinar: Ukraine Emergency Response**  
**Thursday, 19 May at 6pm | Duration: 30 mins | Register [here](#)**



“The heartbreaking scream for help from our Ukrainian brothers pushes us as a community of believers not just to serious reflection but to cry with them and work for them.” - Pope Francis


Donations welcomed via Jesuit Mission’s Ukraine Emergency Appeal [here](#)




## Useful Links and Resources

### Pope Francis’ Prayer Intentions


**Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intentions for May 2022**



This month, Pope Francis’ prayer intention urges everyone to join him to pray for young Catholics to be faith-filled and to be courageous in their response to God’s call. "We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary’s life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service."

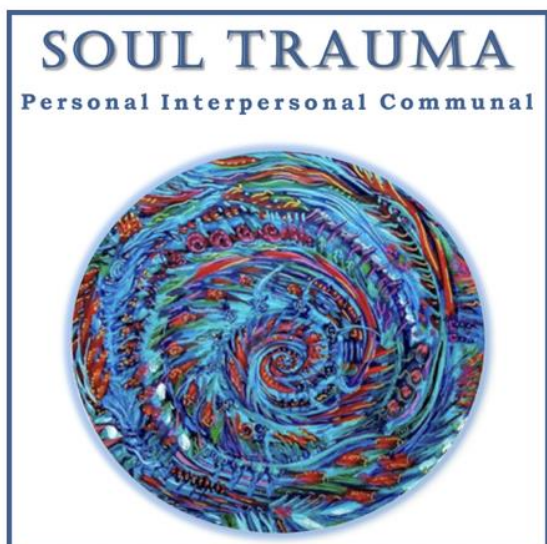


Message from Pope Francis [here](#)





## More Retreats and Webinars



**Pneuma Institute | In Person and Online**  
**Soul Trauma: Personal, Interpersonal, Communal – A Spiritual Formation Event**

**Friday, 3 June 2022, 7.00pm-9.00pm ET**  
**Saturday, 4 June 2022 8.30am-4.00pm ET**

Program thought and action leaders offer important, fresh perspectives on care for persons who have experienced trauma.

(This program is intended for social workers, marriage and family therapists, counselors and pastoral counselors, coaches, registered nurses, certified registered nurse practitioners, occupational therapists, clergy, chaplains, and spiritual directors.) [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



**“Without experience, the Exercises are just a piece of paper ...” (Fr Arturo Sosa SJ)**

In this dialogue, Fr General Arturo Sosa was in conversation with six young Jesuits – one from each of the six Jesuit Conferences – reflecting on how the Universal Apostolic Preferences are being integrated into formation. Fr General’s reflections on the Exercises and humility are particularly insightful and enlightening.

Read [more](#)



***Perhaps being ‘spiritual but not religious’ isn’t such a bad thing***

**By Fr Daniel P. Horan OFM**

Do you get concerned when people describe themselves as ‘spiritual but not religious’? If you do, this article might be for you!

Read [more](#)

Pope Francis poses for a selfie during a pre-synod gathering of youth delegates at the Pontifical International Maria Mater Ecclesiae College in Rome March 19, 2018. The meeting was in preparation for the Synod of Bishops on young people in October 2018. (CNS/Vatican Media)



**Beyond JCAP**

**Candle for peace**

This Easter Season, Fr General Arturo Sosa SJ calls us to join our voices for peace in a prayer for justice and truth to shine in our world.

Watch [here](#)

## You Have Called Me by My Name

By: Joseph Tetlow, SJ

In case you missed it or would like to view it again, below is the recording of “The Human Experience of Our Redeemer: An Ignatian Method for Encountering Jesus in Scripture and Prayer” with Fr. Joseph Tetlow, SJ.

You can view the recording of the Webinar with Father Joe Tetlow by clicking on the Webinar with Father Joe Tetlow below:



**The Human Experience of Our Redeemer:**  
An Ignatian Method for Encountering Jesus in Scripture and Prayer

**Webinar with Father Joe Tetlow, SJ**

To obtain your copy please order through [store.loyolapress.com](http://store.loyolapress.com) or call 800-621-1008. No code needed. Offers good for a limited time. Shipping and handling are additional. Cannot be combined with other offers. Always Discerning is also available



### **Mystical Heart: Spiritual Direction in the Light of Contemplation: A Formation Offering by Dr Kerrie Hide**

This year, Mystical Heart will be offered face to face at the beautiful Santa Casa Retreat Centre, Queenscliff, Victoria and online. Please see below for further information about both options.

Please register your place by making a non-refundable \$50.00 deposit via the online form at: [Contemplatio.com.au/mystical-heart/](http://Contemplatio.com.au/mystical-heart/)

## **Arrupe Program Website**

Please visit our Arrupe Program website. Feel free to contact us for further details or to offer feedback to Elisa Cugliari at [ea@jcs.edu.au](mailto:ea@jcs.edu.au).

“Nowadays the world does not need words, but lives which cannot be explained except through faith and love for Christ poor.”

— Pedro Arrupe

Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia acknowledge that we walk upon the traditional lands of First Nations peoples. We pay our respects to them and recognise the continuing gift of their cultures to the life and spirit of Australia.