

Contemplative Christianity

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Rev'd Dr Sarah Bachelard with
 pre-recorded presentations
 from Laurence Freeman OSB



7-8 September 2018

"When John Main formed the first small monastic community practising and teaching Christian meditation, he marveled at the response of the lay people who came seeking authentic and personal knowledge of God. He saw in this response the seeds of a radical renewal of the church and Christian life."

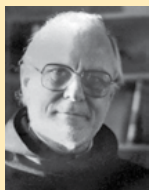
Rev'd Dr Sarah Bachelard

"I sensed that we were witnessing the birth of a contemplative Christianity."

John Main OSB

The World Community for Christian Meditation

The Community is a global, ecumenical and inclusive contemplative community a kind of 'monastery without walls', a family of national communities and emerging communities in over a 120 countries. As a global community it took form in 1991 but



it continues the 30 year long work begun by the Benedictine monk **John Main**. His legacy is found in his teaching Christian meditation as part of the great work of our time of restoring the contemplative dimension of Christian faith in the life of the church.

The spiritual foundation is the local meditation group, which meets weekly in homes, parishes, offices, hospitals, prisons,

schools, universities and retirement villages. There are groups for the homeless and for those in recovery from addiction. Other initiatives have led to teaching meditation to children and interfaith dialogue.

On its 20th anniversary the community opened its *Meditatio* program, revised its governance structure and undertook a development of its outreach in crucial areas of social concern, technology, leadership, healthcare, education and the training of young meditators for the next generation of leadership.

In 2017 a decision was made by the World Community to purchase Bonnevaux, in France, as a contemplative and meditation retreat centre.



International website
www.wccm.org

Australian website
www.christianmeditationaustralia.org

REGISTRATION

Full name

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

I WILL ATTEND: (please tick)

- All sessions \$70
- OR Friday only \$25
- OR Saturday only \$50

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

MY METHOD OF PAYMENT

There are three ways you can pay.

1

EFT Direct Debit (Preferred option)
 National Australia Bank
 A/C name: Australian Christian Meditation Community
 BSB 083-166, A/C No. 867884064
 Please use your name as the reference and email
acmbooking@gmail.com to confirm your payment.
 Please still return this form to the address on right.

2

Credit card (Please print clearly)
 Amount \$ VISA Mastercard
 Card #
 Expiry date /
 Signature

3

Cheque or money order (made payable to 'ACMC')

Please return your completed Registration Form to:
 ACMC, PO Box 54, Oaklands Park, SA 5046



Sarah Bachelard

...is a theologian, retreat leader and priest in Anglican Orders, based in Canberra. She is the founding director of Benedictus Contemplative Church and an honorary research fellow at the Australian Catholic University. Sarah is a member of the WCCM and was a keynote speaker at the John

Main Seminar in Montreal in 2007 and at the seminar on Meditation and Monastic Life at San Anselmo Benedictine University in Rome in 2015. Last year, she was a part of the WCCM group that attended a gathering of younger contemplatives in Snowmass, Colorado together with Laurence Freeman, Thomas Keating, Richard Rohr and Tilden Edwards. In May 2017, she was a guest of the WCCM UK community and gave a number of retreats and talks, including at *Silence in the City*, at Westminster Cathedral in London. Sarah is the author of *Experiencing God in a Time of Crisis* and *Resurrection and Moral Imagination*.



Laurence Freeman OSB

...is a Benedictine monk of the Congregation of Monte Oliveto who teaches meditation in the Christian tradition around the world. He is the spiritual guide and Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation, a contemporary contemplative community, whose outreach programme *Meditatio* brings the fruits of meditation to the wider world.

His spiritual teacher was John Main OSB with whom he studied and whom he helped in the establishment of the first Christian Meditation Centre in London.

Fr Laurence is the author of many books and articles, active in inter-religious dialogue and international peace initiatives he has worked with the Dalai Lama and leaders of other faiths. Fr Laurence encourages the teaching of Christian meditation to children and students around the world and the recovery of the contemplative wisdom in the Church and society at large.

General Information

This is a series of talks.

Friday 7 September 2018

– 7pm to 9.30pm

Saturday 8 September 2018

– 9.30am to 3.30pm

St Saviour's Anglican Church

596 Portrush Road, Glen Osmond, South Australia

- BYO lunch. Tea, coffee and water will be provided
- Book Sales available
- Limited Parking on site, in carpark around the corner and in the street
- Close to public transport – bus.
- For accommodation enquiries, email Dianne Schaefer chr.med.southaust@gmail.com or phone 0413 633 905.

Please note – Advance bookings essential. See the Registration Form for payment options. Payment in full required by Friday 24th August 2018

Send Completed Registration Form with cheque or money order to:

ACMC

PO Box 54

Oaklands Park SA 5046

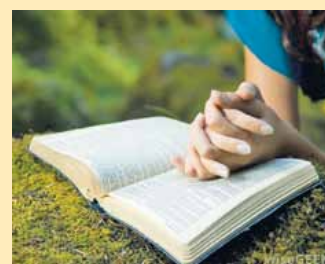
General Enquiries:

Dianne Schaefer

E: chr.med.southaust@gmail.com

M: 0413 633 905

For your comfort you are welcome to bring a cushion.



About Christian Meditation

Meditation is a universal spiritual wisdom and a practice found at the core of all the great religious traditions, leading from the mind to the heart. It is a way of simplicity, silence and stillness. It can be practised by anyone, wherever you are on life's journey. It is only necessary to be clear about the practice and then to begin – and to keep beginning.

In Christianity this tradition of contemplation, the prayer of the heart, became marginalised and often even sometimes suspect. But in recent times a major recovery of the contemplative dimension of Christian faith – and prayer – has been happening. This is transforming the different faces of the Church and revealing the way the Gospel integrates the mystical and the social. Central to this process now is the rediscovery of how to

pray in this dimension and at this depth: finding a practice of meditation in the Christian tradition. The World Community teaches a practice derived from the Gospel teaching of Jesus and the advice of early Christian monks. The Desert Fathers and Mothers teach a Christian spirituality of powerful relevance for those today who want to live their discipleship to Jesus in a radical and simple way.

John Main and the community he inspired has had a major role in this contemporary renewal of the contemplative tradition. His own introduction to meditation came to him from the universal wisdom but led him to recognise and then go on to teach it as a way of prayer rooted in the Gospels and the Christian mystical tradition.