Autumn 2024

TUESDAYS

1. Centering Prayer Meditation 17 Sept.-10 Dec.
Ellen (Rose) Gormley & Eileen White 10.30-12.00 noon
Centering Prayer comes out of a desire to renew, recover and reclaim the Christian contemplative tradition for contemporary times. It is a time for sharing one's true being with God … to just sit there and be still in God's Presence … and to let happen what happens. This semester, we will continue to practice Centering Prayer as a group. We will also reflect on the DVD Series "The Spiritual Journey" by Father Thomas Keating OSCO. Registration for this course is essential.
Voluntary contribution at each session

2. French Level 2 (Advanced Beginners) 17 Sept.-10 Dec.
Marie Helène Dolan 10.30-12.00 noon
For students who can produce simple French sentences and can ask and respond to simple French questions. In a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, these classes will enable students to communicate with more fluency to feel confident in most everyday situations.
€130 (11 weeks)

3. Italian for Beginners (or those who think they're beginners!) 17 Sept.-10 Dec.
Heather Abrahamson 10.00-11.00 noon
Do you know your espresso from your cappuccino? Your vino rosso from your vino bianco? Your Italian language journey begins here. Andiamo!
€100 (10 weeks)

4. Intermediate Plus Italian 17 Sept.-10 Dec.
Heather Abrahamson 11.15-12.15 noon
How's your Italian? Così così? This is a light-hearted group where we dip into texts, chat about ourselves, ask one another questions and even revisit a bit of grammar! Un pò di questo un pò di quello. If you think you know less than you do, or want to know more than you do, this may be the answer for you.
€100 (10 weeks)

5. Art and Its History 17 Sept.-22 Oct.
John O'Riordan 10.30-12.00 noon
This course will begin in Greece with classical ('the best') works of art and its later evolution in imperial Rome. Early Christianity was ambivalent about art but, with time, came to respect its value, seeing how it could make an approach to God and his message available to us. In Christian art, we may see humankind's unfolding relationship with the Divine, culminating in the sublime images of Raphael, Michelangelo, and many others. There ensued a more intellectual treatment of Christian art in the eccentricities of

Mannerism, which was followed by the emotional intensities of the impassioned and imperial Baroque style. Gallery visit included.

€70 (6 weeks)

6. Migrants and Refugees: the Politics of Fear vs. the Politics of Hope 17 Sept.-22 Oct.
Jane Mellet, Lara Kelly, Marie Williams, Jude Lal Fernando, Steph Hanlon
10.30-12.00 noon

Does our talk about migrants and refugees reflect actual facts on the ground or deliberately propagated misconceptions? We are told that 'we are in a crisis'. The response is to 'tighten the borders' because it is said 'Ireland is full'. If the country is full, why burn empty buildings?

Both our past and present are waves of migration. Yet, we continue to forge the 'insider' and 'outsider identities. Why and how? With their deep awareness and involvement in the lives of the marginalised communities, migrants and refugees in Ireland, the speakers will confront the politics of fear and uphold the politics of hope.

€70 (6 weeks)

7. The Word of God in History: The Old Testament Prophets of Justice and Hope
5 Nov.-10 Dec.
Anthony O'Leary CP 10.30-12.00 noon

We explore the work of people gifted by God to interpret the turbulent times of the 8th Century B.C. and discover how the events, through which they lived, stimulated new insights into the Covenantal Faith of Israel. Please bring your own Bible with you. RSV or NRSV is preferred version of the Holy Scripture for these sessions.

€70 (6 weeks)

8. Anticipating Advent: Hope in Darkness 19 Nov.-10 Dec.
Anne Thurston 10.30-12.00 noon

In these turbulent and uncertain times in our world, there are few grounds for optimism. But Advent is not about optimism - it is about HOPE. What does this mean? We will explore the meaning of 'hope in darkness' through the poetry of Isaiah and through the stories of Scripture with reference also to contemporary poets and artists.

€50 (4 weeks)

WEDNESDAYS

9. Silver Swans 18 Sept.-11 Dec.
Nadia Quick 10.30-11.30am
Silver Swans is a ballet class for adults. Dance is now considered to be one of the most beneficial ways of improving mobility, posture, co-ordination and energy levels as well as imparting a sense of wellbeing and fun. No previous dance experience is necessary!
€120 (12 weeks)

10. German (Conversation) 18 Sept.-11 Dec.
Ruth Lockhart 10.30-12.00 noon
Immerse yourself in German language and culture in this engaging class. Topical issues, art, literature and Austrian, Swiss and German traditions are explored in an enjoyable and informative way. The conversational manner is sure to boost both your confidence and fluency. €140 (12 weeks)

11. Back from the Missions: Stories from Exotic Places and Harsh Realities
18 Sept.-23 Oct.
John Scally 10.30-12.00 noon
This unique series will feature the compelling stories of six religious who have returned home to Ireland after a life of service on the missions, one in each session. The module will appeal to religious and lay people alike as it will bring a hugely important part of our religious and social history to life in an emotionally significant and humanising way. Our guest speakers showcase their experiences not just about bringing the Good News but about being the Good News and will explore with searing honesty the complexities of a life 'on the missions'. Speakers include Veronica Rafferty OP, Joseph Kavanagh OP, Michael Liston CSSp, John Skinnader CSSp.
€70 (6 weeks)

12. Good Grief 6 Nov.-11 Dec.
John Scally 10.30-12.00 noon
Suffering, particularly after the death of a loved one, often appears an unanswerable conundrum for those who believe in the Christian God, and it can rouse us to anger. This series examines how we can find the resurrection within us after the death of a loved one and how we might find a way to live on while never forgetting. It explores how grief challenges us to integrate this experience into our lives, and rather than falling prey to despair, to find something constructive in this most difficult experience of our human existence.
€70 (6 weeks)

THURSDAYS

13. Tai Chi for Health and Relaxation 19 Sept.-12 Dec.
Jane Bailey IBVM 9.45-10.45 noon
The ancient Chinese practice of Tai Chi is becoming ever more popular in the West. With its slow, gentle movements, it is an excellent way of promoting physical and mental well-being. Suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Beginners and improvers welcome.

€120 (12 weeks)

14. Tai Chi for Health and Relaxation 19 Sept.-12 Dec.
Jane Bailey IBVM 11.00-12.00 noon
The ancient Chinese practice of Tai Chi is becoming ever more popular in the West. With its slow, gentle movements, it is an excellent way of promoting physical and mental well-being. Suitable for people of all ages and abilities. Beginners and improvers welcome.

€120 (12 weeks)

15. Exploring English Literature 19 Sept.-5 Dec.
Phil Dunne 10.30-12.00 noon
In this class, we read, discuss and share novels, poetry and drama. Our reading material is a mixture of classic and contemporary work written in English and translated writing of both established and emerging writers. No prior knowledge is required. Our emphasis is on enjoyment. €120 (10 weeks)

16. "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt 6:11): Reading, Praying and Reflecting the Word of God 19 Sept.-24 Oct.
Joseph Ralph OP, with an introduction by Sean Goan 10.30-12.00 noon
Together we will eat and drink at the banquet table of God's Word. Following the ancient practice of Lectio Divina we will read, recognize, respond, rest and reflect on the rich food of the Sunday Gospels. The only qualifications required are faith and life-experience. "If Lectio Divina is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church – I am convinced of it – a new spiritual springtime" (Pope Benedict XVI). Come and enjoy some of the first fruits of this new springtime.

Voluntary contribution at each session

17. The Work of Reconciliation 19 Sept.-24 Oct.
Andrew Pierce 10.30-12.00 noon
The recent decade of commemorations showed how Ireland - north and south - could mark milestones in a painful past. But some milestones could not be shared together, and showed just how raw and painful our past remains. Over the course of six weeks, we meet with some of the people who continue to work for lasting peace on this island, to hear about what they do and why they do it. And, in a land island shaped by different visions of Christianity, we ask them about their hopes - and their frustrations - as it shapes their work now.

€70 (6 weeks)

18. “If you want peace, work for justice” (Pope Paul VI) 7 Nov.-12 Dec.
Jane Mellet 10.30-12.00 noon
Explore the rich treasure of Catholic Social Teaching on the six-part course which will dive into nuggets of wisdom and inspiration to be found in the social justice teaching of the Church. Jane Mellett and the Trócaire Church Team will also share how this rich teaching inspires the work of Trócaire and how it translates into action for a just world on the ground through their work.

€70 (6 weeks)

19. Ignatian Spirituality with Insights from Contemporary Psychology Part II
7 Nov.-12 Dec.
Stephen J. Costello 10.30-12.00 noon
It all began with a wounded soldier daydreaming on his sickbed. In time he was to found the Jesuit Order with the wish that his companions would become contemplatives in action. St Ignatius of Loyola insisted that the Divine is actively at work in our world, which is ‘charged with the grandeur of God’ (G. Manley Hopkins SJ). The presence of the Absolute calls for a response, for reflection and discernment, as we begin to interpret our deep desires and integrate heart and head, in order to be free at last. In this course, we will explore the essentials of Ignatian spirituality. This reading will be enriched by insights from the great Swiss psychologist C. G. Jung who gave a series of public lectures on the Exercises in 1939-40. The format of the *lectures* will include power-point presentations, group discussion, journalling, contemplative practices, and existential exercises. Newcomers welcome.

€70 (6 weeks)

20. Art, Literature and Memory’s Surprise 3-17 Oct.
Brian Dooney 7.00-8.30pm
“On the stem of memory imaginations blossom.” (Patrick Kavanagh). Memory is a great storyteller; literature an invitation to remember. Like ‘Once upon a time’, ‘Do you remember?’ is one of its favourite catchphrases. These three sessions are an invitation to remember, let imaginations blossom and be surprised. €40 (3 weeks)

21. Art, Literature and Creativity 14-28 Nov.
Brian Dooney 7.00-8.30pm
“You made your own music / Always in tune with yourself.” (Brendan Kennelly). These three sessions explore how song, story and symbol can hold the mirror up to our own experience, help us find expression and stay in tune with our creative selves.

€40 (3 weeks)

22. In Love with Islam, Believing in Jesus 3-17 Oct.
Richard Kimball 7.00-8.30pm
The Italian Jesuit Paolo Dall’Oglio made his home in Deir Mar Musa, Syria. Moved by his experience of Islam, he decided to dedicate his life to building bridges between Muslims and Christians. In 1991, Fr Paolo co-founded a mixed ecumenical monastic order, the

Al-Khalil Community [Friends of God]. During the civil war, he worked tirelessly to negotiate between warring factions and communities for peace and the release of hostages. In July 2023, Fr Paolo went missing while on such a mission. His book “In Love with Islam, Believing in Jesus” is the seminal work, explaining how the sacrament of everyday life is an important factor in building better relations between Muslims and Christians. The insights of Fr Paolo and his community are increasingly relevant to our modern multicultural island.

€40 (3 weeks)

23. The Synodal Journey 14-28 Nov.
Isabelle Smyth MMM 7.00-8.30pm

As an active parish sister, Isabelle Smyth has keenly followed the work of the first and second sessions of our Synodal Journey and the year of reflection in between. She has listened to the hopes and fears expressed along the way. She has wondered whether we are asking the right questions of the Synod, and she has captured valuable take-aways from what has been reported. Putting the pluses and minuses together, she now asks: 'so where do we go from here?'

€40 (3 weeks)

24. Praying with Paul 14-28 Nov.
Kieran O’Mahony OSA 7.00-8.30pm

In his letters, Paul addresses issues in community, and we find ourselves overhearing persuasive arguments. Paul frames his teaching in a context of prayer, especially prayer of thanksgiving. But the teaching on prayer is more than a frame. It belongs to the heart of his applied theology. This short course will be based on the seven undisputed letters. We will start with the thanksgivings in six of the letters, see other prayer in context and close with the great chapter 8 of Romans.

€40 (3 weeks)

25. The Thursday Conversation Club 26 Sept., 24 Oct.
John Scally 7.00-8.30pm

We live in a fast-changing world. The old certainties are gone. There is much confusion. The traditional answers seem redundant. New thorny questions occur with ever increasing frequency. Public opinion is profoundly divided on many issues. In this series, John Scally conducts public interviews with prominent figures in Irish life. The aim is to provide participants with ‘a widening of seeing’ and a deepening of truths that were always there.

€17 per evening

FRIDAYS

26. Sacred Dance / Dance Meditation — 20 Sept.-25 Oct.
Terry Hennessy — 10.30am-12.30pm
Experience harmony of body, mind and spirit as you dance to beautiful music. Sacred dance is influenced by classical and European folk traditions. No previous experience necessary - clear instructions are given. A warm welcome awaits all.
€100 (6 weeks)

27. Sacred Dance / Dance Meditation — 8 Nov. -13 Dec.
Terry Hennessy — 10.30am-12.30pm
Experience harmony of body, mind and spirit as you dance to beautiful music. Sacred dance is influenced by classical and European folk traditions. No previous experience necessary - clear instructions are given. A warm welcome awaits all.
€100 (6 weeks)

28. French Level 3 (Intermediate) — 20 Sept.-13 Dec.
Marie Helène Dolan — 10.30-12.00 noon
In this course, the emphasis is on easing students into conversational French. Learned grammatical concepts are revised and put into a variety of conversation-based exercises that strengthen comprehension and self-expression. These classes will give you the confidence to converse on a range of topics. À bientôt!
€140 (12 weeks)

29. What Has Philosophy Got to Do with Happiness? — 20 Sept.-25 Oct.
Patrick Quinn — 10.30-12.00 noon
This course will examine the views on the subject by the following philosophers: Aristotle, Seneca and Cicero, Soren Kierkegaard, Ludwig Wittgenstein and Elizabeth Telfer. Those present will also be invited to discuss the subject as part of the learning process.
€70 (6 weeks)

30. Women in the Fourth Gospel - Learning from the women of John's Gospel
Kieran O'Mahony OSA — 20 Sept.-25 Oct.
10.30-12.00 noon
There are four significant stories of women in the Fourth Gospel: the Wedding Feast of Cana (ch. 2), the Woman at the Well (ch. 4), the Raising of Lazarus (chs. 11-12) and Mary Magdalene (ch. 20). These stories open a window on the role and ministry of (at least some) women in the emerging church of the first hundred years. There is a fifth woman, hidden in plain sight, in the same Gospel (come to presentation 5!).
€60 (5 weeks, no class on 4 Oct.)

31. Edith Stein: Patron Saint of Europe — 8 Nov.-13 Dec.

Isabelle Smyth MMM 10.30-12.00 noon

In these six sessions, we will look at Edith's Jewish roots, her spiritual quest, her friendships, her writings about the role of women in society, and her growing attraction to the Carmelite way of life. We will look at her legacy to philosophy, the cognitive sciences, sociology and psychology. Reflecting on how the Cross became the central core of her spirituality, we will examine the arguments put to Pope Francis in 2024 when asking that she be named a Doctor of the Church.

€70 (6 weeks)

The Centre will be closed for mid-term break
Monday, 28 October to Friday, 1 November 2023.