



Christmas 2024

Dear members and friends,

The Synod papers make good reading, and we must now consider how we should respond. Some of us would have liked to see more decisions but we must accept the wisdom of not moving too fast and remember the cultural complexity of our Church.

It has been a good year for Catalyst, we enjoyed a full program of events, thanks to the small band of men and women who organise them. Carole Wilson has two teams, Events, and Reflection Mornings with overlapping membership. Speakers are lined up for next year, thank you Carole and her teams. Lawson Reflection mornings are still thriving under the care of Len and Carol Theodori-Blahut.

Early in the year we held a “Conversation in the Spirit” style Renewal Meeting, and later celebrated our 30th birthday. Carole Wilson and Michael Whelan have been communicating with a possible overseas speaker, but he has decided that he has too many tasks next year to take on a long trip to Australia. We will be organising one or more Zoom sessions with him. Meanwhile we will search again for a suitable overseas speaker for a Forum.

The Call to Be is well established and next year should be as good as this year’s offerings. The balance of lecture and conversation is welcomed by attendees.

Next year we celebrate the 30th birthday of SIP and we hope to have a face-to-face SIP in Paddington, the birthplace of SIP. The planning for the online version – Spirituality on the Sofa (SOS) - is well underway. Thanks to Bob Birchall who has taken much of the responsibility from Marea Donovan while she cares for her husband. Southern SIP in Victoria is doing exciting things and enjoying interesting speakers.

Behind the scenes Pauline O’Neill keeps the administrative tasks and contact with members and friends in good order. The website committee now has the website functioning well. The small number who use it is of concern, people, get on to your devices and explore the rich offerings.

Finally, the hard-working executive committee has steered us through some trying times and much thanks to due to Gay Walsh who is not only a super-efficient secretary but the person who puts up most of the material on the website.

I wish you and your loved ones a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year.

Denise