



Multifaith Academy  
for Chaplaincy and  
Community Ministries  
Inc.

# Academy Bulletin

April 2018  
No. 122

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## LAST ACADEMY NEWS

The Academy has faithfully served for 25 years and many graduates acknowledge the value of its training for their present ministries.

It was a unique institution providing practical face-to-face training with spiritual formation.

Times have changed, and now various groups offer pastoral care courses, including some on-line.

Requirements for chaplains for many facilities now include ASQA certified courses.

Current students have now concluded their training.

It is unfortunate that financial constraints prohibit the cost of registering trainers and offering courses for the credentials becoming expected and indeed necessary.

So, with deep regret, the Academy officially wound up on 19 March 2018 and the premises at Greenslopes will soon be vacated.

## BOARD MESSAGE

The Board and Executive wish all our alumni many blessings in their various ministries. May they continue to serve the community with compassion.

We thank our many lecturers, presenters, trainers, benefactors, supporters and volunteers, who made this dream—the Multifaith Academy—happen.

## Acknowledgements

The Academy would like to acknowledge that many people—staff and supporters—have contributed to the education of over five hundred graduates who are involved in chaplaincy and related fields.

We have had many benefactors over 25 years and we thank them for their generosity. We mention Paul and Andrea Gripske, Ian and Diane McCauley, Ross Pitt, Alan Greensill, Gerald J. Pain, Cathy Ober, the Queensland Sisters of Mercy, Metropolitan Funerals, the Canossian Sisters, John Gardner, and very many unrecorded donors of gifts and favours.

Among the Academy's many trainers we are grateful for some recent ones: Helen Williams, Dr Greg Smith, Rev Ann Shepperson, Glenda Bryant, John Purssey, Bob Hardy, Rosemary Dillon, Cathy Spencer, Denise Hocken-Venning, Ross Pitt, Fr Leo Burke, Larry Cox, and Elma Webb.

We have appreciated the contribution of guest lecturers, and among many, we thank Rev Kevin McGovern, Dr Paul McQuillan, Sr Lis Keane, Rev Canon Cheryl Selvage, Dr Trevor Jordan, Dr Peter Catt, Ven Trin-lä, Ven Sister Susila Scott, Dr Patrick Oliver, Rev Dr John Chalmers, Dr Drasko Dizdar, Dr William Wilkie, Dr Neville Kirkwood, Dr Judith Murray, Helen Williams, Wyn Coghlan, David Williams, and the late Jan Watson.

We acknowledge our loyal staff and volunteers among whom have been: Jan Copp, David Williams, Georgina Greenhill, Mary Ward, Noelene Kidd, Margaret Rihari, Loretto McGroarty, Judith Matthews, Maurice Cullen, Stephanie Adams, Ray Crompton, Sharon Hickey, Ann Aboud, Sarah Grealy, Amanda McCarrick, and many other unrecorded volunteers.

## SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO WIND UP ACADEMY

WHEREAS the Members of Multifaith Academy for Chaplaincy and Community Ministries Inc. (hereinafter called "the Association") are desirous of winding up the Association,

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Association be voluntarily wound up.
2. That any one or more of the management committee be and is hereby authorised to lodge all necessary documents in support of the voluntary winding up of the Association with ACNC, Australian Tax Office and the Office of Fair Trading, Queensland.
3. That any one or more of the management committee be and is hereby authorised to distribute any surplus assets as follows: 50% Centacare Pastoral Services, Brisbane; 50% Trinity College, Auchenflower, Chaplaincy Training.
4. That following the distribution of surplus assets any one or more of the management committee be and is hereby authorised to close all current operating bank accounts.

Dated this 19th day of March 2018

Signed: Fr Leo Burke, Chair; Helen Williams, Secretary

*Everyone has spiritual resources, sometimes religious, sometimes not. Everyone may need support to help them draw on their particular spiritual resources in a time of crisis. Graduates of the Academy are trained to be carers who can discern where a person is coming from spiritually, and meet them there. This e-bulletin aims to enhance that training.*

**Chaplaincy Training:**

For chaplaincy courses, refer to local chaplains or contact:

*Anglicans*, Rev Canon Cheryl Selvage, [olytrans2@hotmail.com](mailto:olytrans2@hotmail.com)

*Baptists*, 3550 3719

Rev Don McPherson,

[chaplain@carinity.org.au](mailto:chaplain@carinity.org.au)

*Buddhists*, Ven Trin Lä, Karuna, Windsor.

*Catholics*, Mrs Judy Norris, Centacare Pastoral Ministries, 3324 3193

[Judy.Norris@bne.centacare.net.au](mailto:Judy.Norris@bne.centacare.net.au)

*Lutherans*, Pastor Paul Semmler, 3858 3020

[paul.semmler@lutheranservices.org.au](mailto:paul.semmler@lutheranservices.org.au)

*Seventh Day Adventists*, Chris Foote [chrisfoote@adventist.org.au](mailto:chrisfoote@adventist.org.au)

*Uniting*, Rev Keren Seto, 3377 9762

[keren.seto@ucaql.com.au](mailto:keren.seto@ucaql.com.au)

**Seeds**

Jesus said, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified... unless an ear of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it does, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.' John 12:23-25

To each one of us Christ is saying: If you want your life and mission to be fruitful like mine, do as I. Be converted into a seed that lets itself be buried. Let yourself be killed. Do not be afraid. Those who shun suffering will remain alone. No one is more alone than the selfish. But if you give your life out of love for others, as I give mine for all, you will reap a great harvest. You will have the deepest satisfactions. Do not fear death or threats; the Lord goes with you.

**Oscar Romero, 1 April 1979**

(A year before he was shot while preaching at mass)

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Multifaith Academy. The articles are offered to readers as a way of broadening their awareness of the thinking of people outside their own spiritual circle, to increase their capacity to be effective spiritual carers.*

**History of the Bulletin**

Begun in January 2012 as the *E-learning Bulletin* under the inspiration of Director Ross Pitt, our first editor was Chris Davidson. At the time Chris wrote: 'Note from the editor: As I start my second year at the Academy, I am helping Ross Pitt produce this bulletin as a learning aid for myself and hopefully for you. It will be issued at least monthly but maybe more often depending on the amount of content provided and your level of interest.' Indeed he grew it though 91 editions until September 2015 to become the present *Academy Bulletin*.

While putting its policy framework together, Chris argued for a free hand on editorial content presentation and process. Thus, he delivered every fortnight what has become a ready-reference on practice for over 300 chaplains and pastoral care-givers.

Originally planned to be an electronic archive of our training materials and supplements for the classes, it grew into its present identity, becoming an important archive for digests of articles from a wide range of sources. Readers received articles on grief and loss, on key issues in ministry, resources for prayer services, multifaith aspects, ethics, book reviews and summaries, and, of course, Academy notices and reports. We published articles on mental health, suffering, loneliness, dying, disability, faith, theology, journaling and serving particular subcultures.

The present Editor, Noelene Kidd, followed the format set by Chris but has put her own stamp on it with a variety of articles to assist chaplains. The bulletins have been reduced to monthly editions, numbers 92 to 122. Her emphasis has been training for practical pastoral care for those who work in hospitals, prisons, aged care, schools, defence, and for those who offer pastoral care in their own congregations.

The aim has been to encapsulate the essence of articles from Australia and overseas for busy chaplains, with references for those who wish to pursue further reading. The articles were informative, sometimes controversial, and mostly encouraging. Reviews, quotations, poetry, and short articles were designed to be useful for training, self-care, or worship.

The Academy's website will continue for a short period and past bulletins may be downloaded to assist you in your ministries.

**DIRECTOR'S TRIBUTE TO EDITOR**

It would be remiss of us if we did not acknowledge the great contribution Noelene Kidd, our present Editor, has done in researching and finding contributions with relevance to chaplaincy for the *Academy Bulletin*.

We certainly now have a storehouse of material to which we can refer in quiet moments of reflection or in times of stress. Many thanks, Noelene!

*Helen Williams, Director*

**Great Guide**

Trust in God alone, and lean not on the needs of human help. Be not surprised when friends fail you: it is a failing world. Never count on immutability in others: inconstancy you may reckon on without fear of disappointment...

Any simpleton can follow the narrow path in the light: faith's rare wisdom enables us to march on in the dark with infallible accuracy, since she places her hand in that of her Great Guide.

**Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Lectures to My Students**