

# BRISBANE SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

## BIOGRAPHY



**Irene Alexander**

**Irene Alexander (Uniting Church):** background is in Psychology, mission and tertiary education. I am a Spiritual Direction formator with the Stillpoint program in Brisbane. I grew up in New Zealand in the Methodist Church and am presently part of the Uniting Church. I am a mother and grandmother. I also teach spiritual formation and spiritual companionship in the Philippines.

**Location: Wishart**

**Contact: 0411 093 199**



**Sr Angela Botti fdcc**

**Angela Botti FDCC (Catholic):** is a Canossian Daughter of Charity and has spent most of her life in adult faith formation. She trained in the Jesuit Institute, Boston, USA. Angela is a Giver of the Spiritual Exercises, a Spiritual Director and a Supervisor in Spiritual Direction.

**Location: Oxley**

**Contact: 0419 752 378**



**Sr Denise Brosnan rsj**

**Sr Denise Brosnan rsj (Catholic):** is a Sister of Saint Joseph who is a Spiritual Director, Retreat Giver and Supervisor who is a lecturer and supervisor in St Francis Spiritual Direction Formation Programme. Denise has a background in education, counselling and pastoral care and has a Masters of Arts (Theology). Denise is open to using the creative arts in sessions and is particularly interested in reflecting on the wisdom of the Mystics. In January 2023 Denise travelled to Timor Leste to minister giving a Retreat, formation and inservice to four (4) different groups.

**Location: Moorooka**

**Contact: 0439 675 571**



**Christopher Brown**

**Christopher Brown:** (Chris) taught social work (University of Queensland) and spiritual companionship at Christian Heritage College. He now offers spiritual direction, supervision and formation (Stillpoint program). He is the author of *Reflected Love: Companionship in the Way of Jesus* (2012) and *Guiding Gideon: Awakening to Life and Faith* (2015).

**Location: Ashgrove**

**Contact: 0733 668 198**



**Jo-Anne Brown**

**Jo-Anne Brown:** (Salvation Army) Jo-anne is a spiritual director and supervisor, who (along with her husband Ross) loves leading retreats and enabling others to discover more of their unique selves and to deepen their relationship with God. She is a graduate of the St Francis Spiritual Direction Formation Programme, has completed a SD Supervision Programme and is currently the Queensland Regional Coordinator of the Australian Network of Spiritual Direction (ANSD). She loves working with dreams and using creative expression to open up pathways to faith and contemplative being and currently facilitates two dream groups in her home. Jo is also a supervisor and teacher with the St Francis Formation SD Programme in Brisbane.

**Location: Rochedale**

**Contact: 0466 770 961**



**Ray Chapman, SM**

**Ray Chapman, SM (Catholic)** is a Marist Priest. He has background in secondary education (principal of two schools), pastoral ministry (having been parish priest of two parishes), and experience in ministry and administration overseas. He has conducted a number of retreats (directed and non-directed) and has been chaplain to numerous spiritual pilgrimages. He has just returned to the Archdiocese of Brisbane after spending four years ministering pastorally and sacramentally in a Marist House of Welcome in France. While in France Ray also organised and lead two lengthy international Renewal Programs for members of the Society of Mary (Marist Fathers and Brothers). Ray's qualifications include a PhD from the Australian Catholic University and a Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction (2017) from the University of Divinity (Melbourne).

**Location: Herston.**

**Mobile: 0404142540**



**Dawn Courtman**

**Dawn Courtman (Anglican):** direction formation was under CRD in New Zealand. I have a background in High School teaching, ecumenical ministry and Pastoring and for some years I was a formator with the Stillpoint Formation of Spiritual Directors course. As well as providing spiritual direction from my home at Carseldine, I offer retreats (both guided and silent) and reflection days.

**Location: Carseldine**

**Contact: 0447 933 273**



**Carolyn Doherty**

**Carolyn Doherty (Christian):** I have a passion for assisting others to recognise the beauty of who they are in Divine Love. I have a Graduate Diploma in Theology (2007) and graduated from Ministry Education Commission Spiritual Direction Formation Program in 2014. I have completed courses in the Enneagram and Dream exploration.

**Location: Victoria Point**

**Contact: 0416 268 316 (also available on FaceTime)**



**Fr Frank Jones**

**Fr Frank Jones (Catholic):** I've been a diocesan priest for over 34 years. Half of those years as a missionary priest in Latin America. I have worked as a Parish Priest for those years as well as prison and hospital chaplain. I also trained as Registered Nurse in order to offer practical help in missionary life. I have post graduate studies in missiology and completed Formation studies in the UK and studies in Spiritual Accompaniment and the Interior life from the University of Mysticism in Avila Spain. I have a deep interest in retreat giving and enjoy the contemplative mode of prayer.

**Location: Birkdale**

**Contact: 0432 295 529**



**Br Michael Talty**

**Br Michael Talty:** (Catholic) is a Christian Brother, experienced teacher of 40 years and Spiritual Director. Michael currently serves as teacher and Campus Minister in a Flexible Learning Centre where developing relationships, listening and walking with young people are key to their successful engagement in learning. Trained as Spiritual Director with the MEC Brisbane, he likes to explore and discuss the spiritual life with others.

**Location: Inner North Brisbane**

**Phone: 0419 675 191**



**Br Tony Hemenstall**

**Br Tony Hemenstall (Catholic):** is a Christian Brother, Teacher, Spiritual Director and Retreat Director. He spent 15 years teaching in both primary and secondary schools in North Queensland and Brisbane. In the 1980's and 90's Tony trained in the United States in areas of spiritual companionship and spirituality and has spent many years working as a spiritual director, counsellor and facilitating retreats and workshops on the spiritual journey with particular reference to the middle years and transitions as they impact on the story of one's life. He has since studied and on the New Cosmology as presented by Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme and many others working in that field. For 15 years he lived and directed The Archer Eco-spirituality Centre outside Woodford in Queensland. He has a passion for New Cosmology as a valid way to be Human, Christian and Catholic in today's world.

**Location: Aspley**

**Contact: 0417 736 696**



**Fr Gerry Kalinowski**

**Fr Gerry Kalinowski (Catholic):** is a diocesan priest who has served in diverse parishes across the Archdiocese. He also has been Spiritual Director of the Queensland seminary. His style of spiritual companionship is in the contemplation of God in everyday life. God is always present, it is for us to have the eyes to see, the ears to hear and the intuition to be attentive. Spiritual companionship is the supportive accompaniment for seekers to tune in to God's revelation in our lives. His training has been at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Chicago and the Centre for Religious Development. Meeting for spiritual direction occurs at Jubilee Catholic parish office in Paddington. Fr Gerry is open to using virtual communication for spiritual direction.

**Location: Jubilee Catholic Parish**

**Contact: 3369 5351**



**Dale Keenan**

**Dale Keenan (Catholic)** is currently the Director of the St Francis Spiritual Direction Formation Program, an initiative of the Ministry Education Commission of the Anglican Diocese of Southern Queensland - located at St Francis Theological College, Milton, and Brisbane. She holds a Master's qualification in Spiritual Direction from the Melbourne University of Divinity, and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from SCRD Mary Mackillop Place Sydney. She holds an undergraduate qualification in Education. Her post graduate qualifications include a Graduate Certificate in Supervision of Spiritual Directors, Diploma in Training and Assessment and the Arrupe Program for Givers of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. In 2014, she completed a six-week Immersion Program for Givers of the Spiritual Exercises in Manresa Spain. She is a committee member of the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction, a member of ANSD (the Australian Network of Spiritual Directors)

**Location: Kangaroo Point**

**Contact: 0419 802 887**



**Chris Kennedy**

**Chris Kennedy (Catholic)** has lived on the Gold Coast since 1988. He is an active parishioner, Parish of Burleigh Heads, is a member of the First Spiritual Exercises National Training and National Foundation Teams and a companion in the JISA (Jesuit Ignatian Spirituality Australia) outreach to QLD (Gold Coast) and Northern NSW regions as part of the Regional First Spiritual Exercises Team.

Chris graduated with a Master of Arts Degree (Spiritual Direction) in 2017 from the University of Divinity, Melbourne. His professional formation and supervision are in assured as an active membership of Companions in the Ministry of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. He is married with two adult children and his particular interests are in the formation of all men and women of faith into a life of discernment in prayer, through the undertaking of the Full Spiritual Exercises and the First Spiritual Exercises and his work in the menALIVE ministry.

**Location: Gold Coast and Northern NSW**

**Contact: 0412 270 828**



**Jeff Lawrence**

**Jeff Lawrence:** Jeff is married 48 years, 5 children and 9 grandchildren living at Margate. He serves God's household as a spiritual director, biblical storyteller, mentor and pastor. He completed a Master of Ministry through BCT and Spiritual direction formation with Anglican Diocese of Brisbane at St Francis College. Jeff's spiritual pilgrimage has brought him to a Trinitarian focus lived in the practice of the Jesus Prayer and the desert and hesychast spirituality of the prayer of the heart. He has a passion for men's spirituality and wellbeing and leads retreats (including contemplative bushwalking retreats) and mentors' other pastors and chaplains, he is trained as a 'renewal retreat group' facilitator. His professional career and community service grounds his work in an incarnational practice for everyday life. He enjoys bushwalking, reading, kayaking and music.

**Location: Margate**

**Contact: 0421 337 431**



**Joanna Lawrence**

**Joanna Lawrence:** I am a mother of 5 children and grandmother of 9. I spent many years as a Volunteer Telephone Counsellor with Lifeline and did further training in Gestalt Therapy. I trained as a Spiritual Director through the program offered by St Francis Theological College Brisbane.

I find it a rare privilege and honour to companion someone on their spiritual journey. I know from my own experience the blessing and gift of having a spiritual companion. Over the years, I have participated in various spiritual formation groups. I am drawn to contemplative spirituality and have facilitated a few Christian Meditation groups and lead Teaching Weekends and Quiet Days for the Christian Meditation Community in Qld.

**Location: Margate**

**Contact: 0432 327 666**



**Patrick Oliver**

**Patrick Oliver (Catholic):** Patrick has been accompanying folk in their faith journeys for thirty-seven years: ten in pastoral situations, and twenty-seven years in specific spiritual direction. He completed an M.A. in Studies in Religion (1994) and a PhD in theology and spirituality (1999). Patrick's main work is helping people to grow more aware of the movements of grace within and around them, so they can more readily respond to God's invitations in their lives. His main interests in spirituality are the relation of the scriptures to the everyday, and listening to dreams as a way to deepen a prayerful life.

**Location: Stafford**

**Contact: 0408 062 676**



**Sr Diane Phillips**

**Sr Diane Phillips (Catholic):** I am a Sister of St Joseph living in Toowoomba. I graduated in Spiritual Direction from St Francis College, Milton, five years ago.

My practice is carried out from a room in St Thomas More's Parish Centre on Ramsay St, Toowoomba. I have used electronic options in the past and continue to receive Spiritual Direction via Skype. Facetime is also available if preferred.

I have been in western ministry in the Toowoomba Catholic diocese for the past 20 odd years and still take journeys to western communities To work with school staffs in the spirituality and charism of the Josephite tradition. I also work with a team involved with the Rural School of Faith Leadership that is run in Dubbo NSW each year. I am happy to work with people from other denominations, men and women.

**Location: Toowoomba**

**Contact: 0427 825 536**



**Catherine Smith**

**Catherine Smith:** I spent many years in school and parish activities, facilitating prayer seminars and retreats. I was fortunate to be introduced to Spiritual Direction and 6 day retreats when I was in my early 30s. In my late 40s I began working as a prison chaplain. It was a privilege to walk with the women and listen to their stories. To see God at work in their lives and their delight when they began to believe in a God who loved them. I decided to train as a Spiritual Director at Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Melbourne. At that time I was also involved with a Women's Spirituality Centre and once qualified I began offering Spiritual Direction in my parish. I obtained my Spiritual Directors Certificate in 2008, I have a BA in Psychology and Criminology with Honours in Criminology and a Certificate in Counselling. Ten years ago my husband and I retired to the Gold Coast. I work with a retreat team in my parish and offer retreats and Spiritual Direction.

**Location: Hope Island**

**Contact: 0401 070 821**



**Margherita Shakhovskoy**

**Margherita Shakhovskoy:** Married and mother of 4 adult children and 5 grandchildren (one sadly deceased). My spiritual formation developed through leadership roles of various ministries particularly with women leading programs and retreats. I've journeyed with women in group settings and one on one over the past 30 years. I've been drawn to focus on spiritual companionship and participated in Spiritual Direction formation with the Stillpoint program in Brisbane.

**Location: Fig Tree Pocket**

**Contact: 0431 890 395**



**Peter Shakhovskoy**

**Peter Shakhovskoy:** Peter has pursued a keen interest in Ignatian Spirituality and Spiritual direction for more than 10 years. He has completed the 3 year Arrupe programme and serves on the Faber Team in Brisbane. He is an experienced giver of the Exercises and in 2015 he completed a 6 week Immersion Course at Manresa in Spain.

**Location: Corinda**

**Contact: 0447 977 373**





**Gerard Sullivan**

**Gerard Sullivan (Catholic)** is a retired educator and is a trained spiritual director with graduate degrees in Christian spirituality, theology and scripture. He values working with all, particularly men on the edges of institutional religion. Gerard completed the Full Spiritual Exercises over ten years ago and finds God in all things. Gerard prefers to use the language of Spiritual Companionship for his ministry. He co-facilitates a weekly online contemplative/meditation group inspired by Laudate Si (Pope Francis) He lives on the Gold Coast and mostly operates online with Zoom. Gerard's interests include reading, the environment, poetry, meaningful conversation and ecospirituality.

**Location: Gold Coast**

**Contact: [gedsull@gmail.com](mailto:gedsull@gmail.com)**



**Ann Vogt**

**Ann Vogt:** (Catholic) is the mother of six adult children. Before marriage, Ann worked as a nurse. Later she gained a BA and Post Graduate Diploma in Psychology at the University of Queensland. She worked for seven years in hospital pastoral care in areas of grief and loss and oncology. Later she worked for six years as a registered psychologist in private practice before training as a spiritual director with Stillpoint and then as a Formator for the Stillpoint Course.

**Location: Rochedale**

**Contact: 0448 501 033**



**Lynne Head-Weir**

**Lynne Head-Weir:** is a Giver of Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and has Master of Arts (Spiritual Direction). She is a practicing visual artist and community arts worker (Grad Dip Community Cultural Development) with a background in addiction counselling (Bachelor Community Welfare) and creative arts therapy (Master of Arts). Lynne is drawn towards combining creative arts within the faithful processes of Ignatian Spiritual Exercises.

**Location: Coomera, Gold Coast**

**Contact: [lynne.head.weir@gmail.com](mailto:lynne.head.weir@gmail.com)**



**Christine Webb**

**Christine Webb:** (Catholic) has completed the Arrupe Program and gives the full Spiritual Exercises as a retreat in daily life. She is involved in giving the First Spiritual Exercises and the Field Hospital Exercises and the training for both. She has completed the Master of Arts in Spiritual Direction from the University of Divinity in Melbourne. She is a mother, grandmother and retired teacher.

**Location: Faber Spirituality Centre**  
**Contact: 07 3368 2450**



**Peter Webb**

**Peter Webb: (Catholic)** is married, is a parent and grandparent and a retired teacher. Peter's graduate studies are in theology, religious education, educational leadership and in supervision. He received a "Spirit of Catholic Education" award in 2017 for his work in parent partnerships and in prayer and spirituality with students and staff. Peter accompanies people through the Spiritual Exercises as a retreat in daily life and is an accredited member of the Australian Association of Supervision.

**Location: Faber Spirituality**  
**Contact: 07 3368 2450**



**Sr Mel Williams osu**

**Sr Mel Williams osu:** (Catholic) I am an Ursuline sister, teacher, counsellor and spiritual director. Much of my work has been in formation within the Ursulines as Novice Directress and Director of the International Tertianship. This work has involved the close accompaniment of women in discernment and ongoing retreat direction in both the long and shorter forms.

**Location: Brisbane City**  
**Contact: 0418 787 665**



**Cecilia Formby**

**Cecilia Formby (Catholic):** was born in England and migrated to Australia in 1973. She is married with six children and many foster children. Cecilia trained in the Arrupe Program and now gives the Spiritual Exercises and spiritual direction. Cecilia is Secretary of Companions in Ignatian Ministry.

**Location: Faber Spirituality**  
**Contact:07 3368 2450**



**Larry Cox**

**Larry Cox: (Catholic):** currently the Minister, St Bonaventure Fraternity, Queensland Regional Council, of the Secular Franciscan Order and is a Lay Chaplain in Pastoral Care at the Prince Charles Hospital. He has a keen interest in the giving the Full Spiritual Exercises. Larry is married with three adult children and eight grandchildren. Larry was previously involved in Air Traffic Services for 35 years.

**Location: Faber Spirituality**  
**Contact:07 3368 2450**



**Clive Hamlin**

**Clive Hamlin (Catholic):** is a semi-retired insurance broker and trained Giver of the Spiritual Exercises in the Arrupe Program. Clive has a special interest in the giving of retreats in daily life as well as the First Spiritual Exercises in Parishes. He is also involved with a group of men who conduct parish-based weekend retreats.

**Location: Faber Spirituality**  
**Contact:07 3368 2450**



**Mary Robson**

**Mary Robson (Catholic)** is a graduate of the Arrupe Program, has a degree in Theology and is completing Master of Arts (Spiritual Direction). Her interest is in the transformative process of Ignatian spirituality in the ordinary moments of life.

**Location: Faber Spirituality Centre**  
**Contact: 07 3368 2450**



**Min Wullems**

**Min Wullems (Catholic):** is married with three adult children. He is a retired computer software developer/consultant, running his own business for more than 30 years. He has extensive experience with RCIA and Parish Pastoral Councils. He first completed the Full Spiritual Exercises more than 50 years ago. Since then Ignatian Spirituality has been and continues to be fundamental to his life. He desires to share this with others who wish to further their personal relationship with God through spiritual direction and the giving of the Spiritual Exercises.

**Location: Faber Spirituality Centre**  
**Contact: 07 3368 2450**



**Katherine Whitehouse**

**Katherine Whitehouse (Catholic):** is a graduate of the Arrupe Program and holds a Masters degree in Spiritual Direction. Katherine is involved with Mary of the Angelus, a private association of Christ's faithful, involving people who desire to commit themselves to both a contemplative life and mission. With a private enterprise background, Katherine has taken her working skills in developing and driving a new model of housing for homeless people.

**Location: Faber Spirituality Centre**  
**Contact: 07 3368 2450**



**Elizabeth Kerr**

**Elizabeth Kerr: (Catholic)** is married with eight adult children and several grandchildren. After completing her theology degree, she worked as Pastoral Associate at St Ignatius Parish, Toowong for 10 yrs. Liz is a founding member of the Faber Centre where she has been involved for the past 11 years, leading retreats, coordinating the Arrupe Program for the training of spiritual directors and supervising post graduate students. Her great love has been accompanying people through the Spiritual Exercises over the past 30 years and mentoring others on their life journey.

**Location: Faber Spirituality Centre**

**Contact: 07 3368 2450**