

BLOSSOMING IN THE DESERT

FIVE DAY SILENT RETREAT FOR ADVENT

GUIDED BY CATHERINE HEFFERAN RSM AND ROBYN FITZGERALD

SUN 5TH DEC, 4PM – FRI 10TH DEC, 4PM, 2021

The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. Is. 40:3



God loves nothing better than the desert, where the seeker goes to give birth to God and participate in the joy of birth, the joy of preexilic birth.

David Applebaum

We have become more humble than the rocks, more wakeful than the patient hills.

Thomas Merton, Advent

This Advent, we will walk the path taught to us by John the Baptist who had learned to empty himself so completely, to be “empty and bare as the desert” in which he lived, and where he discovered God’s birthing within himself. In the subtle beauty and the colourful hues of the silence of the desert, we will create the necessary quiet to support each other, as we cry out in the wilderness, not just our own cry, but as well, the cry of the earth, preparing our hearts for the blossoming of the ever-deepening birthing of the One we love, personally and communally. Over five days, we will soak in the wisdom of the mystics, including Hildegard of Bingen, Gertrude of Helfta, Teresa of Avila, Daisetsu Teitaro Suzuki, Thomas Merton, Beatrice Bruteau, Kerrie Hide and Martin Laird who know this blossoming place in the soul, and are deeply versed in the hidden wisdom of awakened, unitive consciousness.

The retreat will be offered on-line. The cost of the retreat is \$350.00 and includes daily teachings, guided meditations and spiritual direction. Recordings of the daily material will be available each day. A deposit of \$150.00 is encouraged by the Sept 8th, with final payment of \$200.00 due October 4th. You are warmly invited to contact Catherine Hefferan rsm at chefferan@bigpond.com or Robyn Fitzgerald at robfitz65@gmail.com for further information.

To register please visit: <https://conversationsoftheheart.com.au/silent-retreats/>