



Anam Cara Community

A Community of Prayer and Support for the Inner Journey into God

The Anam Cara Community

The Anam Cara Community is an ecumenical **Christian community**, rooted in the historic faith. We recognize and celebrate the many and varied expressions of the Christian tradition within the Anglican Communion, and in our sister churches. We also recognize and celebrate the wisdom of other religious traditions, and seek to understand and learn from their experiences. We acknowledge the importance of the traditions and wisdom of Australian Indigenous spirituality, particularly the understanding of the link between spirit and earth.

The Anam Cara Community is a **contemplative community**, committed to the understanding that God calls us to make an inner journey the end of which, ultimately, is



union with God. We celebrate the ways of prayer, prayerful reading of scripture, spiritual direction, worship, reflection and silence. While we value the contemporary, we also value the historical wisdom drawn from the mothers and fathers of the tradition.

The Anam Cara Community is a **community of the Word**. Jesus, the Word, is communicated to us through the texts of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, in which we seek truth, wisdom, nourishment, correction and guidance.

The Anam Cara Community is a **community committed to equality, peace and justice making**. We believe that response to God's call to the inner journey is a call to make peace and work for justice.

The Anam Cara Community is a **community of renewal and reformation**. We hear God's call to make all things new, and to continually examine our expression of faith to determine what supports, and what hinders our growth in God, and our service of the world.

The Anam Cara Community is an **open community**. We are open to all, and undertake to work co-operatively, respectfully and transparently with parishes and other ministries in the Diocese of Gippsland.

The Anam Cara Community is a **dispersed community**. Whilst we do not live together, or even close to one another, we acknowledge that we are sisters and brothers, and fellow pilgrims.



‘Anam Cara’ means ‘soul friend.’ A soul friend walks with you, accepts you as you are, and helps you to deepen your relationship with God.

History

In June 2007, the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland’s Bishop in Council endorsed a proposal to establish a new community within the Diocese of Gippsland. The Anam Cara Community grew out of ministry offered by Anne Turner. From this beginning the Community has grown into something both new and ancient, drawing upon the Church’s tradition across the centuries.

We are a ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland offered to the whole world.

Today the Community has associates from many traditions within Gippsland, throughout the rest of Australia, and scattered across the world.

Associates

Individuals who wish to become members of the

Community are known as Associates. Each associate commits to regular prayer, Bible reading, worship, and to walking in the steps of Jesus, as they are called. Associates may be from any Christian community, or from outside. The Community’s Leadership structures exist to serve the Associates, and others who may choose to access resources provided by the Community.

Events.

The Community holds a program of Community Days each year. These are spread across Gippsland, and are a combination of days led by associates and invited guests. Community Days are advertised on the Community’s website, and take in a wide variety of themes. All are welcome. We hold an annual service of thanksgiving and

commissioning on a Saturday in June each year.

Newsletter.

The Community’s email newsletter, *Waterholes*, is published fortnightly and distributed to all subscribers. It contains reflections, reviews, poetry, support for the inner journey, and provoking articles. Submissions are welcome.

Website.

The Community’s website (visit us: <http://anamcaraqippsland.org>) is a resource for all associates and those interested in the inner journey. All printed material produced by the Community is available at the website, together with regular news, notice of events, reminders, and resources. An email list is available to allow rapid communication.

Spiritual Direction (soul care).

The Community is served by a number of soul carers / spiritual directors, who have been trained, and whose call to this ministry has been discerned. Soul care is available to all associates and to any other interested person. Some soul carers have special areas of ministry, particularly to those who experience themselves as outsiders, or who are on the fringes of the church.

Retreats.

The Community holds occasional retreats, and often provides leadership and resources to outside bodies who wish to hold retreats.

Prayer, resources and support.

The Community seeks to provide prayer, resources and support to all associates. Those who have any needs to do with the inner journey are encouraged to contact us.

More information?

For more information about the Anam Cara Community, or to join as an associate, please visit our website: <http://anamcaragippsland.org>, or contact our Soul Carer, Jane Macqueen (0411 316 346)

PO Box 708, Sale VIC 3850.



The circle depicts the soul journey into God, inner circles and outgoing lines speak of making a journey within and without. The lines make up the sign of the cross, the central Christian symbol. The inner circles are an Aboriginal symbol for 'meeting place'. We have received permission to use this symbol from the local elders, as they understood what it means for us as a contemplative prayer community.

**A ministry offered to all by the Anglican Diocese
of Gippsland**

