

Dove Retreat 2015

Anticipation, Excitement,
“Love Outpouring” is what it is called.
Oh I could do with more of that
“Yes please Lord.”

We travel safely, a great way to begin,
Enjoy our café dinner, girls night out -not in.
Yes we are expected, our name tags testify
find our room, make our beds just so
Scan the programme in the information pack
And off to the opening session we go.

What will the speakers be like? Brendan Woodnutt, Anne Brereton
I've not heard them speak before
But with their personal stories, we relate to them for sure.
Each is very different, but both of them just know
The loving hand of God on them
And with their many anecdotes, repeatedly it showed.
The cry of their heart, in their time of need
God was always there for them, having gone before,
Loving them in their lives, nurturing their faith seed.

Meeting old friends, introduced to new,
supper is a warming time, but soon I'm tucked up in my bed,
is someone snoring too?

Father Neil Vaney, our chaplain this weekend
celebrates a morning Mass, great way for Saturday to commence.

The music, the music -it simply was sublime,
the melody and harmony, enhanced every spoken line.
Wilma, Theresa, Christine and Andre led us, as the Spirit showed,
Heavenly praise and worship, beautifully it flowed.

Gifts of the Spirit were taught about, what Jesus used and we've got access to
Like Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles and Discernment of Spirits
They are the tools of God, essential for any work we do.
The teaching covered many things and these are just some snippets
Of ways how we can walk in the Holy Spirit.
Remember "It is done" we just need to receive it.

Inviting titles on workshops, choose two from the four.
Speaker or topic or space in the room -can you tell that from the door?
So these were the options
Eucharist –Love Ever with Us, with Father Neil Vaney
Evangelising in the Family –with Brendan and Annette Woodnutt
Diana Ingle –on My Chains have Gone
And Anne Brereton -Masks that Women Wear.
Couldn't get to all of them,
But on the website, some will be
Just like little treasures, waiting there for me.
Sessions too will be on CD's, and yes -even one of music . Yeah!

It was great to have the bookshop, to buy a new bible or devotional book,
Special gift, beautiful cards at bargain prices, or just have a good, long look.

For the soaking to continue and give another fill-up.

The teachers they continued,

With humour with challenge, at a steady pace not a gallop.

Who if not me? Who if not us?

Where if not here?

When if not now?

God has **poured** out His Spirit, get **all** of Him.

It just keeps on getting better but with God there's always more

Soften up my heart Lord for what you've got in store.

Take my love and share it so that others may be blessed.

Dove is a sign, symbol and guide, the Holy Spirit is our marker

God's call to each of us to make a step out of our comfort zone.

Doing the work of Jesus with the skills He has given us.

How we show the language of love

Encourage each other

Pay forward

Examen -What would be important for me on my death bed?

Life can be stressful there are obstacles to overcome.

How you live laugh and love will have a profound effect on others.

Love deeply, forgive quickly, take chances, give everything with no regrets,

Everything happens for a reason, God is in all things

Laugh because it's infectious, Love with all your heart."

Sunday early morning, go for a beach walk,
Climb to the lookout, cloud patterned sky is unfolding; such great beauty
As I take in the sunrise on the water; it seemed just for me
So personal, but universal; that's also how God talks.

As with everything in Dove, there is always more
Tangible ways we felt the love, was what Sunday had in store.
More food, more fellowship, more caring and sharing,
more singing and praising and ministry and teaching.
Healed, refreshed, forgiven, empowered and strengthened,
Many gifts were received; meeting each one's heart desire,
Culminating in an amazing prayer experience –"The Tunnel of Fire".

After scrumptious lunch with dessert -how decadent is that!
One final time we gather, Father Neil concelebrates Mass with Bishop Pat,
Our worship is wholehearted; the word, the homily –ordinary, yet profound
In it all we're much aware, this is holy ground.

So much to be thankful for, in the gift of this weekend
Bless the National Team who've put it on, for everything it's been.
We been in heavenly places, we've laughed and we've cried,
Couldn't have imagined better, no matter how I tried.

And now new territory we must enter

Take out what we've been given

Knowing God has gone before and we're Spirit driven.

With joyful hearts and a song on our lips, we pack up and depart

For the 2016 Dove gathering, let the desire to be there -and the savings start!