



From the Director

Special points of interest:

- Monks stay at Janssen Centre
- Visit by SSpS Superior General
- Lenten Group
- Open Day
- Pope and Chief Rabbi

Well, the Knox City Festival has come and gone. We at the Janssen Centre were very happy to host some Buddhist monks during the festival. These young men were born in India of Tibetan parents and now live in India. One of the highlights of the Festival was to watch the monks produce a Mandala; this is a task that took them the four full days of the festival to complete. The mandala is produced by the monks placing coloured sand, brought with them from India, on a piece of painted plywood. After the mandala is completed, the monks, in a very prayerful manner, dismantle the Mandala and as is custom, the pile of sand that remains is reverently disposed of in the river, in what is known in English

as a *dissolution ceremony*. Our venerable brothers were delighted with their stay at Janssen Centre and on their departure they presented Sarita and me with a prayer stole each. Before a monk is allowed to work on constructing a mandala he must undergo a long period of technical artistic training and memorization, learning how to draw all the various symbols and studying related philosophical concepts. At the Namgyal monastery (the personal monastery of the Dalai lama), for example, this period is three years.



Tibetan Buddhist monks at the Centre with Gerard and Sarita



Visit by SSpS Congregational Leader

On Thursday 18th February 2010, the Superior-General of the Holy Spirit Sisters, Sister Maria Teresa, together with Congregational Leader, Sister Bernadette Edgecombe, visited Janssen Centre and was very impressed with the work done by both our congregations here at the Centre. Sister Maria Teresa was given a guided tour

of the Centre and was most impressed especially with the layout and presentation of the Centre. Sister Teresa gave us the assurance of her prayers for the work here at the Janssen Spirituality Centre by the staff and friends.



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We're on the Web!!!!

www.janssencentre.org

Karuna—A compassionate heart



LENTEN GROUP

We have commenced our Lenten Prayer and Discussion Group on Thursday evenings at the Centre. The Group numbers 10 people; mainly parishioners of the Boronia Catholic parish.

LOTUS FLOWER

The **lotus flower** grows in muddy water and rises above the surface to bloom with remarkable beauty. At night the flower closes and sinks underwater, at dawn it rises and opens again. Untouched by the impurity, lotus symbolizes the purity of heart and mind. The lotus flower represents long life, health, honor and good luck.

Open Day is Coming to Janssen Centre



Members are busy in preparation for the JSC Open Day, which will be held on Sunday 18th April 2010 from 1.00pm till 4.00pm. This is a major event on the Centre's calendar and will include dancing from different cultures, art displays,



and a special exhibition of art, which is being organized by Fr Thien Nguyen SVD. All are welcome to come and join us at Boronia for what will be a wonderful afternoon.



What's on in March?

MEETINGS

- 3rd Centering Prayer Evening
- 4th Catholic Interfaith Meeting.
- 4th Lenten Reflection
- 9th Centering Prayer
- 10th Merton Bridges
- 11th Lenten Reflection
- 12th Student Supervision
- 15th Executive Meeting
- 16th Centering Prayer
- 17th Centering Prayer
- 18th Lenten Reflection
- 20th Centering Prayer for Teachers

- Golden Rule Workshop.
- 23rd Centering Prayer.
- 24th Merton Bridges.
- 25th Lenten Reflection.
- 26th Student Supervision
- 27th "Suffering" Sr Christa

RETREATS

- 5th-7th Centering Prayer Conference.
- 7th-12th Centering Prayer Retreat.
- 19th-21st St Kilda Parish Retreat (Fr Frank SVD)
- 25th-27th MSC Retreat

